Are Cambridge colleges failing struggling students?

Concerns have been raised about the absence of a centralised and standardised welfare system within the University, prompted by figures obtained this week which indicate varying rates of intermission across the Cambridge colleges.

Over 500 Cambridge students have intermitted over the last three years, with at least one student intermitting annually from each undergraduate college. This averages at around 1.5 per cent of undergraduates over this period.

Yet, according to the recently-founded ‘Cambridge Speaks Its Mind’ Campaign, the welfare system is failing many Cambridge students. The campaign organisers told *The Cambridge Student*: “What is clear from the current system is that it is not working, and that students deserve better... We simply cannot tolerate a system which allows so many students to suffer such avoidable misery.”

The process of ‘disregarding terms’, commonly known as ‘intermitting’, allows students deemed too ill to continue their studies to take some time out of their degree – usually a whole academic year – and return at a later date. Previously called ‘degrading’, it is not to be confused with ‘rustication’, the process by which a student is ‘sent down’ by the University’s Court of Discipline as a punitive measure.

Data collated by the Student Statistics Office (SSO) shows how widely intermission rates differ between colleges. In 2012/13, the percentage of the student body intermitting at each college ranged from 0.29 per cent (Trinity) to 3.7 per cent (Girton), with a mean of 1.6 per cent. This meant that a student at Girton was more than twice as likely to intermit as a student at, for instance, King’s, and 12 times as likely to intermit as a student at Trinity.

Some colleges have consistently low rates of students intermitting: Churchill, Selwyn, St Catharine’s and Trinity all average at less than 1 per cent over the last three years. In contrast, Girton and Downing have averaged at over 2 per cent of students intermitting annually since 2010, and the number of students intermitting has increased year on year.

Geraldine Dufour, the Head of Counselling at the University Counselling Service, informed TCS, “Intermitting is first and foremost a college matter.”

According to Cambridge Speaks Its Mind, “one of the major problems of Cambridge’s welfare system is that it is still focussed, first and foremost, on academic achievement rather than personal wellbeing. This of course flies in the face of the common-sense conclusion that if students are happy..."
Openings

Society of the week
7. The Cambridge Go Society
Ollie Thicknesse

The Cambridge Go Society (CUGOS) is one of the largest go clubs in the country and has a long history. It has a membership of around 80 active players of all abilities and hence, whatever your strength, you are sure to find similar competition. Membership is open to all and the club has many members from the University and from the town.

The game itself is at once simple and devilishly complicated. It revolves around players placing ‘stones’ on a board in turn, in attempts to encircle their opponents’ ‘stones’, as well as trying to dominate as large an area as possible. There are both Chinese and Japanese methods of scoring the game, but one thing is clear: once you start, you can become addicted very quickly.

CUGOS produces a termly newsletter which includes detailed match analysis and club news. Additionally, we hold an annual Garden Party and Punt Trip, and we often attract players from across the world.

For even more information, visit http://www.societies.cam.ac.uk/cugos/index.html

Dear Agony Auntie,

Week 5 has just come to an end and I’m still as blue as before. It’s cold, coming up to Christmas and I’m feeling needier than ever! Some heart warming advice would be appreciated.

Forever Lonely Fresher

The worst thing about Week 5 is probably everyone’s assumption that Week 6 is going to be that much better. This leads to desperate flirtations, excessive invitations for tea drinking and lack of attendance at all 3ams. But there’s no need - stop complaining about the fact that you’ve self diagnosed yourself with Seasonal Affective Disorder and take the pressure off yourself to have a good time. If you’re a fresher you’re about to experience your first Bridgemas, heralded by the arrival of the John Lewis Christmas display. For only children it’s more exciting than Christmas itself and leads to feelings of repetition and disappointment on the real day. So wrap yourself up warm in that overpriced fur snood, head down to Starbucks to claim your 15 per cent off on a festive Red Cup drink and maybe even do a tiny bit of work. Not too much mind you, no need to exert yourself after the stresses of Week 5.

7. Green Toy Dino
Rob Hart

A considerable portion of my first year of university can be described in stories containing of a small green (toy) dinosaur named Tony. Tony, for me, is symbolic of my first boyfriend, as well as coming out as gay. But you might ask, why this dinosaur in particular? Well, I met my erstwhile boyfriend, as well as coming out as gay, in particular? Well, I met my erstwhile boyfriend at an event while dressed as a dinosaur, and ended up going home with him. To Fitz.

My trek home to Downing in the morning took 30 minutes, dressed as a luminescent green dinosaur, and inevitably I ran into all my friends and my DoS, which was wonderful.

Even though we are no longer together, I’m glad for the time we were, and Tony represents this and more. He also serves as an all-important reminder to myself to always wear clothes under a onesie. That’s not something they teach you in school.

Your college (in eight words)

Girton: The best college by 2.4 miles #thighs #Girton.
Trinity Hall: Blinded by camera flashes from Orgasm Bridge tourists.
Downing: Neoclassical decor matched by the decadence of Downing dining.
Queens: Two queens not one - full of apostrophe pedants.
Homerton: Only some of us want to be teachers.
Emmanuel: Closest to Nandos’s, Wagamamas, Pizza Hut and Revs.
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“We are students, not millionaires”: debate rages over Newnham rents

Hazel Shearing
News Editor

Last month The Cambridge Student’s investigation revealed undergraduate accommodation at Newnham costs at least £355 per year over the minimum annual maintenance loan. Now, outraged students are campaigning to change the college’s “extortionate” rents.

After the TCS article in Issue 5 this term was shared by one Newnham student on Facebook, concern spread. Some students felt strongly enough to create the ‘Campaign For Justice at Newnham’ aimed at tackling the rent problem. As a result, an event was set up to discuss what organiser Katie Akers described on the Facebook page as “extortionate” rents. The RENT event aimed to give students a platform on which to air their views and create a list of grievances or petition with which to confront the college.

At the event, Rinna Keefe highlighted the issue of transparency: “I found Newnham’s presentation of living costs etc so obscure and difficult to understand as to feel almost dishonest”.

Another student, Catriona Corke, said, “Raising rents above inflation year-on-year is not sustainable. We are students, not millionaires.”

JCR President Becky Wetten spoke at the event. She emphasised the JCR’s lack of authority as a student body and recommended liaising with staff.

Indeed, a meeting was held with the Bursar Ian du Quesnay and the Senior Tutor. TCS understands that no agreement was reached. When contacted, Mr du Quesnay did not provide comment.

Akers spoke to TCS further about the growing Campaign for Justice at Newnham: “We aimed primarily for transparency from college… as to why our rents were frankly exorbitant, and why relatively, Newnham students are paying so much more than their counterparts at other colleges.

“We started off with peaceful intentions, on the basis that we were sure Newnham were able to justify their costs. We were all inclined to believe that our college would never be directly exploiting its students as a cash resource. How wrong we were.”

According to the Campaign for Justice, rents at Newnham increase by an average of 6 per cent per year for each cohort of students.

However, students’ concerns stretch far beyond the cost of rents alone. Newnham students are required to pay a Kitchen Fixed Charge, which amounts to at least £253 per term. These costs should be considered in the light of the college’s notably high fines. As TCS revealed earlier this year (Lent Issue 2, 24 January 2013), Newnham raised £12,872 (a third of the University’s total fines) from students in the academic year 2011-12, mostly through ‘housekeeping fines’.

Another issue is that all Newnham students pay the same rent for their rooms. According to the website, this is so that every student “has the same chance of living in the most beautiful rooms in the College”.

However, students feel that this is unfair as the size and condition of the room does not affect the price.

According to Akers, “The RENT campaign at Newnham has now escalated from one that called for transparency to a politicised movement that demands immediate action.

“Newnham College are using fear tactics to put a stop to us protesting. Our bursar, far from being neutral, appears to be following a policy that is deliberately exploitative.”

Heather Davis, Governing Body Rep for Newnham JCR, is more optimistic about the rent problem at the College.

Davis told TCS, “The JCR are currently devising a strategy which involves the further investigation of the transparency of information concerning rents, alongside the creation of a sub-committee, where representatives of the undergraduates as well as the MCR and SCR can meet on a regular basis to discuss this information.”

“There is an ongoing discussion with senior members of college, and we are hopeful that through this collective effort we will come to a positive solution.”

ARFS joins in Parker’s Piece fight

Victoria Akinowo
News Reporter

Anglia Ruskin Feminist Society have come out in support of plans to improve lighting on Parker’s Piece following concerns about public safety at night. This follows a spate of violent attacks that have occurred on Parker’s Piece in recent years and a long CUSU campaign demanding improvement.

Lauren Steele, CUSU Women’s Officer, told The Cambridge Student, “The Women’s Campaign has been campaigning with CUSU through the Right to Light Campaign for over a decade, sparked by a sexual assault against a student on Parker’s Piece.

“The NUS Hidden Marks Report 2010 found that 1 in 20 students will be raped and 1 in 7 will be sexually harassed during their time as a student. Lighting implemented in Parker’s Piece in January is a step towards improving the safety of students at night as students cross the Park in darkness.”

Consultation carried out by the Cambridge City Council last year revealed that a majority of the public 76 per cent – were in favour of the installation of lighting on Parker’s Piece, while 76 per cent of students surveyed admitted to feeling unsafe in the area at night.

The £60,000 scheme will see the construction of six new lighting columns in January 2014.

In response to the news, City Councillor for Newnham, Sian Reid, told TCS: “I welcome the lighting plans, to help people feel safe on Parker’s Piece and believe that the lights are well thought through – though they are subject to consultation. Students, in particular women students, have been asking for better lighting for some time and it is great that feasible proposals have come forward.”

However, Steele was keen to emphasise that more needed to be done: “CUSU Women’s Campaign hopes that this project is just the beginning of more lighting being implemented in Cambridge”.

76 per cent of students surveyed admitted to feeling unsafe on Parker’s Piece at night.
Four drunken students from Durham University had to be rescued after their attempt to imitate the famous exploits of the Cambridge ‘Night Climbers’ after a night out ended in disaster. Two fire crews and a police helicopter had to be called to the scene after the students scaled, and then got stuck at the top of, Durham Cathedral.

On the night of 1 November, the four students managed to climb onto the roof of the Dean’s House, part of the 11th-century Cathedral but found themselves unable to make their way back down again. Fellow students at the University who witnessed the scene were forced to alert Cathedral security services, who in turn contacted the emergency services. This prompted a further large-scale rescue operation, with a police helicopter called to help find them on the cathedral buildings.

The four were thought to be imitating the efforts of the ‘Night Climbers’, a shadowy and mysterious group famed for their daring stunts, which include attaching Santa hats to all four spires of King’s College Chapel in 2008 and unfurling a massive ‘Peace in Vietnam’ banner between spires facing King’s Parade in 1965. Marc Press, a member of King’s Mountaineering and Kayaking Association (KMKA) and a keen amateur climber, expressed amazement at the “incredibly reckless climbers; only experienced people should be attempting these sorts of exploits.”

Night climbing is a variation on urban climbing which is typically undertaken by students at night, the long and fantastic history of which dates back to the 19th century in Cambridge. It has spawned several books, the most famous of which is The Night Climbers of Cambridge. Published in 1965 under the pseudonym of ‘Whipplesnaith’, this extensively details suitable routes of ascension for various buildings around the city.

Although King’s College Chapel is considered the apex of night-climbing in Cambridge, many other notable buildings have been targeted around the university throughout the years including the Fitzwilliam Museum, Senate House and various buildings within Trinity.
Welfare failings: Being on the receiving end

Kamila Kingsstone
Comment Contributor

The university does not act as a coherent whole so much as a divided federation and nowhere is this more evident than in its attitude towards illness. The news that different colleges have wildly different rates of intermitting – to give an example, last year one person intermitted for every 348 at Trinity, whereas one person intermitted for every 27 at Girton – is not surprising in the slightest.

It might be that some colleges are refusing to allow students to intermit when that would be the best plan for them. I can confirm also that some colleges go the other way, and pressure students to intermit when all they need is support. When I became severely ill last year, my Senior Tutor’s knee-jerk reaction – although he was ultimately extremely helpful – was to tell me I should intermit. My college nurse told me I was a ‘liability to the college’, causing chaos amongst the students’, and could be forced to leave. It was only when I refused, and demanded the college support me that the suggestion of support even came up.

At a time when I was trying to cope with being wheelchair-bound and the possibility that I might be permanently disabled, various members of my college made it very clear I was unwanted. It was only when my Director of Studies had a word with my Senior Tutor that he grudgingly allowed me to stay.

Tutors are employed on the basis, not of their compassion, but of their academic qualifications. And it is not controversial to suggest that the most academically able are not the most empathetic.

Colleges have liability for any misfortunes that occur within their cloistered walls. When a student falls ill, a college will keep that student only if the value of their grades outweighs the risk they pose; yet that ‘risk’ can be interpreted in a number of ways.

There appear to be no guidelines on how ill students are evaluated by their college, or how a college should react to crisis situations. This allows tutors to make arbitrary decisions about the future of already vulnerable students. Such mishandling of ill students is part of the theme I’ve witnessed at Cambridge: that if you’re having difficulties with your studies then you’re not worth the investment.

The Disability Resource Centre (DRC) does a fantastic job of supporting ill and disabled students, but it can only do this with the backing of the university and colleges. Students should not suffer because they belong to a college with a substandard pastoral system. Tutors’ first reactions should be to offer support; the university needs to ensure this is the case.

Continued from page 1...

... and healthy they will do well – and this need not be a first... We feel that there should be a minimum reasonable standard of training for all those involved in college and departmental welfare... What we need are more compassionate and student focussed regulations on intermission, which are transparent and apply equally to all colleges – the disparity in provision and attitudes is a problem here.”

Hoogewerf-McComb went on to say: “Very helpful action.”

References the ‘Degrading is Degrading’ Campaign, and last year’s ‘Students Deserve Better’ project, Hoogewerf-McComb went on to say: “Recent years have seen real change in the process once known as “degrading”, but there is still work left to do. CUSU continues to campaign to ensure that all students who intermit receive fair treatment, clear guidance and a high standard of support. We also run the Student Advice Service which works with individual students, empowering them to make informed decisions about intermission and a range of other issues.”

Cambridge Speaks

“Cambridge Speaks Its Mind” aims to “provide a safe, anonymous space for students to share their experiences, and then move to effect real, decisive change in the University”. Here are a sample of its testimonies:

“I would have degraded last year – having suffered with my mental health – but if I had done so I would not have been able to come back this year. That is because the college would not have allowed me to stay in college accommodation, and so I would have had to move home. My home environment is hardly conducive to helping my mental health, and I would have had somehow to pay up-front rent...”

“My senior tutor told me I should degrade because my being in Cambridge was placing an ‘unacceptable burden’ to other students and staff. During the degrading process I was offered no help from her at all... When I was granted permission to degrade I had to persistently contact her to find out that it had gone through.”

“Although my college did support my application to intermit (or degrade, whichever you prefer), I was constantly fobbed off when I asked about the outcome of the Application Committee’s decision... The lack of transparency about the intermitting process harms Cambridge students by compounding the shame and stigma attached to mental illness.”

“One of my closest friends has very severe depression, and the college treated her really badly - the tone they used in emailing her was aggressive and they suggested that she was exaggerating the problems. They kept telling her to degrade - it scared her. I went to the Senior Tutor to complain and was told I should just get on with my work and ignore my friend.”
Fellowship of the spin: Alastair Campbell lectures on journalism

Alastair Campbell delivered a series of fellowship lectures in Cambridge this week on the role and importance of journalism in modern politics.

Campbell, Tony Blair's former communications director, was speaking in his role as Visiting Professor of Media 2013, a visiting fellowship created as part of the Humanitas Programme, which sees leading scholars and public figures address students on major issues in the arts and social sciences.

The first lecture, delivered on Wednesday 13 November, addressed the question of ‘why journalism matters in a world in flux’. Thursday’s lecture proceeds to tackle issues more directly related to the Leveson Inquiry and press regulation.

As a former journalist for The Mirror, Campbell’s experience of the internal workings of both the media industry and the upper echelons of politics has led him to become a strong presence in the ongoing debate over the relationship between politicians and the media.

Speaking at the Leveson Inquiry over two years ago, Campbell professed that whilst he admired “many journalists and much journalism… [he] also believe[d] that there are serious and endemic shortcomings in the culture, practices and ethics of the British media”. Campbell is using his position as a Visiting Professor to expand upon these opinions he has raised repeatedly over recent years.

Campbell is just one among many Visiting Professors who will be speaking at Cambridge in the coming months. Each year, the Faculty of English also welcomes a visiting professor, known as the Judith E. Wilson Poetry Fellow. The poet Redell Olsen fills the position this year, a specialist on the relationship between poetry and the visual arts.

As for History, Isabella Matauschek will be lecturing as a Visiting Fellow on colonialism in India, specifically the influence of religion on the Dutch East India Company.

For those who miss out, Campbell will be following up on his lectures with a symposium on 20 November that is free and open to all, discussing the relationship between ‘Media and Politics in a Changing World’.
1 hour, 1,500 quid: Police crack down on bad cycling

Becky Alldridge
News Reporter

Cambridge police officers issued £1,500 worth of fines to cyclists without lights in just one hour last Wednesday, as part of their wider ‘Operation Pedalo’ to crackdown on bad cycling in Cambridge.

Commissioner Sir Graham Bright joined the crackdown in Regent Street with other volunteer officers. A total of more than 40 cyclists were stopped between 7:30pm and 8:45pm; the officers handed out 30 fines of £50 each.

Areas being targeted as ‘hot spots’ include the city centre, Mill Road, Hill Road, and Silver Street. Sir Graham told Cambridge News, “It is unbelievable how many cyclists are without lights”. He compared it to crackdowns as “shooting fish in a barrel.”

The special inspector Emil Hovsepyan, who volunteered for last week’s crackdown, has also expressed “frustration” at some of the excuses offered by students. These ranged from “my lights have just been stolen” to the bold “I do lots of voluntary at school and I was so busy I forgot to put batteries in my dynamo.”

Cambridge taxi driver Nigel Lipscombe told The Cambridge Student, “A good 50 per cent [of students] don’t wear lights or don’t wear them properly… the bottom line is how do you value your life, we don’t want to knock people over.”

Girton College’s representative for cycling, Vincent Poon, said “for me the problem is to do with the fact that most students in Cambridge don’t understand the dangers, nor do they understand why bike lights are important.”

Poon told TCS that he does not support the police’s recent crackdown on bikes. Instead, he suggested that the police should be focusing on the dangers of cycling without lights “until it reaches a point where taking your lights becomes second nature, like wearing a seat belt.”

Magdalene vote to create political women’s officer role

Alice Twomey
Deputy News Editor

Students at Magdalene voted in favour of the creation of a political women’s officer role on the Welfare and Equal Opportunities sub-committee at an open meeting last Monday.

The officer will be voted in by the female student body via hustings and will have meetings with the JCR President and Vice-president at least five times a term.

An initial meeting was held on 24 October where Nina De Paula Hanika, a second-year student on the CUSU Women’s Campaign executive committee, brought the proposal that a voting Women’s Officer should be added to the JCR.

At this first meeting, which was only attended by 20 people, the original proposition failed and only 12 people voted for the sub-committee position to be passed. De Paula Hanika called for a referendum, feeling that the decision hadn’t been made by a large enough group to be representative of the female student body, leading to the second meeting on Monday.

The proposition for a voting position still failed, with 30 students voting in favour of the motion, while 40 voted against. However the sub-committee position had more success, passing by a clear majority of 62 votes to 12.

Speaking to The Cambridge Student, De Paula Hanika expressed her delight at the outcome of the meeting: “It was fantastic to see such a great turn out and see everyone engaging with a conversation that, in my eyes, was twenty-five years overdue.

“Whilst Magdalene is now in no way an actively exclusionary or sexist college, I think it is really important that we have recognised the need to be inclusive and representative of the needs of women, and hopefully, with time, those of other minority groups, within our collegiate decision-making.

“While it wasn’t exactly what I was pushing for, and still personally feel that representative positions should hold a voting position on JCR bodies, it was always my highest priority that the final decision was made by a much more informed, engaged and representative body of students than at the initial open meeting, and I feel this was achieved.”

JCR President Ali Meghji told TCS, “This definitely marks a step forward for Magdalene, as we now have a women’s welfare officer who can deal with personal issues and counselling and also a political women’s officer who can lead discussion groups, campaigns and workshops on issues relating to gender stratification both within the University environment but also well beyond life in Cambridge.”
‘Bird of the Day’ Facebook pages encourage cyber bullying, says Irish university

Larissa Kennelly
Deputy News Editor

Facebook pages set up in Ireland which feature daily uploads of pictures of female university students have been met with heavy criticism. The pages, which encourage other students to ‘rate’ or comment upon the attractiveness of the pictured female, have sparked complaints of cyber-bullying and concerns that such pages promote sexist attitudes.

In response to complaints over the content of one such page featuring their name, ‘UCC Bird of the Day’ University Cork (UCC) contacted Facebook to ask that pages of this nature attempting to affiliate themselves with the university be taken down.

UCC stated on their Facebook page that they were “aware of several Facebook pages that claim to represent UCC and which in many cases contain hurtful or defamatory comments targeted at students and/or members of staff... we strongly condemn them.” The post also included information on support networks available to students that had been affected by content on the pages.

The University’s public condemnation of these pages has attracted national attention in Ireland as other universities began to follow suit, and request that these pages be shut down.

Tom McCarthy, Media and Public Relations Officer at UCC, told The Cambridge Student about the positive impact of the university’s decision: “Indeed it has encouraged others to do [the] same in various universities and it is great to see it has started a conversation around the topic, as this is an unfortunate reality, thankfully in the minority, of the digital world that is not going away.”

However, Dave Berry, UCC Student Welfare Officer, reported that students complaining about the content of these pages such as ‘Bird of the Day’ were being subjected to further bullying and intimidation as a result. He said, “The worrying thing is that students who have talked up [sic] against the page, or even our own staff, have been ridiculed or bullied afterwards.”

The student union at Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT) – another institution that has seen similar pages appear in its name – has also spoken out against the phenomenon. President of GMIT Student Union, Sam O’Neill, said, “These pages have on many occasions encouraged other students and the general public to make comments on individual student’s looks, clothes and their circumstances. ‘The issue of cyber-bullying has once again raised its ugly head here, as these comments could potentially have a seriously negative affect on student’s mental health. We would urge students to think before they post, and to be more conscious of the privacy settings of their social media pages (thus preventing non-friends from sharing their content), and to report incidents to Facebook where they feel cyber bullying has occurred.”

Despite the serious criticism such pages have sparked, ‘Bird of the Day’ pages featuring the names of universities such as University of Limerick (UL) and Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) are still in operation at the time of writing.

The soon-to-be biggest economy in the world is trying a little re-marketing scheme. But it comes at an ominous time.

Several weeks ago, at the infamous Tiananmen Square, a car smashed through police barriers before detonating a homemade bomb. In swiftly and carefully censored photos, flames from the wreckage appeared to lick the shoulders of Mao in his famous portrait.

Not all the “common people” have smiles quite as wide as the propaganda department’s pictures might have them. Whatever ‘the Chinese dream’ may be, it’s being shattered.

As a toe-numbing wind from the north descends over Beijing, so has a frosty unease. This week will see China’s most influential politicians assemble to announce crucial potential reforms at the so-called ‘Third Plenum’.

However, to a country largely alien to terrorist attacks, and one desperate to preserve an image of civil harmony, the last two week’s events have left policymakers shaken and a police force on tight patrol. Immediately after the events at Tiananmen, police and public security furiously set to work, removing the smoldering SUV wreckage, isolating witnesses from media, and scrubbing the tiles of the square clean of blood spilt only an hour before. Within two hours, tourists were back in the square, snapping photos and blissfully unaware of the five deaths and forty-odd injuries that took place where they stood. Tiananmen literally means ‘Gate of Heavenly Peace’; certainly the illusion of peace is sacrosanct. But while the blood was quickly wiped away, the symbolic value of the attacks is a stain much harder to remove.

China’s efforts to model itself as an alternative to Western society, one where ethnic minorities and all sections of society can thrive together, were blown away as swiftly as the fireball at Tiananmen. I usually like to keep this international piece relatively light-hearted to bring my experiences here to life. But right now, in Beijing, there’s little to joke about.

Cambridge University Press continues to grow

Cambridge University Press has enjoyed its 11th year of growth in a row, reporting sales of £261.7m in the year ending April 2013—a rise of 7% on the previous year. According to CUP, 90% of its sales came from outside of the UK, with Latin American and Middle Eastern markets rising, and significant sales in South Africa, China and Turkey.

Stephen Hawking is to feature in David Blaine’s new television special David Blaine: Real or Magic. Hawking, who is a fellow of Gonville and Caius College, is visited by the magician at his office in Cambridge. The show will be broadcast for the first time in November on the ABC network; it will also feature Ricky Gervais, Woody Allen, Robert De Niro, Katy Perry and George W. Bush.

Our foreign correspondent

7. Illusions, explosions and the Chinese Dream
Freddie Green

“The Communist Party is great, and the common people are happy”, reads a dust-swept poster in a derelict Beijing alley. “Patriotism, Innovation, Inclusiveness, Virtue” displays another, in striking red letters on Main Street Bridge.

Everywhere, walls pasted with state-commissioned posters advertise “the Chinese Dream”. They couldn’t be more propagandist if they featured impossibly muscular peasants, sporting AK-47’s and punching the sky.
Cambridge RAG Lost adventure: helicopters and handcuffs

The sun was just rising as Eleanor and I sprinted across Magdalen Bridge. It wasn’t even 7am and it looked like we were going to fall at the first hurdle and miss the departure of the blacked-out LOST coach. We made it – just.

Admittedly, we were not in it to win it. After the two-hour journey, we were dropped in Nuneaton with 37 other duos and charged with the task of racing back to Cambridge without spending any money, completing a list of crazy challenges along the way.

On our ramblings we encountered a farmer who was kind enough to let us ride on his tractor. Unfortunately he had no cows to milk – an experience that would have earned us 30 points. However, as we were walking back to the main road we asked – in jest – whether he owned a helicopter. He didn’t. But he jovially informed us that his neighbour did.

Blagging a ride in a helicopter earned us 75 points. The competitive demons in us were unleashed; we pursued the remaining challenges with vigour. Eleanor caught a fish and got handcuffed; I sang Adele loudly in public, we started a conga line at the Birmingham Bullring, and we even presented a weather bulletin at the BBC Public Space.

After a stop in Milton Keynes and a ride on the infamous X5 bus, we found ourselves back on familiar ground, arriving in Cambridge before 8 o’clock. But the challenges didn’t end there. We bagged ourselves yet another 40 points with a detour to Girton; Eleanor scored us a few more by rapping Nicki Minaj to innocent passers-by outside Sainsbury’s; and a trip to the Trinity Plodge yielded a picture with a bowler hat. By quarter to nine we were panting in the RAG office, having returned seventh.

We made it back in under 12 hours, but our stock of life experiences was significantly expanded, and our faith in humanity fortified. Strangers really can be very nice.

Freya Sanders
News Reporter

Pharmaceutical company in search of Cambridge ties

Pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca PLC is moving its headquarters to Cambridge in the hope that being in close proximity to the University’s facilities and researchers will boost its own research.

The London-based company has seen progress slow over recent years, with research failing to find new replacements to match the success of its best-selling older drugs. In an effort to reverse this, the company intends to move to Cambridge Biomedical Campus on the outskirts of the city, to a purpose-built facility worth $330 million. By 2016 it will have brought with it 2,000 scientists and staff.

The company currently has laboratories in the northwest close to Manchester University, from which it has successfully recruited top graduates.

Pascal Soriot, Chief Executive Officer of the company, has said, “Moving to the Cambridge Biomedical Campus means our people will be able to rub shoulders with some of the world’s best scientists and clinicians carrying out some of the world’s leading research. “We hope that our move will contribute to the growing success of Cambridge.”

The University has also expressed excitement about the move. Vice-Chancellor Sir Leszek Borysiewics FRS stated: “I am delighted with AstraZeneca’s choice. Over 1,500 companies in the Cambridge cluster of high-tech industries have found that proximity – to the University, to our NHS partners, and to each other – enables productive relationships and stimulates competition.”

Indeed, the positive and increasingly strong relationships formed between pharmaceutical companies and the University is clear in other areas. Earlier this month, Robinson College – the University’s main conference location – revealed that it had seen a 10 per cent increase in the number of events it has held for clients involved in medical science.

Hazel Shearing
News Editor
Virtual choir light show projected onto Senate House

Cambridge Music Festival opened with a unique spectacle this week – a Virtual Choir projected onto Senate House. American composer and conductor Eric Whitacre created the project. On Tuesday and Wednesday, a ten-minute video of thousands of singers performing Whitacre’s ‘Water Night’ could be seen against the front of the building.

CUSU fails to pass motion to stop Trenton Oldfield’s deportation

Arjun Sajip
Deputy News Editor

The motion to stop the deportation to Australia of 38-year-old LSE alumnus Trenton Oldfield failed to be passed in Monday’s CUSU Council meeting.

The privately educated antipodean activist, who has lived in the UK for over a decade, leaped into the River Thames during the April 2012 Boat Race to protest against what he perceived as Oxbridge “elitism”. As well as having to pay a £750 fine, he was sentenced to six months in jail, and served seven weeks in Wormwood Scrubs. He is now facing deportation; he was informed by the Home Office that his presence in Britain would not be “conducive to the public good”.

Owen Holland, of St Catharine’s College, proposed the motion “to stop the deportation of Trenton Oldfield”, emphasising that it was not in favour of Oldfield’s causes, but rather was against the punishment of deportation, particularly in light of the fact that Oldfield has recently become a father.

Seven people voted for the motion, and four against it; there were twelve abstentions. For a motion to be carried in CUSU Council, there must be a minimum of eighteen votes in favour of it.

Oldfield is due to face a tribunal in London on 9 December.

Ear of the Year 2013

Nymphadora, St. Mary’s
Humphrey, Neots Hall

VOTE NOW FOR YOUR EAR OF THE YEAR (PHWOAR)

Applications are now open for the Lent & Easter 2014 TCS team

For Editor-in-Chief applications, please send us a personal statement no longer than 2,000 words.

Editor-in-Chief Application Deadline: 5pm, 20 November
Interviews will take place shortly afterwards.

For Section Editor applications, send us a personal statement of around 500 words detailing relevant experience and your ideas for the content, design and style of the section you wish to edit.

Section Editor Application Deadline: 5pm, 27 November

Send your application to apply@tcs.cam.ac.uk
See our website for the application forms.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to email the current editors at editor@tcs.cam.ac.uk.

We wish you the best of luck!
**Interview: Julian Huppert**

Jack Smith  
Contributor

Julian Huppert’s association with Cambridge dates back to childhood. Having attended The Perse School here, he went on to study at the university, completing a BA (2000) and then a PhD (2005) in Biological Chemistry at Trinity, where he became a Junior Research Fellow in 2004. In 2010 he was elected as the Liberal Democrat MP for Cambridge. Julian has been involved in a number of Cambridge-centric projects including the promotion of cycling and the protection of independent businesses, particularly Cambridge’s dwindling number of pubs.

You’re very well known for being a prolific Twitter user in the Commons. Should Parliament do more to engage with social media?

I think that the days of MPs just getting on with things in Westminster and ignoring the rest of the world are gone. I mean, I do use Twitter quite a lot; I tell people what I’m up to, to ask people questions about what they think about particular issues, and also to respond to questions from people. Students that I represent are very welcome to get in touch, and I’ll do my best to respond.

It’s really important to vote with your principles; I was an undergrad at Cambridge when Labour brought in fees. I was also a graduate student, when they introduced top-up fees, tripling the fees, and I actively campaigned against both of them. I just think fees are the wrong way to go. I actually tabled an amendment which would have phased fees out completely. I was very upset with the outcome but at least I can take comfort from the fact that I am the first MP for Cambridge ever to vote against a student fee increase.

Having studied Biological Chemistry here, do you think scientific evidence plays enough of a role in key policy areas?

I don’t think it gets used enough anywhere at all! I’ve been doing a lot of work on environmental issues for decarbonisation to phase out coal power and the clean tech industry we have in Cambridge. Scientific evidence is key to that. I’ve also been working on drugs reform. I think our current drugs approach is very, very poorly thought through, and we desperately need to liberalize our drugs policy because the evidence very clearly points that way.

So you would be in favour of reviewing the 1971 [Misuse of Drugs] act then?

I think it’s absolutely essential to have that. I spent a year on a select committee where I arranged an inquiry into drugs policy and there are much, much better ways of doing things, like the Portuguese model for example – which decriminalizes possession – has been very, very effective in reducing all the harms that you get from drugs and absolutely, I’m very clear on that.

**1. Early diabetes signs**

New research into the increased levels of albumin will help to identify young sufferers of type 1 diabetes who are at risk of heart and kidney disease. An increase in levels of albumin is already used to identify adults with diabetes who are at higher risk of such diseases. Now it has been shown that normal variation can indicate risk during adolescence.

**2. Chocs are slimming**

Researchers at the University of Granada claim that a higher chocolate consumption is associated with lower levels of total fat deposits in the bodies of adolescents. This could be partly due to the fact that chocolate is rich in catechins, a type of flavonoid that has multiple health benefits. Researchers do add though that excessive consumption is still considered harmful.

**3. World’s top libraries**

Cambridge architectural historian Dr James Campbell visited 82 libraries in 21 different countries in his quest to write a definitive book on the history of libraries. His book *The Library: A World History* takes the reader on a journey charting mankind’s preoccupation with learning.

**Fitz Museum renovation plans**

Wesley Hazen  
News Reporter

The Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum has outlined his visions for renovations to Cambridge’s most celebrated art attraction over the next few years.

The new renovations will be completed between Spring 2014 and the museum’s bi-centennial celebrations in 2016. They include improvements to the exterior surfaces, opening the Founder’s Library to the public and a full showcase of the conservation works of the museum.

Tim Knox, an architectural historian who has now been the museum’s Director for six months, is principally interested in improving the building itself. He has described his main focus as “the fabric of the building, improving circulation and the display of the collections, and making the Fitzwilliam a more welcoming place.

Surplus ‘Do not touch’ signs will be banished, displays of fresh flowers will come back to the galleries, and photography is now allowed throughout the Museum.”

Knox also has high hopes of reorganising the museum’s exhibits and displays in order to get more exhibits out of the store room and from private collectors. The public can then enjoy them instead of being stored away in a dusty cupboard. One of his goals is to further expand its collection of 20th and 21st century art.

Shaina Saint-Lot, studying for an MPhil in Development Studies, told *The Cambridge Student*, “I find the renovation plans lovely but wish they weren’t happening during my nine months here in Cambridge, because I want to see the final product”.

**“I think our current drugs policy is very, very poorly thought through”**

Recently, Julian has criticised the decision to force the sale of Cambridge Arts Picturehouse.
Is a Cambridge degree worth it? It’s what you make of it

Peter Lloyd-Williams
Contributor, Trinity

Know it’s a heresy, but when the Week Five Blues have set in, it’s surely not too much to ask: is it really worth it? You work a seven-day week. Your DoS openly describes the workload as “horrific”. You spend most of every day pouring over books. A reading week sounds like the sort of bliss only found in heaven, and by week five, everyone is stressed, depressed or bliss only found in heaven, and by week five, everyone is stressed, depressed or studying Geography.

If we address the question objectively, we have to say that the answer is: Yes.

Cambridge’s performance in league tables, both national and international, is consistently excellent and we are (fingers crossed) those future graduates. But it’s about this time in term that the reality of life in Cambridge really starts to bite. Tiredness is a constant burden. The work is never done, never even nearly done. The price to be paid for the privilege of a Cambridge education is great indeed.

Perhaps though, spending too much time obsessing about work can lead to us developing ‘bubble-vision’. Life, I seem to remember, doesn’t only revolve around the next supervision. The whole concept of a work/life balance takes on a far greater potency when you realise that here at least, the former will readily engulf the latter. And that’s not a good thing. Cambridge gives you almost everything you could ever need for the work, so you spend a little time on the life and we’ll all work out the life balance together.

So is it worth it? I won’t lie to you: that’s a personal question and one which it would only ever be right for you to answer yourself. But the fact that you’re here at all hints at what you once thought the answer was. Have things really changed that much?

A little perspective and a little time will hopefully tell you all that you need to now. Until then, in the words of someone very, very wise “Just keep swimming!”

Which college you’re at makes a big difference. The good thing about being at a smaller college is that everyone knows who everyone is. People don’t fall through the gaps. Students look after each other more than any staff or faculty. My tutor is the senior tutor and the Dean, so I wouldn’t want to worry him with things that seem small.

You’re just lucky if you get a good tutor. I feel like mine would support me if I needed it, but I would only go and see him if something was affecting my work. There is pressure to address a problem before you go and see anyone about it. Everything here is supposed to be more difficult, so if you’re finding something difficult, that’s normal!

Student support has proved really good. I’ve been struggling with Week Five, so I emailed my tutor and she got back to me, saying come and meet me at 9:30am the next morning. She was really helpful, giving me a few helpers and tips, calming me down a bit. If I had a problem, I would definitely go to my tutor first.

Perspective and time will win out? Photo: sonewfangled

Prioritising the city over industry leaves a bleak future for the young workforce

Fiona Woolston
Contributor, Trinity Hall

This week BAE announced that 1,775 jobs would be lost in British shipbuilding, reinvigorating the growing and tangible tension between industry and city. The deterioration of job market to the service sector, whose wages do not rival those offered in the more lucrative manufacturing.

According to Pay Scale UK, your average waiter will earn £5.89 an hour, a retail assistant gets £6.45 and a cleaner £6.65. Working on a factory assembly line will earn you £7.20 an hour with an increase of 21 per cent with experience and the option of double-wage for certain shifts. Neither sector requires high academic qualifications, but industry’s decline has trapped many school leavers in a job market predisposed to unfair wages. This is a vicious cycle: with less disposable income, people spend less. Businesses fail; local councils receive less income. As job losses rise, social provisions are cut and modern Britain is increasingly faced with a very real problem.

In contrast, jobs in the City remain some of the highest-paid, but they generally require academic qualifications and resources to set up in London. Not possessing such assets shouldn’t limit one’s job prospects. We need a service sector; these occupations should pay a fair wage and be recognised for the vital part they play in society.

Those made redundant will enter a competitive, lower-paid job market with fewer opportunities for them than they could ever have reasonably predicted. Over time, such closures will perpetuate the problems discussed; as one redundant worker proclaimed, “just hope the young ones get a good future”.

What the system has are a lot of outlets you can go to. These include college parents, your tutor, your supervisor; there’s always someone. I wouldn’t want to ask anyone unless it was a major problem though. If it’s just that you find something difficult it generally feels like you’re encouraged to work it out on your own.
May’s immigration bill will deter and hurt international students

Hesham Mashoor
Contributor, Trinity

Theresa May’s pride and joy, the new immigration bill, aims to target illegal immigrants. It also wishes to continue welcoming bright migrants willing to contribute to British economy and society. It actually achieves very little. Although I acknowledge that illegal immigrants are a problem in this country, a bill that introduces charges for international students’ use of the NHS, empowers landlords over their foreign tenants, and removes the right of appeal for students applying for visa extensions does nothing to solve this problem.

The first aim of the bill is to force international students to contribute to the health service. Theresa May’s reasoning is that this will help reduce health tourism to the UK. This is problematic on two accounts. Firstly, the NHS, in its current state, is not a pull factor for tourists with pre-existing conditions seeking free healthcare. A recent report by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the University of York found that internationals seeking private medical treatment is a lucrative source of income for the NHS, and could generate twice as much as is lost to ‘health tourists’ exploiting the system.

It was also found that more UK citizens go abroad for treatment than the number of internationals who come here. Secondly, the NHS has a system in place to recover costs if a patient has been found not eligible for treatment.

Given that fees for international students already exceed those for home students (£38k per annum here at Cambridge for a medical degree), one would have thought that at least some of that amount must go towards covering basic health costs.

The bill also removes the right of appeal for international students applying for visa extensions. This move ignores the pressing need for a right to appeal. The Home Office, responsible for handling all visa and immigration applications, have reversed 32% of their decisions regarding visa extensions following an appeal. This was mainly due to poor decisions made by the Home Office.

This policy also seems to contradict Theresa May’s earlier statements on the UK continuing to welcome bright migrants. Surely an international student, having completed a degree from a British university, is in an excellent place to contribute to British economy and society if s/he should choose to stay on?

Finally, the bill is intended to empower landlords. Under new legislation, untrained landlords will be expected to quiz their tenants on their rights of stay in the UK. If the tenants are found to be in the UK illegally, the landlord may be fined, or even imprisoned. This will discourage landlords from leasing accommodation to foreigners, even if they do have a right to stay in the UK.

Instead of encouraging landlords, it introduces discrimination. Indeed, the entire bill introduces discrimination. It’s ridiculous; don’t let it pass.
Intermission is inconsistent
Louise Ashwell
Dominic Kelly
Editors-in-Chief

In 2011, the Cambridge story making the headlines wasn’t naked posters. More serious concerns dominated the agenda, namely a damming indictment on the University’s policy towards intermitting. ‘Degrading is degrading’ was the slogan, and it was the best kind of news story: one that captured people’s attention, but more than that, their sympathies.

A petition was initiated; 1,681 signatures were collected. After all that coverage, and all the discussions this important issue provoked, a name change was the only concession. Students ‘degraded’ no longer; they were ‘disregarding terms’. And this was a University disregarding the issue.

This took place almost exactly two years ago. ‘Why are we bringing the debate up again?’, some may ask. We advance three reasons.

First of all, it’s a debate under a different name. ‘Disregarding terms’ is a mouthful; the process is now referred to as ‘intermitting’. But a name-change does not obscure the same underlying issues. And those are issues still affecting and distressing members of the student population.

This brings us to the second, far more crucial reason: that we were approached with concerns about the intermitting process by current students. As a Cambridge-based media outlet, we owe it to students to cover the issues affecting them. The statistics on our front page this week speak volumes; over 500 Cambridge students intermitting over the last three years is a number we cannot ignore.

What investigations have finally revealed is a tragic trajectory to the 2011 campaign that has gone ignored. After an initial burst, the changes demanded were not satisfactorily fulfilled.

The problem is not intermission itself, we must stress. For many, a break from Cambridge is the healthiest option. The majority of tutors are prepared to fight their students’ corner. Welfare failings seem to be the exception, not the norm. But when it involves such significant issues as students’ health problems, long-term or otherwise, exceptions are no excuse.

Intermitting is inconsistent. That may not be as catchy a slogan as its predecessor. But the change we need must grapple with the root problem: alarming discrepancies of support offered between colleges.

Only with the University’s wholehearted support for change can students know their concerns are being taken seriously.
A brief history of Movember

Emma Meads
Features Editor

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latio, in Book III of his Republic, stated that if our guardians are to be educated properly, they must only be allowed to imitate those people who are most spirited and who possess the most knowledge of truth. Those people are bearded men. Each year our young guardians are to spend 30 nights imitating these men. And so it is that Movember can be traced back to approximately 360BC.

Not convinced by this? Perhaps its conception can be attributed to Karl Marx, who deemed November a month of no shaving in order to anger bourgeoisie factory owners, whose workers would be health-and-safety risks if they came in with beards. Engineers, doctors and other practical students probably should take note.

Most histories of Movember tends to begin in 2003 with two men from Adelaide, Australia mourning the loss of the mo and hoping to bring it back in support of prostate cancer. Its popularity has increased exponentially from the original 30, and with catchy slogans such as “Mo man is an island: Mindset, Journey, Destination”, it’s no wonder. Surely a motivational phrase to whip out this Easter term when exams are getting you down.

Since its inception, Movember has become a cult phenomenon. Not that it hasn’t had its fair share of criticism, with a number of university students when asked why they weren’t getting involved stating an inability to grow a worthwhile mo. For those who can, however, there’s plenty of support. Jamie Oliver posted a list of foods for mo bros to avoid with handy tips such as “Candyfloss – which is floss and which tash? Not only might you end up with pink fuzz on your facial furniture, but you could also end up accidentally eating your mo”. Cheap lager at your college bar and cup-o-soup gulped down pre-supervision are probably more relevant but equally perilous to the Cambridge student population.

Finally, if you’re sitting in the library looking for a new form of useless procrastination, upload a photo onto the official website to rack up stats and ratings, and create a profile strangely reminiscent of a Top Trumps card. Or for inspiration, check out Ram Chauhan, the man with a 14ft long moustache that requires two hours of daily grooming. The fact that you haven’t got one of these might at least make your mates thankful that Movember only lasts for one month.

TCS investigates: how healthy is a Cambridge diet?

Freya Sanders
Guest Contributor

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ustenance is a key concern for many freshers. Haunting tales of horrendous hall food, weight gain and malnutrition – circulated merrily by student forums – strike fear into the hearts of those who are attached to home comforts. But personally I’ve found the rumours to be somewhat exaggerated.

On moving-in day, my brother and I carried – with great difficulty – a veritable crate of edible goods into what I then perceived to be the unreasonably tiny kitchen on my corridor. Eight cans of Heinz tomato soup, 12 packets of peanuts, two kilos of pasta: all were unloaded, but all went untouched for peanuts, two kilos of pasta: all were unloaded, but all went untouched for the average Cambridge student rarely has time to do anything more than boil some water and chop up some potatoes, meaning that when we’re faced with a roast, we crumble. A healthy Cambridge diet therefore undoubtedly requires a good deal of will power: in an essay crisis the first thing most of us do is reach for the biscuits or head to the vending machine. It’s a slippery slope.

Spot the subject ‘stache

Emma Meads & Emily Wymer
Features Editors

The Dali – History of Art. Requires plenty of wax and the confidence to walk into lectures with suitably indie gear, twirling it accordingly.

The Nietzsche – Philosophy. Prorccation, upload a photo onto the official website to rack up stats and ratings, and create a profile strangely reminiscent of a Top Trumps card. Or for inspiration, check out Ram Chauhan, the man with a 14ft long moustache that requires two hours of daily grooming. The fact that you haven’t got one of these might at least make your mates thankful that Movember only lasts for one month.

The Super Mario Bro – CompSci. Styled after the ultimate gaming character and with a cabbage-like shape like nothing anyone has ever been able to grow before. Get ready to attract your Princess Peach from across the lecture. The Hogan – the Blue. Alright, it’s not a subject but they’re probably a more well known department than ASNAC. The Hulk is also regularly associated with protein shakes, women and wild exaggerations.

A very honest greengrocer
Top Five Assassins’ Guild Assassinations

Tom Ruddle
Assassins’ Ex-Umpire

1. Captain Molly Morgagni & Baker Street Irregular vs. Abra & The Umpire (Lent 2012)
   Cuddly toys are a notoriously common weapon in Assassins but, in recent years, none have instilled such fear into the hearts of players as Nigel the giant squid. Nigel killed the Umpire and some of the Assassins Police after being lowered out a window last year.

   Photo: Tom Ruddle

   It’s never won the most interesting weaponry award, much to the chagrin of its owner, Random Strategy, but their chainspoon (for those who aren’t aware, a K’Nex chainsaw mechanism where the sharp edges are replaced with plastic spoons, complete with a rabbit catapult) terrorised players in Mayweek 2011, leading to Random Strategy’s overall victory.

   Photo: Andy Mangold

3. The Mole vs. An abstract concept in a tuxedo (Lent 2007)
   In order to persuade their very atheistic target to leave their room, The Mole collected leaflets and pretended to be a member of the Christian Union. When their target appeared for a debate, all they actually got was death by a rubber band gun.

   Photo: Random Strategy

4. Phishy Joe vs. Krazy and Sparks (Lent 2012)
   Two players were fooled by Phishy Joe’s scheme to email a list of players with an offer of £80 for a psychological study. They were met by three players and shot in the street outside Kings.

   Photo: Quote

5. Quote vs. as lightning flashed across the sky (Michaelmas 2010)
   Possibly the most infamous kill in Assassins. Quote built and painted a cardboard piano which was then dropped down a staircase to hit their target (also a pianist) whilst they were distracted by cookies.

   Photo: brewbooks

Has ‘geek’ become cliché?

Ben Jones
Guest Contributor

Modern culture’s recent obsession with the 1980s has led to an odd fetishisation of the ‘geek’ figure, by which we mean the John Hughes, Eugene-Spaziani, black-plastic-glasses-and-checked-shirt kind of geek.

While this new mainstream kudos has meant that the term has lost any school-bully connotations of lonely studiousness it had before, it has caused a backlash amongst those who would self-identify as geeks, who feel their style and sub-culture has been appropriated by the mainstream society.

We all know the girls who wear plastic glasses with no lenses, shirts emblazoned with their new favourite buzzword, guys spouting their geekdom after watching The Dark Knight for a second time. This must stop.

Being a geek, and calling yourself one, is a reaction against the mainstream, an attempt to find something different or odd that others don’t know about. It’s not a term for someone who enjoys the odd aspect of alternative culture; it’s for people submerged in it.

And it isn’t about being better, it’s just separate. We won’t walk into Fez in a Game of Thrones costume if you stop stealing geekdom. In much the same way as the word ‘indie’ has gone from meaning grubby independent record labels in 1980s Manchester to manufactured skinny-jeans pop in the mould of Bastille, the word ‘geek’ will soon lose its relation to the original concept that spawned it.

So please, by all means watch the Christian Bale Batman films, and debate over your favourite Doctor Who companion; but remember that this is just you dipping your toe in alternative culture. Save the g-word for when you’ve fully dived in. Because you can’t just pretend to be a geek. It’s not a mask that you can just don and then discard when it’s convenient for you and the rest of mainstream society.

Live it or lose it.

An insight into Cambridge sci-fi

Sarah Binney
Chairbeing of CUSFS

Just as the difference between science fiction and fantasy is as blurred as a myopic drunk’s field of vision, the line between CUSFS (the Cambridge University Science Fiction Society) and Jómsborg the New (the mead-drinking fantasy society) is not particularly clear-cut.

As such, their memberships are exactly identical, and as Chairbeing of the science-fiction half I try to cater for all tastes. Between science fiction and fantasy, horror and alternative history, speculative future and political allegory, the society attracts those from all walks of degree (and level of geekery).

There’s some contention as to what the collective noun for members of the Science Fiction society is. Historically it’s been CUSFSites, which I feel lends a slightly yuppie tinge; I’m personally angling for sciencefictioneers, which has a nice swashbuckling ring to it.

Anymore, moving on to what we actually do. We geek. It’s quite an all-encompassing word. The weekly discussion group is a good opportunity to fill up any empty-looking ‘books to read’ lists, and our movie nights give us the excuse to watch everything from anime to Asimov to Inuit mythology.

The exact content of the year’s activities is primarily decided by the Chairbeing’s personal taste. Since I prefer reading to movies and hard science fiction to magic, we had the author of Revelation Space, Alastair Reynolds, to visit this term; he looked slightly nonplussed by our gift of one of CUSFS’ trademark fourteen-foot-long orange scarves, but I believe it was an overall success. If I had to rate the geekiness of the society, let’s just say if I were to stand before CUSFS and announce that I had judged us on anything less than a 10/10, I would fear for my own safety.

If you feel inspired by these words – though disappointingly not in Klingon – go where many men have boldly gone before: http://cusfs.soc.srcf.net/
LARPing about with the CU Treasure Trap Society

Emily Room
CUTT Member

Cambridge University Treasure Trap is a live action roleplay, or LARP, society. It’s similar to tabletop roleplay in that people create their own characters whilst referees run the games under a number of set rules that dictate the mechanics. The key difference is that instead of using paper and dice to create the characters and act them out, in LARP one has to dress up as your character and actually act out what they do. Sometimes, our plots lead to some truly epic stories.

Last year, the god of death was — ironically — dying. His priests were going mad, zombies were roaming the land and naturally it was down to the PCs (player characters, i.e. us) to fix it. This plot managed to run for over a term, culminating in a three-part adventure in the death god’s most sacred temple where the PCs bribed their way into the inner sanctum, went on an Indiana-Jones-style tomb robbery — complete with boulder run — and defeated three powerful angels of death whilst holding off an endless horde of undead monstrosities.

For the final scene, all the characters came together to finally solve the problem of the dying death god. Three of the characters took the artefacts that had been stolen from the tomb and ascended to form a new death god. Another character tried to kill everyone, first by unleashing a handful of fire trolls and then by bringing his friend back from the dead as a horrific magical murder-beast.

At long last, one character said “Screw this, I’m getting out of here” and legged it, pursued by several other characters which included my own, a knight of the god of honour and truth. Upon seeing several angry, heavily armed people charging towards him, the coward decided that now would be the best time to transform himself into an undead lord and scarper.

Luckily for him, he got away, and my character went back to the main fight in the temple. When she got there, however, everyone was either dead or had already fled the burning ruins in a sombre end to this tale.

What a day.

Radio: the final frontier

Alec Wright
Guest Contributor

Last holiday, I was standing in my garden with a handheld radio, waiting for something. After a few minutes, I saw it coming over the horizon. The brightest manmade object in the sky: the International Space Station. “CQ, CQ”, I said down the radio-jargon for “Is there anyone there?” “This is M0TEI (my callsign) calling”. Silence. Oh well, it was worth a try, I suppose.

Seconds later: “M0TEI, this is PI9ISS (the callsign of Dutch astronaut André Kuipers) aboard the International Space Station, I read you loud and clear.” My jaw hit the floor and I stood there speechless for a moment. Once I’d recovered, all I could say was “PI9ISS, thanks for returning my call. Humble greetings from planet Earth.”

Now, when I’m asked for an interesting fact about me, I can proudly say I spoke to someone in space.
Battle of the bibliotheques: which is Cambridge’s greatest library?

Plant Sciences

As an Economist, using the faculty library is pretty much out of the question: it’s too new, too open-plan, and the people there are much keener than me. So last exam term, I had to find a new library. After a brief flirtation with the AMES library, I settled on the Plant Sciences library. Although it requires a card to get in, the space is divided up well into a quiet room, a computer room and an open space. Upstairs offers a wealth of narrow corridors and obscure German botany journals to hide in. The lack of a librarian means that books are easy to take out and you can drink coffee well into the night. Plus, last year, there was a large selection of old OS maps in which to lose oneself while procrastinating.

Whipple Library

The Whipple Library, a.k.a. the Department of History and Philosophy of Science Library, is a hidden gem tucked away on Free School Lane. The mood is quiet but not sombre, unassuming but not dull. Upon entering, you are greeted with what looks like a wooden baby barrier – a prehistoric version of the angry steel machines in the UL. Inside the library is a sea of serenity. Students don’t even look up when you enter (take note, English Faculty). Rooms are light and, although small, not claustrophobic. You can even get up and have a wander round to look at the spector polarimeter, spin the globe as you walk down the aisle or check out King Arthur’s table casually resting against the wall.

With 114 libraries to choose from, we ask: which one strokes your spine?

Squire Library

No mobile signal. A bizarre indexing system. And you’re not even allowed to borrow books! For atmosphere, though, the Squire is unbeatable. Designed by Norman Foster, it’s glassy and modern, but the greenery outside is visible from every desk. You can also go downstairs and grab a cuppa. It contains one of the three largest collections of legal texts in all of the UK – over 180,000 at the last count (I didn’t count). Having overcome the vital soundproofing problems of its younger days, this library really is a treat. As a historian, I’d come here when I wanted to crack on without distractions from people I knew. It was so pretty that I genuinely switched Tripos and now I’m there all week long. Absolutely no regrets; what a library.

Haddon Library

Quietly tucked away inside the Downing Site, the Haddon is the sleeping giant of Cambridge libraries. Manned by the wonderful Aidan, Tom and Simon, the Haddon is basically the Cambridge library you dreamed about before you got here. It’s gorgeous, cavernous and filled to the brim with giant bookshelves that require one of those stepladder things to reach. It’s quiet and unassuming, but always there when you need it. If it were a cartoon character, it’d be Marge Simpson. If it were a sandwich, ham and cheese. Added winter bonus: it’s always warm. Always. Sure, in the summer it can get a bit much, but at winter all the sleepy Archaeologists and Anthropologists flock to the heat like moths to a flame.
Lara Croft: gaming’s First Lady?

James Lucas & Tom Ruddle, Games Contributor

Lara Croft is a gaming icon. However, she is inseparable from her femininity. The older games featured a scantily dressed, highly sexualised protagonist with over-the-top speech acting, while the films were little more than an excuse to see Angelina Jolie shoot things while cartwheeling through the air. The 2013 reboot gave hope: surely things while cartwheeling through the air. The 2013 reboot gave hope: surely Lara Croft may have started as both a sexual icon and a powerful female lead, but developers are apparently becoming more conscious of discriminatory issues. However, it’ll be a while before the gender imbalance is rectified.

Getting your film fix (on even the most basic student budget)

Ellie Gould, Film Contributor

As all those anti-piracy adverts love to remind us, the cinema is an experience. And it’s one that students ought to take advantage of more often. With more and more films prioritising the visual above all else, such as ‘Gravity’ in all its majesty, we really have to make the trip to the cinema to appreciate the spectacle of film. Crowding your friends around a badly angled laptop screen is still a lot of fun, but it simply doesn’t give you the same depth; quite literally, in the case of 3D films.

But there is one major problem with the cinema for students: the cost. It’s not uncommon to be charged upwards of £10 for a 3D film these days, and if you dare to desire a snack as well, you’re set to lose a sizeable portion of your student loan. However, cinemas know this and so, in an attempt to draw you into their screens, they’ve set up some great ways you can see films on the cheap or even for free.

1. E4 Slackers Club – Arts Picturehouse
   Each month, the Picturehouse puts on a showing of a film for free, and if you join the club you can bring a friend along too. They’ve had some top quality films this year – think ‘Monsters University, How I Live Now, and this month ‘In Fear’.

2. Orange Wednesdays
   It may seem like a bit of an obvious one, but a lot of students don’t take this opportunity to halve the cost of their ticket seriously enough. Save even more by bringing your own 3D glasses (everyone has a pair somewhere) and buying your food from Sainsbury’s beforehand. Large bags required.

3. College screenings
   We’re very lucky to have some very affordable screening rooms in our colleges, too. Look out for St John’s Picturehouse and Christ’s Films, both of which have a good variety of showings each term for a few pounds; you get the full cinematic experience for a fraction of the cost.

My Collection Music my parents hated (but I love)

Rory Weal, Music Contributor

It’s becoming increasingly fashionable to slag off modern music, and you can perhaps see why; whereas the 1960s had the chart battles of the Beatles and the Stones, we get lumped with One Direction and Connor Maynard. Many trace this decline back to the rise of synthpop in the 1980s. Yet then, as now, decent rock music is still to be found if you’re prepared to look for it. My parent’s generation produced some outstanding records. Unfortunately my mum was too engrossed in Bananarama to give the Smiths a listen. So here’s my attempt to cover what she missed out on.

Joy Division – Closer (1980)
My mum was 13 when this record was released, so perhaps she can be forgiven for jiving to Shakin’ Stevens instead. Released two months after lead singer Ian Curtis’s suicide, it is a dark and unsettling fusion of post-punk guitar lines and haunting lyrics: “Just for one moment, I heard somebody call / Looked beyond the day in hand, there’s nothing there at all.”

The Clash – London Calling (1980)
Less bleak but no less impressive is the Clash’s most mature album – ‘London Calling’. Progressing from the raw and snarling punk rock of their earlier years is a record which combines elements of ska, rockabilly and reggae whilst retaining their uncompromising political edge.

“‘The greatest album ever’ - so said Bunnymen frontman Ian McCulloch, a man not known for his modesty. Whilst this analysis overstretches itself to say the least, the album is impressive. Standout track ‘The Killing Moon’ was apparently the result of McCulloch playing Bowie’s ‘Space Oddity’ backwards. Bit of trivia there.

The Smiths – Queen is Dead (1986)
Amongst the most influential records of the decade, The Smiths produced an album as humorous as it was melancholic. Morrissey’s state-of-the-nation address and venomous attacks on the establishment in the eponymous track could have been written yesterday: “Charles, don’t you ever crave / To appear on the front of the Daily Mail / Dressed in your Mother’s bridal veil?”

The holy grail of the ‘Madchester’ music movement, this record is faultless. Everything from the chugging opening of ‘I Wanna Be Adored’ to the euphoric climax of ‘I Am the Resurrection’ exudes perfection. When 75,000 flocked to your reunion shows fifteen years later, you must be doing something right.
n staging Christopher Marlowe’s first play *Dido, Queen of Carthage* as the opening of the Cambridge Marlowe Festival, director Michael Oakley has pulled out all the stops. This gorgeous production takes place in Emmanuel College Chapel. It is not entirely historically accurate: Aeneas’ men wear modern combat gear, and his fleet is represented by a toy battleship. But the overall effect is not anachronistic, indeed it is strangely charming.

The acting was some of the best you will see in Cambridge. Aeneas’ gripping account of the fall of Troy and his escape was a lengthy monologue that did credit to Julian Mack’s skill as a storyteller. Issy Kettle and Olivia Emden’s light-hearted touches as the Nurse and Anna respectively gave a great deal of entertainment, whilst many of the cast were extraordinary singers, in particular Hermes (Pat Dunachie) and Venus (Georgia Wagstaff).

Above all, Mary Galloway is simply stunning as Dido. Galloway absolutely did her justice. Was she being tossed to and fro at the mercy of gods and men, or did she remain a strong self-determined queen? Sometimes Galloway played coquettish, sometimes aloof and regal, sometimes she waited with rage and sorrow. Even if it were just her, this play would still be worth seeing.

The chapel venue is not ideal acoustically, meaning some of Marlowe’s beautiful lines are drowned. Nor is it ideal visually, with large choir stalls blocking those members of the cast who are sitting on the floor or stalls blocking those members of the cast who are sitting on the floor or simply performing at the other end of the nave. But all this is outweighed by the unique atmosphere and compelling narration. The last night on Saturday will be a black-tie affair in Senate House – those who have tickets should not take the risks that the more constrained by their need for a season of plays that will sell out and, crucially, will maintain their reputation, the ADC do not take the risks that the more innovative college shows are able to. As theatregoers we are thus offered up token crowdpleasers which, whilst no doubt entertaining, do little to really push the boundaries of theatre.

So next time you’re looking to go to the theatre, take a risk. Shun the ADC mainstream shows and try something different. And all you ADC thespian types, who probably started off their Cambridge theatre careers in a college show, I throw down the gauntlet to you: why not have a gamble and audition for a college production next term?

Get out of the ADC bar: should we pay more attention to college theatre?

*With hit shows being turned down by the ADC and staged elsewhere in Cambridge, are we missing out on talent by undervaluing drama at a college level?*

**Katie Akers - College champion**

The ADC is a formidable institution with a formidable output. With the budget and the provisions to put on sixteen shows a term, the offerings of college theatre societies can appear humble.

Yet there’s great stuff out there that is being missed on, due to the hegemony of the ADC. The sheer force of its reputation means that it acts as a talent drain – once an actor establishes a name for themselves, they are unlikely to return to college theatre. Likewise, it poaches audiences. Six people on opening night marks a sad juxtaposition with nightly sell-outs at the ADC.

A show at the ADC seems a ‘safe bet’ for audiences. But this ‘safety’ is one of the ADC’s biggest shortcomings. Constrained by their need for a season of plays that will sell out and, crucially, will maintain their reputation, the ADC do not take the risks that the more innovative college shows are able to.

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**Davina Moss - ADC advocate**

Anyone can get involved, he or she can collaborate with students from around the university and create probing, intriguing, inspirational, and often unforgettable theatre. Sometimes ADC programmers play it safe, and sometimes an ADC clique can develop and make what ought to be an incredible resource for everyone sometimes hard to access. But the majority of the time, having a student theatre that everyone can have a share in is a privilege and offers opportunities in so many ways: for students to work with professional equipment, for students to be able to involved in every aspect of theatre, and for work to be presented by and to all sorts of people.

The pool of theatrical talent in Cambridge is huge: from freshers to postgrads, NatScis to Englings, Girtonians to Corpuscles – great theatre is made when people with the widest variation in opinion and experience can bring those things to the dialogue. We’re lucky this resource exists at Cambridge, and let’s remember to appreciate it.
y the time I walked into Trinity Chapel two minutes before An Evening on Broadway by the Cambridge Pops Orchestra began, I was shivering and starving. I was prepared to be disappointed. And then, barely two minutes in, an energetic, engaged, tap-dancing Henry Jenkins sang the words: “Outside it’s winter... but in here? Here it’s beautiful... even the orchestra is beautiful”. And damn it, he was right.

From the first burst of the organ, to the colourful witch hats, to a bright orange boa, to the violins, violas and trumpets, it was beautiful. And that wasn’t before they’d even really got the evening going.

Ranging across decades and styles, the compositions chosen were a showcase of Broadway’s best, even if they were not all the ‘classics’ we are so engaged, tap-dancing Henry Jenkinson sang the words: “Outside it’s winter... but in here? Here it’s beautiful... even the orchestra is beautiful”. And that wasn’t before they’d even really got the evening going.

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The under-representation of women in film: Is the Bechdel Test enough?

Camilla Penney
The Bechdel Test is useful

Our cinemas in Sweden have introduced a new classification system to try to combat gender bias in the film industry. Films will be marked “A” if they pass the Bechdel Test; does the film feature two or more named female characters? Do they have a conversation? Is it about something other than men? Shockingly few films satisfy these basic criteria.

USC Annenberg recently published a report in which they analysed the top 100 grossing films of each year from 2007-2012. They found that on average only 30.7% of speaking characters and 4.1% of film directors were female. Women are massively under-represented on the big screen – and this is not improving. The sexualisation of younger women in films has also become more significant, with over half of the teenage girls in the 2012 USC sample depicted partially or fully nude.

To the contrary, smaller films provide some hope for the future. Earlier this year Haifaa Al-Mansour directed the first Saudi Arabian woman to direct a feature film. Wadjda, the story of a young girl growing up in Saudi Arabia, epitomises the more positive finding that films made by women without such secularisation tend to feature more female characters.

Using the Bechdel Test as a criterion for gender equality won’t always work. However, classifying films by whether they pass or not will raise awareness and I’m all in favour.

Daniel Leigh
The Test raises more issues

The lack of female representation in the film industry is a real concern; the Bechdel test certainly highlights this issue. Yet another problem it raises is the depiction of female characters in films. Much has been said about the sexualisation of women in male-dominated pictures, but for me the problem extends further than this to the personalities women enact in films where they may even be the central characters.

Take the 2011 hit comedy Bridesmaids. Many billed this film as an enactment of female liberation in the rather masculine world of screen comedy; producer Judd Apatow has a pretty poor record when it comes to number and personalities of female characters (Knocked Up, Superbad). Yet for all the female characters in Bridesmaids, and the funny jokes, this liberation never really materialised. The women still adhered to the horrific comedy stereotype of the bitchy, uptight party-pooper, made painfully clear in the unbearable scene where Kristen Wiig and Rose Byrne fight over the microphone at the engagement party. We are laughing at them rather than with them. Indeed the only character who makes others in the film laugh is male. This has been a persistent theme in film comedy. The problem is also clear in TV comedy if you consider characters like Claire in Modern Family and, regrettably, Marge in The Simpsons. There is still a long way to go.

And that’s just comedy. Many people consider Sigourney Weaver’s Ripley in Alien to be the only proper female action hero, one that can actually compare with John McClane or Jason Bourne. Any movement towards gender equality in film must take these characterisation issues into account. Just having more women in the industry is not enough.

A Still Tells A Thousand Words
7. Sunset Boulevard
William Hutton

“I am big, it’s the pictures that got small.” Sunset Boulevard was not the first film to hold up a mirror to the Hollywood machine; it was not even the first film in the year of its release, 1950. But its gothic undertones and the synthesis of claustrophobia and loneliness, personified by Gloria Swanson as the once great Norma Desmond, leave you quivering in your seat. What makes it so unconventionally intense is the relationship between the on-screen and off-screen. In one particular scene, Eric Von Stroheim, plays clips from Desmond’s famous films. The reels are in fact from a film in which Swanson starred in the ’20s, directed by Von Stroheim himself, until Swanson had him fired. The subsequent animosity between the two festered for decades until its resolution on set.

Through links like this, Sunset contorts the idea of film as art for escapism by soaking it with the inescapability of reality; not only with subtle hints for the audience, but also for the characters and the actors that play them. It is tension that erupts in Desmond’s damning final line, “Alright, Mr. DeMille, I’m ready for my close up.”

Chair: Gigi Perry

A reverse birth requires minimal thought, but it works – a scene where Bullock pulls a desperate arrest enough that you won’t mind. The performances from Bullock and George Clooney are admirable given what they’re working with, and even the 3D is effectual rather than obtrusive. I won’t go into the plot here, except to say that it’s fairly inessential and beside the point anyway: Gravity doesn’t want you to think; it wants you to immerse yourself in its action and its stunning imagery. Do yourself a favour and acquiesce.

A Still Tells A Thousand Words

Gravity
Benjamin Taylor

8/10

Gravity’s cinematography perfectly meshes the eerie void of space with some masterful and wildly kinetic set pieces. The imagery, like the script itself, is hardly subtle, but it works – a scene where Bullock pulls a desperate first breath and curls up as if undergoing a reverse birth requires minimal thought to appreciate, but the symbolism is arresting enough that you won’t mind. The performances from Bullock and George Clooney are admirable given what they’re working with, and even the 3D is effectual rather than obtrusive.

Watch out, mate!
Is it time to buy a new console?

Ciarán Deasy
Games Contributor

A
s the new generation of consoles gears up for their triumphant debut, gamers are staring at their wallets trying to decide: jump in now, or hold off and make do? Previous generational shifts have been characterised by stark, game-changing advances in graphics and detail, but this time around it’s a major case of diminishing returns. The PS4 and Xbox One may have bigger numbers, but it’s not an instant sell anymore. So the question is: what does the new crop offer?

Firstly, sharing. How many times have you described an awesome kill you made, or something funny you saw, and wished you could just show it? The new machines not only record your gameplay, but do it constantly and transparently. So when these epic occurrences roll around, you can bask in the moment and then hit a button to save it and send it to your friends. Add streaming and you’ve got an exciting new way to experience gaming vicariously through others.

Secondly, indie games. Independent developers have suffered significant barriers to entry on consoles. The PS3 and Xbox 360 changed this, but the new systems aim to completely demolish them. Sony has rolled out a massive line-up of indie games for its launch window alone, and even Microsoft has relaxed its infamously draconian restrictions on publishing. We’re going to see a lot of small, creative games in the coming months and years.

The new consoles offer a nice technology boost, but it’s the details of both consoles that will define the new generation. The future looks promising, so open your wallet and dive in.

Michael Brown

Cambridge pace
Mark your arrival
Bicycle bell
Student crime
Library fine
Strolling on the common
Punts stretch out like swans
Rowing rivers of opportunity
Education celebration
Grade 2 listed buildings
Sky high college ceiling
Of philosophy thinking
Bridge of sighs, never

Strawberry fair
Everyone is so fruity
Colourful characters
We won’t be contained by jars
Though some wear lids for hats

Sweet sugary and delicious
We all jam together
A mixed berries of diverse delight
Strawberry fair starts the summer

A parade of all people
Poets and bands dripping treacle
Afternoon balloons high
Candy floss hair and face paint bright glare

Literary Cocktail
of the week

7. The Count of Monte Cosmo

Alexandre Dumas: “So much the worse for those who fear wine, for it is because they have some bad thoughts which they are afraid the liquor will extract from their hearts.”

Making drinking more erudite...

• 42 ml Revenge
• 33 ml Suicide
• 1 Wedding day drama
• 1 Red silk purse

Mix, stir, strain and enjoy!

Interview: James Aitcheson

Ciara Berry
Books Editor

We exclusively interview historical author James Aitcheson about his latest novel, ‘Knights of the Hawk’.

How different is ‘Knights of the Hawk’ to the previous books in the series?

Knights of the Hawk, which is the third Conquest novel, sees the proud and ambitious knight Tancred casting off some of the shackles that have bound him and striking out on his own. For the first time, we see him travelling beyond Norman-occupied England as he ventures in pursuit of love, of honour and of vengeance. Just as in the previous two books, battles and betrayals abound – but this time it’s personal.

Is historical fact or artistic embellishment in your books more important to you?

One advantage of writing fiction set during the Middle Ages is that the historical sources are fragmentary or conflicting, so the novelist has plenty of freedom. Part of the joy comes from weaving my stories in and out of real events, and so I usually see little reason to alter the facts. When I do, it’s always with good reason, and I own up to it in the afterword at the end of each book.

How long does each book take to research?

Before I start writing each new project, I spend several days in the UL, investigating particular topics of interest and laying the groundwork. I also visit locations that I know are going to feature in the novel, in order to get a sense of the lie of the land. But there are times when I have to pause from writing to look something up or delve a bit deeper into the history, and so in that sense research never really stops.

You’re an Emma alumnus – could you describe your university experience at Cambridge in 6 words?

Simply put: the best time ever.
7. **Buffy the Vampire Slayer**
**Kate Batchelor**

Tuesday evenings as a nine-year-old were filled with a mix of fright and glee. For me, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* was a “grown-up programme” because, with its rock-metal intro and creepy characters, surely it was completely inappropriate. I did not care.

*Buffy*, as a defiant high-school student with quirky friends and evenings spent in a warehouse-cum-club, was the epitome of cool and everything I believed my teenage years would be. Minus the vampires, demons, witches and multiple near-apocalypses, of course. However much I loved *Buffy*, I was inevitably left holding a cushion for the whole hour, and running out of the room on several occasions. The Gentlemen, white-skinned, black-eyed demons that steal people’s voices in order to then steal their hearts without hindrance, were a particular horror for me and the basis of many a nightmare. Seeing them now just makes me giggle. Who knew cheesy costumes and creepy music could be so brilliant?

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**A refreshing, honest take on mental health issues is just what television needs and that is exactly what *Bedlam* provides. The world’s oldest psychiatric institution, Bethlem Royal Hospital, opens its doors to give an insight into what life is like for four groups of their patients, each with their own episode: those with anxiety, those in crisis, those with psychosis, and older adults. So many television programmes, whether documentaries or dramas, don’t quite hit the mark when it comes to addressing these issues, however, *Bedlam* succeeds in giving us the reality.

With a truly poignant outlook on how mental illness can affect both the patient and their families, *Bedlam* provides an accurate reflection of the difficulties that these people face. The first episode covers how relationships can break down, how difficult it is for parents to see their child understanding and coping with marital breakup, and how mental illness often leads to a breakdown of their occupations, whether at university or in their job. This Channel 4 show allows the patients, the carers, and the families to speak directly, to say exactly what they think and feel. This is a revolution for this type of documentary.

Furthermore, *Bedlam* shows the way that patients are treated and how these illnesses can develop. It’s both a reassuring and educational documentary. Most importantly, and evocatively, *Bedlam* does not shy away from the patients’ thoughts; we see that many of them realise and know that what they are doing doesn’t often make rational sense: that they do want to change but they can’t. This should be compulsory viewing.

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**PAUSE FOR THOUGHT**

WITH MULTIPLE LOCATIONS ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE, THERE’S ALWAYS A GREAT PLACE TO GET TOGETHER FOR A COFFEE.

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**The Truth about TV at University**

**Eleanor Metcalf**
TV Contributor

As a baby-faced fresher, one of the questions my mum asked on my first Skype call home was whether I had been watching any TV at university. Back in the Stone Age when she attended Cambridge, having a TV was an easy way to make friends: everyone would crowd into a room and watch *University Challenge* together every week (it seems some things never change). But for the majority of students nowadays, TV is available anywhere at any time on laptops/phones/iPads using online catch-up services: very few people even bring proper TVs to university now.

Paradoxically, despite being instantly accessible, TV has become less of a priority for students, serving more as a distraction from work than something for which people set aside allocated time. Walking through the library, I spy at least three people with 40D or on their laptop – but ask your friends to spend an hour after dinner watching *Homeland*, and they’ll probably opt out, pleading work as an excuse. TV has become a solo activity; a snatched half-hour spent flicking between iPlayer and Facebook in bed before falling asleep. But the isolated nature of modern TV-watching means that occasions of shared viewing have become even more special. Last exam term, my friends and I made a point of spending an hour or so together after work watching a few episodes of *The Thick Of It*. Hearing Peter Capaldi swear solidly for 30 minutes was an oddly cathartic way of relieving revision stress, but more significant was sharing the experience with friends. Cambridge can be a lonely place to live, especially in Easter term, and watching TV in a group is a low-effort but enjoyable way to stay social even at the most stressful of times. For that reason I refuse to take any criticism for my continued love of *Made in Chelsea*. It may lower my IQ, but it always raises my morale.
YOUR SOCIETIES PROJECT

WANT A SAY IN HOW SOCIETIES ARE RUN IN CAMBRIDGE?

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Interiors: Postroom-Trauma care package
Flo Scordoulis
Lifestyle Contributor

After countless stolen visits to the post-room, only to find your hopes crushed by a looming, empty black hole, the horror of Postroom-Traumatic Stress syndrome is finally no more. Coming soon to a plodge near you, that heart-stopping moment when fears of rejection are annihilated by the sight of a magic white slip awaiting you. Someone actually cares!

Upon receiving my termly care-package, I began to wonder just who exactly was benefitting from this bundle of joy. I fear I will never live down its receipt: the Porters naturally took great delight in handing over the shocking pink number, lovingly decorated with old Barbie packaging from my youth. I retreated to a safe space before inspecting the contents. They say it’s the thought that counts: what thought, I wonder, motivated the gift of washing powder? Did I look particularly unwashed and/or incapable of venturing as far as Sainsbury’s the last time we Skyped? Ooh, scented highlighters: a practical and thrilling find for a stationary lover. (But where is the chocolate?) Oh. It seems my granny has generously knitted me a scarf à la Mrs Weasley. But it is pink – pinker than my parcel (undeniably an impressive feat). At last I reach Barbie’s depths, excitement building for the climatic finish…what do I find? A vegetable. Not just any vegetable. A seasonal “munchkin”, equipped with its very own googly eyes and Movember moustache. My very own ‘fruit friend’ according to the note enclosed. Never mind the blues, my family probably think I am a Barbie-loving, friendless, highlighter-sniffing, unwashed wreck who can’t leave the house.

Chocolate would probably have done the job.

A home visit Catch-22
Eleanor Metcalf
Lifestyle Contributor

It’s always at this point in term, when the inevitable pile-up of work reaches meltdown-inducing proportions, that the appeal of a visit home reaches tipping point. Homesickness is staved off in the first few weeks by the novelty of being back in Cambridge. But as the weeks go by, the combination of much work and too little sleep starts to take its toll. Library daydreams take the form of emotional reunions between you and your parents, including one in which your parents, overwhelmed with love, volunteer to wash the huge bag of laundry you’ve been accumulating all term.

It was about this point last year when, succumbing to the lure of these imaginings, I decided to make a spontaneous trip home to London. I had visions of fiercely productive work in a quiet house, followed by a good home-cooked meal and a night in my own bed to rejuvenate me. Inevitably, the reality was very different.

After a long journey, during which I realised that cycling is infinitely preferable to public transport, I arrived. There was no celebratory banquet in my honour, just a supermarket quiche. Only my sister was there. This sense of anti-climax epitomises the brief trip home. Twenty-four hours isn’t enough to give you a real break from Cambridge: you can’t catch up on five weeks’ sleep in one night, and anyway, you end up lying awake worrying about how many work hours you wasted sitting on the cold, lonely train.

And yet, despite that, here I am, procrastinating by looking up train times for next week. It seems that the mid-term trip home does have benefits after all: not the reward you get from actually doing it – as I learned, you don’t gain much – but the joy of thinking about it, particularly at times when your world seems to shrink to the size of your desk. Basic dreams of sleeping in your own bed or cuddling your family pet are often the only things that can cheer you up in the unfeeling face of a double essay crisis.

But by now, I know better than to shatter the illusion by actually going home. After all, doesn’t everyone know that dreams are always so much better than reality?
Drunken duck with boozy red berries

Speedy, succulent and sound. No getting up at the quack of dawn to make this beauty.

Ingredients:
For the drunken duck: four duck breasts, generous pinch of coriander, large dash of cinnamon, pinch of nutmeg.

For the boozy berries: glass and a half of port (plus some for the chef), glass of beef stock, 2 tbsp berry jam, 2 tbsp redcurrant jelly, 1 tsp arrowroot, generous cup of mixed frozen berries, salt and pepper.

Instructions:
1. Trim the duck fat from the breasts then score the skin using a sharp knife. Mix the coriander, cinnamon and nutmeg and rub over the scored skin.
2. Heat a frying pan until very hot. Place the breasts skin-side down and fry until crispy. Press down on them to release the juices. Flip over and flash-fry the other side.
3. Transfer the breasts to a roasting tin with the meat, including a kettle of water and add to the pan along with the berries. Bring to the boil then simmer until the sauce is thick and glossy. Season to taste.
4. Meanwhile, pour the port, stock, jelly and jam into a pan. Bring to the boil then simmer until reduced by half.
5. Blend the arrowroot with a tablespoon of water and add to the pan along with the berries. Bring to the boil then simmer until the sauce is thick and glossy. Season to taste.
6. To serve, slice the duck and place on a warmed plate. Inebriate by dowsing in the boozy berry sauce.

Roast, n.
Oxford English Dictionary
A joint of meat that has been roasted or that is intended for roasting.
Origin: Middle English from Old French rostir, of West Germanic origin.

The art of the perfect roast

Connie Fisher
Food Contributor

It’s the ultimate family nostalgia: roast and all the trimmings on a lazy Sunday afternoon. But what gives it that extra little bit of pizzazz?

The initial question has to be, chicken or beef? Or lamb or pork? I’m not going to claim to know the answer to this (although for me, I’d have to say beef) but whatever the cut, there’s a couple of things that it absolutely must have: a crispy skin, and a juicy, tender inside.

If it’s chicken, thyme and rosemary placed under the skin and the cavity stuffed with lemons makes the meat gorgeously aromatic, and a Heston-style 5-hour roast at 70˚C is spectacular, albeit probably against food standards legislation. The standard beef joint is topside, but you can use cheaper cuts like brisket and cook incredibly slowly. Always throw loads of veg in the roasting tin with the meat, including a whole garlic bulb, then cook until it’s blushing pink inside, slice really thinly, and serve with lashings of horseradish.

Sausage-meat stuffing is a must for chicken, and home-made Yorkshire pudds with beef. The slimy, wortingly-uniform, Aunt Bessie’s variety definitely will not do (sorry, Bessie).

Roast potatoes have to be parboiled, shaken hard and placed in very hot fat to give that awesome crispy outside and seriously fluffy middle. If you’re feeling indulgent duck fat is the way to go, and roasting with whole garlic cloves in the fat and a couple of sprigs of rosemary will give them an extra hit.

Let’s talk veg: there’s a smorgasbord of options, but whatever you do, soggy, dull and overboiled simply isn’t on. Carrots and parsnips maple-glazed and roasted with pecans make a great option, or try sprouts (yes, sprouts, you know you love ‘em) roasted with chestnuts, bacon lardons and lashings of butter.

Gravy has to be thick and rich, with the help of veg roasted in the tin with the meat, plus a good dollop of marmite.

Serve alongside a large group of family and friends, a Mary Berry-worthy showstopper pud, and finish with an extended afternoon nap.

Best ever hot choc

Chocoholics (not so) Anonymous dropout, that’s me.

Ingredients:
Cup of whole milk
Handful of grated dark chocolate
Cocoa powder
Pinch of cinnamon
Vanilla pod seeds/extract
Chocolate ice cream
Nutmeg

Instructions:
1. Slowly heat the milk in a saucepan.
2. Mix together the chocolate, cocoa, cinnamon and vanilla then whisk like wild into the milk.
3. Bubble away for a few minutes more.
4. Pour into your fav mug before adding a scoop or two of ice cream and giving a good stir. Top with grated chocolate and nutmeg. Luxuriate in guilty pleasure.

The Cambridge Student

Munching with Cambridge
University Food Society

Nishad Sohoni
CUFS

1. What do you do?
We organize food-related workshops (such as cheese tastings or fudge-making workshops) as well as visits to speciality restaurants in Cambridge.

2. Who can join?
Anyone who loves food (and who doesn’t?!)?

3. When do you meet?
We have events about every fortnight.

4. Unique selling point?
The only society that brings together food enthusiasts from all across Cambridge! A perfect opportunity to meet other like-minded food aficionados.

5. How do I get involved?
Like our Facebook page to keep updated on all FoodSoc happenings: facebook.com/CUFoodSociety.

Top tip:
Ground chilli, cayenne pepper, espresso, brandy, caramel, orange zest, peanut butter or even nutella can all be added at your discretion.
How to shop with a Heart (Foundation)

Jules Pars
Fashion editor

The British Heart Foundation

Founded in 1961, the ‘BHF’ is a British charity focused on cardiovascular health. The charity pioneers and funds medical research, promotes information about ‘heart health’ and campaigns for healthcare policies.

10 Burleigh Street (just past the Grafton Centre) sells clothing, bric-a-brac, shoes, cards and books/CDs.

164-167 East Road is the furniture and electrical shop, which has a brilliant selection of affordable items. It’s also conveniently located just around the corner from Burleigh Street!

Oxfam

Oxfam aims to reduce poverty and social injustice worldwide. They work with organisations in more than 70 countries on various issues such as Fairtrade, HIV/AIDS prevention and climate change.

28 Sidney Street (just before Sainsbury’s) has a great range of books: both academic and non-academic.

2 Mill Road, 20 Burleigh Street, 34 Bridge Street are the Oxfam clothes shops. You can also find great knick-knacks, shoes, bags, CDs, cards, fairtrade chocolate and jewelry.

Cancer Research UK

Formed in 2002 from two separate cancer charities, Cancer Research UK is the largest independent cancer research charity. It pioneers and funds cancer research and promotes cancer awareness.

42 Regent Street (opposite Parker’s Piece and just past Downing) sells greeting cards, clothes, shoes and bags.

52 Burleigh Street is another brilliant clothes, card and knick-knack shop, situated on our answer to London’s Oxford Street – as far as Cambridge charity shops are concerned.

Make-ing history: A short history of make-up

Beth Price
Face art historian

Although make-up, what would we do without you? From hiding the evidence of the night before to providing that subtle dazzle, you have been woman’s (and man’s) best friend for thousands of years. So in your honour, let’s look at your history.

Ancient Egypt

On to our first stop! Ancient Egypt: land of the Pyramids, the Sphinx, and some unusual makeup. Stay on top of the trends with the hottest hair accessory (literally) – melting a wax cone onto your hair. It provides a fresh fragrance (literally) – melting a wax cone onto your hair. It provides a fresh fragrance

The Elizabethan Era

Heading back to the England of Good Queen Bess herself, fashion has taken

How do people react?

Reactions vary. Admirers say I look suave and sophisticated. However, the occasional Ron Jeremy comparison has been made. It’s jealousy, I’m sure.

Almost 20% of all charity revenue comes from charity shops

‘Stache Stalk

Marco, English, Trinity

Why did you do Movember?
I figured I should put my laziness to good use and raise money for men’s health at the same time.

What’s the maintenance like?
Keeping the shape is a lot more effort than I thought it’d be! I have newfound respect for the facial hair fraternity. It’s my own fault for wanting the pirate-look beard, I guess…

How do people react?
A lot of people don’t actually notice – it’s subtle, but a little more dapper. People tend to compliment me on the fullness of my magnificent ‘tache. It’s also a great way to raise awareness of men’s health issues.

Janeka, Maths, Corpus

Why did you do Movember?
I wanted to show I could grow a magnificent ‘tache. It’s also a great way to raise awareness of men’s health issues.

What’s the maintenance like?
I shampoo and condition this cookie duster almost every day. It doesn’t hurt to show a little TLC.

How do people react?
A lot of people don’t actually notice a moustache. However, the hawk-eyed amongst my pals have in fact, complimented me on the fullness of my Magnum-tache…
I was hard to know what to expect when I signed up to visit the Pacaya Samiria National Park – a nature reserve in the Peruvian Amazon. Beyond DofE I had done virtually no trekking, and now I was about to join the British Schools Exploring Society in the Peruvian Amazon.

The experience of being in such a remote wilderness was alien; the Amazon lifestyle is the barebones of existence. Not a single flushing toilet or mains water sink was in sight and there was only the heat of a wood fire by which to cook.

Rising with the sun, our morning ‘showers’ consisted of a quick scrub in the tea-coloured water of the River Marañon. while we washed small fish nibbled at our skin, occasionally a little too aggressively for comfort.

The day’s work was long and arduous – working in a small riverside village, we helped to clear weeds on a herb farm as well as reroofing a disintegrating church. But we were sustained by traditional food, which included turtle eggs and piranha.

As the expedition progressed, we moved on to trekking through the jungle both on foot and in canoes, having acclimatized to the temperature and humidity. We began to really appreciate the environment we were in, walking in near silence and listening out for the slightest movement in the trees.

At night, under the cover of just a tarpaulin sheet, we would often hear the calls of howler monkeys draw closer, before they passed overhead in a thunderous minute of energy.

For the Bold: Back to Basics in the Amazon

James Farr
Travel Contributor

For the Broke: A different Amazon adventure

Tara Cummings
Lifestyle Features Editor

I didn’t know what I wanted. Just a vague void in my mind, or soul, or identity needed filling. The only direction I really had was that it was probably DVD shaped, hopefully narrow and retro; a black-and-white classic that would be bargain-bin level cheap and high on the cultural kudos, but potentially box-set size and just released at retail price.

Whatever the cure for my malaise, I knew the answer lay in an online search engine. That way all I had to do was type a single letter, and a dozen suggestions based on the previous struggles of others appeared.

Just for awkwardness’ sake (sorry, I meant ‘a deep-seated curiosity for both the nature of this place and my function within it’) I begin with the letter Q. Up springs paths to a quad bike and a quilt, all fine and predictable. But a quadcopter? And what is q10? I have at least ten questions surrounding this particular mystery.

OK, so it turned out to be a lot of Blackberry phones and some slightly suspicious-looking ‘supplement’ things. Undeterred, I take the next link…z10.

So this is also a phone. Is Amazon trying to tell me something? That I need to find a medium of communication to the deeper recesses or myself? Except wait – Amazon doesn’t need to do subtlety it seems. There is an actual recommendations list. It has ‘Studying English Literature’, a bunch of Medieval writers, and some T.S. Eliot.

I went all the way to Amazon to find what I already knew about myself. Deep or disappointing, I’m still not sure.
Sochi 2014 - the world is watching

Ellie Hayward
Sport Contributor

We are frequently told that sport and politics do not mix. Sometimes, however, it seems impossible to separate the two. In recent weeks, debate over Russia’s human rights record has imbued the build-up to the Sochi Winter Olympics with a new dimension, raising the question of whether a nation’s internal politics affect its suitability to host major sporting events.

Vladimir Putin’s assault on freedom of expression has intensified. In June, legislation outlawed the “propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations”, while the arrest and imprisonment of the punk band Pussy Riot has made global headlines. Meanwhile, the racist abuse directed at Yaya Toure in a Champions League game against CSKA Moscow led the Man City midfielder to suggest that African players might boycott the 2018 World Cup in Russia if the situation does not improve.

Toure is not the only one to believe a boycott may be the solution. Stephen Fry is one of a number of high profile figures to get behind a campaign for the boycott of the Winter Olympics. Indeed, Russia’s human rights abuses appear to violate the Olympic Charter, which states that “any form of discrimination on grounds of race, religion, politics, gender or otherwise is incompatible with belonging to the Olympic Movement.” Freedom is central to our enjoyment of sport, but in Putin’s Russia, being open about your sexuality can lead to statutory prosecution. Nevertheless, as desirable and idealistic a goal as it may seem, a boycott remains essentially unrealistic and unfair on athletes. It would perhaps be better to see the descent of two of the biggest sporting events in the world on Russia as an opportunity to promote change. In 1936, Jesse Owens demonstrated that the Olympics are as good a platform as any to draw attention to injustice. During Sochi 2014, the world’s eyes will be on Russia. It is hard to think of a better stage for protests to put pressure on Russian authorities.

Ashes - can England triumph again?

Ben Jones
Sport Contributor

Despite a change of coach, Australia had a disastrous Ashes summer, and will be hopeful that home advantage will give them their first Test victory of 2013. Depleted by injuries, their bowling line up is not as young and ambitious as the one that started the summer, but Mitchell Johnson, Peter Siddle and Ryan Harris are all strong, quick bowlers, who can win Australia matches. The last Ashes test Australia won was a single-handed victory for Johnson, and his pace and awkward bowling action will worry Flower’s men. In terms of batting, Australia are still very reliant on the stylish but inconsistent captain Michael Clarke, which will be a worry for Aussie fans as he is struggling with back issues that could see him miss several Tests.

After a relatively lean series by their own high standards, England batsmen Kevin Pietersen and Jonathan Trott will look to make the most of the hard, fast wickets down under for a fitting send off in what will probably be their final away Ashes series. Australian coach Darren Lehman has challenged the home crowd to jeer Stuart Broad throughout the series, due to his perceived “cheating” in the Trent Bridge test. Although it will be a pressured environment for the Nottinghamshire bowler, Broad relishes the atmosphere and will be amongst the wickets throughout the series.

After a successful 3-0 victory this summer, Alastair Cook’s team will be confident in securing a fourth successive Ashes win this winter, whilst his adversary Clarke looks to kick-start a revival that has been a long time coming for the former giants.

However, with Cook’s men firm favourites, England fans will be hoping to see the urn returned safely to the home of cricket by the New Year.
Cambridge sport focus: Ultimate Frisbee

Tejas Guruswamy
Sport Contributor

In TCS’ weekly feature, we take an in-depth look at some lesser-known university sports. This week: Ultimate Frisbee.

Walk past Jesus Green on any weekend of the year and you will be likely to spot people chasing flying plastic discs around. It is a game of Ultimate, sometimes called Ultimate Frisbee, one of the most successful sports created in the last half-century. One of the UK hotspots is right here in Cambridge.

Similar in principle to American football or netball, Ultimate involves passing a flying disc (a Frisbee is a specific brand) between players to reach an endzone, but it is non-contact and self-referred.

Competitive play needs agility, skill and teamwork. Outdoors, the game is played for 90 minutes, 7-on-7 on a pitch approximately the length of a football field: plenty of room for huge throws, spectacular catches and great defence.

In recent years, the sport has been recognised by the International Olympic Committee, included in the World Games, and now has two professional leagues running in the US (where more than five million people play). High-level tournaments are now viewable on ESPN, and plenty of video coverage and highlight reels are on YouTube.

Cambridge was one of the first places in the UK to play Ultimate in 1976. Now, the Cambridge squad competes all year-round in open (men’s), women’s, and mixed divisions, indoors and outdoors, under the nickname “Strange Blue”.

The Cambridge Open Firsts were undefeated in the regional BUCS competitions Indoors and Outdoors last year. “So far this year, the men are still undefeated, winning Midlands Indoor Regionals last month”, remarked Open Captain James Richardson. “We’re looking to go on to improve on last year and win Nationals.” At their Indoor Regionals, the Women placed 4th, also qualifying for Nationals.

Last year’s Varsity match saw Cambridge winning 5-2, with the Open Firsts and women winning their matches indoors and outdoors. Preparation for this year’s Varsity matches has begun.

In Cambridge, the club runs a college league with 16 teams. A closely linked local club team – Cambridge Ultimate – competes nationally, and includes townies and Cambridge University students. Many alumni and a few current players also represent GB or their home countries internationally.

Most of the practices all year-round are open to everyone, including complete beginners. So the next time you’re looking for a new sport, turn up to Jesus Green and give Ultimate a try.

Cambridge Open Firsts and women winning indoors and outdoors

Men’s tennis

Gerald Wu
Sport Editor

Cambridge beat Loughborough 3rds 10-2 to inch closer to the top of the BUCS division. They started strongly in the doubles. At No.1, Tim Prossor and Sam Ashcroft were on top, but could not force a break until set point in the first set. They duly converted and never looked back, racing away with a comfortable 6-4, 6-0. At No.2 doubles, Sven Sylvester and Neil Cordon served well and dominated the net with solid volleys to win 6-3, 6-1.

Even with a commanding 4-0 lead, Cambridge did not let up in the singles. Prossor used his booming serve to take control right from the start. Once he got on top of service returns, he never relinquished control, winning 6-2, 6-3.

At No.2 singles, Ashcroft showed his class by fighting back from losing the first set to winning a tight match tie-break. Final score: 5-7, 7-6, 10-6.

Cordon slowly started adjusting to his opponent’s serve-and-volley tactics, but recovered spectacularly from a 1-4 deficit at the start, winning the subsequent 11 games to win 6-4, 6-0.

At No.4 singles, Sylvestre was feeling below par but competed well until the end. Although he bagged the first set in a tie-break, he lost 7-6, 0-6, 8-10.
Comfortable basketball and lacrosse victories, hard-earned draw in football

Men’s Basketball

Cambridge 79
Worcester 65

Robert Crawford
Sport Reporter

The Light Blues claimed a 79-65 win over Worcester 2nds at the University Sports Centre. The match started fairly even between the two teams, but Cambridge pulled ahead to take a 21-12 lead at the end of the first quarter. The hosts extended their lead in the second quarter, leading 42-29 at half time.

The third quarter started slowly, with neither team scoring, but the match burst into life midway through as Cambridge dominated proceedings. Going into the final quarter, the home side were in a comfortable 62-37 lead. They maintained their advantage at the start of the quarter but in the final five minutes, Worcester fought back to close the gap to only 9 points.

However, it was too little, too late and Cambridge held out to claim a 79-65 victory in their BUCS campaign.

Cambridge

Women’s Lacrosse

Cambridge 11
Oxford 6

Chesca Hirst
Sport Reporter

Cambridge defeated Oxford 11-6 on Wednesday. The match opened with Cambridge taking control of the play, leading to the opener from Anna Pugh.

The first half of the match mostly saw Cambridge in possession, and goals came from Pleydell-Bouverie and co-captain Hirst. However, Oxford capitalized on their opportunities, leading to a half time score of 5-4.

After half time, Cambridge dealt with Oxford’s attacking play sublimely. The key players in defense were Sharp, Gardiner, Harlow, and goalkeeper Midgen. Hat-tricks from Pugh and Pleydell-Bouverie, a brace from Lehovsky and goals from Morill, co-captain Allard saw a 11-6 victory.

Ex-captain Anna Pugh was the man of the match for her exceptional mid-field play along with her three key goals.

Cambridge

Men’s Football

Cambridge

SW Pont. & Cardiff 2

Gerald Wu
Sport Editor

After letting slip a 2-1 halftime lead, Cambridge drew 2-2 with South Wales, Pontypridd and Cardiff at Fenner’s.

The Blues started off defending deep. The pressure from the away team paid off after fifteen minutes. A dangerous cross was whipped back into the box after a corner was cleared, and Cambridge failed to pick up the header.

Cambridge responded well. Captain Anthony Childs headed in the equaliser. Five minutes later, the Blues went in front after good work from Rory Griffiths down the flank, and Chris Hutton finished off the fine move.

In the second half, Cambridge defended deep for long periods. Fifteen minutes from the end, the away team equalised through a header at the back post. It was a nervy end but the score remained 2-2.