

# Oil Companies Among Largest Donors to Imperial's Professional Societies

► *Data compiled by Imperial Climate Action reveals oil companies have consistently funded departmental and career-focused societies at Imperial for almost a decade*

**Matthew Williams** News Writer

Since the 2013/14 academic year, BP, Shell, ExxonMobil, and Schlumberger have given over £150,000 to academic societies at Imperial. These societies use the funding to host social and career-focused events ranging from pub nights to industry talks to trips across Europe. To those in charge at the societies, corporate sponsorships are an opportunity. Not only do they allow students to connect with future employers through industry talks, email blasts, and careers events, the sponsorships fund popular activities like pub crawls, trips, and pizza nights.

Imperial is the number one university for graduate employability in the *Guardian* and *Times* league tables, and the College seems keen on sustaining relationships with as many potential employers as possible. On its website, Imperial describes its relationship with Shell as a 'long-standing and fruitful partnership'. Beyond the university, student societies see the positive results

that come from a sponsorship. Women in SET (Science, Engineering, and Technology) was sponsored by Marshall Wace, one of the most prominent asset management companies in the world, and last summer over half of its interns were Imperial students.

Climate-conscious students at Imperial, especially those involved with Imperial Climate Action (ICA), are wary of the close ties that Imperial and student societies have with oil companies. They compiled the publicly available financial disclosures from eight societies: Chemical Engineering Society, Electrical Engineering Society, Civil Engineering Society, Data Science Society, Energy Society, Mechanical Engineering Society, Materials Society, and Women in SET. These disclosures paint a picture of repeated donations from oil companies in exchange for careers fairs, brand awareness, and outreach to society members. ICA believes the relationship that societies are creating with oil companies

*Continued on page 3...*



**Illustrator : Nicolas Geiseler-Toran**

## Next Union Council: 6<sup>th</sup> December

- *All students are allowed to observe Union Council meetings, which are not currently recorded*
- *Felix live tweets Union Council meetings through @feliximperial*

**Ameena Hassan** Editor-in-Chief

On Tuesday, Union Council is expected to meet at the Union Dining Hall at 6:30pm for the last Union Council meeting before the end of the Autumn Term. Motions and related documents have been uploaded on the Union website for all students to view, and the Union Council is expected

to ratify:

(4). An updated Union's Major Election Bye-Law following 89 complaints during the 2022 Leadership Elections

(5). Reappointment of the Alumni Trustee on the Board of Trustees

And vote on:

(6). A set of actions resulting from the History Group Report, including

renaming of both the Beit and Huxley Buildings, and possibly holding a student referendum on what the buildings should be renamed to, if at all.

The History Group Report was compiled from the College's History Working Group, which was set up to "examine the history of the College through its links to the British Empire, and to report on the current

understanding and reception of the College's legacy and heritage in the context of its present-day mission", and gathered staff, student, and alumni opinion on renaming buildings on the South Kensington campus.

Additionally, the Union Scrutiny Committee is expected to produce their first report with feedback on the work and performance of Officer Trustees.

# EDITORIAL

## Statement of Intent

At Felix we believe that it is always in the interest of the students to know. Transparency in the workings of the College and the work of your student representatives is key. Therefore I, the Felix Editor, on behalf of the team promise that:

We will, to the best of our ability, tell you the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

We will keep your confidence and will only publish something you say to us if you have explicitly said that we can.

We will work to expose unfairness and discrimination in all forms that it takes at the College.

We will treat fairly any article sent to us, regardless of point of view, and do our best to work with you to prepare it for publication.

**Signed by Ameena Hassan**  
Editor-in-Chief

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

Tel: 020 79548072  
Email: felix@ic.ac.uk

felixonline.co.uk  
@feliximperial

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## A curb on international student numbers means the government must consider raising the cap on home fees

At the end of last week, it was reported that the UK government was planning to curb the number of international students coming to the UK, in response to record high immigration numbers, surpassing 500,000 net into the UK in the year to June. This paper disagrees with the dogma that high immigration to the UK is a bad thing, but for the sake of argument, and to place ourselves in the shoes of the Sunak government, we must proceed pretending it is.

The 2019 Conservative Manifesto states that “there will be fewer lower-skilled migrants [coming into the UK] and overall numbers will come down”. The Conservative government, in its 2019 International Education Strategy (reaffirmed in 2021), stated as its goals that UK education exports (UK institutions teaching overseas students) would rise to £35bn per year, and that the number of international students studying in the UK will rise to 600,000, both by 2030. Good luck squaring those goals. Of course, the two could be brought more into line by omitting international student numbers from immigration stats, as the USA does, but that strategy seems to have been eschewed.

Net immigration numbers are so high because of the war in Ukraine and the recently introduced Hong Kong visa scheme, following the CCP’s ever-tightening constriction of Western freedoms in Hong Kong. Smaller numbers are made up by refugees from Afghanistan and by the record 40,000 that have crossed the English Channel in small boats so far this year. The UK has accepted almost 190,000 Ukrainian refugees since February, and 123,000 Hong Kongers have applied for a UK visa since the Welcome Programme was launched

on Jan 31st 2021, the UK Government announced in July this year. As almost none of these individuals will have returned to their home states since, it can be reasonably assumed that they make up well over half of the influx. Running these schemes is a moral imperative, the UK should be proud of them, and about the worst thing to do would be to offset the numbers by jettisoning largely rich foreign students.

This being said, international student numbers are in fact increasing. Imperial College, with one of the highest proportions of international students of all UK universities, increased its total number of students who paid international fees from 6,138 in 2016 to 8,924 in 2020, a 45% increase in just four years. This should not be surprising. Most universities today operate as businesses, and other than in unusual cases such as medical students, international student numbers are not capped.

The subtle knife though is the fees paid by home students. In 2012 the cap on student fees was raised substantially to £9,000, and in 2017 it rose slightly again to £9,250 and has remained frozen since. £9,000 in 2012 would be worth almost £12,000 today, or to put it differently, £9,250 today would be worth just over £7,000 in 2012. Universities cannot and should not be expected to shrink economically, but freezing home fees forces them to do so, unless they are able to find other sources of revenue, such as drawing in more foreign students. If the UK government really wants international student numbers to reduce, they should un-freeze home student fees, increase them with inflation

## This issue was produced thanks to the work of

Jamie John	Deputy Editor
Sam Lovatt	Managing Editor
Angie Lo	Head Science Editor
Taylor Pomfret	Science Editor
Jonah Hewett	Film Editor
Mike Buzadji	Film Editor
Tara Pal-Chaudhuri	Music Editor
Joe Riordan	Music Editor
Zanna Buckland	Books Editor
Zhifan Xu	Business Editor
Harry Schlote	Business Editor
Simran Patel	Environment Editor
Marie Mori	Environment Editor

## And our numerous contributors

and slowly ease student number caps on courses such as medicine.

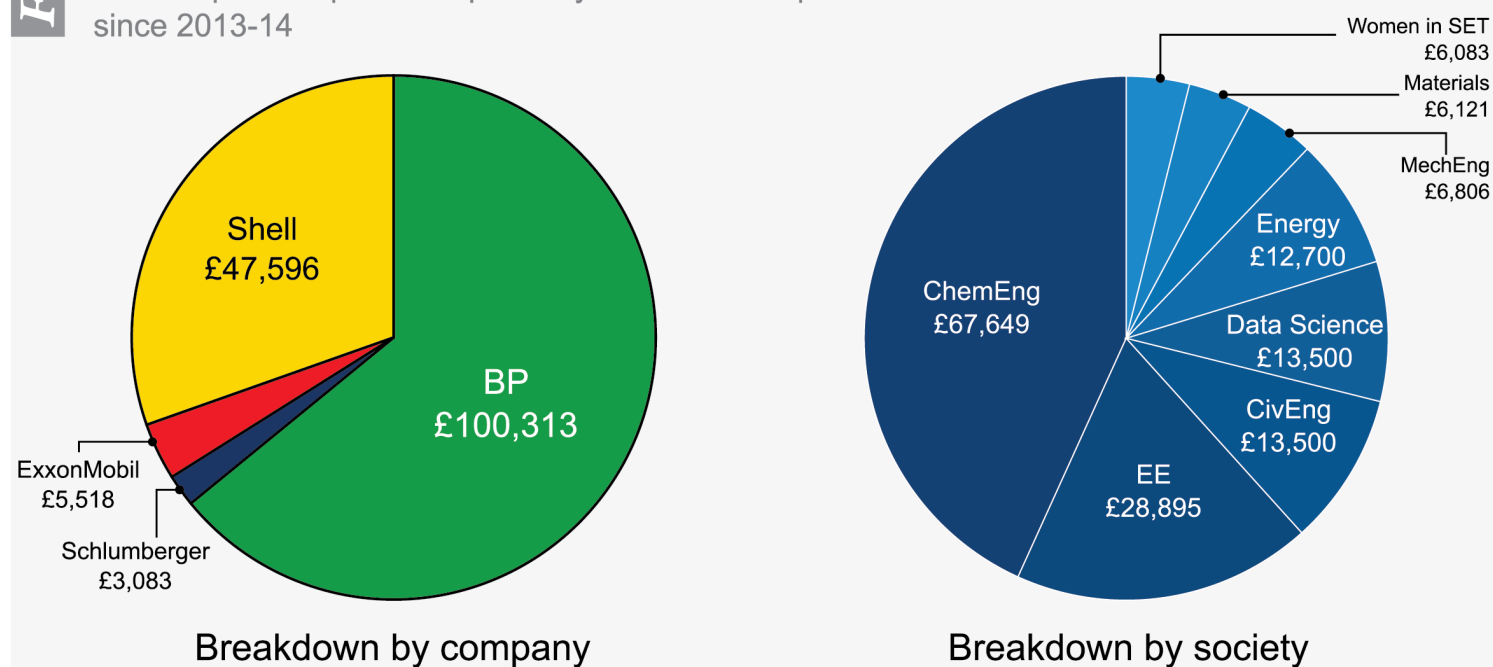
Foreign students are not British citizens by definition, and therefore are not able to claim benefits or drag on the welfare state. International fees are, as far as flicking through some university admissions pages shows, blanketly higher than home fees, and are paid for entirely from foreign sources, directly into the UK economy. Less valuable courses come in at around £15,000 per year for international students, with no ceiling being placed over the price of more valuable ones. International medics at Imperial, for example, pay £50,400 per year.

The idea that international students would be barred from studying “low-quality” degrees in the UK is ludicrous. Students on these courses are a huge boon for the UK economy and only stand to detriment themselves by acquiring sub-par degrees. What is the rationale behind this idea? That home students can have at it, spending tens of thousands of pounds on degrees that won’t improve their employment prospects, but international students must be protected?

Felix

## Big Oil has given Imperial societies over £150k since 2013-14

Amount paid in sponsorship money to selected Imperial student societies since 2013-14



Source: Data compiled by IC Climate Action, from publicly available financial disclosures on Imperial College Union eActivities.

...continued from page 1

### Debating the ethics

'romanticises' oil and gas extraction.

Alexandra Neagu, Vice President (Industry) for the Electrical Engineering society, does not see it that way. As Neagu sees it, "the society is the middleman—connecting students to careers. Our goal is to give them as many opportunities as possible". Though the society has distanced itself from certain companies in the past due to differences

in values, it has never fully turned down a sponsorship. Neagu says it is very possible for the society's members to go on to a career in the oil industry and make change for the better.

Pete Knapp, environmental activist at ICA, disagrees: "You can't change a fossil fuel company from the inside. It's never worked in the past, and it never will. These companies are fundamentally built on destroying the environment for profit, using manipulation tactics... to seed doubt and fear of change." Oil

companies have a long history of climate denial and 'greenwashing' that spans half a century and continues into the present day. Companies such as ExxonMobil have, in the past, downplayed the effects of extracting oil from the earth. As early as 1979, ExxonMobil's own scientists warned that burning fossil fuels "will cause dramatic environmental effects". "The potential problem is great and urgent", they concluded. According to *The Guardian*, "instead of heeding the evidence of the research they were

funding, major oil firms worked together to bury the findings and manufacture a counter-narrative to undermine the growing scientific consensus around climate science." As recently as 2020, Imperial researchers collaborated with researchers at ExxonMobil to create a membrane to refine oil more efficiently.

After a temporary dip in sponsorship during the pandemic, funding has bounced back rapidly over the last year. Women in SET has seen its number of sponsors double since the pandemic, and the society has no intention to stop expanding. The goal is to provide members with as many opportunities and contacts in as many industries as possible.

As societies emerge from the pandemic, once again with sponsorships aplenty, they must wrestle with the ethics of their decisions. While those at Imperial Climate Action are calling for the College and the student union to mandate ethical consideration before accepting sponsorship deals, leadership at these professional societies appear to take a different view. Their goal is to connect students to jobs and future success, not suppress those same opportunities.

# Imperial and Nanyang TU set out on new Research Hub partnership

Ameena Hassan Editor-in-Chief

On Wednesday, the College announced plans to establish a research hub with Nanyang Technological University (NTU), spanning multidisciplinary technologies.

The NTU-Imperial Health, Sustainability and Technology Hub will focus on collaborating in "research, education, innovation and enterprise", and work on integrating artificial intelligence into healthcare solutions, creating minimally polluting cities, and creating solutions to some of the

problems facing humanity.

NTU is a Singaporean university established in 1991, and was listed by QS Rankings as the 5th-best Asian university this year. NTU and Imperial already have a history of partnership through the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, which offers undergraduates five years of study, and an MBBS degree jointly awarded by the two. According to then-Rector, Sir Keith O'Nions FRS, in 2010: "The partnership gives us the chance to work with Singapore's talented students and also provides a rare opportunity to pioneer a new medical

curriculum."

Imperial College President Professor Hugh Brady said of the new Research Hub: "Global partnerships like this one are helping Imperial to transform lives and create opportunity around the world. ... This latest partnership demonstrates our long-term commitment to developing world-class science and tech clusters in Singapore."

The NTU 2025 Strategic Plan was created in 2021, and aims to "nurture greater interdisciplinary collaborations" and "grow NTU's national, regional and global impact", and has listed four items

as "humanity's grand challenges":

1. Mitigating our impact on the environment
2. Harnessing the science, art and technology of learning
3. Addressing technology's impact on humanity
4. Responding to the needs and challenges of healthy living and ageing

The partnership is expected to fund ambitious projects, drawing on expertise in "energy, materials, and decarbonisation to help create more sustainable cities and a zero-pollution society".

# Imperial College Union

**Sam Lovatt** Managing Editor

I need to kick this article off with a declaration of interest. I worked in the Union offices a lot last year as Editor of *Felix*, I am a Trustee of the Union this year, and over the summer I wrote a book titled 'The History of Imperial College Union'. This is supposed to be a brief explainer on the enigmatic body that looks after student activities, welfare, educational lobbying and a number of the bars.

representative channel between students and Imperial College London and any other external bodies; and providing social, cultural, sporting and recreational activities and forums for discussions and debate for the personal development of its students." Thus, the justification for the Union's existence is that it supports YOU during your time at the College.

## *Money, money, money*

As a registered charity, ICU is obliged to report financial data to the

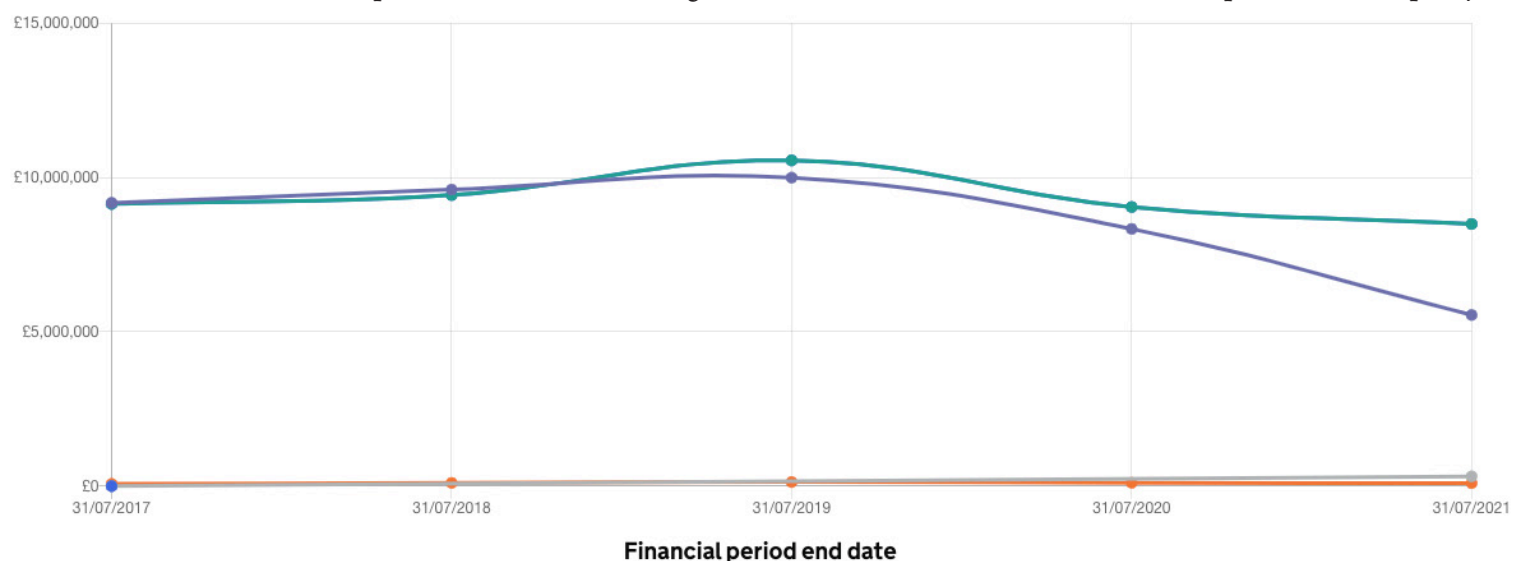


*Beit Quad used to host tennis courts*

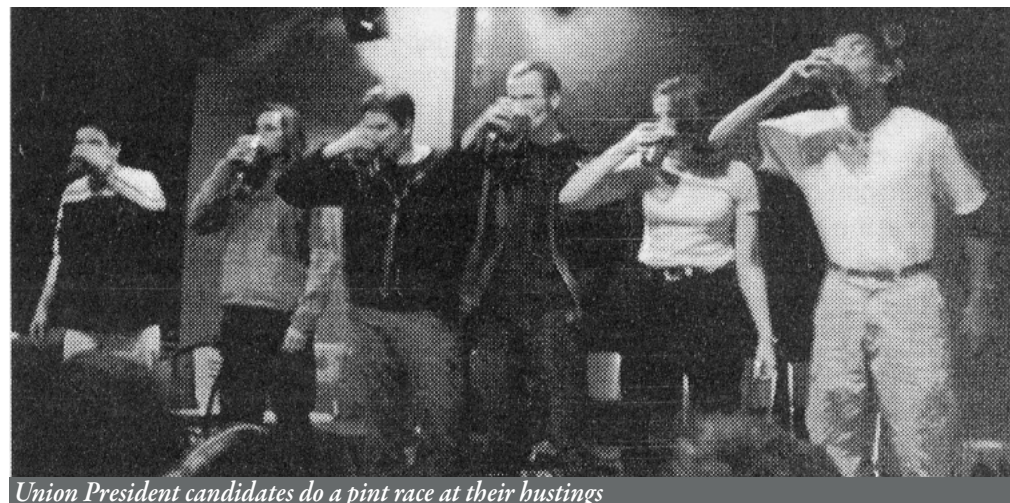
## *What is a Students' Union?*

SUs became a mandatory requirement for all institutions of higher education following the ascent into law of the 1994 Education Act, which defined an SU as "a representative body (or an association of the generality of students) whose principal purposes include representing the generality of students at an establishment... in academic, disciplinary or other matters relating to the government of the establishment." Imperial College Union is a registered charity, as of 2012, and has as its charitable purpose "the advancement of education of students at Imperial College London for the public benefit by: promoting the interests and welfare of students at Imperial College London during their course of study and representing, supporting and advising students; being the recognised

Charity Commission, who make this information available, for all charities, for the previous five years. As can be seen in the accompanying graph, income took quite a hit in the period of July 2019 - July 2020, and even more so July 2020 - July 2021. Whilst detail on this is scant, it shouldn't come as a surprise that



*Financial data of ICU for the last five years - green is total expenditure, purple is gross income*



*Union President candidates do a pint race at their bustings*

a pandemic forcing all bars to close for months on end has a negative effect on their finances.

Each year the Union received a "block grant" from the College, averaging around £3 million over the last few years (from your tuition fees). The block grant covers things like salaries of permanent staff and operational costs such as IT. Further money is earned from the bars, event sales and room bookings (see the BBC set up shop on the first floor every year for a couple of weeks to host the Proms).

## *Management and Governance*

When an organisation becomes a charity it must appoint a board of trustees to oversee the charity's operation in a non-executive fashion. ICU has 16 trustees, six of whom are "lay trustees", professionals from without the Union or College who have a philanthropic interest in the Union doing well. Further to these people, the President and Deputy Presidents make up five more trustees, alongside the Council Chair

and four student trustees.

On the executive side, 61 staff members allow the Union to operate all the services it provides. At the top of this ladder, bar reporting to the trustees, is Tom Newman, Managing Director since October 2022. Thanks to finicky employment laws, Tom is the only member of permanent Union staff that Felix is allowed to name in print - we can mention the actions of all departments and groups within the Union, but making any individual member of staff identifiable could land the paper, and the Union, in legal hot water.

The previous Managing Director was paid somewhere between £90k and £100k per year - an amount so high that the charity commission deems it obligatory to share publicly (all salaries paid by charities over £60k). Similarly, two other members of staff, presumably two other members of the management team, are paid between £60k and £70k each.

The President and each of the Deputy Presidents, as well as the ICSMSU President, are paid £35,477 per year,

# on: a beginner's guide



and the Felix Editor is paid 83% of this amount due to the fact that the paper only prints in term time, leaving the Editor twiddling their thumbs during the summer and Easter breaks.

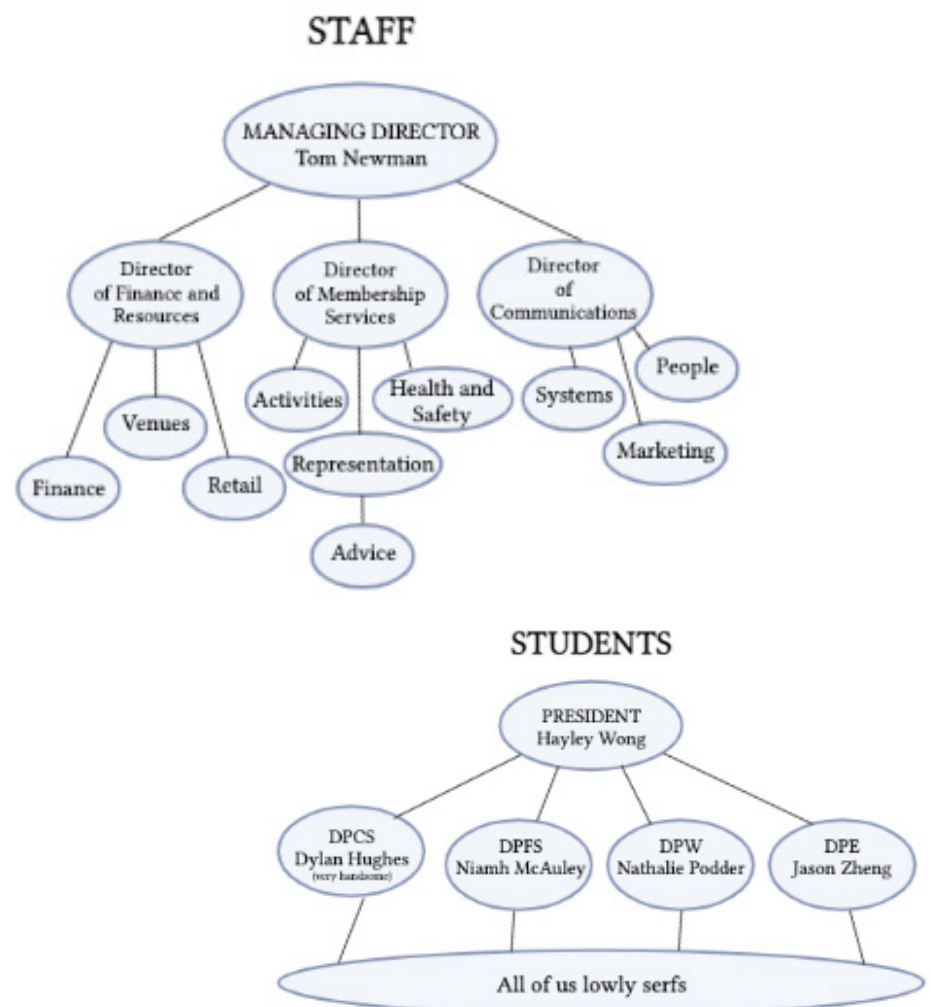
## The Union Council

Have you ever met someone way up their own ass rambling about some sort of role they hold that they got elected to in Autumn? That person may well be on the Union Council, the democratically

the Union, however bureaucratisation and professionalisation have meant that this is no longer the case. The Union Council, who vote on issues with about as much principled direction as a windsock, should not be given free reign of around £10 million per year, it seems to have been decided over the past couple of decades.

As a body, the council could technically vote for literally anything, from facetious suggestions such as spending the entire annual budget on

ramen, to more realistic ones such as re-joining the NUS. Nowadays, rather than obliging the Union to carry out whatever actions have been approved,



Management structure of the Union

a council vote often just means that the student body's opinion is thus. Any decision that could negatively effect the Union financially, reputationally or otherwise, can be overridden by the board of trustees.

## History

The Union was founded in 1911 when its first set of bye-laws were passed by the Governing Body of Imperial College London. The construction of the Union Building was finished the same year (though only two floors tall at that point). Until 1981, membership of ICU was male-only, and women students were instead members of the Imperial College Women's Association, or ICWA (pronounced ik-wa). Furthermore, the Union Bar (the one at the northeast corner of Beit Quad, not 568) was male only until 1972, with ICWA members instead offered the "ICWA lounge".

568 used to be called "da Vinci's" and Metric used to be called "db's" (short for "Decibel's"; how things come full circle).

## Satisfaction

The Union is consistently the worst-performing aspect of Imperial College London, as covered by the National Student Survey of final year students each year. When asked whether ICU effectively represents their academic interests, only a 58% responded positively in 2021 and 2022 (compared to 82% overall satisfaction in 2022). Satisfaction with the Union hit a trough in 2019 with a rate of just 51%.

## Support

The Union has an award-winning advice service that has been totally transformed in the last couple of years. They can offer advice on academic and disciplinary issues, as well as point you in the right direction if you have financial trouble or wish to lodge a complaint. You can reach out to them by emailing [advice@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:advice@imperial.ac.uk)

## Shortlist for new nightclub:

1. Neighbourhood
2. Lab
3. Metric
4. Theory
5. Iris

Shortlist of names for 568 and Metric - notice that 568 does not appear in the bar's list; its origin is a mystery

## Shortlist for new bar:

1. Library
2. The Consort
3. The Crown & Shield
4. Quad

# SCIENCE

## Clone or no clone?

► *What if we lived alongside clones of ourselves? Staff Writer Wang Guo delves into the theoretical implications of this situation and how it relates to our value as individuals.*

Wang Guo Staff Writer

Could the development of bioinformatics lead us toward a future where we coexist with clones of ourselves? Imagine a world of super-computers that can scan and make an exact copy of your brain, and then transfer all the information into a new physical body that is exactly like yours. There will be two of you in the world.

The clone is exactly like you, they possess all the skills, knowledge, experiences, and personalities you have and harnesses all what makes you unique. They are also self-conscious, acknowledging the fact they are a clone. The clone has the same family relatives, such that your relationships are also theirs. All in all, the clone is a perfect copy of you.

Now, the question is, which one is more valuable; the clone or the original? As an example, imagine that you make a businessman choose between his Parker pen, with which he signed up important business contracts, and a new Parker, which shares the same model. Considering that his old Parker is completely functional as a new one, the person would choose the old Parker because such Parker remembers him of his crucial past events, even if both Parkers are technically the same. If your mother was the judge, she would surely choose you. Even though the clone is exactly identical to you and also feels the same connection with your mother, the bonding of your mother with you is much stronger because those shared life experiences were between your mother and you, not with the clone. Your mother feels a stronger attachment to you, the original.

Let's take the case where the judge is an stranger with no relationship to you. The choice between the clone and you now becomes less obvious. You might argue that the original is better. Why? Take Google, for example. Google was

not the first search engine in the world, but it is currently the most popular one because Google made improvements on earlier search engines. It is true, however, that intuitively we think the original is better than the clone. From a stranger's perspective, the reason is that we subconsciously assume that the clone, the copy, is inherently worse than the original. Perhaps humans are naturally programmed to value original things because these must be created from scratch, without any template, which is much harder than just copying from the original, ignoring the fact that most copies usually have additional improvements from the original. Note that this is only from a third party's perspective; your mother will be heavily biased to choose you before the clone. In addition, humans tend to value the history of things, this is why many old paintings have astronomically high values, but copies of those paintings are far less.

To add more complexity to the topic, what

happens when you die and your clone is still alive? What are the limitations for the clone not being able to replace you? In the end, the clone has your personality and memories. The clone will treat your mother the same as you will treat her. Why should she not accept a clone instead of you, who is no longer on Earth? In the case that your mother does not accept the clone, this is proof that shared experiences are more important than the physical body and even personality of the person. In the opposite case, where your mother accepts the clone, this will show that you are replaceable, and that you are no longer unique. The reason for the mother to choose the clone instead of her original child might be for emotional consolation. It would be extremely difficult for the mother not to accept the clone as he behaves and speaks exactly as you would. Also, it is challenging for your mother to keep actively thinking two contradictory things: "My son is dead", and "the person in front of me who is exactly

like my dead son is not him but a clone". Even for the most traumatic of events like the betrayal of a friend, we are not constantly remembering that betrayal for the rest of our lives. Our brains tend to bury the past, especially unpleasant memories. We move on and make new friends.

All the topics discussed previously are mainly theoretical but it is important to reflect on the value of individuals, particularly in a world where computers are taking over work that was previously done by. It makes us wonder if we are truly indispensable for the proper functioning of our own society if we are replaceable, not necessarily by a clone, but by machines in general.

Credit: Envato Elements



# ENVIRONMENT

## COP27: Between historic deal and lack of ambition

Edited by: SIMRAN PATEL  
MARIE MORI

Blandine Lejault Environment Writer

After long and difficult negotiations, countries agreed to set up a compensation fund for poor nations affected by climate change. A landmark agreement was made, without progress on reducing carbon emissions.

### Humanity must choose between “solidarity” and “collective suicide”, warns UN chief

In the face of accelerating impacts of global warming, humanity must “cooperate or perish”, warned the UN Secretary General, giving the world a choice between “solidarity” or “collective suicide”. “We are on the highway to climate hell, with our foot still on the accelerator,” added Antonio Guterres, lamenting the fact that we are losing the “fight of our lives”.

In a deeply divided world, he reiterated his call for the creation of a “historic pact between developed and developing economies, a collective solidarity pact”. A pact to put an end to dependence on fossil fuels and the construction of coal-fired power plants, a pact for “affordable and sustainable energy for all”, he said.

For the Secretary General, “it is unacceptable, outrageous and self-defeating” that other crises, notably the war in Ukraine, have put climate action on the back burner, highlighting that many conflicts around the world were linked with “growing climate chaos.” “Today’s urgent crises cannot be an excuse for backtracking or greenwashing”, he insisted.

### COP27 reaches agreement on “Loss and Damage” Fund for vulnerable countries hit hard by climate disasters

After more than two weeks, the major UN climate conference ended more than a day behind schedule, making it one of the longest COPs in history. On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November, COP27 adopted a resolution to create a dedicated

fund to finance the climate damage already threatening vulnerable countries, a decision described as historic by its promoters.

This issue of climate “loss and damage” in poor countries had almost derailed the conference, before being the subject of a last-minute compromise text that left many questions unanswered. However, it did establish the principle of creating a specific compensation fund.

Poor countries, which are often among the most exposed but generally bear little responsibility for global warming, have been calling for years for funding the “loss and damage” they suffer. The World Bank estimated the costs of the floods which left a third of Pakistan’s territory under water for weeks, and affected millions of people, to be \$30 billion.

The battle will not end with the

“  
**WE ARE ON THE  
HIGHWAY TO  
CLIMATE HELL,  
WITH OUR FOOT  
STILL ON THE  
ACCELERATOR**

adoption of the Sharm el-Sheikh resolution as it remains deliberately vague on some controversial points. The operational details must be defined for adoption at the next COP, at the end of 2023 in the United Arab Emirates. This promises new confrontations,



COP27 took place in the Egyptian resort city of Sharm el-Sheikh, from 6 November to 20 November.

Credit: Envato Elements

especially on the issue of contributors, with developed countries insisting that China be included.

### A partial success for COP27 that underestimates the impact of fossil fuels

While countries reached a landmark agreement on a fund to help poor countries cope with climate damage, no new ambitions for lowering greenhouse gases were announced compared to the last COP in Glasgow in 2021.

The text adopted does not include new ambitions such as the gradual or total withdrawal from fossil fuels. It even leaves some to fear a step backwards. It is mentioned in particular, alongside the interest of renewable energies, those that “produce few emissions”. This wording could favour natural gas, which emits half as much as coal and of which Egypt is one of the producers of. The NGO Global Witness has counted 636 accredited oil and gas lobbyists at COP27, compared to 503 in 2021. While COP27 is beginning to address the consequences of the climate crisis, it has failed to commit to phasing out fossil fuels. Their increasing production means more loss and damage and more

disasters.

While COP27 is criticised for its lack of progress on reducing carbon emissions, the European Union stated it would rather have “no deal than a bad deal” in the climate negotiations.

### “Long way to go” after COP27 Climate Deal, says China

The Chinese government warned that there is still “a long way to go” for global cooperation in curbing rising temperatures. “The road map for doubling global adaptation funding is still unclear, which is not conducive to building mutual trust between the north and the south,” Beijing’s foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said, referring to funds for poorer countries already affected by climate change.

On the financial side, many deplore the insufficient progress on adaptation plans. “Global climate governance has a long way to go”, she added, saying “developed countries have still not fulfilled their commitment to providing \$100 billion in climate funding to developing countries every year” as promised in 2020.

# PUZZLES

## Easy Sudoku

		9						
	9			3		7	2	
			7			5	1	
1		6					4	
		4	2	8	7			
6				7			8	
7	4			9				
2	8		4				6	
				6				

## Normal Sudoku

	2			5				
				2				9
		1		7			6	4
8			9				5	
		5	7	3	6			
	1			2			8	
4	7			6		3		
6				3				
			8				2	

## Difficult Sudoku

								2
	8	3	1		6	5		
	5							
		8	4		1	9		
	9			7				3
		6	9		3	8		
							6	
		1	5		9	3	4	
3								

### Points

Easy, Normal, Difficult sudokus      2, 3, 4 pts each  
Nonogram    3 pts

### Puzzles Notices

Special thanks to Mihaly Ormay for the nonogram, and Lydia Mckey for last week's crossword

## Nonogram

2 1 2 2 1 1    2 1 2  
8 1 1 2 1 3 6 6 6      6 6 5 5 4 3 1 1 1 2 2 2 2  
6 8 9 10 15 4 5 1 1 1 1 2 5 10 17 8 8 7 7 7 7 2 2 2 1 1 1 1  
8 4 3 2 2 4 5 8 6 6 6 6 6 9 6 4 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 4 2 2 2 13

10																												
4 9																												
2 12																												
2 14																												
4 13 2																												
8 8 2																												
5 1 2																												
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21 1																												
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P A S S A G E    B U R R I T O  
O C D P O E D T  
E A R T H L I N G    S A I N T  
M E E T U P O O  
W E I R D O    S E I S M A L  
L N E M R E  
I B I D F I L O E V I A N  
C N I Z C S M G  
E N G I N E E R E D    M H  
N V R C E I  
T O I L E T S    C L O U D Y  
I N N I O H I G  
O V E R T    T E M P O R A R Y  
U R O E E T T M  
S A T I R E S    S Y S T E M S

S P L O T C H Y    S C R U F F  
A O O B A R N R  
L C A R B O N D I O X I D E  
A A C M J I T N  
Z I L C H    B R A S S E R I E  
A I    C S M  
R E S E T    H I E R A R C H Y  
E I E N N A  
B O D Y P A I N T    T O T E S  
O    P R    A N  
B E L L Y F L O P    S O C H I  
R A T O L T L P  
O R T H O G O N A L I T Y    P  
S E E M N N S E  
S T R E S S    B E R G A M O T



CATNIP

# The NegaFelix music critic comments on: Spotify Wrapped

*It is that time of the year. When all my social media is assaulted by people happily demonstrating their mediocre taste. What on earth do they want me to think when open Instagram to see them flaunting their neon tastelessness?*

*Holy shit. Holy fucking shit, no way. No way has such a tonally diverse, acoustically nuanced individual deigned to share their Spotify Wrapped with me on their Instagram story. And not even on their close friends either, they've shared their five most bumped bangers with all 748 followers, be-*

*cause they know that that's exactly what we all want to see. Damn, I am lucky to follow you.*

*Top genre "hip-hop"? No doubt dude, we all saw that coming. The country lanes that surrounded your boarding school made you, just like the streets of Harlem made A\$AP Rocky. It doesn't matter that your number one artist is Drake, and it doesn't matter that you chose not to post that you were in the top 1% of listeners to The 1975, that's all made up for by the fact that you spent almost 40,000 minutes blasting songs of which you*

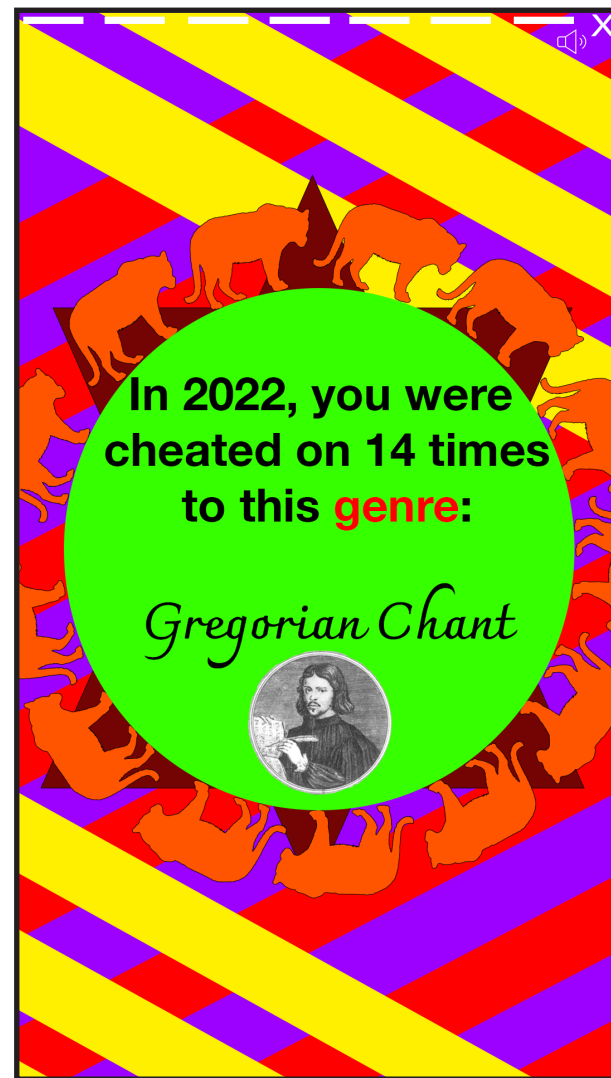
*have to visibly avoid saying one of the few words you recognise.*

*Far from what you think, it's actually refreshing to see someone with Sicko Mode in their top 10 songs for the third year in a row. Most people aren't as committed to good music as you, here's us hoping for a fourth 'ey!*

*Next time we meet up in person, it'll be hard to look at you as an equal, now I know that your aura is "chill" and "moody". How can I compete with that? That's the sort of aura that record labels look for.*

*You know how*

*you've been looking at other people's stories over the last couple of days, seeing that many people have posted stuff about their Spotify Wrapped and just clicking through them without paying much attention? Well I want you to know that that is NOT what we've been doing for you. I was more excited to see yours than I was to see my own. I've screenshotted all of your results to compare them to mine, even that weird personality test one which no one knows the meaning of.*

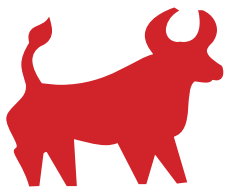


## Horoscopes



**ARIES**

This week, even after everyone has left the stadium, you can still hear the screams



**TAURUS**

This week, you steal a loaf of bread from a Qatari market to satisfy your whipping fetish



**GEMINI**

This week you tell someone that they remind you of your future ex-girlfriend



**CANCER**

This week you become an under-the-covers detective to find out who farted



**LEO**

This week you learn that the Qatari police take a "hands-off" approach to justice



**VIRGO**

This week your cuckold fantasy is ruined by your boyfriend's inability to pull anyone



**LIBRA**

This week the "he who smelt it dealt it" maxims lands a fatal blow on the Met's marijuana task force



**SCORPIO**

This week your boyfriend is so warm in bed that he qualifies as a heat pump. You sell him to a family of four in Bradford



**SAGITTARIUS**

This week you motivate yourself to catch up with lectures after you rebrand it "Keeping up with Kustom Computing"



**CAPRICORN**

This week your scrofula flairs up but luckily your friend is the descendant of the king of Korea so can cure you



**AQUARIUS**

This week you turn off the fridge to save on electricity. The house is so cold nothing goes off anyway



**PISCES**

This week your motivation to watch lectures increases after your professor rebrands them as "Keeping up with the Komputation"



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# FILM

Edited by: JONAH HEWETT  
MIKE BUZADJI

## How do films create truth?

*A brief discussion of realism in film, using a case study of *The Worst Person in The World* by Joachim Trier*

Jonah Hewett Film Editor

When photography was invented in the mid-nineteenth century, it was lauded as an incredible new tool for delivering truth. It took several decades for it to be lauded as an incredible new avenue for delivering art, where it joined the traditional methods in a discipline which has a much more complicated relationship with truth, due to the unfortunate necessity of a subjective creator. Film suffers from a similar complexity of realism. Jean-Luc Godard once said, “Photography is truth. Cinema is truth at twenty-four frames per second.” I say, “Nice line, Jean-Luc, but that depends on your definition of truth.”

As a storytelling medium, when compared to others, it could be argued that films present us with the best opportunity for accurately portraying real life. When you read a book, you fill in the sensory gaps with your own imagination. A film has the ability to provide those sensory experiences for you. However, that also means that it has very little to hide behind when it fails to deliver them convincingly. The clearest pillars on which the sense of authenticity rests are the performances of the actors and the dialogue between them. This is also the most obvious point at which that same sense of realism can collapse; if an actor isn’t convincing enough in the role, or if the dialogue feels heavy and unnatural, we notice, and that tends to negatively impact our immersion in the story.

When I recently watched *The Worst Person in The World* for the first time, I was struck by how authentic the film felt to me. By authentic, I mean realistic — the characters and story transcended fiction and seemed like real people. It felt like life. A large part of that, I think, was due to the performances of the main cast, and specifically the performance of Renate Reinsve as the main character Julie.

Actors are often celebrated and awarded for their ability to throw themselves into a role, to portray powerful and explosive emotions, or to transform themselves into a real historical figure. These abilities are by no means undeserving of celebration, but I think sometimes a different type of performance can be even more ‘convincing’. In *TWPITW*, Julie is not an incredibly complex character, nor does she often have huge outpourings of emotion. She’s caught between her twenties and her thirties, and feeling adrift in herself, her relationships, and the world around her. She’s just a regular person. What I find interesting is the extent to which Renate Reinsve disappears into that regular person, becomes her, and convinces you beyond doubt that she exists.

Films, much like real life relationships, are all about communication. The communication of story, of emotion, of ideas. An awful lot of human communication takes place outside of language — the spaces between words that have their own implicit meaning, dependent on the context and the relationships of the people communicating. Real life, and real relationships, are as much about what isn’t said as what. And the things that we don’t say with our words, we tend to reveal with our faces. The whole reason we have so many facial muscles to begin with is so that we can display such complex emotions. I’m not an actor, but I think it’s clear that being in full control of all those muscles isn’t necessarily the goal — it’s the ability to feel the emotions that your character is feeling that is the key to authentic performance. That’s exactly how Renate Reinsve convinces us of Julie’s existence; not just in the dialogue, but in the incredibly intricate, and real, emotions that she conveys in a single expression. Actors that can deliver powerful, intense performances, where the emotions burst forth from the physiological dam — these make you stand up and take notice (sometimes for a whole seven minutes, if you’re in the audience at Cannes). But sometimes, being able to see someone try to hold back that emotion, and a thousand other conflicting emotions besides, can be far more moving.

It’s impossible to properly discuss performance without discussing dialogue. Film dialogue is inherently unrealistic, since it isn’t really spoken at all. It’s written on a MacBook Pro in an expensive café in Brooklyn. People don’t say things as poetically or succinctly as they do in films, they stutter and umm and ahh their way through a poorly crafted sentence that doesn’t really end up making the point they intended to make to begin with. Of course, during actual production, a lot of actors and directors will work together to make the dialogue feel more realistic, but you can still tell when things feel slightly out of place. In *The Worst Person in The World* the characters are Norwegian, and I think that plays a part in why I found the film to be so authentic. When you watch a film in a language that you speak, you’re always unconsciously listening out for odd nuances in the dialogue that sound unnatural. I don’t speak Norwegian, so I have absolutely no reference for how natural or unnatural the dialogue sounded — not just the content, but the cadence

and word stresses are completely distinct from English. I think that I would judge the content of the subtitles less readily. The presence of subtitles, too, might encourage someone to pay more attention to the film, and thus become naturally more invested in it. A lot of information about a character can be conveyed by the way they speak, but watching a film in a language that you don’t speak, you miss a lot of that nuance. In this way, I think not understanding the language isn’t necessarily something that heightens a feeling of realism, but perhaps something which can mask a lack thereof.

There’s also another point: whether or not a film needs to feel authentic. You have the obvious example of elements of fantasy in genre films, but also a lot of writers and directors of any genre will deliberately avoid pursuing a sense of realism in their story, or in their dialogue, for the sake of invoking a different theme or emotional response that supports the art that they’re trying to create. The dialogue in your average Wes Anderson film is far from realistic, but that’s part of what makes his films so engaging.

If I’m being honest, though, I think a large part of any perceived authenticity is just that — perceived. Film is subjective; the meaning of a scene might be intended one way, and interpreted another depending on the projection of the person viewing it. The same is most likely true for realism. The film tracks Julie’s uncertainty as she moves from twenty to thirty. As someone who is also rapidly moving in that same direction, I’m bound to find more “truth” in such a depiction, especially a deliberately emotionally charged one. That is to say, make up your own mind — as with anything else in film, I might love it, and you might think it’s a tremendous pile of unrealistic garbage.



# MUSIC

## EP Reviews

# Joeseef releases new EP, *Just Come Home With Me Tonight*

Edited by: JOE RIORDAN  
TARA PAL CHAUDHURI

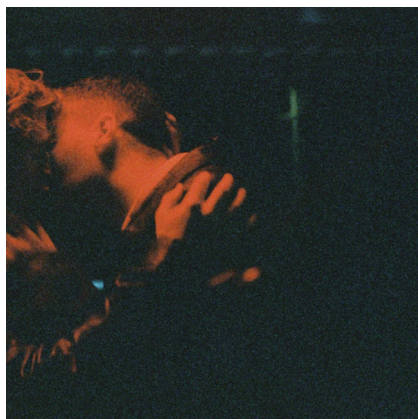


View online here!

*Joeseef releases heart-wrenching new EP in anticipation of his debut album, Permanent Damage*

Written by **Amy Smith** Music Writer

Joeseef fans have been treated to plenty of new material as the Glaswegian artist builds hype ahead of the release of his debut album, *Permanent Damage*, in January next year. Having already released three impressive singles from the upcoming album including the magnetic Fleetwood Mac-inspired 'Joe' and the sad-bop dancefloor favourite 'It's Been A Little Heavy Lately', Joeseef has set the tone for his debut as an album that



captures the anxiety and emotional weight of the addiction to the afterglow of a relationship and a confrontation with a new version of yourself. *Just Come Home With Me Tonight* completes Joeseef's recent run of singles masterfully, compiling the four tracks into a stunning EP.

The titular track *Just Come Home With Me Tonight* displays all the wistful charm of Joeseef's distinct brand of dreamy, jazz-influenced soulful pop. Bringing his

smooth vocals over a soothing guitar, it retains the true, raw feeling of heartbreak over a meditative yet sombre backdrop. Writing with full-force frankness in its heart-wrenchingly honest lyrics, he tells the story of meeting his ex at a party and realising they moved on. The singer explains "the change between us was so palpable and that little light in his eyes that he carried for me wasn't there anymore". Using a demo vocal recorded in his bedroom, the track captures an intimate longing, with each lyrical thread filled with emotional intensity without feeling burdened by its

weight.

The second track, 'Joe', lingers in the aftermath of a tumultuous relationship, with an earworm chorus made up of Joeseef's beautifully layered, fragile harmonies melded with gentle drum tracks. Talking about the song, Joeseef reveals that 'Joe' is about "grieving for a version of myself that I don't think I'll ever be able to back". Combined with his always stellar production, the song is an affecting piece that's hard not to have on

repeat.

Joeseef seems ready to show listeners a different side of his artistry in one of his most experimentally charged songs yet: the psychedelic-leaning funk track 'It's Been A Little Heavy Lately'. The track feels like another step forward for the songwriter, adding depth and nuance to his soulful storytelling with warm synths and a catchy upbeat chorus. It truly feels like he's inching closer to the perfect sad-bop with each release. He soaks his signature vocals with larger sonic whirls, tapping into a Tame Impala-esque dancefloor-ready groove that layers a lot of different textures. With lyrics questioning his decisions through depressive periods and his tendency to seek comfort and affection from someone he shouldn't, Joeseef has crafted a song that balances vulnerability and stunning production with vibey melancholia.

The EP is an admirable piece of work from the Glaswegian up-and-comer. It rises and falls in the perfect places and masterfully balances vulnerable lyrics with Joeseef's blissful, wistful sound without becoming too heavily burdened. Needless to say, I'm hyped for January next year.

**DON'T MISS THE GIG —  
RANDOM BAND NIGHT  
BY LIVE MUSIC SOC @  
METRIC, 7TH DECEMBER**  
HEAD TO METRIC TO SEE IMPERIAL'S  
FINEST MUSICIANS GET SMUSHED  
TOGETHER IN RANDOM BANDS AND  
PERFORM RANDOM SONGS. THE TWIST  
THIS YEAR IS THAT EVERYTHING IS MUCH  
LESS RANDOM. WITH TWO WEEKS TO  
PREPARE, EACH BAND WILL PROBABLY  
BE TIGHTER THAN USUAL SO EXPECT  
POLISHED PERFORMANCES AND LESS  
GAFFES THAN USUAL.



### IC Radio Schedule for this Week

Tune into IC Radio on [icradio.com](http://icradio.com). If you want more Felix content try *The Felix Podcast!*

## Felix Recommends Tune in to IC Radio!

Written by **IC Radio**

	Saturday 03/12	Sunday 04/12	Monday 05/12	Tuesday 06/12	Wednesday 07/12	Thursday 08/12	Friday 09/12
10:00	I Would Like Soup						
11:00							
12:00	Hangover 568						Felix Podcast
13:00		How to Drop Loose Game 101		Science at One			
14:00							
15:00							Hz So Good
16:00							
17:00				Desert Island Discs			Friday Grooves
18:00		The Rambling Man	Around the World in 80 Plays	Genre Junction	Pass the Aux	NUSACH	ebb/flow
19:00	Cringe	DVD Selects	Mellow Mondays	Weaponised Wax	Brown Noise	Track Swap	prinks with twinks
20:00		Chart Stoppers	Monday Spritz	Office Hour's Office Hour	Talking Heads	ADRIFT	Loud Carriage
21:00			Head to the Music			Synergy	
22:00				Fire in the Gooch			

# BUSINESS

## Now We Go Cookieless

*In this evolving landscape of privacy-preserving internet, what difficulties do startups face and what opportunities are present? Please check out what Jonathan Aeschlimann has to say about this topic.*

**Ashley Xu**

Business Column Chief Editor

When it comes to marketing, information is king. Because of the sheer complexity of the customer journey, brands must take a step back to review how customers react to their products and how they can optimise. This is achieved through advertisement. The more marketers know about customer behaviours, the more likely their next advertisement will be relevant, subtle, and thus effective.

Advertisement involves a process called attribution. It describes how marketing strategies and subsequent customer interactions contributed to the marketer's objectives. Attribution can be as simple as analysing one touchpoint, or as complex as mapping the entire customer journey. Ultimately, marketers use these attribution techniques to find the optimal, cost-effective strategy to maximise ROI (return on investment).

**There are two main types of attribution strategies, client-side attribution and server-side attribution.**

Client-side tracking is also known as pixel tracking. A tracking pixel is an HTML code snippet which is loaded when a user visits a website. With a tracking pixel, advertisers can acquire data on user behaviours on websites. This solution used to be affordable. All marketers needed to do was create a Facebook page about their products, and monitor the data collected by Facebook. Facebook would do the rest by identifying the optimal user group, marketing to them and then producing attribution analytics reports for marketers

**Problem arises...**

However, this process is no longer easy since 2020. In 2020, Apple changed its privacy policy regarding third-party tracking and reduced the volume of conversion data marketers have historically had access to. What's

more, both Safari and Firefox adopted Intelligent Tracking Prevention, which prevented cross-site tracking and limited the efficacy of cookies. Meanwhile, the average global ad-blocking rate at the end of 2020 was 42.7%. Now marketers are no longer able to identify customers, acquire some of their desired data, or understand the intention behind each action. As a result, marketers' customer acquisition cost, a key measure of marketing efficiency, hiked.

Suddenly, attribution is a problem for everybody.

Platforms like Facebook are still able to target users based on data they collected before, but these data will quickly lose value. It will also be increasingly difficult for Facebook to take credit because of the difficulty in providing a detailed report on how well the ads work. As a result, more than 60% of e-commerce store owners cut their marketing spending on Facebook. Businesses which relied heavily on digital marketing were severely hurt. Loose-leaf tea seller Plum Deluxe used to gain a new customer for every \$27 it spent on Facebook and Instagram ads. Now it spends as much as \$270 to pick up a new customer.

In comparison, server-side attribution can detour from it.

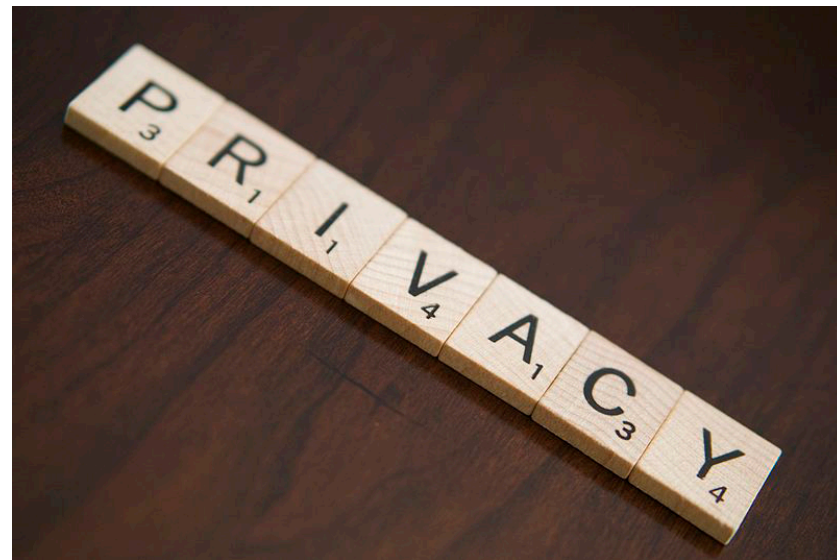
This is how it works. When a user clicks on a tracking link, a unique identifier is generated and stored. This unique ID includes information such as browser, location, operating system, internet service provider, etc. When the conversion happens, the same unique ID will be pulled out to match the initial click with the final conversion. Meanwhile, the marketing channels send back the value along with the unique ID.

By not using browser tracking, no client-side data processing is required. In other words, even if users opt-out of cookies, marketers will remain in control. Server-side tracking is an essential component of consistent first-party data management, which is becoming increasingly popular in the industry as an alternative to third-party data.

Most ad tech companies were established before Apple or regulators renewed their privacy policies.

It takes time for them to transform and adapt to this changing landscape of privacy-preserving advertisement. Some conglomerates stepped in to raise their solutions, such as Facebook Conversion API and Google Privacy Sandbox. Yet, there is a huge market gap, and Conversion Pattern, led by Jonathan Aeschlimann, came in to grasp the opportunity.

Credit: Home Water Softener Reviews, CC-by-2.0



### Uncover Customer Journey with Conversion Pattern

According to Jonathan, a key issue with existing products is that they cannot adapt to the problem induced by reduced available data. That is, they cannot distinguish who the website visitor is. With Conversion Patterns, marketers can understand everything that happens before their customers' 1st purchase, and make decisions about which campaigns to focus on, where to save money, which channel is the most effective, etc.

How does it work?

In the first stage, Conversion Pattern enables the use of first-body data and identifies if the user has been to the website before using its Identity Resolution Engine. Then, it recovers any user IDs that were previously defined. This way, when a user converts, the Facebook/Google/etc pixel will recognise that the visitor is the same visitor that previously clicked on an ad and will manage to associate the sale with the click, making the sale reflect on advertising campaigns.

In the second stage, it activates the data through server-side attribution. One way is to send the collected data directly back to advertising channels, which can be Facebook, Tiktok, you name it. This way, it helps improve marketing in real-time. And then the other side of it, Conversion Pattern sends the data to the client companies' data warehouse for further analytics purposes.

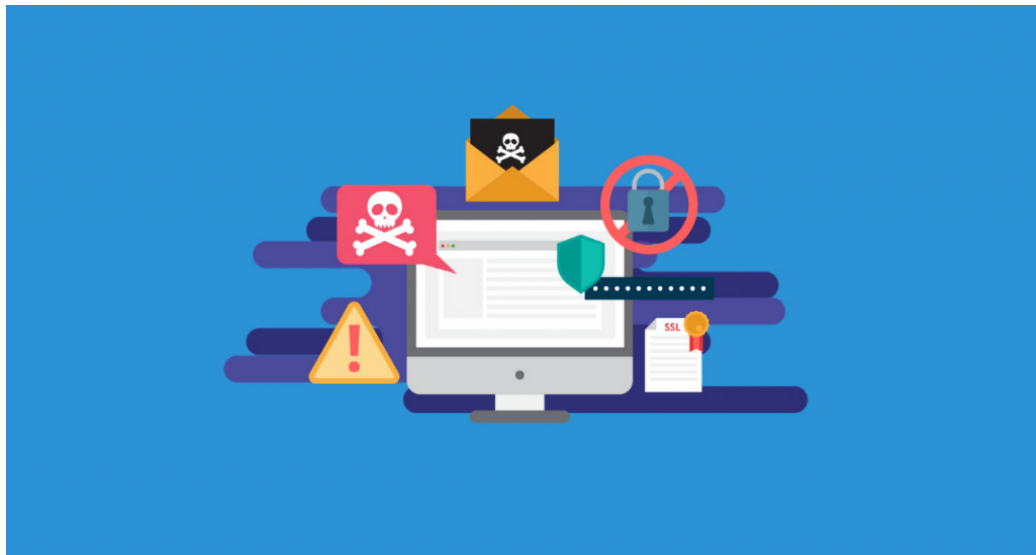
### Tips for rookie entrepreneurs: MAKE SUCCESS ATTAINABLE

Finally, on the behalf of student entrepreneurs, we asked Jonathan for one piece of advice he would give to first-time entrepreneurs.

"Perhaps unlike what others would say, I would suggest finding something that is easier for you to succeed in. Because if you try to solve a very complex problem with the first shot, most people will be demotivated soon. Making success attainable and getting the momentum is important."

"Even if you do not come from that particular background, don't be shy to read deep into something. Prediction and AI-empowered industries have huge potential and market gaps. Explore it!"

Sam Bankman-Fried. Credit: Cointelegraph and is licensed under CC BY 3.0



# CLUBS AND SPORT

## IC Choir sing their way into holidays

**Georgina Wood**  
IC Choir Publicity Officer

With Christmas lights starting to turn on all over the city, it's about time we all started feeling a little festive. In honour of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ralph Vaughan Williams' birthday, Imperial College Choir will be singing his *'Fantasia on Christmas Carols'* to begin the holiday season. The composer, who lived within walking distance of Imperial for a significant portion of his life, originally composed this work for the Three Choirs Festival of 1912. The Fantasia intertwines well-loved tunes, including the Sussex and Somerset carols, and clearly reflects Williams' love of the festival of Christmas. Our performance, featuring baritone soloist Peter Edge and orchestra, promises to raise your spirits before the final week of term – even if you have exams.

During the concert on 10<sup>th</sup> December held in Holy Trinity Church (adjacent to Beit), the Choir will also be singing selected carols conducted by our assistant director, Max Bennett. This follows our tube station caroling in previous weeks raising money for Health Poverty Action and COSMIC (Caring for Babies and Children in Intensive Care).

To finish off our repertoire for this concert, Imperial College Choir also presents Franz Joseph Haydn's *'Harmoniemesse'*. Consisting of six movements, this mass is Haydn's last major work written at the ripe age of 70. It opens with a broad, slow and supplicant Kyrie, full of dark chromatic chords and richly contrasting orchestral textures. The Gloria is in three sections, concluding with a glorious Quoniam double fugue of *'In gloria Dei patris'* and *'Amen'*, whilst the following Credo is in three sections with a short fourth.

Perhaps the most striking feature of the whole work is the magical effect Haydn achieves by using the relatively distant key of G major for the serene hymn-like melody of the Agnus Dei. Peace is demanded in the final movement *'Dona nobis pacem'* with that mixture of exuberance and aggressiveness so typical of his music. The choir will be joined by soloists Peter Edge, Sam Utley, Holly Teague and Taryn Surratt. Both featured works will be accompanied by an orchestra and conducted by Dr Colin Durrant who has been conducting choirs since the age of 15 – apparently, this was a very long time ago.

Looking ahead to next term, the Choir is excited to be performing Verdi's Requiem in collaboration with ICSO on 18<sup>th</sup> March in Holy Trinity Sloane Square. If you are interested in performing as part of the choir for this interests you, get in touch with our

social media or email us for information on joining the choir next term. Be sure to look out for information pertaining to tickets for this event closer to the time!

After last year's success singing Faure's requiem in the spring term, a selection of works from the reign of Queen Elizabeth II in the summer term and our summer tour to Malta, we are looking forward to seeing as many people as possible at our first major concert this year.

*Become a member:* <https://www.imperial-collegeunion.org/activities/a-to-z/choir>

*Email:* [icchoir@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:icchoir@imperial.ac.uk)

*Instagram:* @imperialcollegechoir

*Does YOUR society want to feature in this space? Email Sport.felix, and cc' felix@ic.ac.uk!*

# IMPERIAL COLLEGE CHOIR

AND ORCHESTRA

CONDUCTED BY COLIN DURRANT

## FANTASIA ON CHRISTMAS CAROLS

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

## 'HARMONIEMESSE'

HAYDN

**SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER 7:30PM**

*HOLY TRINITY, PRINCE CONSORT ROAD, SW7 2BA*

imperial  
college  
union



STUDENT: £8 ADVANCE/ £10 DOOR

STANDARD: £15 ADVANCE/ £18 DOOR

# An introduction to Silwood Park

**Alice Armstrong**

Silwood Union Vice President

A 45-minute drive will take you far from the bustling streets of South Kensington to Silwood park, a rural oasis, situated between Sunninghill and Ascot. This 100-hectare parkland estate is the Imperial College Life Sciences postgraduate campus. In 1947 the site was bought by Imperial College to primarily facilitate applied entomological research. Today the master's courses and research conducted at Silwood now incorporate themes like, evolution, ecology, biodiversity, and conservation.

This campus's various lakes, streams, grasslands, and woodlands, render it nothing short of an idyllic paradise. At the heart of it all sits the grand Manor House built in the 1878 by acclaimed architect



*The Manor House*

Alfred Waterhouse, the same person that brought us The Natural History Museum. Naturally, the multiplicity of this landscape supports a diverse and

thriving ecosystem, occupants regularly encountering European peacock butterflies, ring-necked pheasants, cross orbweavers, Eurasian blackbirds

bonfire and fireworks show, Halloween costume party and spooky movie night. The array of societies offers a chance to try something new, immersing you into the community spirit of Silwood. If you enjoy bespoke food and drink the cider making group and bee keeping group might be just your thing. Perhaps you have a passion for composition, if so, the music society's weekly practice at the campus bar would be right up your street. Other societies include, birdwatching, arts and crafts, dungeons and dragons, sports, allotment and chicken society.

Finally, 2022 has been a big year for Silwood as it's the 75th Anniversary. To celebrate this landmark Silwood has run a series of in person and virtual events. If you missed the any of the 75th anniversary occasions, don't threat, streams are available on the university website, where you can listen to our



*Silwood resident Mr Tinkles*

and two species of deer. Students and Faculty are encouraged to document their wildlife sightings regularly on the 'Wildlife of Silwood' iNaturalist page. If you visit Silwood it won't take you long to find our friendly neighborhood cat Mr Tinkles, kindly looked after by our student elected 'Chancellor of the Fluff'.

The campus caters to around 150 masters and PhD students, with roughly 100 living on-site. Life at Silwood has endless promise, our Union events and Life Science events teams have been hard at work to deliver a number of great activities like the; thanksgiving meal,

selection of speakers describe some of the fantastic scientific work they've been doing here at Silwood.

This is just a taste of what life can offer at Silwood Park, it's a campus of community, creativity, and research innovation. Do keep an eye out for some of our bigger events happening later this year like the Silfest music festival. Or if you're itching to come a bit sooner, join us, and book a campus tour by shooting us an email ([silwood.chair@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:silwood.chair@imperial.ac.uk)).

## Clubs and Sport

# Viewing history through art with History Society

**Bibby Phukthuanthong**

IC History Society

*Daylight wears out.  
Moonlight shines longer.  
Fallen leaves crunch under  
your foot in Hyde Park*



This semester started a while ago now. How do you like London so far? Have you crossed some attractions in London off your list? Have you got a chance to visit Trafalgar Square?

A public square which is home to statues and monuments. One of the most notable is a column where the statue of Lord Horatio Nelson stands tall. Lord Nelson, dressed in a vice-admiral undress coat, has visible battle scars: amputated left arm and blind eye from the battles he had fought. In fact, Trafalgar Square commemorates the Battle of Trafalgar and Lord Nelson, whose life was lost in the crossfire.

On Saturday 22nd October 2022, 217 years and one day after The Battle of Trafalgar, Imperial History Society went on a trip to the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, 45 minutes from South Kensington station. After about 10 minutes' walk past the lively Greenwich Market, we arrived at the museum. A beautiful classic UNESCO World Heritage building standing strong and elegant in the middle of the green, neatly-cut grass field, with autumnal leaves on the ground complimenting the

scene, as if this was a lifesize painting itself.

We spent a few hours inside the museum, which was hosting a bright celebration of Diwali on the day. Among the first few rooms on the ground floor, we visited a room where The Battle of Trafalgar, the biggest painting by famous British artist J. M. W. Turner, is exhibited. Have you ever experienced that moment when you lay your eyes on something so captivating that you cannot take your eyes off of it, as if it absorbs you into it? This painting affected me that way.

The accompanying photograph doesn't come close to doing the real painting justice. What stood out to me are the depths of the painting being shown by layers of ships, the smoke from gunpowder that fades and blends into clouds and people in the middle front, setting the mood and tone of the overall painting. J. M. W. Turner was commissioned to capture this important moment in British history in one painting. Thus, he merged all moments from several days of this battle into one scene, in what became a timeless masterpiece. Just like Trafalgar Square, this painting was also another token of the Battle of Trafalgar, which reminds us of the event even today.

Up on the second floor, the highlight of the trip is on display: the exhibition showing why the Battle of Trafalgar is so significant to the history of the United Kingdom. According to Encyclopedia Britannica, the event "established British naval supremacy" as it stopped Napoleon's attempt to invade England. Despite being outnumbered by the fleets of France and Spain combined, Lord Nelson's tactics led England to victory.

## *The Battle of Trafalgar*

The Battle was fought in 1805 at the cape of Trafalgar, Spain. British ships were clearly outnumbered by the Franco-Spanish fleet. Nelson led Britain



to win this war using innovative tactics. Here is how he did it.

Nelson waited for the Franco-Spanish fleet to sail as far from the land as possible to prevent them from retreating to recoup and re-arm. Normally, any fleet would just approach the enemy and start a shooting match. Instead of using traditional tactics, Nelson ordered the fleet to split into two lines to attack the foe from a perpendicular angle. Lord Nelson himself was leading the North fleet on board HM Victory.

Off the coast of Cape Trafalgar and about five kilometres away from the enemy fleet, Nelson disseminated one of the most famous messages in military history: "England expects that every man will do his duty."

An inevitable challenge for any ship is nature. The wind situation for Nelson's North fleet was unfavourable for the British navy, thus, he ordered a fake maneuver, deceiving the enemy to think it was forming a line. Instead, HM Victory got between two of the French ships, allowing her to use guns on both sides. The French ships, on the other hand, needed to turn in order to use the guns. Therefore, the time taken to turn the ship was detrimental for the enemy fleet. Other British ships came in to support HM Victory, take down and capture the Franco-Spanish fleet.

At the end, the Allied flagships surrendered. The British navy won the Battle of Trafalgar, but Lord Nelson lost his life to the battle after being shot by a sniper.

Lord Nelson became an icon and was an inspiration to many. Obviously, the tactics that he had used were considered to be innovative and brave. It was discussed among historians that in the battle, Nelson was a frequently visible target for the enemy marksmen; he stood at the helm and wore his full military outfit and led the charge, defining his leadership style. In fact, the phrase 'turn a blind eye' which is commonly



used as an idiom for pretending to not see something originated from Lord Nelson himself. During the Battle in Copenhagen (1801), Nelson was told to withdraw his fleet but he believed that it was unnecessary. Therefore, he pretended to not see the withdrawal signals by putting his looking glass to his blinded eye.

## *What are we left with?*

I find it hard to consider Nelson a hero today due to his strong support for colonialism. Still, the fact that he was loved and respected during his life might be based on the context of the times he lived in. Putting ourselves in their shoes, society back then was not used to differences. When people are unfamiliar with something, they doubt, fear and attach some negative feelings to it. What was the context of our world before globalisation? However, just like an unfinished book, history can be interpreted uniquely by each person. I hope that after reading this article, if you go to Trafalgar Square during Christmas, you will feel a little bit different one way or another.

Some people view history as art and entertainment, which is not entirely wrong. Still, I think we all could be more well-rounded world citizens if we are open to the not-so-beautiful side of history. Not just the Battle of Trafalgar or Lord Nelson as a person, everywhere you go, there have been people experiencing the same place in a different way, at a different time. Some parts of history might make you feel uncomfortable, but it is important to know how the world came to be what it is today. I hope learning history will help you better understand your friends, understand your differences and accept each other as who we genuinely are. I hope learning history can break the frozen sea inside you.