



FELIX

The Student Newspaper of Imperial College London



Memes, dreams and horoscopes

PAGE 31 HANGMAN

Imperial is ugly and it makes me sad

PAGE 8 COMMENT



Our sabbs will now be paid £29,800 a year

- Their pay now matches the average Imperial graduate's wage
- They will be the highest-paid sabbs in the UK but may actually be worse off



This year's change in sabb pay, despite looking like a £10,000 pay rise on paper, may actually leave sabbs worse off financially than ever.

In an investigation by FELIX, comparing this year's cohort pay packet and remuneration arrangements (i.e. offer of 'free' halls that goes with the job) to next year's, it was found that although our sabbs will now be the highest paid in the country, the offer of halls has been revoked, meaning they will probably take home less than this year's after paying rent.

As the pay packet currently includes either a room in halls or a rent contribution of 75% of the average spend on the sabbs in halls, plus £20,160, for next year's sabbs to

take home as much as current sabbs do, they'd have to spend just £110 per week on rent. Compare this to the fact that sabbs this year are getting as much as £210 per week spent on their rent as part of their remuneration, this year's sabbs are undoubtedly getting a better deal. Our full investigation feature can be read on page nine.

The decision was taken so sabbs who choose to live in private accommodation wouldn't get a worse deal than those who choose to live in halls, as their housing allowance is taxed and worth much less than what those in halls get. Controversially, this has completely removed the incentive for sabbs to live in halls. Up until now the consensus has been that it

Grace Rahman
Editor-in-Chief

is beneficial for both them and the students they live with for sabbatical officers to live in halls, as it enhances student experience.

This was all decided at a Trustee Board meeting in January by the then Managing Director, lay trustees and several observers, with no students representatives present for the actual decision. The officer trustees, including sabbs and current student trustees could contribute to the discussion but were asked to leave the room when the decision was made presumably to avoid any potential conflicts of interest.

This year's elections...

continued on page 4

CGCU uses dog therapy to combat exam stress



Read more on page three. Photo Credit: CGCU

FELIX EDITORIAL



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A word from the Editor



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I talked a lot about how much the sabbs get paid this week, and to think, it's probably never crossed your mind. That's fair – I don't ask how much you earn. Our feature on the changes to sabb pay isn't brand new information, but this is the first time any student, outside of the closed doors of Trustee Board (literally this time – they chucked out all the sabbs when the decision got made) will have seen a breakdown of the difference in payment between this year's sabb team and next year's. And yes, I do think that's important.

We fork out a lot of cash for sabbs, and we want them to be good. We want to pay them enough so that they can eat, be housed, have nice enough lives, and for it to be interesting enough financially that the job appeals to everyone. It's the same argument that gets brought up when we discuss MPs' pay. If we paid them pittance then the role would only attract the richest, who were able to take a hit. The same, I feel, goes for sabbs. If we dock the benefits to such a point, it could put the best, and not the wealthiest people off. Finding an affordable

place to live is about the hardest part of living and working in London, and getting that as part of the deal was certainly a big part of my decision to take a year out of my life and make a paper for you cuties. People complain that becoming a sabb is a cool job to slip into if you haven't found a real job yet. I think if you're rich and haven't found a job yet, becoming a sabb is now a lot easier. If you hate students so much that you don't want to live in halls, you probably shouldn't be a sabb.

I think this change is a shame, because it looks like we've given sabbs a wacking great pay rise, when potentially, this new deal means that a home isn't part of the job. It's like being a vicar. Fucking hell, being a vicar (I assume) is hard. People confessing weird intimate details about their lives to you and not in a cool down-the-pub way, having to go to church all the time, plus you don't even get Christmas off. But you do get to live in a vicarage. Well Beit is my vicarage, you are all my parishioners and the journalistic integrity is my Jesus.

Does it matter what we pay them as long as they do the job well? I



know I'll have done my job well, when I go into the 568 one day, and one of the bar staff (and not one of the ones who knows me already) goes: "Hey, it's Grace!" and then everyone at the bar cheers, and then the barman makes my usual (they know my order already, because everybody does) and slides it down the bar to me (there aren't those mats on the bar in this fantasy) and I catch it and swig it, before winking at the camera. That's when I'll know I've earned my £19,000.

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COMING NEXT WEEK

The FELIX Sex Survey Results



Mech Eng head tells students he's voting remain

Professor Peter Crawley emailed all mech eng students and staff telling them life would be harder after Brexit

Grace Rahman
Editor-in-Chief

On Sunday, the head of the department of mechanical engineering sent an email to all of his students and staff, addressing concerns about a post-Brexit fee status for EU students, and telling them that he was “strongly in favour of remaining in the EU” and so would be “voting accordingly”.

In the email, Professor Crawley said that several EU students had expressed concern that if Britain were to vote to leave the EU in this month's referendum, they would be forced to start paying international fees of £26,000 a year, as opposed to the £9000 they currently pay.

As with everything in the referendum, it is unclear how the free movement of people, which currently allows students from the EU to pay home student fees, would be affected.

As Crawley stated in his email, it is unlikely that these students would be retroactively deemed international, and be forced to start paying £26,000 halfway through their degrees. However, he reassured EU students college wouldn't just start charging them more without a fight, saying “we will do all in our legal power to ensure that current students are not subject to a

In the email, he said that several EU students had expressed concern



This is not the head of mech eng. Photo Credit: ICL

dramatic increase in fees”.

If Britain were to leave, fewer EU students are likely to come to British universities, and those that do would probably have to pay the higher fees. This would mean there would be no financial cost to Imperial in terms of fee income, as it will either take more home students for the same money or take more international students and make more cash.

Professor Crawley made no secret

of how we will be voting in the referendum. He said a leave vote would spell bad news for funding research, the companies that mech eng works with, enlisting students from the EU, and that therefore he would be voting “accordingly”.

He told FELIX that remain offered “ease of collaboration around Europe, including student exchanges” which “is hugely important for the College”.

“We also benefit from being able to recruit research and academic staff from EU countries without work permit issues. We succeed by being open, and anything that increases barriers is detrimental. I am also concerned that many of the companies with whom we work will scale back their UK activities and relocate to the continent to be within the single market. It is much easier to work with companies when they are located closer to us.”

This comes after Alice Gast, the Imperial President, sent an email out to all students and staff saying how college could not tell its students how to vote, but that Imperial had been involved with the remain campaign.

Staff in the RSM took a different view, forwarding an email out to all students and staff from Imperial's Britain Stronger in Europe campaign group, but adding they were happy to send an email out from the equivalent pro-Brexit group.

Dog therapy for stressed students

Dogs during exam season proves huge hit with engineers

The City and Guilds union offered a novel way of recovering from exam stress relief last week – playing with dogs.

The dogs, who were brought in by the dog re-homing charity All Dogs Matter, sat in a room in CGCU, and students filed in all afternoon to play with them. They also had a few walks around campus.

This is the second time the CGCU have offered puppy therapy to its members, and it's proved incredibly popular, with 300 sign-ups in 24 hours for this session, and all the places being booked up last time they ran the event as well. There was

some queuing on the day, with some students from other departments getting turned away. Millie Tsang, the CGCU welfare officer said that having to turn people away was sad.

“Originally I was met with heavy doubts from within the CGCU and IC Union, who said it would not be approved and would also raise loads of trouble. Thankfully, I talked to College anyway,” she told FELIX. Despite recently introducing a no dogs on campus rule, permission was granted, with some limitations about who could access the dogs and the room.

Students sat in a waiting room before getting their ten minutes with

the dogs, and in this time, students from different courses could mingle and chat to Millie about any welfare issues they were having.

One student arrived at the event despite having a fear of dogs. In their feedback, they told CGCU: “I really think it is a great idea against stress and fear; the latter is also quite common and I'm sure it could help more students than just me”.

Thanks to donations from students, CGCU also managed to raise several hundred pounds for the charity providing the dogs.

This form of therapy is a firm favourite at the LSE and Harvard.

GRACE RAHMAN



Make my exams go away, puppy. Photo Credit: CGCU



Imperial physicist who contributed to Higgs boson discovery dies at 83

Sir Tom Kibble was head of the Imperial physics department from 1983 to 1991

Grace Rahman
Editor-in-Chief

Professor Tom Kibble, who was a member of the Imperial physics department for 32 years, has passed away at the age of 83.

He was born in Chennai, India, in 1932 but went to school in Edinburgh, and got his undergraduate and PhD at Edinburgh University, before joining Imperial as a NATO fellow in 1959.

Whilst at Imperial, but before he was even made Professor of Theoretical Physics, he wrote a paper in 1964 entitled Global conservation laws and massless particles with two American scientists from Rochester University, New York, which is widely regarded to have led the way for the discovery of the Higgs boson by Sir Peter Higgs and François Englert fifty years later, who won

a Nobel prize for Physics after the find.

This 1964 paper is beautifully written, and in 1967 he published another paper on his own, that contributed further to the theory. Later, in 2010, Sir Tom was among

When Higgs and Englert were awarded the Nobel prize, they were surprised that Kibble was not also named

several scientists, including Peter Higgs, who worked on the theory leading to Higgs boson to be awarded the J. J. Sakurai Prize for Theoretical Particle Physics.

In 2014, Tom Kibble was knighted after the Higgs boson's existence was proved during huge experiments at CERN in 2012. Imperial physicist, Professor Virdee, who was knighted with him after overseeing the CMS experiment at CERN, said at the time: "I was hoping Tom would be recognised. I'm very, very happy for him, and I'm sure we'll have a glass of champagne when next we meet".

When Higgs and Englert were awarded the Nobel prize, they were surprised that Kibble was not also named in the honours, as the rules permit three scientists can be named. At the time, Higgs said: "Not only did [Kibble] publish the last of the papers in 1964, he also wrote a longer paper that was really very important in generalising the sort of thing I had written in '64".



Professor Kibble was a well-loved member of staff. Photo Credit: Imperial College London

On paper, ICU sabbs are now the highest paid in the country

continued from front page

...have already taken place, with all positions but the DPFS role having been filled (DPFS manifestos can be found on page fifteen). The pay rise and change of remuneration package was advertised in the 2016 Election Guide, so all candidates ran knowing about the new deal.

A union representative told FELIX: "The Board of Trustees regularly review all aspects of remuneration for Officer Trustees and staff. In January the Board took the view that living in halls no longer represented part of the Officer Trustee role and as such opted to remove the previous penalty for living out of halls. Officer Trustees and full-time Officers are now paid a set point on the College's pay scale and can opt to pay to live in halls should they wish."



Who are these people? Photo Credit: ICU

Security get new more formal uniforms

On Monday, college support staff, including the security team, were given brand new uniforms, which for the security staff meant cumbersome new ties, epaulettes, long-sleeved shirts with the Imperial logo and suit jackets with name badges.

Whereas before, the security staff were free to wear collared white shirts of any sleeve length, depending on the weather, they now must wear long-sleeved branded shirts with their suits at all times. This week, temperatures hit highs of 26°C, making the new outfits particularly impractical.

Imperial's security department website says its top priority is to "the protection of College students, staff and visitors from harm through physical assault, fire or smoke

inhalation", which are activities which arguably need security officers who can move across campus quickly.

Although many will be familiar with the security staff members who have an office in Beit, you will often see them patrolling the campus. Security guards partly act as a deterrent to crime – the fact that the new uniforms look impractical to the point where the wearers don't look like security guards, could mean that they aren't such a deterrent.

Their new purple ties and epaulettes, which sit on the shoulders of the shirts, are bright purple, reminiscent of Imperial 'mauviene', a dye accidentally discovered in the 1800s by one William Perkin from the Royal College of Chemistry, which also adorns Imperial graduation gowns.



EU debate takes place at Imperial

Referendum fever is yet to take hold

Matt Johnston
News Editor

Last Thursday, The Big EU Debate took over Skempton building with members of both the leave and remain campaign battling it out over the key battlegrounds of the economy, immigration and democracy as a whole.

Speaking for the remain campaign were Mary Honeyball (Labour MEP for London) and Amelia Womack (Deputy Leader of The Green Party and ex-Imperial graduate) and for leave were Tom Hunt (a Conservative councillor) and Michael Gold (a Green Party MP candidate).

Skempton lecture theatre 164 was the political battleground for the clash of the titans with Deputy President (Welfare), Jennie Watson, chairing the whole affair in scenes of solid discussion unseen since the



The baddies are on the right btw. Photo Credit: ICU

Civ Eng concrete lecture theatre earlier that morning.

Similar to a political wedding, the audience almost split exactly into two halves, one pro-Brexit and one pro-remain, except there was more heckling than your average

Eastenders wedding.

Opening statements from both sides touched on the key issues they felt were going to either be the cause of downturn of saving the UK, notably Amelia Womack comparing the EU to Andy Murray

as "policy is deemed as British if it is doing well, and European if it isn't". He just lost the French Open so take from that what you will.

As the debate continued, the classic cases were made on both sides, with Michael Gold

proclaiming that "Operation Fear has come to Imperial College" but he may have just been referring to exam season.

Questions from the audience followed the debate, although many preferred just to shout them out as will during the proceedings – clearly these people haven't watched enough Question Time.

After the rather heated exchanges for the best part of 90 minutes, a bar tab was placed behind the old Union bar in order to encourage students to engage in discussion with the panellists and their peers over drinks.

So, was the complex socio-politico-economic debate that has divided a country settled once and for all in an Imperial lecture theatre on a Thursday night? Not quite, but the bar tab in the union helped.

The full debate is available to watch on the Imperial College Union Facebook page.

Student caught in housing scam

An Imperial student paid a deposit on house he hadn't seen, before discovering the 'landlord' didn't exist

A student was caught out by scammers this week after paying a deposit on a flat that turned out not to be for rent.

The student saw the flat, which was just off the King's Road, advertised on one of the union's fresher Facebook groups. After speaking with the person who posted the ad, the student paid them a £450 "holding fee", which he believed was to confirm his interest before the landlord made the trip down from Liverpool to show the student the property.

After making the bank transfer, however, the landlord cancelled the viewing several times at the last minute, before finally not turning

up at all. After the landlord stopped replying to any calls or emails, the student quickly gathered that it had been a scam.

The student has now been told by both the police's Action Fraud centre for cybercrime reporting and Natwest (where the fraudulent account was opened) that they are unlikely to get the cash back. After making a complaint with the bank, he was told that Natwest told the student that they aren't responsible and so can take no action.

At least one another Imperial student has fallen victim to a similar scam over the last few months.

The same address was also advertised on Facebook pages related to Queen Mary's university.

The student paid them a £450 "holding fee"

It's important to remember to not transfer any money until a contract has been signed. Contracts can be checked over by the Student Hub.

GRACE RAHMAN



The street where the flat supposedly was. Photo Credit: mappio.net



EU myths debunked

What the Leave campaign says is going on versus what is actually going on

Stav Zalel
Writer

The claim: The EU open-borders policy puts strain on the UK and makes it harder for non-Europeans to settle in the UK.

The facts: According to a report by the Migration Observatory in 2011, 95% of net migration to the UK was that of non-EU nationals.

The EU has no power over UK immigration policies for non-Europeans. Under EU policy, citizens of EU countries can settle in the UK and work at any job without a visa. UK citizens can do the same in EU countries. According to the aforementioned report, the immigration of EU nationals to the UK is roughly offset by the emigration of UK nationals to other EU countries.

Before non-Europeans work in the UK, they must be accepted to a position in the shortage occupation list that meets the minimum skills threshold. Then they may apply for a work visa – a long, bureaucratic process for them and their potential employer. The UK recently changed its immigration policy in an explicit pledge to lower net migration, making it more difficult for non-Europeans to settle in the UK in an explicit pledge to lower net migration. The recent restrictions and regulations include shortening the shortage occupation list and increasing the minimum skills threshold, increasing the requirements for institutions and businesses to sponsor non-European students or employees, raising the minimum salary for a work visa, and increasing restrictions on bringing family members to the UK. A UK citizen who marries abroad cannot return with their non-European spouse unless they prove that they have an annual income exceeding £18,600 (or more if they have children). 47% of British citizens – in particular, 61% of British women – do not meet this requirement.

The bottom line: Any suggestion that the EU open-borders policy disadvantages the UK is baseless, and any claim that the EU has a negative impact on non-Europeans wishing to immigrate to the UK is a lie.

The claim: The EU is an anti-



This could be us but you're voting out. Photo Credit: TSI

democratic organisation.

The facts: There are three bodies involved in EU legislation. The Council of the EU (made up of government ministers of EU countries) and the EU Parliament (elected by citizens of EU countries by proportional representation) are the only bodies which pass EU laws and policies. The European Commission just draws up proposals for new EU legislation to be voted on; it cannot pass laws. It comprises 28 Commissioners – one for each EU country – who are suggested by their respective governments and must be voted in by the European Parliament. The Commission's own president must be supported by the majority of members of the European Parliament to be elected.

The bottom line: Legislation and laws are passed by EU countries' government ministers and elected European Parliament members. Those involved in writing and enforcing legislation are elected by Parliament members and EU heads of state. This procedure is different to the one at, say, Westminster, but all contemporary so-called democratic governments are somewhere on a spectrum between democracy and bureaucracy. "The EU is anti-democratic" is an empty and hypocritical claim.

The claim: We won't lose out on Erasmus, non-EU countries already take part in the programme. We can

be like Switzerland!

The facts: Switzerland first participated in Erasmus in the academic year 1992/3, but in the same year voted against joining the EEA, ending its participation in all EU education programmes. In the early 2000s Switzerland and the EU signed agreements including freedom of movement, and in 2011 Switzerland regained full participation in Erasmus; but its eligibility was revoked again in 2014 after it voted to limit immigration through quotas, breaking its free movement treaties. The Swiss government then arranged the interim solution of allocating \$25million to fund Swiss students studying in Europe and Europeans studying in Switzerland, allowing an exchange programme to continue. Today it is an Erasmus Partner Country, meaning it can participate under certain conditions.

The bottom line: Free movement of people is an EU requirement for participation in its education programmes. As the UK does not intend to keep its open-borders policy if it leaves the EU, it will struggle to maintain its full participation status, and considering the UK's domestic education policies, it is unlikely to set up an interim programme, Switzerland-style.

The claim: Leaving the EU won't affect European stability. It's not

a peacekeeping mechanism and there's no European war coming anyway.

The facts: The EU started in 1950, uniting European countries to secure lasting peace after a long era of prevailing wars. The 1990s saw the fall of communism and completion of the single market, including freedom of movement, with European nations on closer terms than ever. Today, across Europe, the political far-right is on the rise. For instance, this April, the Freedom Party of Austria lost the second round of presidential elections by less than 1% of the votes, and in March the Alternative for Germany party won over 13% of the votes in German local elections. What these and other far-right parties across Europe have in common is extreme nationalism and xenophobic anti-immigration policies.

The bottom line: Countries united economically and politically are less likely to go to war against each other. It is easy in a time of peace to forget that war could ever again happen in Europe, but this is ignoring history to the point of denial. If the UK leaves the EU, the moderate European governments will continue their peaceful relations – but with the alarming Europe-wide rise of nationalism and xenophobia, which European governments we will see in 10 years? In 20 years?



The four types of traveller you'll meet this summer

Angry grad is coming to you from Thailand, and this is what she's found



Angry Grad
Writer

It's almost the end of the academic year, meaning many of you will be in that final frenzy of wrapping up your final year projects. From frantic pipetting to manic coding, it's all very stressful – I've been there. But for those of you, much like myself a year ago, the end of uni does not equal a cry from relief. It means facing your boggart which, let's be honest, is far more soul wrenching than Harry's dementor – the dreaded prospect of unemployment.

Clingier than gum on a tube seat, this dude will not leave you alone

When you finally managed to smash that Goldman interview (it only took you 566 attempts not to fuck up, but who's counting, right?), you've got a few months before you become a real person in September, when that dollar blinding grad scheme starts, and there's only one thing to do – that generic gap yah thing and book an open ticket to a generic gap yah destination, much like me. I'm currently cotching in South East Asia, and as a (self-proclaimed) seasoned traveller, I'm going to enlighten you with the six types of backpackers you'll meet, to mentally prepare you for your own shenanigans.

1) The Enthused Yank

Much like a puppy on crack, this breed of backpacker has far too much love for life and energy than should be legally allowed. Along with speaking at unsafely high



It is very important to get pics for the 'gram. Photo Credit: unsplash.com

decibel levels, rivalling that filthy bass at Ministry, the enthused yank is also brimming with bullshit. He'll recount his travelling tales with such dramatics, you'll wonder how this kid is still alive. Cyclones and lightning storms will feature, sunrises penetrating his spirit will be routine, and inevitably, there will be a mention of a divine intervention or two. Two days spent with this freak may drive you over the edge, so make sure you get out of that awkward hangout before he mentions that time when he casually parted the Red Sea.

2) The Premature

Mid-Life Crisis Dude

Every hostel has one. It's that dude who's 30, quit his soul-destroying job, broken up with bae, and decided to fuck off overseas to find himself, spiritually of course, whilst partying with school leavers in a dingy nightclub seedier than Cheapskates (RIP).

With a constant yearning for affirmation, and clingier than gum on a tube seat, this dude will not leave you alone. This is even after you

parted ways six weeks ago, thanks to social media; his Facebook posts rival both the abundance, and the (shit) quality of the status updates of your 14-year-old self. Mock all we may at the tragic nature of this dude's escapades, but through that thick wall of judgement, nothing seems to be able to get rid of that niggling at the back of your head pestering you, that this guy may be a hazy prediction of your own future.

3) The I'm not a tourist, tourist

Obsessed with shedding her western ways of thinking, and insistent she's not travelling for the Instagram glory, this backpacker's not on holiday, she's on a cultural voyage. Dismissing home comforts is at the forefront of her priorities, because in her mind, no where East has gone through the Stone Age. Western toilets? No, it's all about the squatting, like the locals do. A highly rated Tripadvisor hostel? No chance, it's all about shacking up with a stranger in their hut, with no air conditioning when it's 41°C, much like a local. Bottle of Evian, perhaps? Screw that, a refreshing glass of water from the river will do, emulating the local way of life. Comfort is overrated, guys, the locals don't have any, why should we? Did I mention how important it is to live like a local? I mean, once you've lived like them for a couple of days, it's the same as an entire lifetime without Netflix, right?

4) The Perfect Human

Like a rabbit in headlights, this solo traveller will beckon to be rescued by you and your squad. Yet, as time passes, and bonding intensifies, those puppy eyes will steal your heart and your posy will develop an obsession for this stray. The fan-girling may become unhealthy, but it's all part of the top notch bants. The day will come when you part ways with this stranger – you've got to let them leave the nest after all. But when that Facebook photo materialises with bae and her new crew, your blood will boil and intense voodoo may be performed. As Harry Styles warned us, everybody wanna steal my girl. But her heart is mine for the taking, so back off, yeah!



Why is Imperial so ugly?

Bland architecture makes Imperial an even more unpleasant place to be

Daniel Williams
Writer

Hello Imperial, we need to talk. In previous volumes, this journal has been dedicated to burning issues of the day: junior doctors' working conditions, the cost of living for students, union bureaucracy, and clarion call to vote (this 23rd of June). Nevertheless, there is an issue fundamental to our very wellbeing and self-esteem that never gets a

For many of us, the austerity of glass, steel and stone is too bleak and impersonal

mention. This article aims to rectify that.

"How fundamental could something be?", you're probably thinking. Stop for a moment. Look around you. Where are you right now? What are you doing? If you are like most FELIX readers, I can hazard a guess. You are in a building owned by the College. The walls have an inoffensive colour, all corners meet precisely and orthogonally and the space is tidy. You are on your way to something important, wending your way through the corridors and crowds to your destination. It's a short while to go, so you've picked up this newspaper and move on. You're very busy, you don't have time to be on campus, and even if you did, there are nicer places to be. Herein lies the issue: our campus is an unattractive place to be.

Everywhere you go on campus, buildings and walkways have been optimised to increase traffic flow



Stunning. Photo Credit: Christian Richters

and reduce inefficiencies in cross-campus travel. Corridors have been widened, time-consuming door handles have been replaced with bidirectional push-doors, or better still, automatic doors with sensors, allowing entry with no extra physical exertion and no unnecessary contact with surfaces. The spread of disease has been reduced, queues for food have been tamed, and room booking has become more efficient through centralised, computerised systems. Our productivity should be shooting through the roof. We should be breezing through our work, reaping the accumulated efficiency dividends from the tireless efforts of successive campus architects.

Undoubtedly, the achievements listed above are significant. We make daily use of these campus facilities and services every time we attend lectures, work in labs, send an email or study here. Yet we must ask ourselves: what do we enjoy about being here? You'd probably say it's the people, or the buzz of innovation here. You won't rate the architecture of our buildings highly. For many of us, the austerity of glass, steel and stone is too bleak and impersonal, while the minimally-decorated

corridors, low ceilings and dated office ambiance stifle creativity and muffle character. Such an environment is appropriate for an insurance company headquarters, but not an innovative, world-leading institution of learning.

On every campus tour, the guide will begin with a little bit of College history: the Great Exhibition of 1851. Under the aegis of Prince Albert, the best of the world's science and technology were brought to London, which in turn demonstrated Britain's new ideas, expertise and industrial skills. The exhibition was a resounding success. The proceeds were used to establish four pre-eminent bodies of public education: the Victoria & Albert Museum, the Natural History Museum, the Science Museum and the Imperial Institute. After more than a century of mergers and transformations, the fourth entity has become the College we know today. Today very little of the Imperial Institute remains, so we can't define ourselves in terms of our architectural heritage. As the custodians of Prince Albert's vision, how else can we show that we continue to embrace the bold

and the new?

As mentioned previously, our built environment appears to inculcate homogeneity and sameness, rather than vibrancy, self-realisation and enjoyment of life. Our College should be a hive of all sorts of interactions, from cross-disciplinary projects to friendly chats in the corridor. We should feel joy when coming to the campus, whether for the first time or for the thousandth time. We should want to stay on after classes finish, to spend time amid green walls, water features and colourful walkways, not feel alienated by gargantuan, monolithic structures of glass, concrete and steel. The onus is on us to achieve change. Some problems are more easily fixed than others; your campaign could involve: signing FELIX's petition for library air-conditioning, talking to your departmental representative about building enhancements, gardening on your building's balcony, yarnbombing poles, making a beach on Dalby Court or seeking street art commissions on footpaths and walkways on campus.

Whatever the scale of your contribution, your efforts won't go unnoticed.

FELIX FEATURES



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Next year our sabbs become the highest paid in the country

But they may actually be worse off than this year's group, and here's why

Grace Rahman
Editor-in-Chief

Next year's sabbs, who were elected in March and take up their roles officially this August, will, on paper, become the best-paid full-time sabbatical officers in the country. They'll have jumped from fourteenth highest-paid sabbs to the highest, beating last year's highest, LSE, who pay a modest £26,582 a year. Technically, these officer trustee roles are getting a £10,000 pay rise in the space of one year (from £19,500 this year to £29,800). It sounds like a lot, but it's only slightly higher than the 2013 figures for the average Imperial grad's starting salary (£29,200). If you look at what the current sabbs get in terms of a remuneration package, next year's cohort may actually be getting a worse deal.

Our calculations

Let's assume that this will be the first job next year's sabbs will be getting paid for this tax year (we've assumed that they're on the tax code 1100L, if you're really interested).

We've assumed that they are all home students who took out student



Is it raining dollar bills? We can't really decide. Photo Credit: ICU

loans after 2012 and have finished their degrees, and so will now be paying back some of that loan every month. We're also assuming they're not paying into the pension scheme.

This is all a little different for the FELIX editor, who is employed for eleven and a half months, rather than a year and a half like the full-time officer trustees are (your DPWs and Union Presidents, for example).

Their pay will now be £29,800, and our calculations with the above tax code and assumptions using thesalarychecker.co.uk say that sabbs will now be taking home £22,600.

Similar calculations on this year's salary (pre-2012 student loan repayments and the same tax code) assume that take-home pay is currently £16,200. Yes, obviously twenty-two grand is way more than sixteen, but that's not the end of the story.

Remuneration package

The current remuneration package

(i.e. extra stuff sabbs get 'paid' but not in cash) includes a place in halls. They do not have to pay rent; it's paid directly from the union's coffers to the college's. And these aren't the shitty cheap twin rooms in the basement of Parsons. These can be nice single en-suites in Eastside or Beit if the sabbs choose them (which several have).

Currently, if they don't want to live in halls, they can have a docked amount of cash to live in halls (typically 75% of what would have been their halls budget, as an incentive to live in halls).

At least two sabbs this year have lived in Beit, so if we take the standard 16/17 rents for an en suite room (£220 per week) and take into account the 54 weeks that they are employed, they will need to pay £11,880 worth of rent. Taken off their £22,600 take home pay, sabbs choosing to live in Beit would now only get £10,800, whereas sabbs now take home £16,200 after tax. This obviously means most sabbs will

choose to rent privately, and escape the astronomical cost of Imperial's own accommodation, unless you wanted to live in the un-renovated side of Evelyn Gardens.

To put it another way, for next year's sabbs to have the same amount of take-home cash as this year's, they will have to spend just £6400 on rent, which amounts to £120 a week, for the 54 weeks they're paid. It's certainly doable, but you're not going to be in South Kensington for that kind of money.

So why this change?

This year's sabbs (the Sandon-Allum-Kaye-Howitt-Watson-Chun-Yin-San year) were paid £19,500 per year straight-up, and then given either halls for 'free', i.e. as part of their remuneration package, or 75% of the average amount getting spent on putting up sabbs in halls. This cash for private rent was paid to the sabbs directly, so was taxed, meaning they got a significant hit if they chose to live

out of halls.

Many people saw this as a good thing, as having sabbs living in halls is arguably a benefit to freshers – everyone on the DPFS' floor knows what the union is – but the incentive for living in halls has now been completely removed, and from the figures above you can see you'd be a mug to do it.

During the Trustee Board meeting in January at which the change was decided, no sabbs were actually present. They were allowed to contribute to the discussion, but asked to leave whilst the actual decision was made. The minutes of the meeting show that the current sabbs said that "the financial compensation was not a major consideration when putting themselves forward for the role", but it could put future generations of students, who don't have saving or family money, off.

Does anyone care how much sabbs get paid, as long as they're doing a good job? Well, we know that Imperial has some of the best graduate prospects in the country, so get the best people who aren't all from the same economic background, it's fair to make the pay, and all that comes with that, at least semi-competitive.

Technically, these officer trustee roles are getting a £10,000 pay rise in the space of one year

Does anyone care how much sabbs get paid, as long as they're doing a good job?



Science, what's good?

Jane Courtnell
Science Editor

Black hole's gassy diet

Feeding on gas, literally, is what astronomers at Massachusetts Institute of Technology have, for the first time, detected. Black holes feasting on clumpy, cold gas. Devouring clouds at a speed of 355 kilometres per second (800,000 miles an hour) in the Abell 2597 Brightest Cluster Galaxy, the sight is a stark reminder of the shear amount of energy harnessed by these celestial bodies; energy levels which are clearly expanding, with each gas cloud being absorbed into their accretion discs. Viewing the same great void millions years later, its outburst will be ever more brighter, and much more powerful.

Solving the mammal puzzle

Our ancient mammalian lineage may be older than we initially thought. Scientists investigating prehistoric mammalian teeth collections, have significantly added to our understanding of when our furry relatives really advanced in the wake of their distant reptilian relatives, the dinosaurs. The commonly accepted view is that dinosaurs, the main competitors of the mammalian clade constrained mammal ecological expansion. The University of Southampton has turned this view on its head, putting two and two together; that is, with a diverse tooth collection, comes a diverse animal group. Our mammalian lineage may have already diversified extensively before the K-T mass extinction event some 66 million years ago.

Grossnickle et al. 2016 @
Proceedings of the Royal Society

Microbial nanowires

Take a geobacter bacterial cell, its pili, and attach each to a graphite electrode, and wham! You have an electrical current. That's right, Mother Nature has produced organic, electrically conductive hair-like filaments which give the geobacter a little spark. Aromatic amino acids in the pili of the geobacter transport electrons at a voltage comparable to that of copper wire. Proteins are usually electrically insulating, but geobacter pili are counter-intuitively conductive. Scientists at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Holy cross, and Brookhaven National laboratory found that the way the small molecules are arranged, at a distance of 0.3 nanometres, gives the pili their copper like electrical conductivity.

Evans-Lutterodt et al. 2016 @
mBio

All hail genetic computers

Can we control disease using computers? Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology suggest yes, having integrated digital and analogue computations into cellular DNA. Disease acts as an input to initiate module expression which turns gene segments on or off, converting input into an output, hence converting, say chemical concentrations to a simple 0 or 1 signal. This biological circuit has potential to cause the body to initiate one of say three output responses, in accordance to, for example, blood glucose levels, thus acting as a diabetes control. Other potential uses include treatments for cancer, bowel disease, and probiotic bacteria development to treat gut disease, with clinical trials for the latter beginning in twelve months.

Lu et al. 2016 @ *Nature Communications*

Fish ears yield secrets

The Amazon river is one of the most biodiverse fresh water ecosystems on the planet. The many fish species that call its water home though are shrouded in mystery. A new study analysing otoliths, the stone like bones located in fish ears, might help us understand the migratory routes of many species. The research might potentially redefine our knowledge on many fish species especially in the cases of fish which are economically valued and which regularly travel through the borders of multiple nations, such knowledge can be invaluable, informing management policies. The chemical composition of otoliths can reveal whether the fish has lived in 'black' or 'white' water, as well as what the salinity of its habitat was.

Herman et al. 2016 @ *Royal Society Open Science*

Making all science open access by 2020

Dr. Wilko Duprez
Writer

The EU Competitiveness Council, a committee including research, science, and industry ministers from all member countries, announced last week that scientific publications should all be open access by 2020. We all wish for this to happen, but is the idea utopian?

There are many hurdles to overcome. Firstly, there are no legal bindings. According to the council itself, it is only a "political orientation for the 28 governments". Secondly, four years is a very short period for such a dramatic change in the publication process, especially when encountering strong resistance from the private publishing industry whose interests are at stake. Thirdly, the actual details to achieve this goal have yet to be announced.

FELIX contacted private scientific publishing groups but they

all declined to comment about the EU report. Through a spokesperson from the International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers (STM), they announced "it is vital that embargo periods (when articles are only available through paid subscriptions) be set at a sustainable level to enable the subscription model to continue to support the operation of high quality journals".

Researchers disagree, especially when it comes to matters of public importance. According to Professor Stephen Curry, a biologist here at Imperial and open access advocate, the slow release of articles is actually harmful. "There was a recent initiative to encourage people working on the Zika virus research to release their initial data and their results very quickly even in advance of publication. But we still haven't moved to such a system for antimicrobial resistance, HIV infection and malaria, and that in itself have cost lives".

Another counter-argument is

the financial burden. "The upfront costs for an immediate transition will need to be covered. These costs will currently fall disproportionately on research-intensive countries that produce more research relative to the rest of the world," claims the STM.

However, it might be a fallacious argument. "I think you have to recognize that most of this research is publicly funded and all the money that goes to pay for subscriptions at the minute is largely publicly funded as well," commented Prof. Curry. "Because most of the work is publicly funded it has to be made open access by right, and I think there is enough money in the system to fund that. It is just a manner of moving the accounts around".

It is already unlikely that universal open access will be achieved by 2020, but through incremental steps in governmental policies and consensus we may slowly start to separate access to scientific information from corporate profits although that requires patience.



Should all scientific papers be openly available to anybody? Photo Credit: Nic McPhee



How will a Brexit scenario impact science?

FELIX asks the scientists on each side of the fence so you don't have to

Sophie Walsh
Writer

Brexit may have finally overtaken myriad memes of Donald Trump's hairpiece on our newsfeeds. For months, the EU referendum has loomed large in a collective public mind, bamboozled by potential impacts on everything from human rights to house prices. It is a political hot potato that when dropped on the 23rd June, could see us out on our ear in the cold, looking in through the window at the EU planning their Christmas party, wondering whether we have done the right thing.

But above the cacophony of multiple debates, what of Britain's unassailable drivers of modern progress – science, healthcare, research? Enter Martin McKee, Professor of European Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Professor Angus Dalglish, Foundation Chair of Oncology at St Georges University and Senior Advisor to the pro-leave lobby group 'Scientists for Britain', who have real problems agreeing.

As a champion of international health care, McKee's extensive travel around the world engaging researchers and policy makers in neglected health issues has led *The Lancet* to comment that "even conversing with him is liable to cause jetlag". I am inclined to agree as I conduct our conversation over email during his stopover between Mexico and Miami.

"Would the world class status of our institutions falter without the backing of the EU? Yes", he says.



McKee's Twitter picture. Handsome and politically minded Photo Credit: Twitter



It's all these guys' fault. Climate change, Donald Trump, the Illuminati, anchovies on pizza, everything. Photo Credit: Hernan Pinera

And the biggest threat to research? "The difficulties we would face in engaging with European networks, [...], the difficulty with exchanges of staff, exclusion from EU science advisory committees, [...], we should also not ignore the inevitable cut to science funding".

McKee is right – the EU has brought us undeniable rewards. UK universities are huge beneficiaries of its research grants – (Imperial received £48.8m in funding in 2014), 200,000 UK students and 20,000 UK staff have been able to work or study in Europe under the Erasmus scheme, our NHS is part-staffed by skilled non-British EU workers and cross-country clinical trials for rare diseases have been coordinated where small disease population sizes are a real issue. But it is far from perfect, with problems many and manifest and questions about anti-democratic behaviour lingering. While this needs to be considered, in leaving, McKee argues, there is a real risk that we would continue to contribute to the EU from outside while relinquishing our place at the negotiation table.

Dalglish, on the other hand, holds less complimentary views of the EU, labelling it a "sclerotic", "dying organisation" that is heading for a "headlong crash into a wall". He regards the views of the

remain campaign as "unnecessary scaremongering" and feels Britain will continue to thrive, regardless of the "completely and utterly doomed EU".

I find it inexplicable that even a handful of scientists in the UK can support Brexit

"There will be hardly any difference at all in the practical day to day science [we experience in Britain]" he says, asserting that our position on the world stage is secured – "Britain is far bigger than the EU in science". He is more concerned by the impact of remaining on our NHS, particularly

in light of recent trade discussions and TTIP proposal between the US and the EU – "It's black and white [...] either you have the EU or you have the NHS but you can't have both".

A report published this week by Lord Darzi, Director of the Institute of Global Health Innovation at Imperial College and the London School of Economics, addresses some of these concerns, and it is well worth reading. Amongst other suggestions, it claims that both the EU and member states will be able to agree TTIP reservation clauses for national health services, helping secure against privatisation. "The core principle of the NHS", the report comments, "will continue to be defined by UK government whether we remain in, or leave, the EU".

"I find it inexplicable that even a handful of scientists in the UK can support Brexit", say McKee, "initially I just assumed [it] was a lack of awareness of the issues, their misconceptions, such as those on the Clinical Trials Regulation, have now been pointed out numerous times yet they persist in repeating them. It must now be clear that they simply make up 'facts' to fit their arguments, with a complete disregard for the truth. Sadly, you have to fact check everything they

say. Even where there is a grain of truth it is hardly never the whole truth, and almost always years out of date".

And so the clock ticks and we edge further towards the deadline. As an unprecedented event, can our predictions about what will happen to science, research and the NHS be anything more than noisy rhetoric amidst largely speculative debate? That said, hilarious as they are, memes of Donald Trump's hair should remind us of how close a nation could come to making a decision with far reaching ramifications.

"We are taking a leap in the dark", says McKee, "I'm sure we could salvage something [should we leave], but it will clearly be much worse than what we have already".



The only question that matters. Will we need Visas for Malia, Greece? Photo Credit: Keith Parjer

FELIX SCIENCE



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Is there room for zoos in 2016?

Lef Apostolakis
Science Editor

At the end of last month we witnessed the death of a lowland gorilla in Cincinnati Zoo. Harambe, who was put down during an attempt to rescue a four-year-old boy who had fallen into the enclosure. A week later and we're still talking about the incident, debating who's to blame. However, instead of playing the blame game, perhaps we should be talking about the role of zoos in the 21st century.

Animal collections have existed for thousands of years, yet the modern zoo is a 19th century invention, aiming to educate and inspire the public. However the biodiversity onslaught we started noticing in the 20th century, made

What is this intelligent self aware animal doing in captivity?



A painting of the camel house at the London Zoo, from 1835. Photo Credit: Wikipedia

the need for conservation apparent and in 1933 the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums produced its first conservation strategy. Today, conservation is not only a key element of the aims and objectives of most zoos, but also a key justification for keeping animals in captivity.

So what are the implications for zoos as institutions, when an invaluable member of a critically endangered species is put down? "It's really galvanised public support for questioning the purpose of these institutions," say Elisa Allen, Associate Director at the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), UK. "What is this intelligent self aware animal doing in captivity for our entertainment?"

Many questions arise when considering the inner workings of zoos. How much of a zoo's budget is allocated to scientific research, for example? The San Diego Zoo, the largest in the world, only spent 7.6% of its income on research and conservation in 2014. The London Zoological Society (ZSL) on the other hand spends approximately 20% of its income on research and conservation, as is illustrated by its 2014 annual report. Yet in both cases, most of these funds come from external grants. Of the £34.4 million that is generated by its animal collections, £31.1 million is pumped back into the ZSL's collections, to simply maintain them.

That wouldn't be a problem if



A captive lowland gorilla. There are less than 100,000 left in the wild. Photo Credit: Anthony

the collections contained mainly endangered species. But in reality they don't. Less than a third of mammals within the London Zoo are endangered. The same goes for amphibians, with some species not even having been assessed yet.

"Ultimately we have to look at the root of the species declining and that always comes back to their habitats being destroyed. Zoos would be far better off spending their money and resources in protecting these wild populations" concludes Allen.

However, things are not that

There are really intricate factors behind the scenes that people don't understand

simple, as is pointed out by Rosi Stoycheva, a conservation biologist who has worked on many conservation projects across the country over the past five years.

"First many endangered species are in areas that are very remote. There are permits you need to get to remove these animals from the wild. You must consider if the animal will survive in the zoo environment and how many you can harvest from the wild to create a breeding population" says Stoycheva.

Indeed, the intricacies of endangered species' conservation are illustrated through numerous examples of failed conservation attempts such as the extinction of the Sumatran Rhino from the Malaysian Peninsula when the five remaining captive individuals all died within 18 days from disease.

Other times, obstacles can be bureaucratic, with many well known as well as rumoured reintroductions being delayed due to governments getting cold feet.

"These are the issues that no one really thinks about. There are really intricate factors behind the scenes that people don't understand and this is where a lot of the criticism stems from."

Zoos might not be perfect, but they are an important conservation tool nonetheless. "You shouldn't rely on just one measure to solve your problems," concludes Stoycheva. "Without zoos there wouldn't be as many species."

Science & the City

There are some of us puttering around campus that remember a time before smartphones and constantly available internet. Even before sharing just the one computer in the corner of the living room with your entire family, waiting painstakingly for the whirling ring of the AOL dialup to finish, only to be kicked off again five minutes later when someone 'needed' the phone. When connecting with people involved – wait for it – walking over to their house and knocking over the door.

Since the revolution of the internet, technology and computing devices have rapidly evolved into smaller, more powerful, and more complex tools – many of which are being generated and created here on our campus. But I'm not entirely sure we appreciate it. And to be fair, who can blame generations that simply have always known a life in which the entire world is accessible in their hands? There's just no context.

So here's some context – I recently saw an old black and white photograph taken in New York. It was 1956, and there were four men in overalls laboriously pushing a five MB IBM server up a wooden ramp into a truck, with a crowd of people curiously watching. The server was easily half a cubic meter – for just the five MB, which is nothing compared to the capacity of say, a new Apple iPhone 6 at 64 GB. It's just basically just a large photo on your tablet.

After furiously scribbling some numbers on paper, I realised that an iPhone 6 would require 12,800 of these machines to reach the same capacity. At an average pace of a ten minute kilometer, it would take me about six and a half hours to walk around the entire capacity of an iPhone in 1956. So in a mere 60 years, we have compressed technology by at least six hours (that's not really a scientific fact, don't quote me).

Considering the amazing leaps in technological advancement, maybe we should place our appreciation of it contextually – be more cognizant of the awe-inspiring capacity we carry around with us every day, and think carefully about what we actually use it for.

NAOMI STEWART

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Sh!t Science

Lonely fishkeepers videdicated: fish can tell when you're being a dick

MARIANNE GUENOT



You will pay for you insolence human Photo Credit Joseph Bylund

Natasha Khaleeq
Writer

Coral bleaching has severely impacted the Great Barrier Reef over the past month. The corals, which are in constant competition with algae for light and nutrients, seem to be losing the battle, with many bleached coral skeletons completely engulfed in algae. Pictures and testimonials from Lizard Island have been painting a grim picture of ghastly, brown, decomposing coral. WWF Australia shared pictures taken last month of granite Island 'ground zero' where a mass bleaching event killed an estimated 22% of the reef's coral.

The Great Barrier Reef is currently undergoing its worst bleaching in recorded history. Approximately 93% of the reefs along the 2,300 kilometre site have suffered bleaching. Coral bleaching occurs when water temperatures increase causing coral to expel their symbiotic algae which in turn result in their white-grey colour shift.



Extensive stand of severely bleached coral. Photo Credit: Petchrung Sukpong

This week's science picture

At Sh!t Science, we want to show that every science paper is a drop of water that, in its small way, helps fill up the aquarium of human knowledge, so that us little humans can float around happily oxygenated by the water of cognition. This week, you may have guessed, we are talking about fish.

Have you ever had one of those annoying friends with an aquarium who will swear that their fish recognises them? 'Look how he presses up against the glass! He knows his mommy!' they'll say.

Well I have, and it took everything in my power to contain the powerful urge to roll my eyes so far back into my skull that they might not find their way back to the front of my head. But actually, science has recently proven that they might have a point.

This study, emerging from the University of Oxford, was published

in *Scientific Reports* this week. Scientists presented a tropical fish with pictures of human faces, and asked the fish to react to the pictures. These fish, archerfish (*Toxotes chatareus*), are known to hunt aerial prey by projecting water at high speed to knock them out, so it was easier for the scientists to train the fish to learn to hate one face, and spit in its direction whenever they was presented to it.

Surprisingly, the fish were capable of recognising one face out of 44 different pictures. This worked even if features such as hair and face shape were removed, showing that fish can, indeed, recognise the finer traits of a face.

Now, of course, the results of this study go further than simply vindicating the legions of crazy fish owners. It's about how we recognise faces as humans.

Face recognition is paramount for humans to establish proper

social skills. This skill was long thought to be reserved to humans, as the capacity to discriminate faces was found to be hosted in the fusiform gyrus, located in the neocortex of the human brain. Facial recognition had previously been identified in non-human mammals, such as dogs, sheep and cows, but it could be argued that those animals had evolved to recognise faces as a consequence of domestication.

The premise of this article was to investigate whether an animal which had no reason to have evolved to know human faces, such as a fish from a tropical area, could learn to do so, even when those animals lack a neocortex. These results show that facial recognition is not a human trait, and do not require a brain the size of a human's.



Your Officer Elections

Here are the manifestos for Deputy President (Finance & Services) candidates.

All copy is provided by candidates and not altered by the Union.

Voting opens 12:00 midday, Monday 13 June



Benjamin Bell

I believe I have the commitment, experience and passion to make real lasting changes at Imperial. I've been at Imperial for both my undergrad and postgrad degrees and held positions including IC Hockey Club Captain and RSM VPCS. Below are some of the achievable changes I would like to implement. Sort out the library it is frankly ridiculous that, despite having planning permission to do so, college refuses to install more air conditioning units in the library; expecting students to work in these conditions is utterly unacceptable.

Work with DPCS and the College to transfer more responsibilities from Sport Imperial I believe that sports clubs should be overseen by elected, passionate and accountable students. Increase funding support to clubs and societies. Funding levels are not keeping up with increases in participation, more support is needed to secure sponsorship and funding particularly for smaller and ICSM clubs. Improve postgrad participation in union events starting at a new uni can be intimidating, even for postgraduates. I would make a significant effort to engage with postgrads, particularly those who are new to Imperial.

Improve the quality and variety of food on all college campuses. There are not enough quality, healthy food choices available for students, particularly vegetarian and vegan options. Abolish entry fees for standard nights at the Union It's our Union, we shouldn't have to pay! Improved support for students looking for housing finding student housing can be very challenging, particularly for international students and those moving out of halls. <http://tiny.cc/VoteBenBell>

Benjamin Warnick



When elected my goals for next year are: I will work closely with union staff to further develop Imperial Plus so the hard work you do gets recognised and accredited. Increase funding for Clubs and Societies. Funds available to clubs has not grown nearly as much as the membership funds has grown (there is a 30% disparity between the two since 2011). I will carry on lobbying the college to ensure transparency in how your fees are being spent. Ensure the processes and systems in place to support club finances are quick and easy to use. To improve the services at the union and get tangible proof of it; for example Cask Marque for the quality of drinks in the bars The DPFS role deserves a candidate of real experience and responsibility.

I was given an Outstanding Service Award for my work as RSMU President particularly for my work in the social side, relating to union services. In this role I brought numerous papers and reports to Union Council and represented RSM clubs. Before that I was RSMU Hockey President and their 1st XI Men's Captain, I was also De La Beche Club Treasurer. From this I have learned a huge deal about the way clubs work. Student groups tend to be very self-motivated and the best way to support them is nurture them to allow their plans to be realised. Thank you for reading, Vote Warnick! #BelieveInBeard #BeMoreWarnick

Remember to cast your vote! Voting opens 12:00 midday, Monday 13 June and closes 12:00 midday, Friday 17 June.



Gautam Kambhampati

I would like to see the Union make life easier for Clubs & Societies, and allow them to do what they do best: provide excellent services to Imperial students. I would also like to see the Union financially justify bar profits and venue hire by being open and transparent about their profits and how these funds are used to support student activities.

I will introduce variable spending caps for Club Treasurers, set by Management Groups, to reduce red-tape. A better room bookings system, instead of the current two-tier system, to reduce double bookings and the large delays in booking requests being fulfilled. A return to easily accessed free printing for Clubs & Societies and Union-related activities. Publication of details of bar profits in a readable format so students can decide for themselves whether drinks mark-ups are value-for-money.

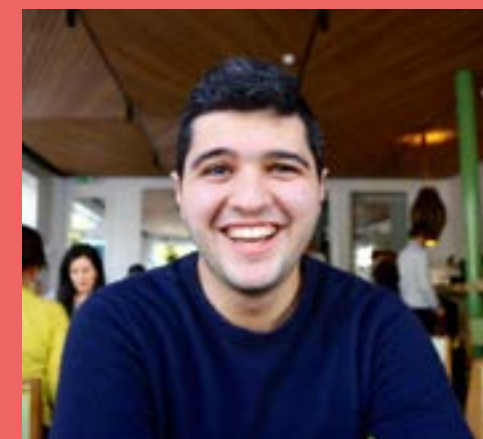
An open door policy for Club Chairs and Treasurers with financial issues. I have been Treasurer of DramSoc, managing large budgets for events across the Union. Working with many other Clubs & Societies on budgets, management, and running events from small karaoke events to the large annual productions by Overseas Societies. Collaborating with Union staff on the management of large Union-run events such as the annual Summer Ball. Vote for More Transparency. Vote for a Better Union for All. Vote Gautam for DPFS.

Nikita Bathija



Having come to the end of my degree I understand the importance of enjoying university life. In what will be some of our most memorable years, the Union plays a crucial role and I would like the opportunity to give-back to the college as DPFS. If elected, I would promote the development of the College and Union Alumni networks in order to build community and encourage new avenues for club sponsorship. Reform space booking to ensure efficient use of Union resources. Continue the work of the current DPFS and implement Gift Aid on donations. Actively seek feedback and student input to plan the events that you want.

My ideas are shaped around bringing you the best experiences whilst a student and also once you've graduated. Being on the committee for ChemSoc last year, I understand the work that goes into building a successful society. In addition, during a recent internship in the City I demonstrated that I am comfortable dealing with finances. These experiences, coupled with my strong desire to improve College life, means I will work with student volunteers to deal with tasks and problems efficiently. Optimising the Union's ability to enhance the student experience, by ensuring it is financially sound, is central to my candidacy. I will work hard with the other elected officers to shape a Union that you have a say in and can be proud of as a student and graduate.



Philip Kurukgy

Hello! I am Phil in 2nd year Chem Eng. My manifesto has 7 goals, that outline plans for a stronger union that actually makes an impact on your student experience. FUNDING: Enhancing sponsorship funds for activities and societies, especially small ones to provide funds to grow. Maintaining budgets for societies in real terms (adjusted for inflation). AIR CONDITIONING: Lobby college to deliver the student petition for air conditioning in the central library. FEES: Lobby college to freeze fees increases for international students, campaign against any future government increases for home students and against hall rent prices increase.

REVENUE: Find NEW revenue streams for societies and the union by organising more events and activities, new sponsorships from external organisations (renown Imperial employers...) and lobbying for college subsidy. FOOD & DRINKS: Review the union food and drink outlets, parties, reduce costs and enhance quality. EFFICIENCY: My experience as a hall senior, organising a year of fresher's activities on a tight budget, has taught me to maximise efficiency. RIGHTS: Be a strong defender of your rights, raising your views at College and Union council as

I've already done as member of council and on FELIX. I am a passionate student activist, the time has come to ensure our views and opinions are properly represented. A vote for me is a vote to amplify the Union's IMPACT on your student experience!

Rachel Blythe



Having worked with the Students' Union for the past four years, as Duty Manager of 568, The Union Bar & Metric for the past year, I have loved devoting my time at University to improving service, taking care of more than 50 club/society/project events and making each night as enjoyable as possible, whilst jointly accounting £1.76 million in food and drink sales. VOTE-Experience! Regularly interacting with students has allowed me to fix recurring issues: Suggesting new wide-screen TVs in 568 and Metric. Expanding diet-specific options, e.g. introducing new vegetarian items. Reducing queuing time by 10 minutes on ACC and CSP nights. Updating security to ensure customer safety remains a top priority. VOTE-Progress!

My future policies will continue this progress: Increasing affordable, healthy options across ALL campuses, by reducing price and average calories by 10%. Using customer surveys to highlight inefficiencies and improve cleanliness, quality and speed of service. Better rewards and loyalty schemes in Shop Extra, Reynolds Bar, h-bar and The Foundry. Improving postgraduate events and subsidies, by promoting alongside the Graduate Students Union. Documenting how money spent across the venues is recycled back to students. VOTE-Funding! Having already helped to make tuition and maintenance fee payments more efficient, I will further: Lobby to increase the DPFS role in gaining sponsorship and approvals to speed up the annual budgeting process. Provide equal support to all CSPs. Reduce the ICSMU-ICU funding gap. Ensure first year students decide on their halls budgeting. If you also support these ideas, please vote Rachel for DPFS!!

Voting opens 12:00 midday, Monday 13 June and closes 12:00 midday, Friday 17 June. Vote online at: imperialcollegeunion.org/vote



Sampriti Gupta

Hi, I'm Sampriti, a 3rd year Biomedical Sciences student. The Union has played a major role in making my student life at Imperial fun and rewarding. As the DPFS, I wish to give back and further enrich the student life at Imperial. For this my policies are: ADMINISTRATION ATE-EASE - Improve eActivities, room bookings and mailman to make clubs and societies' administration a tad bit easier. ALUMNI DONATIONS - Add a donation button to club pages to streamline the process of member and alumni donations ALCOHOL-LESS (non-alcoholic). EVENTS - Improve the Non-alcoholic events organised by the union to allow everyone to enjoy regardless of whether they drink. ACCLAIMED DJs - Organise events with well-known DJs at Metric with student input.

This will be in addition to the regular club nights. ASSORTMENT OF FOOD AND DRINKS - Improve the variety of food and drinks served at Charring Cross cafe. APPROACHABLE AND AVAILABLE - I will strive to be approachable and available to all students if they have any questions, queries and/or suggestions. AIMING FOR ACHIEVABLE! aim for my policies to be Simple and Achievable. It is impossible to change everything that we'd like changed in one year. So my aim is to bring about changes which, whilst seemingly simple, will add on to what we already have and thus, will further improve the holistic student experience at Imperial. AGREE? If you agree with what you just read and want to bring about these changes, Vote for Sampriti!

Yiya Mao

Hi, everyone, I am Yiya, and pledge to be your Deputy President (Finance & Services). Since I came to Imperial, I have been standing for student voice, and my passion never stop. Vote Yiya for passion: Representing the Business School at Imperial College. Joined the Deans Advisory Council 2015-2016- Academic Representative Board 2015-2016. Welfare Representative Board 2015-2016. Attending Union Council Meeting for Policy making 2016- Vice- Provost (Education)'s Student Forum 2016. Judge Board and presenter of Student Academic Choice Awards 2016- Ran for Leadership Elections 2016 -Deputy President(Education)- Master's Success Guide Working Group and Editor.

I have also been fully involved in many aspects of the Student Union. Vote Yiya for experiences:- Lead Tutor at Community Education Forum- Representing Pimlico Connections- Member of the Fencing club- Table Tennis Women's First Team- Played the British Universities and Colleges Sport 2015 (Table Tennis).



Vote Yiya for her ideas: Searching for new funding type for club & societies- Alumni/sponsor mechanism- Ensure the budgeting run smoothly each year- be approachable and supportive- Foster the process and funding for new club & societies- training- Lobbying with Commercial Services team, lowering food and drink cost- Extending the food service hours to 8pm in H-bar and offering dinner service in other venues - Offering more Student Duty Managers position in all venues- Use my expertise in marketing support Social Enterprise Programme- Work with student development team to help funding for students with enterprise ideas. If you remember Yiya, and like her experience, please Vote Yiya for DPFS. Visit my website: voteyiya.uk



Zachary Slingsby-Smith

Hi, I'm Zac and I am currently a Materials MEng student. My experience as a Year Representative and Academic Representative gave me the opportunity to receive feedback directly from students and to transform their ideas into tangible changes, such as increasing the use of Panopto in the department.

My experiences as a Hall Senior, at Beit Hall have given me extensive insight into organizing activities at Imperial, through interactions with freshers and international Erasmus students. I will aspire to achieve a smoothly run union if elected. Adios amigos!



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Neo-noir shadows and Californian sun

The Nice Guys is a send-up of genre flicks that's in on the joke

The Nice Guys



Dir: Shane Black. Script: Shane Black, Anthony Bagarozzi. Starring: Russell Crowe, Ryan Gosling, Angourie Rice, Matt Bomer. 116 Minutes

Fred Fyles
Film Editor

While it is hard enough to make a straight-forward genre film, it is much more difficult for a director to attempt to send that genre up: make it too broad, and it descends into an unamusing mess; too narrow, and it becomes a smug attempt to show off the creator's smarts. With this in mind, you would be forgiven for having a shudder of apprehension before seeing *The Nice Guys*, the latest work from director and writer Shane Black, which attempts to skewer neo-noir films, buddy comedies, and the 1970s simultaneously. But Black manages to pull it off, supported by the strong cast, to make *The Nice Guys* a light, buoyant piece of entertainment.

To say that *The Nice Guys* is in on the joke of the genre tropes would be a massive understatement. The film sets out its mission statement in its opening: a young boy sneaks into his parents room to steal his father's *Playboy* lookalike only to be interrupted when a car crashes off one of the iconic ridges of the San Fernando Valley, directly into his home. Upon examination of the crash, the kid finds adult film actor Misty Mountains (Murielle Telio) naked, bloodstained, and writing on rock, offering up the beguiling last words "How do you like my car, big boy?" It's an indicator of the time (late 1970s) and place (Downtown L.A.) so immediate the opening titles are redundant.

This scene, with its sexual objectification dripping in casual violence, sets the tone for the duration of the two-hour-long film, which takes several cues from Paul Thomas Anderson's superlative 1997 work *Boogie Nights*, another film set around the porn industry of



Ryan Gosling and Russel Crowe play the odd couple in 1970s neo-noir comedy *The Nice Guys*. Photo Credit: Warner Bros.

1970s LA. Those taking the scene at face value would be rightly offended, but soon it becomes clear just how much of a parody *The Nice Guys* is, and how everyone – the director, the cast, the audience – are in on the joke. The crash scene is followed by another collision, this time between the two principles: Holland March (Ryan Gosling), the down-and-out alcoholic PI who litters his rented apartment with scotch bottles following his wife's death; and Jackson Healy (Russell Crowe), an

Gosling shows us he retains his strong comedy chops

enforcer heavy who just wants to feel useful. March has been hired to investigate the reappearance of Misty, seen by her myopic aunt, and ties it in with the disappearance of Amelia Kutner (Margaret Qualley); Healy, meanwhile, has been hired by Kutner to try and keep her whereabouts unknown. The result is Healy turning up at March's door, and breaking his arm, almost in front of his 13-year-old daughter Holly (Angourie Rice).

In the real world, that would be the end of it (and at some point the police would get involved – they never really seem to do so; perhaps the LAPD's funding was cut that year), but because we are in neo-noir world, a different set of rules apply. After Healy is assaulted in his office by two gun-toting goons looking for Kutner, he teams up with March to try and track her down before she is killed. What follows is a classic screwball-style buddy movie: Healy's seasoned professionalism clashes with March's uncontrollable alcoholism – while the former cases a joint looking for witnesses, the latter just tries to find out where the free bar is. Healy is disgusted by March's readiness to exploit

his needy clients, but is perfectly willing to kill those in his way, a fact pointed out by Holly, who is the moral centre of the piece.

Crowe gets his teeth stuck into his role, bringing a sense of defeated nobility to Healy, a man blown along by the vice-filled wind of L.A. He plays Healy completely straight, taking cues from the serious noirs of the 1940s and 50s. Gosling, in contrast, was clearly having a complete ball during the filming, and his infectious comedic energy colours every scene he is in. After a run of heavy, serious films, Gosling is showing us that he still retains the comedy chops on show in *Crazy, Stupid, Love* and *Lars and the Real Girl*. An effective comparison may be drawn with Nicolas Winding Refn's 2011 thriller *Drive*, another L.A.-based neo-noir centred around a nostalgic time period (while set in the present, Refn's film is heavily laced with 80s overtones); while Gosling was near-mute in *Drive*, communicating only through body language, in *The Nice Guys* he attacks the dialogue at full throttle, chucking out smart quips like a circus knife-thrower. He also skewers Crowe's over-the-top dialogue, which is

pure neo-noir ham: all dramatic metaphors and grizzly anecdotes. At one point, Healy makes reference to a character "dropping off his radar", and March openly scoffs the use of such a po-faced term, revealing the ludicrous nature of the predictable dialogue often found in a neo-noir.

The Nice Guys would work solidly as a straight neo-noir piece, one that is enjoyable but ultimately forgettable. However, it is the way in which Black has approached the project, with his tongue firmly in cheek throughout, threading the scenes with a heavy skein of irony, that elevates this above standard fare. There are certain elements that feel uneven – particularly the way Black seems to be taking inspiration from every decade between the 40s and the 80s – and a number of fight scenes could be cut: they were clearly supposed to be dramatic centrepieces, however, where the film shines is the dialogue, and these parts only seem to bloat the film. But look past these, focusing on the chemistry between Gosling and Crowe, and the razor-sharp screenplay, and *The Nice Guys* is a rough gem of a film, shining through the L.A. smog.



Versus: The Life and Films of Ken Loach



Dir: Louise Osmond. Starring: Ken Loach, Cillian Murphy, Alan Parker, Hayley Squires. 93 Minutes

For an anti-establishment radical, Ken Loach cuts an unlikely figure. A polite man approaching 80, whose latest work, *I, Daniel Blake*, won the Palme d'Or at this year's Cannes, Loach is one of the world's most feted directors, but his inoffensive appearance belies the raw power contained in his films. Over the last five decades, Loach has been directing films in a raw, realist style, which revolve around issues of social and political justice. As well as this year's Palme – his second – 2016 sees the release of *Versus: The Life and Films of Ken Loach*, a documentary charting his ups and downs. In the film world, such a work is equivalent to a retrospective – a crowning achievement capping off an illustrious career.

One of the key themes in both

Loach's oeuvre and the film is capital versus labour. Coming from a working-class, Northern background, Loach managed to attain a place at grammar school, and then went on to Oxford, where he was pushed up against the children of the establishment, whose privilege manifested itself as a sense of entitlement. Loach began his creative career at an auspicious time, when the BBC was expanding its operations, setting up their *Wednesday Play* series, for which Loach directed ten films, including the lauded *Cathy Come Home* (1966), an unflinching look at homelessness and its impact on the family structure which led to people for years afterwards trying to give money to lead actor Carol White in the street, convinced she really was destitute.

The current climate in British culture cannot be ignored, and while the documentary does point out that Loach came out of 'retirement' shortly after the most recent election, much of the criticism of the current system must be inferred. The fact that the majority of the actors, screenwriters, and directors

who serve as talking heads in the film are working class strikes a contrast to the typical cross-section of this generation of artists – think of Tom Hiddleston, Benedict Cumberbatch, et al. This lack of working class mobility, combined with the current wholesale attack on the BBC, makes one think that Loach is most definitely a product of his time, and would be unlikely to make it today.

The other main antagonism explored is art versus commerce: Loach's refusal to waver from his political beliefs led to a number of his films being banned, and a period in the 1980s (the most fertile time for protest, anger, and dissent) where he didn't have the money to work at all. In order to make a living, he directed adverts for – among others – Nestlé and McDonald's, something that still weighs heavy on his conscience. Interviews with his family help to break down the image we have of Loach as a po-faced crusader, with his children betraying his love of glossy musicals, which one daughter puts down to a desire for escapism. Well, when the subject matter you're working with



The radical director Ken Loach at work on his latest film. Photo Credit: Dogwoof

typically revolves around injustice, brutality, and anger, a little bit of MGM glamour is excusable.

The film ends on a triumphant note, with Loach's resurgence in popularity, following his first Palme d'Or win in 2006 for Irish Civil War film *The Wind that Shakes the Barley*. Director Louise Osmond suggests that Loach may be more well regarded in continental Europe than the UK, a claim that has

weight when we consider the home reaction to *The Wind that Shakes the Barley*, which saw critic Simon Heffer compare Loach to Hitler, despite not having seen the film. While the film was completed just before his most recent win, it makes an independent case for valuing Loach – one of this country's most vibrant, steadfast, and engaging filmmakers.

FRED FYLES

Documentary corner: *Portrait of Jason*

Fred Fyles
Film Editor

Along with bumblebees and pandas, another species that is seemingly on the verge of extinction is the raconteur. The word, which reached its height of popularity in the mid-20th century, is used to describe a teller of tales: someone who can take an amusing singular anecdote, and spin it into a tale of gold, causing you to hang onto every word. Today, the closest thing the Western world has to a true raconteur is director John Waters, aka 'The Pope of Trash'. This raconteur spirit is what makes Shirley Clarke's 1967 documentary *Portrait of Jason* such a compelling watch.

Portrait of Jason, as the name would suggest, centres around Jason Holliday, a black, gay, aspiring cabaret performer. Over the course of 12 hours, Clarke and her team ask him questions about his life; his answers are vague, laced through with theatrical accounts of his early years as a hustler on the streets



Jason Holliday, who cuts a beguiling figure at the centre of Shirley Clarke's *Portrait of Jason*. Photo Credit: Project Shirley

of New York City. As the night progresses, Clarke and her team become more and more hostile towards Holliday, abusing him with racial slurs, in an attempt to get underneath the exaggerated persona he has adopted. The 12 hours of footage are cut down to a much more manageable 105 minutes,

with scenes floating in and out, cut together in a haze that gives an inebriated quality to the film. A pioneer of the cinema verite movement, as well as a key player in the experimental film scene of the mid-20th century, *Portrait of Jason* may be Clarke's masterpiece. Weaving together fact and fiction,

she exploits the authenticity of the documentary format – which promises a 'truth', if such a thing can ever be achieved on film – by filling it with the ramblings of a man for whom authenticity is a quick route to an early grave, a man who has had to learn to adapt and hide in order to stay safe. At

the same time, Clarke is playing a dangerous game, tiptoeing towards the ethical code of professional documentarians, and smashing it to pieces. The scenes where her and her partner berate Jason are some of the most uncomfortable things I have witnessed in a documentary, producing a palpable sense of unease. Clarke seems to be upending the conventions of the direct cinema movement; by both provoking her subject and manipulatively editing together the rushes she took over the twelve hours, she subverts the traditional role of the documentarian (derived from documentum, the latin word for 'proof', hinting at its structural importance in the concept of truth-telling), who is supposed to use the camera as a mechanical, all-seeing, all-consuming eye.

Portrait of Jason not only shows the true power of a raconteur – a power that can get one out of trouble just as often as it gets one in it – but Clarke also highlights the force and weaknesses of the documentary genre as a whole. Her and Jason leave no question unanswered, no story unsaid.



ANOTHER CASTLE



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When pills aren't enough

The Wellcome Book Prize celebrates the interdependency of literature and medicine

Jingjie Cheng
Arts Editor

Cathy Rentzenbrink begins her story with a night out. On a summer's day twenty-six years ago, she had decided to head home first, bored, while her brother remained behind in the bar hoping to "get lucky".

"Matty never, in any sense of the word, 'got lucky' again," she continued, as she recounted how her brother was hit by a car on his way back, and the suffering of their family that followed. She described, in poignant, heart-wrenching words, how her brother Matty fell into a persistent vegetative state and how the family eventually, after eight years, came to the painful decision to perform "the last act of love" – withdrawing nutrition and life support for their beloved son and brother.

This incredibly personal and moving journey is told in Ms Rentsenbrink's memoir *The Last Act of Love*, one of the shortlisted books for the Wellcome Book Prize. It's an annual award given to a work of new fiction or non-fiction that

Literature
can help us
understand
the
complexities
of illness
and healing

deals with a central theme of health, illness or medicine. I was at a 5x15 event where the five shortlisted authors of 2016 were gathered to talk about their stories for fifteen minutes each.

I have always been passionate



The shortlisted authors of the Wellcome Book Prize 2016 with their books. Photo Credit: FMCM Associates

about the role literature can play in medicine, and vice versa. Listening to Ms Rentzenbrink speak in person about her book and experiences highlighted the role words have in healing and coming to terms with difficult decisions of life and death in medicine. Indeed, the Wellcome Book Prize is a beautiful idea, a yearly reminder that words help us understand the complexities of illness and healing, and bring us closer to what it means to be human. Themes that have come up in past prizes include birth and beginnings, pain and loss, memory and identity.

Since the prize began in 2009, it has celebrated books about struggles with mental illness, difficult decisions in the course of medicine, passion projects delving deep into a particular medical issue or another, and even thrillers that explore memory loss and identity. This year, the winner was *It's All in Your Head* – an insight into the world of psychosomatic illnesses, written by consultant neurologist Suzanne O'Sullivan. In the course of her career, Dr O'Sullivan has seen a fair number of patients who are ill, and have all the signs of being ill, without actually having anything physically wrong with them. Psychosomatic illness is not something people are happy to talk about or accept readily

– which patient wants to be told that what they're experiencing is 'all in your head'? Yet, as Dr O'Sullivan points out in her speech in which she described a woman who eventually became paralysed due to

her psychosomatic illness – "If your mind can get your body to start an action, why can't it stop actions too?"

In these cases, books not only provide an avenue for exploring the complex human and scientific

factors that affect psychosomatic illness, but also make it accessible to the public and encourage discussion of difficult issues. Literature

Reading
gives us the
collective
experience
of what it
means to be
human

provides an insight into situations where our deepest convictions are challenged, and reading then gives us the collective experience of what it means to be human.

For more information visit:
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Cathy Rentzenbrink with her brother Matty. Photo Credit: Cathy Rentzenbrink



Is David Hockney all he's cracked up to be?

He's beloved by the public, he's very prolific, but do his paintings stand up to scrutiny?



The man himself. Photo Credit: The Guardian.

Indira Mallik
Arts Editor

His mass appeal has proved to have an inverse correlation with the regard in which critics hold him.

At his best, Hockney's work fizzles with energy, and seems to have something important to say. In one of his earliest paintings, *We Two*

At its best, Hockney's work fizzles with energy

Boys Clinging Together, named for the Walt Whitman poem, reveal his homosexuality, showing two figures intertwined, other paintings code his attraction towards Cliff Richards. Hockney moved to Los

Angeles in 1966 and adopted a style of painting that would define the rest of his career.

In the 1967 painting, *A Bigger Splash*, Hockney conjures up a vision of Los Angeles that is haunting. Bright, flat colours fill neat, clinically geometric shapes. Oppressive Californian heat, rises from the red brick paving around the pool and permeates the painting. The hard lines are disturbed only by a scribble of white in the centre of the canvas. The viewer is left to imagine the identity of the unseen diver who has left the splash in their wake. *American Collectors* is another painting that is perfectly evocative of that particular Los Angeles glamour. Two figures, Fred and Marcia Weisman, she in a pink robe, he in a funeral black suit stand stiffly amongst their modern art acquisitions. Their poses are stiff, as if they were cardboard cut-outs. An undercurrent of sinisterness

Bright, flat colours fill neat shapes, oppressive Californian heat permeates the canvas

runs through the composition the brightness is disquieting, An atmosphere of money, boredom, and disillusionment is palpable.

If Hockney's semi-naïve style suits the Los Angeles paintings perfectly, it is not so effective in his other works. In the series *A Bigger View*, exhibited in 2012 at the **Royal Academy**, he trades the West Coast sunshine for the more temperate climes of his native Yorkshire. Bright ceruleans are exchanged for bright viridians and huge canvases tacked together depict vistas of rolling hills outlined in navy blue, intersected by unspooling lilac ribbons of country paths. The bright, bold, and flat colours, so effective in portraying Los Angeles become saccharine sweet in their depiction of Yorkshire.

These landscapes are pure escapism, showing a nostalgic, idyllic view of the English countryside, unravaged by any



Dagny Corcoran by David Hockney. Photo Credit: Richard Schmidt/Royal Academy

signs of modernity. The choice of colours and the brushstrokes make it clear that Hockney's style is not a response to the landscape but an inflexible filter like tool he applies to whatever he sees before him. The compositions are pretty, but comfortable, entirely safe. They would not look out of place on a chocolate box or an illustrated edition of *The Hobbit* as pictures of Tolkien's The Shire.

The most interesting of the bunch is *May Blossom on the Roman Road*, in which huge hawthorne bushes come alive with blossom that looks like writhing maggots desperate to be free of the green foliage. Here, there is an hint of menace that lends interest. That the landscapes are so uninspiring are a shame because Hockney's paintings of Ecclehill, again in Yorkshire in the 1950s are evocative and filled with loose, seemingly effortless brushwork. By comparison, his later work seems contrived.

In *A Bigger View*, Hockney seems unable to move on from the past, both from his own prior work and that of artists he admires. Anything more than a cursory glance of *Early Blossom*, *Woldgate* reveals his inspirations, the bright colours, the brushwork seem lifted wholesale from **Van Gogh**, but hold none of the frenetic emotional depth of Van Gogh's own work.

Van Gogh is a frequent source of inspiration in Hockney's work, the pen and ink linework in *Mother, Bradford* (1978) is heavily influenced

These are escapist, comfortable paintings which would not look out of place as illustrations of The Shire

by Van Gogh's early work. Van Gogh is far from the only influence; the Paper Pool series is reminiscent of **Matisse's** Cut-Outs. The graphic splash in *A Large Diver* (Paper Pool 27) harkens back to the burst of light that appear in **Matisse's** *Icarus* (1946).



Barry Humphrie by David Hockney. Photo Credit: Richard Schmidt/Royal Academy

Hockney has spoken at length about his love affair with **Pablo Picasso's** work. It has shaped a great deal of his output, in particular the 'joiners' series which encompassed his output in the 1980s. In these works, such as *Pearlblossom Highway* Hockney manipulates polaroids and photographs into cubist collages. In doing so however, he is never able to step out of Picasso's shadow to say something new. The images feel gimmicky and pastiche-like. A quick search of the Hockney tag on Instagram reveals a host of users sharing their holiday pictures, pictures of desks in the 'joiner' style. In many instances only the content of the photographs, the hipster mug or finished geography homework give away that Hockney could not have created them: never a sign of a robust artistic movement.

Hockney has had an extraordinarily prolific career, moving from medium to medium throughout his 50 year career. His latest project involved iPad drawings, most notably of the Yosemite National Park.

If there was any proof needed that Hockney's work is overrated beyond parody in recent years, the response to these iPad drawings are it.

We've all heard the old adage that a two-year-old could draw that; often it is employed unjustly, a two-year-old would not produce a **Jackson Pollock** painting, and

Hockney is an artist who has for decades shown a knack for connecting with the public

dozens of portraits one cohesive work, and it's clear how the background has been kept minimal and the same throughout to shift the attention onto the sitters. For me, the background staying the same does almost the opposite, the sitters take the role of the props, akin to light changing across a wall. This is a shame, Hockney's portraits of his mother painted throughout his career are emotional, deeply personal paintings that reveal Hockney's true skill at portraiture, by contrast the new paintings are closer to illustrations.

Hockney is a prolific artist who has for many years demonstrated a knack for connecting with the public. That is no mean feat, and nothing to sniffed at, but it has become and more apparent that as an artist he has little new to say.

It's interesting to speculate how his work would've developed had he not moved to Los Angeles at the beginning of his career, or had continued to explore his sexuality in his work, even in his paintings of swimming pools, the most evocative are of his then lover, Peter Schlesinger. These criticisms have been levelled at Hockney over decades, which he brushes off with ease. His productivity far from declining over recent years, has increased. This is to be admired, he clearly creates work that many people enjoy, and that in itself is something to be celebrated. All the same, the retrospective at the Tate will probably be more worth checking out than the exhibition of new work at the Royal Academy.

Hockney is never able to step out of Picasso's shadow

poorly, and what's worse exhibited with a seriousness that defies belief. These paintings are testament to the decline of an once interesting artist. The new show at the Royal Academy is mercifully not filled with iPad drawings but a series of acrylic portraits of Hockney's friends and family.

The sitters appear against the the same background of a mid blue, and turquoise, all seated in the same chair. Hockney considers the

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Reynolds	Quiz Night	19:00 - 23:00	Every Monday
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Reynolds	Pizza Club	18:00 - 23:00	Every Thursday
Reynolds	Cocktail Club	17:30 - 01:00	Every Friday
The Foundry	Quiz Night	19:30 - 22:00	1st & 3rd Thursday
The Foundry	Karaoke Night	20:00 - 23:30	2nd & 4th Friday
The Foundry	BBQ Festival	16:00 - 23:00	Friday 17 June



This week on *Games of Thrones*

It's season six, episode seven

Harry Wilkinson
Writer

A big reveal this episode, hope you're ready to board the hype train.

We're dropped into an unfamiliar, oddly idyllic sequence of some happy villagers building some kind of chapel. This being *Game of Thrones*, I was half-expecting a dragon to come and burn everyone to a crisp just for being too happy with their lives. Not allowed in Westeros. Then we get the episode's biggest moment; the Hound is back!

Turns out he'd been lying in a pool of his own blood for a couple of days before this lovely Septon came to nurse him back to health. He claims hate is what kept him going but the Septon doesn't quite believe him. See what he would have thought if Sandor told him the story of how he got those scars (No Joker reference intended). Nevertheless, the Septon asserts that the gods (whichever gods they may be) still have a plan for him.

We head back to Margaery in Jesus Camp where she and the High Sparrow have a Bible-off before he cuts to the chase and lets her know that she really needs to bang her teenage husband and get preggers, claiming "Congress does not require desire on the woman's part, only patience". Someone must have been talking to my ex. Olenna has a chat with Marge under the

watchful eye of the scary nun, trying to talk her out of the cult. Margaery slips her a note to let her know that she has her head on straight and hasn't been brainwashed and sends Olenna back to Highgarden. Before she leaves, she still has time to completely tear into Cersei. I'm going to miss the lack of given fucks Olenna brings to King's Landing.

Popping back to the Riverlands, Jaime and Bronn arrive at Riverrun to take over the siege from the disorganised Frey's. Bronn has a good couple lines reminding us why he became a fan favourite after such a long absence. The Frey's threaten the Blackfish that they'll kill

I'll miss
the lack of
given fucks
Olenna
brings
to King's
Landing

Edmure if he refuses to hand over the castle but fail to follow through with this. Jaime uses his powers of



He realised something bad was going to happen when the cameraman showed up. Photo Credit: HBO

the golden pimp-hand to put them in their place and requests a talk with the Blackfish. The parley is a great scene with two of the snarkier characters in the show facing off. This basically ends up with the Blackfish sticking up a middle finger at Jaime and asking what the fuck he's gonna do about it.

Throughout the episode we get several scenes of Jon and Sansa travelling all over the North trying to curry favour with different parties. First up, the Wildlings: Jon gets their support with the help of his hypeman, Tormund and a giant saying his name. Then he goes to possibly the most badass little girl in the show (Yeah, that includes Arya) in Lyanna Mormont; she rips the

shit out of everyone in front of her before offering her army of 62 men after Davos convinces her. Shame he got into smuggling instead of being a lawyer, he would've been great. Last up are the Glover's who basically say "Look, we've had enough of your shit; you're not getting more of our men to die." Sansa looks like she may be useful for a second before getting demolished. Jon and her argue for a bit whether they're ready to march

Look,
we've had
enough of
your shit;
you're not
getting
more of our
men

on Winterfell and she sneaks off to write a letter. It's pretty hard to read but I'm pretty sure she's asking Littlefinger for assistance from the Knights of the Vale. That guy must

be getting sick of going up to down the entire continent for this girl.

We get a short scene of Theon and his sister arguing at some brothel about how he's become such a pussy ever since losing his peen. She gets him to drink a mug of ale and he appears re-energised and committed. See, kids? Alcoholism works!

Across the Narrow Sea to Braavos, Arya manages to book a ride back home before getting stabbed 37 times in the chest. Yeah, the Faceless men weren't exactly cool with her lack of follow-through apparently. She doesn't seem to be getting any help either so I have no idea what's happening with her now.

The episode wraps up with the Hound's lovely new friends getting threatened and subsequently murdered by the Brotherhood without Banners. I told you that you aren't allowed to be happy in Westeros. Expect a rampage of revenge from him next week.

This was, all in all, a pretty dull episode. There was a lot of setting up characters to be in places for further events but nothing happening in the meantime – probably setting up for an explosive final few episodes of the season. The title, 'The Broken Man', obviously refers mostly to Sandor but equally to Theon, possibly even Jon who gets very frustrated with his lack of success.

Game of Thrones is available on Sky Atlantic, Sky Go, and HBO GO.



Smug-face Margaery is back. Photo Credit: HBO

Union Page

Your Officer Elections - voting opens Monday 13 June



Your Officer Elections are your chance to make a difference at Imperial by standing for a variety of roles.

We'll be hosting a Live Hustings for all of our Deputy President (Finance & Services) candidates on Friday 10 June at 12:30, on our Facebook page.

With both Undergraduate and Postgraduates standing for positions (GSU positions can be filled by Postgraduate students only), you can cast your vote from 12:00 midday, Monday 13 until Friday 17 June - the results will then be announced online!

Watch our husting on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/imperialcollegeunion and cast your vote at imperialcollegeunion.org/vote

Watch Euro 2016 with us!

Euro 2016 starts Friday 10 June, and you can watch it with us at the Union! We'll be screening matches in FiveSixEight, h-bar, The Foundry and Reynolds, as well as offering great food and drinks deals throughout the tournament. For details of the screenings and offers, check out details in the venues!



Waste Amnesty – 21 June

Student Activities will have a waste amnesty, where a skip has been arranged to collect any unwanted items for free at **16:00 on Tuesday 21 June**.

If you are a Club, Society or Project Officer, take some time to look through your club storage, removing anything you do not need and bring all waste items to Activity Space 1 & 2 in the Union building - where it will be kept until the skip arrives to collect it. As you know space is very limited on campus and it is important that all clubs keep their spaces clean & tidy so please maximise this opportunity to ensure your storage allocation will be kept next year.

If you have any specific waste requests (i.e. anything other than general waste such as flammable liquids, electrical equipment etc.) please email activities@imperial.ac.uk before Friday 17 June so we can contact the waste collectors/College in advance.



Be the first to read our second Impact Report for 2015/16!

Our second Impact Report for the year is out! Our Impact Reports detail what the Union and our members have achieved so far in the academic year, and the impact that has had so far. We're so proud of what the Union has achieved so far this year and with one more term to go, we're keen to see it be as successful as the last two. Our report contains details about:

- ▲ The growth in our Clubs, Society and Project memberships
- ▲ Another successful Student Volunteering Week
- ▲ Growth of Imperial Plus
- ▲ This year's Student Academic Choice Awards
- ▲ Our efforts to improve academic standards across the College
- ▲ Our Leadership Elections and how they helped us become the UK's most democratic students' union
- ▲ Changes in bursaries for Medics and so much more!

To read our Impact report online and download a PDF go to imperialcollegeunion.org/impact



FELIX's Guide to E3 2016

As console sales slow, the big three will be betting on E3 to give them a boost

Cale Tilford
Music and Games Editor

Despite a number of premature announcements earlier this week, E3 looks to be as exciting as ever. For gamers there's no time of the year that is more anticipated and for gaming journalists (which I don't qualify as yet) there is none hated more. While a few early leaks and reveals

Don't expect Microsoft to show any major new IPs this year

have surprised some, this offload ahead of the expo's official start next week could be a sign that the major publishers have lots to show this year.

Nintendo seem to be the one

exception – for the past few years they have moved away from the traditional press format and exclusivity of E3 (and it's physical presence in LA).

Broadcasting 'Nintendo Directs', they have been able to bypass the cost and effort of a physical press conference. And with the slow death of the Wii U, Nintendo have decided to forgo even an online conference and will instead be focusing almost entirely on the latest *Legend of Zelda* game in a number of streams called 'Nintendo Treehouse Live'. A few other previously announced games including *Pokemon Sun and Moon*, *Pokemon Go*, and *Monster Hunter Generations* will also be livestreamed from the conference floor. Apart from that, don't expect many surprises.

In more exciting news, Sony are set to reveal details of a more powerful, upgraded Playstation 4. New games will be able to take advantage of the reportedly large graphical processing power increase but will have to continue to support the original model. This is seen by many in the industry as a reaction to the smartphone sector's model of yearly iterative hardware upgrades.

Not only will the console be capable of outputting 4K it will also be, as a result of improved hardware, a more compelling reason to purchase Playstation VR this autumn. Last year, Sony surprised fans with the announcement of *Final Fantasy VII* and *Shenmue 3*,



It's not just the rents that are high. Photo Credit: Ubisoft

and many will hope to be as blown away this time round. It's likely we'll see gameplay from *Destiny: Rise of Iron*, a release date and more gameplay for *The Last Guardian*, and a possible appearance from *Rockstar* (a new game in the Red Dead franchise is heavily rumoured).

The announcement of a new Xbox is less likely but a number of insiders have hinted that the new Xbox One will be targeting a performance of six teraflops (whatever that means). Microsoft will show more of the already leaked *Titanfall 2*, more from *Halo Wars 2* which was teased at last year's conference, and lots of *Gears of War 4* gameplay.

So basically lots of guys (and now girls) with guns. Rare will show off more of their open-world pirate game *Sea of Thieves*, finally free from developing the awfully dull Kinect Sports games. It's amazing how quickly the internet, and gaming press, have forgotten that the Kinect was originally bundled with the Xbox One, much to the anger of gamers in 2013. Luckily, those terrible days are past us now and we're now blessed instead with an endless stream of largely uninspired sequels. Don't expect Microsoft to show any major new IPs this year.

While previous console generations seemed to rely more on exclusives, the success of the industry in the last few years has come about largely as the result of an increase in cross-platform releases. Third-parties just aren't willing to take the risk, even when there are large financial incentives from the console makers. Ubisoft might finally deliver on the promise of the original *Watch Dogs* trailer with *Watch Dogs 2* which will be set in San Francisco. And EA will show off their World War One first-person shooter *Battlefield 1*. Will *Battlefield 1* be respectful of the horrific events of the the Great War? Probably not, but at least it's set in an alternative universe. Bethesda will reveal more of *Dishonoured 2* and the two new playable characters (this time you can choose your gender) and it's rumoured that they will announce a

definitive edition of *Skyrim*, making it playable for the first time on the PS4 and Xbox One. Outside of the larger publishers, a leak on Tuesday revealed that *Injustice 2*, the DC arcade fighting game, will be Warner Brother's biggest showing. Other rumours have suggested that

Ubisoft might finally deliver on the promise of the original Watch Dogs trailer

a number of titles based on Marvel properties (including *Spider-Man*) will also be shown off. Despite the success of the film franchise, so far there has been little effort to produce games based on the cinematic universe's vast array of characters.

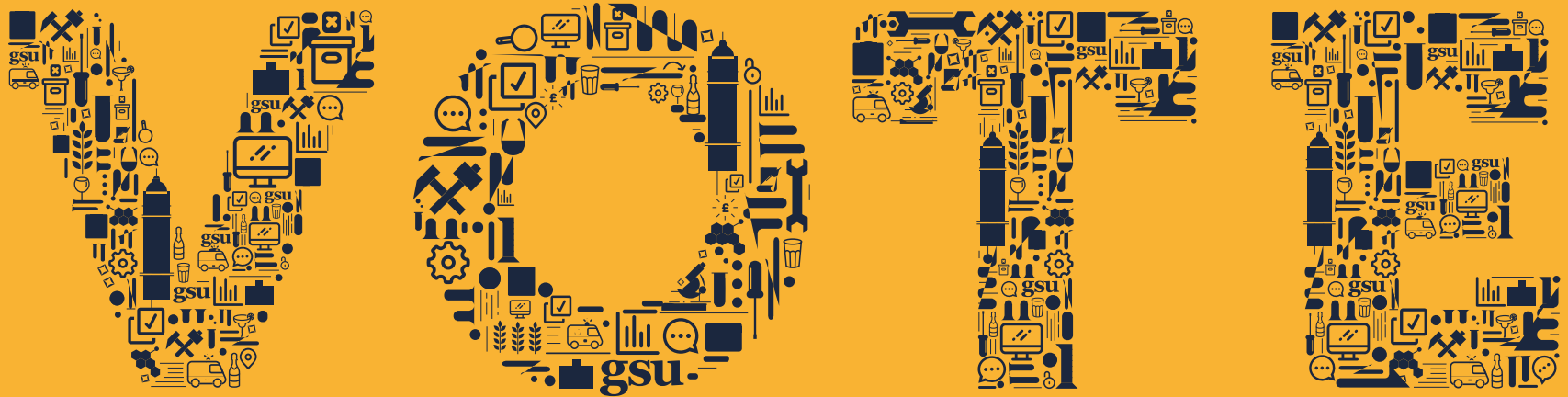


This game won't fit on your flash drive. Photo Credit: Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment



Your Officer Elections

Remember to cast your



Voting opens

12:00 Midday, Monday 13 June

Voting closes

12:00 Midday, Friday 17 June

Vote online at

imperialcollegeunion.org/vote

Visit our website to vote and get more information on all the positions and candidates.

imperialcollegeunion.org/elections



FELIX HANGMAN



felix@imperial.ac.uk

NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS



WHEN THE THING YOU MADE FOR YOUR FINAL PROJECT ACTUALLY WORKS



FRESHERS vs NOW

HOROSCOPES



ARIES

This week you decide you're a floating voter in the EU referendum. Floating voter in the sense that you just want the UK to float the fuck off to somewhere with better weather.



TAURUS

This week you're Imperial security and are forced to wear your snazzy new suit jackets whenever you're outside. You see a thief fleeing 568 but he gets away as you spend too much time making sure your uniform's correct before pursuing. Ah well, at least your epaulettes look good.



GEMINI

This week you're Noel Edmonds and you take to Twitter to endorse a magic box which "tackles cancer". The incessant Deal or No Deal may have got to you – not every box is special, Noel.



CANCER

This week, you're college, and decide to divest from tobacco and invest in students instead by giving each one a fiver. They all rush to the union shop on Sheffield to buy a packet of cigs with their new-found riches, but you've taken those away too. Bastards.



LEO

This week, work is taking it's toll, due to Jupiter ascending. Time to take some time out to relax, meditate and do some mindfulness. Either a man in a red coat, a post box, or a London bus could mean trouble for you, so be careful.



VIRGO

This week, you're one of the statues on the RSM building, and the only people who notice you are Spanish tourists; students don't give you a second look. It was you who attached the answers to the back of the Geophysics exam.



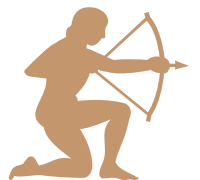
LIBRA

This week, you decide to become a sabb, but discover the whole job is a lie. Those screens at the union where you wave at passers-by aren't actually screens – you have to stand in those boxes all day and night maniacally waving until everyone goes home and you can be free.



SCORPIO

This week, you're caught taking cocaine in the bathrooms at the union. Seriously? Like, why? The only thing that could make 568 any worse would be extra awake to witness it.



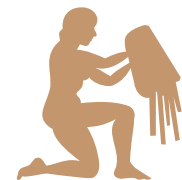
SAGITTARIUS

This week, you're the sex survey results. You're gunna come, you're gunna come, you're nearly, yep, that's it, gunna, nearly, ooh, oh, oh, actually you'll come next week.



CAPRICORN

This week, you're one of the ugly buildings complained about in this week's FELIX. Typical, people judging you on your looks before even bothering to get to know you. When will your reflection show who you are inside?



AQUARIUS

This week, you go to the EU panel discussion, but accidentally sit on the wrong side of the room. The heady atmosphere surrounding the Brexit side – the distinct scents of both Lynx Africa and mild xenophobia – pulls you in, and you inadvertently leave as a fully fledged member of UKIP.



PISCES

This week, you're the plastic cow that advertises the farmers' market. When the Queen's Tower bells chime incessantly, you can moo freely, calling to your lost herd who will never respond.

FELIX FOOD



felix@imperial.ac.uk

A food journey in Notting Hill

FELIX explores the secret eats in this charming neighbourhood

Christy Lam
Writer

As much as I regret moving to somewhere in the middle of Holland Park and Shepherd's Bush for second year, living in close proximity to the beautiful neighborhood of Notting Hill definitely made up for the daily power walk sessions to catch the Circle line to college. Here are a few of my favourite places I return to ever so often and never get tired of. Every place is conveniently a few minutes' walk off Portobello Road, the main road that stretches all the way from Notting Hill Gate tube station right up past the A40 Westway. Trust me, there's much more to Notting Hill than the movies and a few cracked pots at the antiques market.

Lisboa Patisserie

Let's start from the north. This section looks a bit run down but don't judge by appearance – this is exactly where the most authentic Pastel de Natas, or Portuguese custard tarts, in London live. Lisboa Patisserie sits on the far end of Golborne Road, east of Portobello Road. Expect a bright red awning and a sign in black, old-school font at the door.

On weekend mornings you'd find her buzzing with Portuguese locals forming a short queue at the entrance. Old couples sit outside on metal tables and chairs, sipping their coffee and munching on platefuls of golden pastries. People come and leave with boxes of treats for takeaway. Upon entry you'd be greeted by a long, nose-height glass counter absolutely stacked full of all sorts of traditional buns, cakes and pastries. And that warm, buttery, heavenly smell of freshly baked goods drifting from the ovens hidden behind.

This is when the pressure starts. You have approximately one minute to make up your mind before the servers dressed in red polo shirts demands for your order. Don't worry if you don't know the name of that gorgeous looking cream bun. It's okay to point.

Pastel de Nata. How can I describe them? A palm-sized, crispy



Clockwise from top left: The most photogenic sandwich ever from Snaps + Rye, Cinnamon bun and hot chocolate, vanilla buns both from Fabrique, golden goodies from Lisboa Patisserie. Photo Credit: Christy Lam

yet slight chewy pastry tart filled with a wobbly, velvety-smooth, sweet egg custard with black splotches on the top. Each bite is bliss. Other favourites are bolo de arroz (rice cupcakes) and bolo de coco (coconut cake). Did I mention how unbelievably wallet-friendly this bakery is, even with such good, authentic food in 2016? A Pastel de Nata is just £1.15 and other pastries range from 95p to £1.30. There is a minimum card payment of £5 but I'm sure it's hard to not leave with an overflowing box.

Snaps + Rye

A few steps back towards Portobello Road is a modern Scandinavian café by the name Snaps + Rye. Its bright, simplistic interior with white walls, wooden floors and stylish chairs totally

embraces the Danish concept of hygge (pronounced as hoo-ga) – meaning to live comfortably and happily.

Breakfast and brunch is served every morning with items including a hearty buttermilk oat porridge, freshly baked Danish pastries and skyr, an Icelandic yoghurt. Their all-day menu is comprised of light salads and healthy bites using seasonal, locally sourced ingredients, ranging from £5 to £9. Something that must not be missed is their delicious and photogenic selection of Smørrebrød, which are essentially open sandwiches on a piece of buttered dark rye bread. My favourite would go to their house-cured Gravalax Smørrebrød (£2.50) – slices of Nordic style, sweet cured salmon garnished with black pepper, radishes and dill.



in Sweden. These small pillows of joy are deliciously moist and chewy, with a slightly crispy exterior generously smothered with caramel. The flavours from the sweet and warm spices circulate your mouth generating a sense of peace and happiness. No exaggeration.

Granger & Co.

Head further southeast to the pristine Westborne Grove. Those who know me or have read my review a few months back would understand my absolute loyalty and love for this Aussie style all-day eatery – everything from the chairs to the animal print coffee to of course, the stack of warm, golden, fluffy ricotta hotcakes, complete with a freshly peeled banana, a melting knob of honeycomb butter and soaked in maple syrup (£12). Heaven.

If the ricotta hotcakes are too heavy for you, do try their scrambled eggs (£8.20). They are truly one-of-a-kind – pale yellow and cream-like, garnished with a single spinach leaf and served with two slices of buttered sourdough toast. For the health-conscious, you will never be short of supply of green smoothies, acai bowls, porridge and chia seed pots.

Their lunch and dinner menus are full of unique creations: courgette fritters (£11.50), kimchi fried rice with soft shell crab (£14.50), a drop-dead gorgeous fried chicken sandwich (£9.50).

Fabrique Bakery

Walking down south past the Westway is the newcomer to the neighbourhood – Fabrique Bakery. Originated from Stockholm, this artisanal bakery also has branches in Hoxton and Covent Garden, serving the best Swedish cinnamon buns (£2.50) in London.

Step in to find a small cosy space with white tiles and industrial style lighting. Trays of freshly baked cinnamon buns, vanilla buns and cardamom buns (all £2.50) are casually stacked in a tempting pile next to the counter. The rustic looking shelves and baskets are stocked with sourdough loaves available in white and dark rye.

Their cinnamon buns with a glass of hot chocolate is the perfect formula for a Sunday afternoon pick-me-up – or fika as they say

There's more to Notting Hill than the movies and a few cracked pots at the antiques market