



Felix

Keeping the cat free since 1949

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@felixImperial

/FelixImperial

felix@imperial.ac.uk



issue 1605

May 15th 2015



The Student Academic Choice Awards 2015

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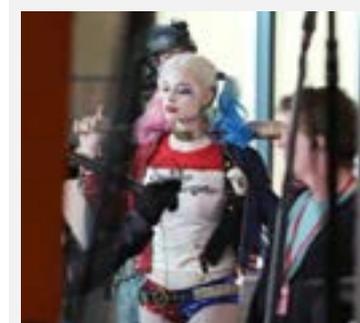
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news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Felix Editor || Philippa Skett

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What you can expect in Felix this week

This week we are covering the aftermath of the elections, and what has unfolded in the seven days since we woke up to a Conservative majority. A lot has happened as a result of this unprecedented result, including thousands taking to the streets to show their disdain for the new government.

Closer to home, we elected Conservative MPs in all the local constituencies except Hammersmith, which saw Andy Slaughter retain his Labour seat for another five years. We've interviewed him this week, to see what his plans are for the local area, how he feels about the Conservatives ruling the roost, and his thoughts on free education.

In our esteemed Comment section, we pick apart the attitude to those who voted Conservative, who seem to have retreated from social media at a speed proportional to their seat gains last Friday morning. It is being said that "it was the shy Tories who won it", but perhaps they are acting more cautious than coy regarding their voting choices. Vitriol is being flung left, right and centre on social media, showing that despite the party gaining a political majority, they may not have obtained the approval of many of those with a twitter account.

In better news, this week has been great for celebrating the best



THIS WEEK'S EDITORIAL

of Imperial; we have covered the Student Academic Choice Awards, which showcased our incredible teaching, support, supervision, and tutoring. We have also covered Imperial Festival, which proved to be a delightful day of sharing our experience of science with the wider public.

However, the big discussion in the office this week was the removal of *Felix* issues in publicly accessible spaces, something that has left the editorial team *Felix* divided. Our last front page was considered "inappropriate" for the large amounts of children visiting the festival, and College removed it from campus for the duration of the weekend. With visiting alumni noticing the absence of the paper from around campus, it was disappointing that we couldn't have had such a positive issue to give

out and show off ourselves the great things Imperial are up to.

With news being time sensitive, the story being within the public interest (in our opinion) and the nature of front page being the place to print our most prominent story, it seemed simply an unfortunate coincidence. Check out our news editor's comment piece on the matter and hear her point of view, and see if you have another view on what happened. Regardless of last weekend, we will always strive to fill these pages as if the cat will be always free, although will do so with the lessons learnt in the back of our minds.

Unlike other student newspapers, we are not subject to editorial control by the Union or College. We do not need to send proofs to either before going to print (evident by the amount of typos that sneak through), and despite last weekend we have never been censored completely and hope we have always managed to get the news that matters to you, straight to you as soon as possible.

With that in mind, there is still time for you to get involved. There may only be five issues to go, but that is plenty of time to put pen to paper and get your message out there too. It may be late in the year, but it is never too late to send us your thoughts and share them (as far as possible) across campus.



There is still time to get involved!
Email felix@imperial.ac.uk

EDITORIAL TEAM

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PHILIP KENT
TESSA DAVEY

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

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

Printed by Iliffie Print Cambridge, Winship
Road, Cambridge.

Registered newspaper ISSN 1040-0711
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Front page picture: Felix
Top banner: throughbenslens.co.uk



News

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

News Editors

Carol Ann Cheah, Cecily Johnson & Kunal Wagle

Can religion and science get on?

Nick Farmer checks in at Debating Society's public debate

Imperial College Union Debating Society's first public debate of the year saw students debate Lord Professor Robert Winston and Bioengineering Senior Lecturer Dr Jennifer Siggers on the motion "This house believes that religion is harmful to the progress of science" in front of a packed lecture theatre.

Speaking first in proposition of the motion was James Clough, a PhD candidate in the Department of Physics and a World Universities Debating Championship quarter-finalist, who made the case that certain widely held religious views such as the Biblical account of creation necessarily caused people to reject science as a way of understanding the world.

In opposition, Dr. Siggers argued that religious belief, in particularly monotheism, leads to the idea that the universe is governed by natural laws, and that religion spurs on scientific understanding of these

natural laws as a means of better understanding God.

Final year Physics undergraduate and Debating Society President Niall Jeffrey replied that the majority of scientists have no religious beliefs and that there are other motivations underpinning scientific endeavor. He went on to elaborate historical examples of religious orthodoxy holding back scientific progress, such as the suppression of Galileo's proposal of a heliocentric solar system in Renaissance Italy.

Speaking last, in opposition to the motion, Lord Winston argued that humans have an innate religiosity, drawing on Paleolithic cave paintings to support this point. He spoke about his work in the field of embryology, and how his religious background made him more able to engage with critics of this controversial research. He told the audience that the sense of wonder that comes from religion has been a source of great motivation for

him; and that his grandfather, a Chief Rabbi, was one his inspirations for pursuing a career as a scientist.

The debate was opened up to members of the audience, who raised a variety of points ranging from the relationship of Eastern religions to science to the possible effect preconceptions due to religious belief having an effect on the lines of enquiry that scientists may take.

Debating Society President Niall Jeffrey told *Felix*, "we are extremely pleased to see so many people coming to watch and get involved in the debate, which has been our most successful public event to date. We hope that people will have many more chances to join our debates in future, and on behalf of the debating society and everyone present I would like to extend my thanks to Lord Winston and Dr. Siggers for their participation and for helping make this such a stimulating and enjoyable evening."



Lord Winston took the opinion that religion is not harmful to the progress of science at the debate. Photo: Imperial Debating

Car flipped over on Exhibition Road, two injured

CAROL ANN CHEAH
SECTION EDITOR

Two women were treated for minor injuries after their car was flipped onto its roof due to a collision with a lorry on Exhibition Road. The incident occurred on Tuesday afternoon outside the Natural History Museum, which also saw a Rolls-Royce take damage.

Speaking to the London Evening Standard, businessman Mohamad Ridha, the owner of the Rolls-Royce, described the dramatic moment when the hatchback was thrown into the air and almost crashed on top of his car. "I was behind the two women as the hatchback waited in traffic", said the 30-year old.

"A truck came round the corner and had forgotten to close his back door. Everyone was waving and beeping to try and warn him. The metal ledge that was hanging down, it banged into the car and got stuck under its front, dragged it a little way then lifted it up in the air and threw it on to the floor."

Ridha estimates that the damage caused the the hatchback hitting



An Imperial medic caught a picture of the incident. Photo: Twitter/samir_afzal

the front of his car will "cost about £20,000 or £30,000 in repairs. It all happened so fast, I was very shocked - we were thinking the car was going to come through the window."

He also told how he and other bystanders rushed to the aid of the two women in the car after the car flipped. "They were banging on the doors and windows asking for help. We got them out. They were shocked and didn't believe what happened.

I've never seen something like this in my life."

Emergency services were called to the scene shortly after 2pm, with footage captured showing the London Fire Brigade righting the overturned car with manpower. A spokesman for the Metropolitan Police said officers were called at 14.22pm to reports of a car flipped on to its roof, with paramedics treating two women for minor injuries.

Amazon soon to deliver to Sherfield

PHILIPPA SKETT
FELIX EDITOR

A new Amazon collection point has been installed on campus, allowing staff and students to receive their parcels from South Kensington instead of waiting in at home.

The locker system, based on the Sherfield Walkway, has 84 units of varying sizes that can hold parcels for three days before they are sent back to the original sender. When students place an order online, they will be given a code to access the goods.

Although the lockers are not ready to use quite yet, they will soon be set up and will also be accessible by

members of the public.

The preparation costs to install the lockers were covered by College Estates, but Amazon has covered the gross cost of the lockers as a whole.

Imperial has seen an increasing number of parcels being delivered to campus. In December, over 2,000 packages were sent to campus, whilst another 1,800 were sent in January.

Felix spoke to Estates, who are responsible for the lockers. A spokesperson told us: "The lockers will hopefully take the pressure of the post room, and deliver a great service that both staff and students can enjoy."

Estates will publicise when the lockers are available for use later on in the term.



The new lockers on the walkway. Photo: John Winters

News

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

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

Imperial Festival takes over campus

Cecily Johnson looks at the annual celebration of Imperial's research

Campus was swarmed by 15,000 visitors last weekend as the fourth annual Imperial Festival took place. Hosted by Imperial College London, the festival is a celebration of all things science, technology and arts, featuring interactive exhibits, workshops, talks, tours and performances.

The goal of Imperial Festival is to showcase the work of Imperial College scientists, enabling visitors to engage with them directly to learn about their research. This year's Festival ran over the whole weekend for the first time on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th May.

Over the weekend a number of scientists gave talks presenting their work, including Dr Robin Carhart-Harris from the Department of Medicine who spoke about his unconventional research which involves studying the effects of psychedelic drugs on the brain in order to develop new treatments for conditions like depression.

Dr Rebecca Bell gave an engaging talk about earthquake science, explaining how modern technology like GPS is being used to investigate new types of earthquakes which release energy over a long period, potentially triggering larger traditional quakes like the one which devastated parts of Japan in 2011.

Work from the Robot Vision Research Group and the Dyson Robotics Laboratory was presented by Professor Andrew Davison, who showed the audience the latest developments in Simultaneous Localisation and Mapping which could someday be part of domestic humanoid robots.

There were also talks on genetics, government science funding, performance anxiety treatments, pandemics, economics and frogs. On Sunday the Business School presented a series of short talks featuring "snippets of contemporary business insight".

Tours of the Civil Engineering Structures Laboratory, the Hamlyn Centre for Robotic Surgery, the in-house recycling plant CompPod and the industrial Carbon Capture Pilot Plant.

Visitors were also able to have a go at flying on Imperial's full motion flight simulator, which is used to study aircraft performance.

Almost 1,000 Imperial alumni and their guests took part in the annual Alumni Weekend, which ran alongside the festival providing opportunities for alumni to reconnect with classmates and explore what Imperial has to offer today.

The Festival relies on a large number of student volunteers, who



The Band of the Household Cavalry opened the Festival at 12PM on Saturday, with a fanfare on horseback and marching band. Photo: Imperial College Union (including left)



"The Band of Household Cavalry were one of several musical acts to perform at the festival."

help run interactive exhibits, greet and direct visitors, guide tour groups, hand out leaflets and get things ready behind the scenes. "I looked after the Band of Household Cavalry on Saturday and it was amazing to have such prestigious guests to open the festival!" says volunteer Michael Yat Kit Chung.

"It's great to see so many children around as well – hopefully we have inspired them to be future scientists and engineers!". The Band of Household Cavalry were one of several musical acts to perform at the festival, alongside Geekpop songster Johnny Berliner and two of Imperial's student a cappella groups, The Imperielles and The Techtonics.

Splitting events up into multiple themed zones, the campus was filled with interactive exhibits for young and old visitors to enjoy. In the marquee on Queen's Lawn there was the Research Zone, where many of Imperial's departmental research groups set up stalls with games and opportunities to see new technologies in action.

There was the Brain Zone in

"Imperial's fleet of antique car mascots were out on show near the Festival entrance"

Sherfield Building, the Robot Zone in Sir Alexander Fleming Building, the Light Zone in the Great Hall and the popular Superbug Zone in the Flowers Building, where visitors could learn about everything "from ancient bacteria to toxic fungi".

The College invited a team of 'Science Buskers' led by Dr Simon Foster to entertain crowds with on-the-spot demonstrations alongside balloon performers, bubbleologists and a cast of famous historical figures from science who roamed the festival campus.

Imperial's fleet of antique car mascots were out on show near the Festival entrance, with volunteers from the Motor Clubs explaining their history; George the Mechanical Dragon was also parading around campus, amusing visitors.

The Food Zone featured stalls from the London Farmer's Market and a College-run barbeque, and drinks were available at Imperial's "pop-up pub", the Haemo Globe Inn. The College also sold merchandise including limited edition Imperial Festival T-shirts and bags.

News

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

Student Academic Choice Award winners announced

Carol Ann Cheah finds out which staff get the student's vote

The Imperial College Union Student Academic Choice Awards (SACAs) award ceremony took place on Monday evening at the Union Concert Hall. Eight awards were featured that evening, with six shortlisted members of staff per award.

The SACAs, now in their third year, were set up to recognise staff for their contributions to education and the student experience at the College. The evening was presented by Pascal Loose, Deputy President (Education), who said: "The aim of the SACAs is for the students to say thank you to the academics and the staff, thank you for being such a great teacher, thank you for giving so much support and for inspiring those they teach every day."

808 nominations were received from 568 students when nominations opened in November on the Union's website, making that the highest number to date. The nominee shortlist was curated by a judging panel of various student representatives, before deciding on an eventual winner.

The award for Best Teaching for Undergraduates went to Dr Steven Cook from the Department of Life Sciences. He told *Felix* that he was "so grateful to all those students who nominated me for this award, and to all those colleagues and friends without whose support I couldn't teach at all. I'm also very grateful that I was allowed off the stage before Ben the cameraman could capture my Paltrow-esque blubbing for posterity. Thank you!"

Best Teaching for Postgraduates was awarded to Dr Mick Jones from the Department of Medicine, who is also one of four College Tutors. "The award was a bit of a shock, but a very nice one. The Mol Med MSc is a fairly small course compared to some other Masters programmes in College and I really do feel honoured by the students' support. I see every year how hard the students work on the course, their enthusiasm, their determination to succeed, and that makes me do the best I can for them. Also, there's the fact that I haven't really stopped being a 'student' myself!"

The award for Best Innovation went to Dr Elizabeth Hauke from the Centre of Co-curricular Studies, who teaches both Science Communication and Horizons courses. She said that she "was very moved to receive

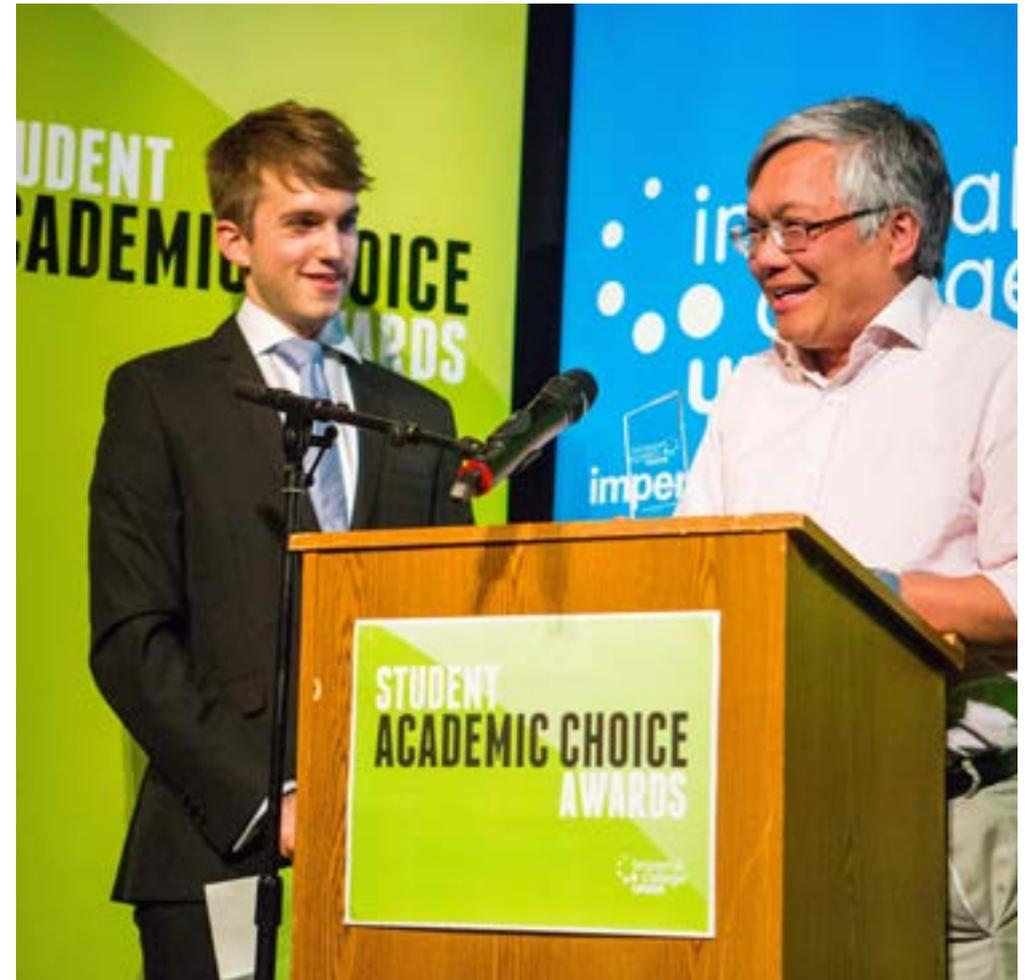
my nomination, and grateful to the students that took the time to nominate me. This award is very special as it recognises a course that was designed to be delivered in partnership with students, thus allowing them to make decisions about their learning. It has been amazing working on this course with the students this year, and I have learned a massive amount from them. Massive thanks to the Union for all their hard work organising and coordinating these awards – and for their extremely professional presentation of the awards at the ceremony.

Claudia Schulz from the Department of Computing took home the award for Best Graduate Teaching Assistant. "The only thing I could initially say when being presented with the award was 'wow, I really didn't expect this.' It was an absolutely overwhelming moment and I am most grateful to the students who nominated me. I love teaching and genuinely care about my students; seeing that the thought and effort put into my teaching is appreciated by students is invaluable. All nominees for Best GTA were passionate about their teaching, and their students highly appreciated this - so really all of them are winners too!"

Best Tutoring went to Martin Holloway from the Department of Bioengineering, who was also a shortlisted nominee in the first SACAs (2013) for Best Support Staff. He described it as a particular honor to receive this award, "as it is based on student nominations. I find it genuinely rewarding to help students overcome anything that gets in the way of their studies, and my door is always open in the hope that a student will help me avoid having to do spreadsheets." Aside from tutoring, students in the department who nominated him were also full of praise for his "quirky sense of humour that he brings to lectures, or his significant talent in the department as a drummer and goalkeeper."

The award for Best Feedback was presented to Dr Paul Mitcheson from EEE, who was unable to attend the ceremony; Professor Peter Cheung, the Head of Department, collected it on his behalf. Students lauded his mentality on strict feedback cycles and the importance of continual feedback, praising his contributions

"I really do feel honoured by the students' support"



Pascal Loose, left, hosted the evening. Photo: Ben Lester/Through Ben's Lens

"I find it genuinely rewarding to help students overcome anything that gets in the way of their studies"

as third year course organizer. Speaking to *Felix*, Dr Mitcheson said: "We restructured the third year of EEE to accommodate industrial placements and to introduce more practical engineering via all-coursework lab-based courses to further enable students to develop a passion for applying theory to real engineering problems. This method of teaching relies on high quality and timely feedback - and it is rewarding to see the students highlighting the work of myself and colleagues in achieving this goal."

Anup Jethwa from the Department of Medicine, based at Northwick Park Hospital, received the Best Support Staff award. She describes herself as being "thrilled that I have been recognised by the students for this award", and praised the event as being well organised.

Best Supervision was awarded to Dr John Pinney from Life Sciences, who told *Felix* how the long journey of a PhD can be tough going at times. "Winning Best Supervisor at the SACAs meant a great deal to me, as

I do my best to encourage a positive working environment within the research group. I think it is important to be there to challenge when needed and to give individual support throughout the PhD programme, bearing in mind that every student will have different needs and expectations."

Closing the event with a speech, Professor James Stirling, Provost of Imperial College London said: "This evening we have seen some wonderful examples of great practice. Our task now will be, with your help, to spread this great practice right across the College so that together we can create a community of people with the passion, ability and commitment to secure our position as one of the world's great universities."

"The SACAs are not only an important event in Imperial College Union's annual calendar; they are an important event in the College's calendar too... I would like to personally congratulate all the nominees for tonight's awards and particularly, of course, the winners."

GE2015: the aftermath

felix@imperial.ac.uk

The MPs that are now representing you

PHILIPPA SKETT
FELIX EDITOR

Areas around South Kensington saw the expected election of several Conservative MPs, although popular student haunt Hammersmith did see the re-election of their current Labour MP, Andy Slaughter.

Chelsea and Fulham saw the re-election of conservative Greg Hands, who held a majority with 25,322 votes. He powered past Labour Candidate Alexandra Sanderson who only commanded 9,300 votes exactly. Hands also acted as the Conservative party Deputy Chief Whip during the campaign.

During campaigning, Hands had stressed the importance of increasing the number of “excellent” state schools in the area, and was keen to point out that under his previous five year tenure unemployment in the area has fallen by half.

When asked about the demolition of Charing Cross hospital before his election, Hands had said that the Conservatives do plan to demolish the concrete tower block, but only after the introduction of a brand new hospital, with an Accident and Emergency.

“The rebuilding will leave it capable of providing even better services in the future, becoming a leading centre of excellence for elective surgery.”

Hands has also led a long-running campaign for more frequent and upgraded trains on the District Line, focussing particularly on the Wimbledon branch.

After he was announced as winner in the early hours of Friday morning, Hands said: “We have won well across the country. People have shown confidence in David Cameron and the Conservatives and our long-term economic plans.”

The Kensington conservative safe seat saw the election of the former deputy mayor of London, Lady Victoria Borwick.

Borwick won the seat with 18,199 votes, surpassing Labour candidate Rob Adouharb’s 10,838 votes. Lib Dem candidate, Robin McGhee received only 1,962 votes in total, although still managed to beat Green and UKIP candidates.

Borick said to local paper getwestlondon: Lady Borwick said: “I’m honoured to be elected.

“Kensington is not just home to the rich and famous. I live here and grew up here. I know there is a lot of people here who need help. I will make sure



Top from left to right clockwise: Greg Hands, Mark Field, Victoria Borwick and Andy Slaughter

they get everything they need.

“The key areas are the best health provision, excellent schools and housing.

“I’m a seven-day-a-week councillor. I do not disappear off to Scotland every weekend. I’m going to make sure I am here for the people as much as possible.”

Borwick opposes the mansion tax, and whilst campaigning she vowed to fight the proposed taxes on high value homes.

She does support the renegotiation of the conditions of the UK’s EU membership, and states on her website that: “Maintain the sense of family and community that makes Kensington such a special place to live.”

The Hammersmith constituency saw the re-election of Andy Slaughter, a Labour MP who has represented the area since 2010. Slaughter won with 23,981 votes, beating Conservative candidate Charlie Dewhurst, who received 17,463 votes, with the Lib Dems coming in third ahead of Greens and UKIP.

Slaughter’s previous campaigns have included petitioning against hospital closures in the area, opposing the proposed third Heathrow runway, and addressing the “Hammersmith Housing Crisis.”

Imperial’s South Kensington campus is actually split between two constituencies, with half of the buildings residing in the Cities of London and Westminster constituency and the other half falling under Kensington.

All buildings north of Imperial College Road, which runs in front of SAF and the chemistry buildings are in the Cities of London and Westminster constituency. These include halls of residence in Princes Gardens and Beit quad.

The Cities of London and Westminster constituency saw the re-election of Conservative Mark Field, who commanded 54.1% share of the vote.

Field received 19,570 votes, beating Labour Candidate Nik Slingsby who received 9,899 votes and Lib Dem Belinda Brooks-Green, who received

2,521 votes. Field has been MP for the constituency since 2001, and the Cities of London and Westminster is very much so a conservative safe seat.

Field has previously been involved with securing the future development of Bart’s hospital and also St Mary’s, part of Imperial College. He was a vocally opposed the “tent city” of anti-capitalist protesters that camped outside of St Paul’s in 2011.

In 2014 he launched “Conservatives for Managed Migration,” a working group designed “to promote a calm, reasoned debate about immigration.”

Although turnout in this General Election stood at 66.1%, the highest turnout seen since 1997, turnout in parts of west London was considerably lower. 43.2% of those registered to vote in Kensington failed to make it to the polling stations, whilst 33.4% of those in registered in Hammersmith didn’t cast their vote either.

Nationally, if those who did not vote formed a party, the “Did Not Vote” party, they would have won 343 seats overall.

Jo Johnson announced as Minister of Universities and Science

Jo Johnson, newly elected MP for Orpington in the London Borough of Bromley, has succeeded Greg Clark (a former economist) as Minister of State for Universities and Science.

Questions have been raised about his credibility for the role considering he has no formal science education, whilst others are concerned over his reduced influence within the cabinet.

However, his pro-EU stance and favour for international students may prove beneficial, and for Imperial students in particular.

Currently the role of Science Minister is not a cabinet minister position, although those previously in the roles have attended cabinet meetings in the past. However, Cameron has not chosen Johnson to sit in such meetings this time around.

This decision is raising concerns over the lack of voice for science during decision-making by the government’s most senior decision-making body.

Naomi Weir, acting director of the London-based Campaign for Science and Engineering, has said: “It will be really important to make sure that science has a voice at central government level, and previously that has been maintained by the science minister attending cabinet.”

His lack of scientific credibility has also come under fire, with his father, no less, stating during a radio interview: “Good Heavens. I don’t think he knows anything about science!”

Despite this, Johnson has been praised for his previous statements of support of EU membership and international student provision.

Johnson has stated that he plans to keep International students out of the steep curbs on immigration levels that Cameron has proposed.

Johnson is the younger brother of the London mayor, Boris Johnson, with a similar educational background.

After two years as an investment banker at Deutsche bank, he then joined the financial times. As of the 2010 election he has been the MP for Orpington.

JONATHAN MASTERS

GE2015: the aftermath

felix@imperial.ac.uk

“Anti-austerity” riots break out in Whitehall and beyond

Joshua Renken on the protests across the country, and how the biggest are yet to come

Hundreds of anti-austerity protesters took part in impromptu protests across the UK on Saturday, with a London rally starting outside the Conservative Party headquarters.

Protestors threw traffic cones, smoke bombs and other objects at the police in central London, angry that the Conservatives won the general election.

Thousands gathered in the impromptu protests, where Officers in riot gear clashed with a “minority” of protesters who were demonstrating against further austerity cuts to public services. The police described the protest as an “unplanned” demonstration.

A police investigation is also under way after the phrase “Fuck Tory Scum” was graffitied onto the Women’s War Memorial in Whitehall. This comes just as the Queen attended a service of thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey to mark the 70th anniversary of VE Day – the end of World War Two in Europe.

A Downing Street spokesman condemned the graffiti as “a despicable display of disrespect for those who fought and died for their country”.

In a statement, the Met said that 12 people were arrested on suspicion of violent disorder and three for assault on police. Of the 15 arrested, 14 have been bailed pending further enquiries including a full review

of CCTV footage and a 24-year-old man remains in custody after being arrested on suspicion of assault on police.

Two officers were treated at hospital after the clash with protestors, while three other officers were assaulted but did not go to hospital. There have been no reported injuries to any protesters.

Chief Superintendent Gerry Campbell said the vast majority of protestors had taken part peacefully, but added that a “small minority” had been intent on causing disorder.

“We have launched an investigation into criminal damage to the Women in World War Two Memorial. This is particularly abhorrent considering we are celebrating the 70th anniversary of VE Day,” he said.

A similar, albeit smaller, rally against austerity took place in Cardiff over the weekend. Roughly 200 people were protesting, including the singer Charlotte Church.

In Bristol on Thursday, thousands also took to the streets in a more peaceful anti-austerity demo. Campaigners turned out in droves to oppose the £12bn welfare cut the Conservative party plans in a bid to eradicate the deficit by 2018.

Although there were no arrests, major traffic delays were caused around the centre of Bristol throughout the evening.

The former leader of the Conservatives on Bristol City Council,



Photo: BBC News

Peter Abraham, told the BBC he was disappointed the march was taking place.

“I don’t accept this word austerity,” he said.

“This is the far left and the rag-tag and bobtail of protest groups coming together and just making a fuss.

“Perhaps they are doing it because they don’t like the [election] result but the people spoke and that’s democracy.”

More protests are being planned

for the following months, with The People’s Assembly against Austerity hosting events online to encourage protesting in May and June. The group is also thought to be behind the London protests that took place last weekend, although that hasn’t been confirmed.

The People’s Assembly against Austerity have posted an event on facebook for May 27th, calling for a protest starting outside of 10 Downing Street and moving

down to the Emmanuel Centre in Westminster during the evening of the Queen’s Speech.

They have also called for a National Demonstration on June 20th, starting outside the Bank of England. The group states: “With the Tories going it alone in government we know exactly what to expect.

“More nasty, destructive cuts to the things ordinary people care about – NHS, the welfare state, education and public services.”

Driving Lessons For Imperial Students

A special offer for Imperial Students from Denis Smyth

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- Mock Test Examiner

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Alex Kendall, Imperial College Union President 2010/11.

5
Lessons
only
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“Having always been apprehensive about learning to drive, especially in London - learning with Denis gave me the confidence and skill to pass my driving test first time round.”

Liywellyn Edwards, Royal College of Music Student.

To make inquiries or book lessons, call 07808 610 898



GE2015: the aftermath

felix@imperial.ac.uk

A generalised guide to the General Election

Joshua Renken covers the key events of #GE2015, and brings you up to speed with what you may have missed

In the midst of exams, projects, deadlines and dissertations, you can be forgiven for allowing the General Election to pass you by in a delirium of red, yellow, blue and purple. For those of you that didn't brave last Thursday night, we've clarified the developments so far, and highlighted what you need to know about your next government.

Firstly, the basics

We woke up to a somewhat surprising Conservative 12-seat majority last Friday. Meanwhile, Scotland saw a landslide victory for the SNP, Wales remained majority Labour and Northern Ireland's DUP defended their share of the seats. The Liberal Democrats suffered a catastrophic election result across the United Kingdom, and UKIP only won one seat despite winning nearly four million votes.

The Conservatives increased their share of the vote by 0.8%, while Labour won 1.5% more votes and the SNP surge resulted in 3.1% more votes amongst all of them in the UK. The Lib Dems lost 15.2% of their votes. It is incredibly rare for governments to increase their parliamentary representation after re-election. No one was expecting this kind of result.

The voting turnout of the registered electorate was 66.1%, a modest improvement on 2010's 65.1% across the UK.

This election was a big one. The stakes were incredibly high; with the size of the state, the union of the United Kingdom and our position in the European Union on the ballot, and with the added nuanced policy debates around the NHS, immigration, housing, our nuclear defences, the continuation of austerity and political reform, there was certainly something for everyone to sink their teeth into.

But for all the impact that the results will have, you would be forgiven for thinking this was a pretty standard issue election. All the parties ran remarkably risk averse, sterilised and sometimes downright

dull election campaigns, with no real stand-out moments.

Playing it safe

To top it all off, after all the sound and fury, the polls didn't seem to budge after more than a month of campaigning, much to the annoyance of journalists looking for a headline.

The Conservatives were edging it in the polls for the last few weeks of the campaign, during which time the various party leaders universally opted for a very stage-managed appeal to voters through the media, with virtually no walkabouts among the general public and a great deal of backroom spin.

"It was the shy Tories that won it"

Immediately after the polls closed at 22:00, the exit poll indicated a huge surge for the Conservatives. The prediction stood at: Conservatives - 316, Labour - 239, SNP - 58, Liberal Democrats - 10, Plaid Cymru - 4, Greens - 2, UKIP - 2, Other - 19.

If this was the case, all the polls leading up to the election were seriously off. However we soon found out that even this poll didn't highlight just how comfortably the Conservatives were to take the majority.

Soon after the results for each of the 650 seats started trickling in, it didn't take the nation long to realise Labour was about to suffer crushing blow after crushing blow. Labour's election campaign chief, and shadow Foreign Secretary, Douglas Alexander lost to a 20-year-old SNP candidate, shortly followed by the fall of Scottish Labour leader Jim Murphy.

To add huge insult to injury, the Shadow Chancellor Ed Balls, who would have become the second most powerful man in a Labour government, lost his Morley and Outwood seat. His wife, Yvette Cooper, won her nearby constituency.

Nick Clegg retained his seat in Sheffield Hallam, but in a shock result, Vince Cable, who was the Secretary of State for Business,

Innovation and Skills from 2010 to 2015, lost his Twickenham seat to the Conservatives. Former Liberal Democrat leader Charles Kennedy was defeated by the SNP up in Scotland, while Danny Alexander, who had been Chief Secretary to the Treasury since 2010, was also defeated for re-election at the hands of the Scottish Nationalists.

The Liberal Democrat minister David Laws lost his seat to the Conservatives, leaving just eight Liberal Democrats in parliament. Ed Davey, also a minister in the last cabinet as Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, didn't manage to retain his Kingston and Surbiton seat.

Esther McVey, who served as Minister of State for Employment since 2013, stands out as one of the very few surprise losers in the Conservative party. She lost to Labour by just 400 votes in Wirral West.

George Galloway of the Respect Party lost to Labour in Bradford West, ending a parliamentary career spanning four decades.

Big Names in Parliament drop like flies

Later on in the day, we saw Nigel Farage fall short of a win in South Thanet by some 3,000 votes to the Conservatives. As promised, he has resigned as UKIP leader, although it seems his party 'has rejected' his resignation.

Nigel Farage offered his resignation to the United Kingdom Independence Party's National Executive Committee (UKIP's ruling board), which was rejected on 11th May. Many believe this bizarre scenario, which saw the deputy leader of UKIP, Suzanne Evans, act as interim leader for a long weekend, will only bolster support for Nigel.

He is even being heralded as the new Messiah – on the third (or fourth) day he rose again...

The party board judged that, given the EU referendum that Prime Minister Cameron has promised to put to the British electorate before 2017, it would be damaging to lose their



Constituencies show how widespread the Con...

'start player' just as the campaign to exit the EU begins.

UKIP was founded in 1993 with the primary objective of securing the UK's withdrawal from the EU, but has fleshed out in recent years as more than just a pressure group, with a self-described "democratic, right-wing" policy platform.

Farage's continued support by the party faithful only serves to support the idea that UKIP is a 'one man band'.

Both Nick Clegg and Ed Miliband

"All the polls leading up to the election were seriously off"

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Conservative take over was across the nation. Photo: i100/LGL

have also resigned as leaders of their party, following a truly remarkable election that no one was predicting.

90 MPs have stepped down at this election, including prominent political heavyweights such as William Hague, Andrew Lansley, Brooks Newmark and Malcolm Rifkind for the Conservatives, while Gordon Brown, Alistair Darling, Jack Straw and David Blunkett all step away from frontline politics for good. Former leader of the Liberal Democrats Menzies Campbell will

also be out of Parliament.

Leadership elections will soon take place for both parties with the former Care minister Norman Lamb and former President of the Lib Dems Tim Farron looking like the two most likely candidates for the Liberal Democrats. Options are understandably rather more limited after the party lost a staggering 49 of their 57 MPs.

Labour's leadership election is comparably more open, with candidates including the interim

leader Harriet Harman, Shadow Health secretary Andy Burnham and Shadow Business Secretary Chuka Umunna.

Boris Johnson, the current Mayor of London, is also back in parliament as MP of Uxbridge, and despite his infamous notoriety, has promised to be a "truly local MP." He is widely tipped to take over from David Cameron over the course of the next parliament, possibly taking over as prime minister as soon as 2017 (after the promised EU referendum).

Who is taking over the Cabinet this time around

There's not much change at the top in Cameron's cabinet reshuffle, but in the 'bottom' half there are far more young and fresh faces, including more women.

It seems there have been rewards for loyalty in the reshuffle, and many of the promotions have

been given to people close to George Osborne, which is good news for his leadership bid when Cameron steps down before the next election.

Below is some of the key members of the first all conservative Cabinet for almost 20 years:

First Secretary of State and Chancellor of the Exchequer
George Osborne MP (reappointed and now the de facto Deputy Prime Minister)

Home Secretary
Theresa May MP

Foreign Secretary
Philip Hammond MP

Work and Pensions Secretary
Ian Duncan Smith MP

Defence Secretary
Michael Fallon MP

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Oliver Letwin MP

Health Secretary
Jeremy Hunt MP

Leader of the House of Commons
Chris Grayling MP

Justice Secretary
Michael Gove MP

Education Secretary
Nicky Morgan MP

Leader of the House of Lords
Baroness Stowell

Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills
Sajid Javid MP

Energy and Climate Change Secretary
Amber Rudd MP

Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport
John Whittingdale MP

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Secretary
Liz Truss MP

International Development Secretary
Justine Greening MP

Transport Secretary
Patrick McLoughlin MP

Communities and Local Government Secretary
Greg Clark MP

Northern Ireland Secretary
Theresa Villiers MP

Wales Secretary
Stephen Crabb MP

Scotland Secretary
David Mundell MP

Minister for the Armed Forces and Minister of State at the Ministry of Defence
Penny Mordaunt

Minister of State at Department for Communities and Local Government
Mark Francois

Minister of state at Department of Health
Alistair Burt

Minister for security at the Home Office
John Hayes

Minister for pensions at the Department for Work and Pensions
Ros Altmann

Minister for Defence Procurement at the Ministry of Defence
Philip Dunne

Minister of State at the Department for Education
Ed Timpson

also attending Cabinet:

Chief Secretary to the Treasury
Greg Hands MP

Chief Whip
Mark Harper MP

Minister for Small Business
Anna Soubry MP

Minister for Employment
Priti Patel MP

Minister without Portfolio
Robert Halfon MP

Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General
Matthew Hancock MP

Attorney General
Jeremy Wright MP

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“I think the Liberal Democrats behaved totally dishonestly and they’ve got exactly what they deserved.”

Joshua Renken interviews the Labour MP who is representing your views in Hammersmith

The Labour politician Andy Slaughter was elected as Member of Parliament for Hammersmith in 2010, and was re-elected last week with 50% of the vote. Previously the MP for Ealing, Acton and Shephard’s Bush from 2005 to 2010, Slaughter has been the Shadow Justice Minister since 2010, serving on the Labour Party’s front bench. Joshua Renken interviewed Andy to talk about constituency matters and national politics.

Joshua Renken: What are your priorities over the next parliament for your Hammersmith constituents?

Andy Slaughter: There are a lot of issues which I wish to get help with and they are issues like the proposed demolition of Charing Cross hospital, the development of the HS2 site which is one of the biggest development sites in London, and others.

It also looks far more likely that we’ll get a third runway at Heathrow, which we are opposed to.

Those issues are campaigning issues which are not new issues, but which we hope to have a more positive outcome because we can spend more time campaigning on them. That’s the defensive side if you like.

On the positive side, there is a limited amount that you can do as an opposition MP without support, but I do have support from the local Labour council. The Tories are now saying they’ll devolve powers and budgets a lot more to cities like Manchester and devolve the health budget.

JR: What do you think of Osborne’s city devolution plan for England?

AS: I’m suspicious of their motives but I think the principle of it is perfectly sound. If the Tories are only going to do it to fragment the NHS and slip in privatisation, which they want to do, then I oppose it. If however they were genuinely devolving power and budgets to a

local and regional level then that’s a thing we would support, so long as you don’t get that postcode lottery effect. If they are going to end up giving more money to the east shires and less to inner city areas then that is something we have got to watch. But the principle of it is perfectly sound, and if they are prepared to do that with London, it gives us an opportunity to argue for more sympathetic environment for what the health needs are.

JR: Do you think Labour were too leftwing or not leftwing enough to win this general election?

AS: I think that’s not just a stupid question, but it’s a really pointless question. I think Labour put forward a series of sensible policies but there was a lot of misrepresentation. I’ve never seen a campaign in which either the party leader Ed Miliband was vilified so much by the majority of the press who were very keen to secure another Tory victory, or a campaign where there was so much misrepresentation of policies. So if you look at the sort of policies that were supposedly left-wing like implementing a price freeze or getting rid of zero-hours contracts and raising the minimum wage. They are pretty mainstream social democratic policies.

JR: Before the decision about the timeframe of the Labour leadership race was made, did you favour a quick leadership race or a slower, more introspective one?

AS: I think there were three options and I was very much against the longer option that would have stretched it out into the autumn. But I don’t think there is much material difference. The only disadvantage of going slightly longer is that you don’t have the sort of new team. You have a sort of transitional team in place and I think people were concerned about that. In reality it’s a decision between making the decision at the end of July or the middle of September, which is would be two weeks into parliament

sitting time. But I don’t think it makes much difference to be honest.

JR: As Shadow Minister for Justice, what are your thoughts on Michael Gove’s plans to replace the Human Rights Act?

AS: Well that’s just abhorrent really. I think the only positive thing is that it’s already running into difficulties. The Scottish government has said that they won’t do it. There are equal issues with Northern Ireland, in terms that they will have to find an agreement. But they are issues to do with the European convention itself. This is something that the Tories have said as a crowd pleaser to certain constituencies but particularly their own back benchers, that I think they’ll have great difficulty doing.

Either it will be a cosmetic thing, i.e. they’ll call it something like the British Bill of Rights but effectively they’ll have to keep it the same, much as they are. Or, they will be trying to make a fundamental change, in which case, effectively they’ll have to leave the convention and I don’t think that’s really sustainable so I think there a huge difficulties.

JR: Do you think, if the EU referendum goes ahead, that the UK electorate will vote to leave?

AS: No, and I don’t think that’s what Cameron wants either. He will try and manipulate it. I’ve always thought this was just about managing the Conservative party.

He might find it slightly easier now that he’s got a majority but I think there are enough headbangers who will cause him problems, but I’ve never had much doubt that Cameron himself and the leadership of the party do want to stay in, and then you’ve got the leadership of most of the main parties. It will probably be a re-run of what happened in 74 where it will be a closely fought campaign but I think that the majority of the opinion will then be for staying in.

JR: Do you believe that Nick Clegg put country before party during

the coalition talks in 2010? Was he right to go into coalition with the Tories?

AS: I think the Liberal Democrats behaved totally dishonestly and they’ve got exactly what they deserved. I was in the 2005-2010 parliament when they positioned themselves to the left of Labour, their economic policy gains in that election was broadly the same as Labour’s, and then within 24 hours they effectively said “No, no we support the full on austerity that Osborne is advocating.”

I think there’s never been a political U-turn of that order and that’s before we get to issues like tuition fees. So no, I think they put self-interest and Clegg and the other right-wingers in the Liberal Democrats managed to carry the day and they’ve got what they deserved. People are very cynical of politicians I think, partly because of this sort of behaviour. In reality, there has to be certain standards and I think Clegg fell well below those standards.

JR: Do you believe in free education?

AS: In an ideal world yes, but I don’t think that it’s sustainable anymore.

JR: So what is the magic number?

AS: Well the magic number for us was £6000 a year. It really is the difference between when 5-10% of people went to University and when it’s approaching 50%, and then asking the 50% of the population who don’t go to heavily subsidise those who do. So there has to be some payment I’m afraid. I wish it wasn’t the case because I do value free education, it’s just that you’ve got so many people going to University, which is a good thing, but there has to be some payment back.

Graduates do earn more money overall, but I do think it could have been fairer and the debt is too high overall. There was a lot of pressure on us not reducing tuition fees, but we are always going to be talking about

It also looks far more likely that we’ll get a third runway at Heathrow

We are quite likely to see an attack on civil liberties

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Andy Slaughter has been Hammersmith MP since 2010. Photo: i100/LGL

how much, rather than whether, from now on I think.

JR: Do you not think it's wrong that it was Labour that introduced tuition fees in 1998, Labour that increased them in 2001, the Tories that proposed to increase them again but it was the Lib Dems that got punished for it?

AS: I think the issue with the Lib Dems is one of trust, because it was so blatant, and they did get elected on signing that pledge.

For good reasons or bad, politicians don't keep their promises sometimes. But I don't think there is any other example of anything quite so horrific as that, where you pledge to abolish something you then triple the cost of.

JR: But in the 2001 election Labour's manifesto stated that you would legislate against anyone raising tuition fees, and then Blair tripled them from one to three

thousand pounds a year in 2004.

AS: Well yes, I mean the Tories promised they weren't going to increase VAT and they did and so on and so forth but we're not so much talking about the issue here. We're talking about what the Liberal Democrats did and what the consequences were for them and the apology for that which was an apology for making the promise in the first place, and I just think they got themselves into a terrible mess over it.

JR: The Labour manifesto put cutting the deficit as a priority. Does this mean that the economic argument has been won and the Keynesian model of debt-financed socialism is dying?

AS: No I think the fact is that most responsible people think we have to balance the books and it's a question of how and over what period and what criteria we work to in relation

to that. But what the big difference between Labour and the Tories on this was the flexibility of how we pay it off. Are you factoring in the relationship with economic growth, so we have the ability to borrow still to fund investment? That's where the argument was I think.

JR: Would you not agree that the SNP swept the board in Scotland because of their anti-austerity position in comparison with Labour?

AS: Yes but if you actually look at their proposals they were more restrictive than Labour's so I think it made for a good headline but you didn't have to dig very deep to realise that it just didn't add up.

JR: As a former councillor, do you believe that it's very important for politicians to have experience in local government?

AS: I think it's helpful but I don't think it's essential. I think people are realising that you want people from a whole variety of backgrounds to get involved.

There are certain things that are the same; representing people, doing casework, campaigning and so forth, but lots of other experience is useful as well.

JR: What are your key concerns over the next parliament?

AS: I'm concerned that you've got a very right wing Tory party, which is concealed somewhat by the presentational skills of Cameron. I'm concerned about everything, from restrictions on trade unions to cutting welfare benefits.

This is going to be a very harsh agenda that is aimed at the people the Tories see as its enemies: poor people, organised labour etc.

And with the crying social problems that we have, for example

the housing shortage, are not going to be addressed, and market forces are going to dominate without any proper mitigation.

We are also we are quite likely to see an attack on civil liberties; we've talked about the human rights act, the snoopers charter and so forth. It's a very right wing agenda and I'm not sure the public quite realise what they've voted for.

JR: In 2010 you voted for Ed in the Labour leadership election, who are you backing this time?

AS: I genuinely, genuinely haven't decided. We haven't even seen the full field yet and one or two of the candidates I don't know that well.

I do know well candidates like Yvette Cooper, Andy Burnham.

It's difficult to make a complete assessment and I think you really want to give people a fair chance to set up their stall so I will reserve my judgment on that for now.

Comment

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Comment Editor || Tessa Davey

Why is it so taboo to be Tory?

Social media has driven Conservatives to keep their views quiet



TESSA DAVEY
COMMENT EDITOR

The General Election has come and gone, and the United Kingdom has democratically elected the Conservative Party into power for the next five years. 36.9% of the country voted for them, but if you look at the articles being plastered all over the internet and social media, you would have no idea that this was the case.

The *Felix* poll suggested that 35% of Imperial students were planning to vote Conservative. I've spoken to a lot of people about this election, and only one person has admitted to me that they voted Tory. But, they added as a caveat, it was because the Conservative MP in their Fulham constituency was really good. In Hammersmith, they told me, they would have voted Labour.

And this is at Imperial. It's no secret that Imperial is one of the more conservative universities. Imperial was one of the only universities whose student union did not protest against the tuition fee rises, going so far as to voice support for them. The students themselves largely let the marches pass them by, probably out of a combination of apathy and right-wingedness. Although my only impression of the Imperial Conservative Society has been watching from the next stand at Fresher's Fair as many people came along and bitched them out, we didn't even have a Liberal Democrat counterpart until recently.

I grew up in a part of Wales where the Labour-Conservative battle seems very distant. Each of these parties takes no more than around 10% of the vote, with the remaining fight being between the Lib Dems and Plaid Cymru; voting Labour or Conservative is not a done thing. I remember in the 2010 election, as a second year Imperial student, I was surprised to find my friends were extremely vocal in their support of Labour. For me, the young person's



You probably have though, admit it. Photo: Guardian

party was the Liberal Democrats, and it didn't occur to me that you would vote for anyone else. In this election, it's been a bit different. Obviously the Lib Dems have fallen out of favour, but I'm again surprised at how much everyone seems to have picked up Labour as their go-to party.

I watched the results of the General Election with a group of people from Imperial who all had different political ideas. One classed himself as a Conservative (but he voted Lib Dem, I'm not really sure how that works), some others still hopefully carried the Lib Dem banner, several were die-hard Labour, and one person voted Green. No one admitted to any support of the Conservatives, but given the general reaction to such confessions on social media, I wouldn't admit it either.

I've seen people be torn to shreds for suggesting that rich people probably pay a bit more tax than poor people, I've seen statuses like, OMG all Tories unfriend me, Well done Great Britain, Another five years of oppression! Shops have displayed signs suggesting that Conservative voters should declare themselves and pay more tax. There have been protests and riots outside Whitehall. But this isn't a few hard-right EDL or BNP supporters they're protesting against here, it's the largest single group of supporters in the country.

Some people I'm friends with on Facebook have been organising demonstrations against the current method of democratic selection. Under the first past the post system,

everyone knows how it works, and votes accordingly. Under a different system, who knows if people would vote the same way? It's true that FPTP has its flaws, but all the left-wing advocates of a more proportional representation seem to have forgotten that this would give us 82 UKIP MPs (if we kept the number of seats the same), and actually the "right-wing" Tories plus UKIP would still have about the same proportion.

Labour would lose seats, and we would have a much more fractured government. The Greens and Lib Dems would gain seats, of course, but at what cost? We would have a more liberal representation in Parliament, for sure, but what is going to be passed under that parliament? Surely true proportional representation, and the government that would result from other voting systems, will only lead to the passing of bills to be slowed and dragged out. This might prevent some really stupid things from happening – I think we can all agree that we want to keep the death penalty in the past and stay in the EU – but this might also prevent good things from happening, like the legalisation of gay marriage.

My News Feed is absolutely plastered with articles about how the entire country is going to go to the dogs now we have a majority Conservative government, how all the poor people are going to starve/suffer/commit suicide, and how every single person who voted Tory is an awful selfish human being who only cares about themselves and their aspirational

ideas of moving up the class system. Surely this can't be true, a group that is nearly half the country must be diverse, and the policies which drew them must have some appeal.

I've seen articles about the rise of the 'shy Tories', who apparently hate themselves and are ashamed to admit their greedy, self-centred leanings. Charlie Brooker has compared voting Conservative to masturbating – you probably do it, but you definitely don't talk about it. But is it because people are just shy and embarrassed, or has the barrage of self-righteous hate driven them to keep their views to themselves for self-preservation? Has being a Conservative voter become the ultimate taboo in our life of first world problems?

Or is all of this Facebook's fault? It's no secret that Facebook curates your News Feed, showing you exactly what they want you to see, based on interactions you've made with other posts. Even just hovering over an anti-Tory article while you read the headline might be enough to make Facebook think that you want to see more, and so you're eventually hit with more posts than you can read about how the Conservative agenda is evil, demonising the poor, disabled and mentally ill. Maybe there are other posts on social media, you're just not being shown them. Perhaps your social circle isn't actually quite so homogeneously angry lefties.

Unfortunately, this social media censorship only feeds into the impression that the parliament is unrepresentative, and drives discontent and frustration among those who are not in support of the elected government, who feel their voices aren't being heard.

Ultimately, we have the government that we voted for under the system that we knew about going into the polling booths. It can't be the case that everyone is happy with the result, but there is no denying that it represents the electorate in the way it was designed to. While you may disagree with the way people have voted, the angry holier-than-thou attitude is attacking a huge proportion of the country, and serves no purpose in improving this country. For this country to drift back to the centre, which – for the better or worse – I have no doubt that it will, more people need to be on board with their policies, and this isn't going to happen if the current supporters of these ideas are constantly berating them and denouncing them as reprobate and loathsome.

“Well done Great Britain, Another five years of oppression!”

“Or is all of this Facebook's fault?”

Comment

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Comment Editor || Tessa Davey

We're going to miss the Lib Dems

George Butcher wonders whether the Tories learnt anything



GEORGE BUTCHER
COMMENT WRITER

The Liberal Democrats have had the number of their MPs slashed from 57 to just eight. Members of Parliament who have been in government for 30 years are no longer. Part of their downfall can be attributed to their support of raising tuition fees, part to supporting the Conservatives, and part of it because, apparently, Lib Dem voters don't actually want them to do anything.

The Liberal Democrats entered government at a time of great uncertainty. The thirteen year long Labour rule was ending, we'd just entered the most severe recession since the 1930s, and the Eurozone was about to implode. We needed a secure government and we needed it soon; the Lib Dems took a risk, and it paid off.

Voters don't seem to have given them credit – they allowed a Conservative party into Number 10, implementing some deeply unpopular policies such as the bedroom tax and raising tuition fees, but they also stopped the Tories from being right-wing enough to hold a EU referendum. It's the classic problem that faces the smaller party in any coalition.

However, I think the electorate is mistaken. We will all miss the impact of the Liberal Democrats over the next 5 years.

David Cameron is now beginning to enact the policies that the Lib Dems had prevented. The new Bill of Human Rights will require you to seek appeals in Europe before the British Supreme Court, making it harder to reach justice. The 'snooper's charter' gives the police wide-reaching powers, including the power to prevent someone accused of "extremism" from publishing anything without their permission, including a public defence. This is likely to impact peaceful protestors. They are re-drawing the constituency

“they allowed a Conservative party into Number 10... but they also stopped the Tories from being right-wing”



As we say goodbye to the Liberal Democrats in Downing Street, how are things going to change? Photo: Standard

boundaries, making it harder for Labour to win seats, all in the name of 'fairness' whilst ignoring the inherent unfairness in the electoral process already.

The Liberal Democrats wanted to build more homes so that we could afford to buy one. The Tories want to inflate prices so you can't. The Conservatives are going to risk taking us out of Europe and threaten existing strong links in science and industry.

The Lib Dems wanted to defend that. George Osborne wants to drive further cuts – needless when the Government can borrow at around 0.5%, whilst the Liberal Democrats wanted to cut slower and use the economy's growth and accompanying tax receipts to move from a deficit. They've pulled the government into the centre ground; in fact both the Financial Times and The Economist Magazine supported the continuation of the coalition.

So why the loss of seats? Many people I speak to are upset that the Liberal Democrats "got into bed with the Tories". Why? These are the same people who also call

“If you want a government that represents the majority, you have to accept coalitions.”

for a more proportional system of representation. If you want a government that represents the majority, you have to accept coalitions. The last party to get half the vote in a general election was the Conservatives in 1930.

I don't have a particular party loyalty. I've only been able to vote in one general election so I barely have a voting record. Like many, I want a government that is fiscally responsible but that also recognises the social importance of the government. Thatcher brought the economic reform we now all live with, but we need to use the wealth we create to reduce inequality and improve the public services we all depend upon.

The onus is now on David Cameron. The Conservative Party will not survive another election if they cannot meet the demands of the electorate. The Tories may have the economic high ground, they may appeal to the 'aspirational class', but if they can't present a fair social policy for Britain, they will have no future from the moment Labour or the Liberal Democrats regain their

credibility.

When Tony Blair won in 1997, he didn't settle back into old Labour. He pushed further forwards, whilst alienating many in his party, gaining the support and trust of the public. If David Cameron wants another term, he'll need to move to the centre too. This is what he promised to do when elected Conservative leader in 2005.

There are some signs of this happening, he spoke of "rebalancing our economy," and "giving the poorest people the chance of training, a job, and hope for the future". Now is the best time.

If he can genuinely work to reduce inequality and improve public services, he'll leave Labour with nowhere left to stand.

We will miss the central ground that the Liberal Democrats offered us all, whether you voted for them or not. We're now getting five years of unrestrained Conservative government and it remains to be seen whether they learnt anything from their coalition partners in the past five years, or whether they'll return to their home ground and be pushed aside by the centrists.

Comment

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Comment Editor || Tessa Davey

On continuing to Keep the Cat Free

Cecily Johnson doesn't want to set a precedent of censorship



CECILY JOHNSON
NEWS EDITOR

Last weekend, the College played host to 15,000 guests at this year's Imperial Festival. With alumni events running alongside, the festival seeks to raise Imperial's profile by dragging its scientists and engineers out of the laboratory to share their research with the public. But this year, one regular campus fixture wasn't being presented to the ImpFest audience: the student newspaper, *Felix*.

Unfortunately, our front cover last week featured the story of Nur Fitri Azmeer Nordin, a former third year mathematics student who was recently convicted of making and distributing child pornography. Subsequently, the Imperial College Communications and Public Affairs division (Comms) made the decision to remove all copies of *Felix* from public access for the duration of the festival, after we'd already distributed the paper around campus.

The *Felix* team was able to compromise and move some *Felix* distribution bins inside the Central Library in the hope that some students would still be able to access the paper. However, against our wishes, Imperial Estates Facilities employees were sent to remove the papers before the end of the day, meaning that large numbers of students leaving lectures, labs and tutorials after this time were unable to access copies of *Felix*.

When initially informing *Felix* of their decision, Comms indicated that they did not think our front cover was suitable for children; they later cited fears that they might receive complaints from parents attending the festival if the papers remained accessible. However, it is my feeling that there was nothing on the cover that children couldn't potentially see any time they walk past a newsagents or glance at a television showing the evening news.

Since the limited distribution was

“Comms indicated that they did not think our front cover was suitable for children”



One thing not being handed out at Imperial Festival was copies of *Felix*. Photo: Imperial College

announced, the question of whether it amounts to censorship has been a hot topic in the *Felix* office. A quick Google tells us that the definition of censorship is “the suppression of speech, public communication or other information which may be considered harmful, sensitive... or inconvenient, as determined by governments... authorities or other groups or institutions”. College's action to restrict *Felix*'s distribution channels certainly falls within this remit, in my opinion.

Even among our own ranks, there was a wide range of reactions to Comms' decision. There was universal sympathy for the position that College were put in: a campus decorated with the phrase “extreme child pornography” at the same time as it was being flooded with young visitors (and their parents). However, there was a lot of anger and frustration at the way they responded. Many of us felt that was overkill to remove *Felix* distribution bins from areas of campus that were not hosting Festival talks, booths and events.

The clearly designated festival entrance was on Imperial College Road, and the vast majority of visitors would likely not stray further than the Queen's Lawn, Sir Alexander Fleming Building or the Sherfield Building. Despite this, our distribution bins were also removed from the Business School entrance and City and Guilds Building, areas not directly involved in the festival but visited mostly by our regular *Felix* audience.

“It is more important than ever for us to be aware of matters of free speech.”

I am by no means accusing College of attempting to silence this story altogether. There was no attempt to restrict access to the online version of the article, and some students were still able to get hold of physical copies of *Felix* from the bins we put in the library and in Beit Quad. However, withdrawing distribution from our most high-traffic areas so early on a Friday afternoon directly resulted in readers not being able to access the paper that a team of around 50 students put hundreds of collective man-hours into producing.

College's intention may not have been to restrict *Felix*'s content from its normal audience, but they inadvertently did, and their action also kept *Felix* out of the path of prospective students and alumni. *Felix* contributors attending ImpFest have relayed stories of alumni asking festival volunteers what had happened to *Felix* and why it was missing from campus. If Comms had voiced concerns about the story sooner, we might have been able to work with organisers to make copies available on request.

I picked up my first issue of *Felix* while attending an Imperial open day as a prospective student, and it was this that inspired me to seek out the team during Freshers' Fair last October and get involved. While *Felix* is a newspaper made by students, I don't think it is necessarily only for students. We count many members of the College and Union staff amongst our readership, and our online presence enables us to reach alumni

and non-Imperialites too. It saddens me to see our distribution restricted from any audience.

Felix is in a unique position among student publications in the UK in that we have independent editorial control over all our content. We are very fortunate – and proud – not to have to send our paper to anyone at the College or the Union for review before going to print each week. However, of our own volition we frequently work with Comms and the Union where appropriate to lend insight and balance to our articles.

The phrase “Keep The Cat Free”, first adopted as *Felix*'s motto in 1974, has always represented both the cost of the paper and its tradition of free speech. There have been attempts to infringe on this freedom in the past – some of them successful – and it is vital that we publicly recognise and consider the consequences of such actions. We must not allow a precedent to be set for College to squirrel student media away from the public view whenever they take a disliking to our content.

In a world where our own government is seeking to introduce wide-ranging powers to ban citizens from broadcasting and require them to submit communications for ‘approval’ before circulation, it is more important than ever for us to be aware of matters of free speech. Moving a few distribution bins out of public view is not a great transgression, but it is toeing the line of censorship and – to my mind – that is a very dangerous thing indeed.

Swap out those burgers for beans!

Lauren Ratcliffe reports on lowering your risk of colon cancer



New research from a team of scientists, involving some from Imperial College London, suggests that a Western diet, high in protein and fat, can lead to an increased risk of colon cancer compared to one high in starch *Photo: Creative Commons*

Those late night burgers and sloppy kebabs may be doing far more dangerous things to your body than just expanding your waistline, research from Imperial suggests. A diet swap between American and African volunteers has indicated that one nation's dietary habits leads to a greater risk of getting colon cancer.

The Western diet, which is typically high in protein and fat but low in fibre, is thought to raise colon cancer risk compared with African diets, which are usually high in fibre and low in fat and protein. Gut bacteria are thought to be the key players in this effect.

The study, published in *Nature Communications*, involved 20 African-American volunteers and another group of 20 rural South African volunteers from KwaZulu-Natal swapping diets for two weeks. Rural Africans ate a diet of sausages, hash browns, burgers, and fries. African-Americans, on the other hand, switched to plates of corn fritters, mango slices, bean stew, and fish

"Gut bacteria are thought to be the key players in the effect diet has on colon cancer"

tacos.

The study involved an international collaboration of researchers, including some from Imperial College London and the University of Pittsburgh, teaming together. Volunteers within the study all had colonoscopy examinations, where they examine the inner lining of your large intestine. The researchers also measured biological markers that indicate colon cancer risk and examined bacterial samples taken from the colon.

Before the experiment, almost half of the American volunteers had polyps – abnormal growths in the bowl lining that may be harmless but could develop into cancerous growths if left unchecked. Subjects within the African group had no such abnormalities. After the study, the research team discovered that the African volunteers' cancer risk had dramatically increased, whilst the American volunteers were found to have far less inflammation in the colon, as well as reduced biomarkers of cancer risk.

"The findings suggest that people can substantially lower their risk of colon cancer by eating more fibre. This is not new in itself but what is really surprising is how quickly and dramatically the risk markers can switch in both groups following diet change." Professor Jeremy Nicholson, the team leader from the Department of Surgery and Cancer at Imperial College London elucidates.

Colon cancer is the fourth commonest cause of death from cancer in the UK, and overall the second leading cause of cancer death in the Western World, attributed to over 600,000 deaths per year worldwide. However, colon cancer rates are regionally heterogeneous, with rates being much higher in the Western world than in Africa or the Far East, and greatest in the United States.

The major reason for these differences in colon cancer risk seem to be due to differences in the types of bacteria in the gut microbiome. The rural Africans had more carbohydrate-fermenting

microbes, and others that produced the chemical butyrate, which has anti-cancer properties. The Americans on the other hand had more microbes that break down bile acids, which can increase cancer risk.

This study supports other work that has shown high-fibre diets are linked to reduced colon cancer risk. Although their study can't definitively say whether the change in diet would have led to increased cancer rates in the African group and lowered rates in the American group, there is good evidence from other studies that indicate the changes observed were signs of cancer risk.

The findings highlight a serious concern about the potential consequences of the current progressive Westernisation of African communities, which could lead to a spike in colon cancer rates and become a major health issue. On a more positive side, this study can also provide vegetarians with some more ammunition when defending their principles in front of fiendish carnivores.

"This study supports other work that has shown high-fibre diets reduce cancer risk"

Music

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Music Editors || Grace Rahman & Amna Askari

Eurovision Fever: Your Guide to the top

Jamie Thomas gives us the lowdown on this year's favourites

Dating back to 1956, this year is the 60th anniversary of one of the largest and most watched television events in the world; the Eurovision Song Contest. Following Conchita Wurst's victory for Austria last year in Copenhagen, the contest will be hosted this year live from Vienna. And with Serbia, Cyprus and the Czech Republic returning to the contest along with Australia debuting as a guest entrant, this year is gearing up to be the biggest in the competition's history, with 40 nations competing and an unprecedented 27 performing in the Grand Final on 23rd May. Here's my top 10 songs to keep an eye out for, including some of the most likely to win and a few of my personal favourites.



Nil points! The British entry are practising their game faces. Credit: BBC

United Kingdom

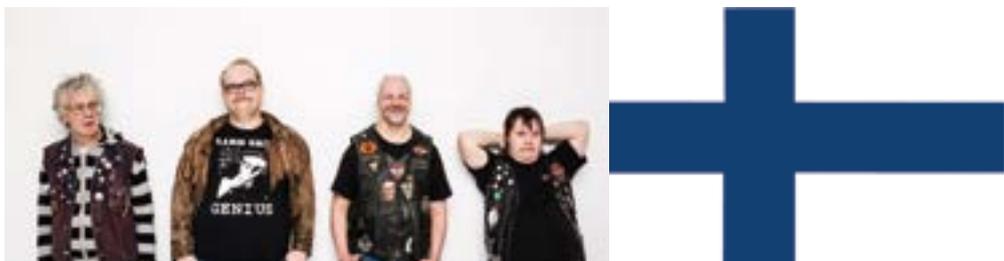
With what can only be described as a techo mash-up of 'Cotton Eyed Joe' and the Birdseye Potato Waffles song, this year we are sending **Electrovelvet** with their song 'Still In Love With You'. I'll admit my first reaction to this song was one of dread and 'wow, we've really given up this year'. However the song has since grown on me immensely. Most of Europe has taken a detour from zany, quintessentially 'Eurovision-y' songs this year in favour of more serious, often melancholy numbers. This means our song could really stand out as a fun and silly entry, hopefully sticking in peoples' minds as they cast their votes.

Sweden

With pop music being one of their biggest exports, Sweden takes Eurovision very seriously. They vote nationally for who will represent them in an X-Factor-like, immensely popular series of live shows named Melodifestivalen. This year it was won by **Måns Zelmerlöw** and he will sing 'Heroes'. It's a catchy, high-energy song, but I feel like it doesn't particularly stand out. However, it's actually favourite to win and will undoubtedly place in the top 5.



Måns has better eyebrows than me. Credit: esctoday.com



They've performed with previous winners, Lordi. Credit: sonymusic.fi

Finland

In 2006 **Lordi** took Europe by storm with 'Hard Rock Hallelujah', which became the first and only hard rock song to ever win the contest. This year they're hoping for success with punk rock band **Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät** and their song 'Aina Mun Pitää'. All 4 members of the band have learning disabilities and are hoping to raise awareness of people with learning disabilities and, as they put it, 'have a fucking good time'.

Estonia

Estonia's song, 'Goodbye To Yesterday' by **Elina Born** and **Stig Rästa**, is my personal favourite this year. A duet about a couple going through a breakup, it's a bit like **Gotye's** 'Somebody That I Used To Know' with hints of **Amy Winehouse**. Trust me, it works. Estonia failed to qualify for the final last year, but this year they're sure to be there and I think we'll see them place in the top 5. They've got my vote!



Will they? Won't they? Who cares. Credit: Stina Kase Photography



Will they still be this chummy when their Eurovision dream comes crashing down? Credit: escunited.com

Italy

Italy are part of the Big Five, meaning they automatically qualify for the final, where we'll see **Il Volo** sing 'Grande Amore'. A modern-day **Three Tenors**, Il Volo is a young, operatic pop trio that was formed on an Italian TV singing contest in 2010. 'Grande Amore' is a dark, brooding, powerful operatic ballad and I love it. It really stands out and will surely stay in the minds of the voters as they reach for their phones.

Music

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Music Editors || Grace Rahman & Amna Askari

10 acts of the 60th annual song contest



And Guy didn't think his life could get any better after he won Pop Idol in 2003. Credit: escuinted.com

Australia

Before you ask, no, that's not a misspelling of Austria. It's simply that Australia's love of Eurovision transcends the 14,000km and 10 hour time difference between us so much that the European Broadcasting Union has allowed our friends from down under to be honorary Europeans this year as part of the 60th Eurovision anniversary celebrations. For this extra special entry, Australia is sending **Guy Sebastian** with 'Tonight Again', a fantastically upbeat declaration of how happy Australia are to be allowed to compete that is sure to go down very well. The EBU has announced that should Australia win, they will be invited back next year. The pressure is on Australia to impress, and I have a feeling Guy will do just that.

Norway

Debrah Scarlett and **Mørland** will sing 'A Monster Like Me for Norway'. A melancholy, slow yet pretty duet with a nice piano part, it resembles Norway's entry from last year, 'Silent Storm', which placed 8th in the final. Its opening is a little boring, but it really gets going half way through and turns into what should be a big crowd-pleaser.



They've still got a week to work out which camera they're meant to be looking at. Credit: NRK



The laughing will stop when they touch down in Venice. Credit: wowstars.ru

Belarus

This year Belarus are sending **Uzari & Maimuna** with their song 'Time'. This is not one of the favourites to win, but I included it because of it's one of my favourites due to a strong dance anthem beat, catchy tune and the big violin part. Uzari, the singer/songwriter is no stranger to the Eurovision stage after appearing in 2011 as a backing vocalist in Belarus' unsuccessful entry 'I Love Belarus.'

Germany

I can't believe this isn't one of the favourites to win. 'Black Smoke' by **Ann Sophie** will represent Germany this year and in my opinion it's one of the best songs this year. With a powerful, simple, driving drumbeat throughout, an incredibly catchy tune and Ann Sophie's great voice, I think this song deserves to do very well. Germany being one of the Big Five, it automatically qualifies for the final.



Sources say she will be forced to perform in the live shows fully clothed. Credit: eurovision.tv



Eurovision stress is setting in. Knez, are you ok hun? Credit: Bojan Stanic

Montenegro

Montenegro probably aren't going to win. In fact, the current odds of them placing first are 100/1, indicating they may not even qualify for the final. I'm including them because I really, really like their song. 'Adio' by **Knez** makes extensive use of traditional Balkan instruments, is sung in its nation's main language (Montenegrin) and is very reminiscent of my favourite Eurovision song of all time, Serbia's 2012 entry 'Nije Ljubav Stvar' by **Željko Joksimović**. Turns out this year's entry was composed by him so all the more reason to love it!

And that's not all! These are just 10 of the 40 entries this year; the biggest Eurovision ever. Of these, 16 will compete in the first semi-final on 19th May and another 17 will compete in the second semi-final on the 21st. 10 countries qualify from each of the semi-finals, joining the Big Five, the host country Austria and special guest nation Australia to battle it out in the final on Saturday 23rd of May. Don't miss it!

The Eurovision Song Contest Final will be shown on BBC One on the 23rd of May, with the first semi-finals on Tuesday the 16th on BBC Three.

Film

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Film Editors

Ellen Mathieson, John Park and Jack Steadman

Boyhood? Not for these girls

ABENA TAYLOR-SMITH
WRITER

GIRLHOOD

Director: Celine Sciamma

Screenplay: Celine Sciamma

Cast: Karidja Toure, Assa Sylla, Lindsay Karamoh, Marietou Toure



The latest film in director Celine Sciamma's 'Trilogy of Youth' is *Girlhood (Bande des Filles)*, a coming-of-age story set on the housing projects bordering Paris.

The title of this French-language film directly translates as Girl Gang – but the English film title knowingly references Richard Linklater's critically lauded 2014 film, *Boyhood*, which similarly focused on issues on adolescence and identity.

In *Girlhood*, Karidja Touré plays sixteen year old Marieme, a quiet schoolgirl who cares for her two younger sisters.

Life isn't easy; having been refused the opportunity to attend high school on spurious grounds, Marieme must quickly decide what to make of her life when the only other options appear to be becoming a cleaner, a drug dealer, a young mum or a prostitute.

Her own mother is largely absent, working long hours at a cleaning job which must provide for four children; and for a father figure she has only a bullying, older brother.

Marieme's life seems to be void of friendship or relief, revolving solely around family duties.

It is at this point that she is adopted by a group of three fearless, rowdy girls Fily (Mariétou Touré), Adiatou



Photo: Celine Sciamma/Studiocanal

(Lindsay Karamoh) and their enigmatic leader, Lady (Assa Sylla).

Unusually for French cinema, the cast are predominantly black actors. In interviews, Sciamma has mentioned the paucity of black students at French drama schools, which resulted in her using street-casting to bring her characters to life.

All of the performances are magnetic; the four lead actresses had no previous experience yet their charisma and on-screen presence carries the film.

Karidja Touré is captivating as Marieme, whose outwardly shy demeanour masks a quick witted and resourceful survivor. You only ever want Marieme to be alright, but like so many other young people, her dazzlingly depressing set of prospects leaves her clearly vulnerable.

The boys on the estate also travel

in packs. They sit on low walls and stairways like sentries, watching everything, ready to shame the girls' appearance and behavior.

When they are in their own bubble, shielded from the male gaze, it seems that the girls can do anything. They are funny, loud and charming, when they want to be. They're also fearsome, bitchy and violent: Definitely not the sort of people you want to be pissing off.

Dance is used repeatedly to show them at their most ebullient and carefree. There are some beautifully shot dance scenes, particularly the one to **Rihanna's** 'Diamonds'.

The tight shots focus on the actors' faces, lingering on their skin, which appears in rich shades of blue and black. The actors are really good dancers so at times it's frustrating that the shot-framing doesn't reveal

more of this.

However, these scenes have a purpose: to show the character's personalities, their group dynamic and to move the action along.

It's more important and impressive that Sciamma avoids the music video clichés of black girls as hypersexualized twerk-a-holics, instead she celebrates their beauty and personality.

It is rare to see such an honest and joyful depiction of female friendship.

Girlhood passes the Bechdel test with flying colours, presenting well-written, complex characters who are rebellious, outspoken, determined and tender. More like women that you or I might know.

This is definitely one to watch with friends. It serves as a bittersweet reminder that there is more than one kind of true love.

"When they are in their own bubble... it seems the girls can do anything."

"This is definitely one to watch with friends."

This week in Film: Terminator Genisys

JACK STEADMAN
SECTION EDITOR

The marketing campaign for the latest reboot/revival of the *Terminator* series continues rolling, with a new batch of character posters hitting the web this week.

Posters for *Terminator Genisys** have arrived, featuring looks at Arnold Schwarzenegger returning to one of the roles that made him famous, as well as Emilia Clarke's take on Sarah Connor (originally played by Linda Hamilton).

There are also posters for John Connor (now played by Jason Clarke)

and Kyle Reese (Jai Courtenay), leaders of the human resistance in 2029 as well, with one proving potentially more spoiler-ific than the other.

The spoiler-ridden posters are typical of the whole campaign for *Genisys*, truth be told, with the two trailers for the film (so far) already managing to reveal the majority of the film's plot.

Several potentially big plot surprises are already common knowledge (but won't be spoiled here).

The film initially follows the plot of the original *Terminator* film (as written and directed by James Cameron), with John Connor sending



Photo: Alan Taylor/Paramount

Reese back in time to 1984 to prevent Skynet's eponymous Terminator from murdering Sarah Connor.

From there, it all goes off the rails, as Reese finds himself in an alternate timeline where Connor was orphaned by a Terminator, and has been raised by a very familiar cyborg in her parents' place.

Directed by Alan Taylor (of *Game of Thrones* and *Thor: The Dark World*), and also starring the likes of Matt Smith (*Doctor Who*, obviously), *Terminator Genisys* is due to ruin spelling across the UK from July 3.

*Yes, that is the real title. No, that's not a misprint.

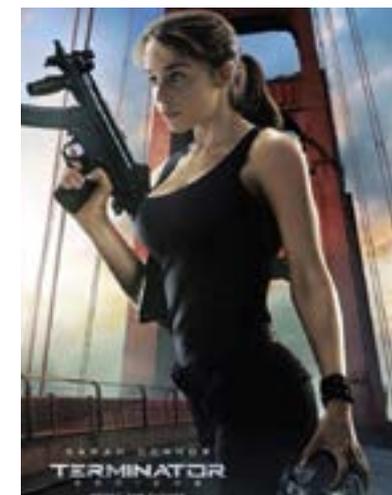


Photo: Alan Taylor/Paramount

Falling for The Falling

ABENA TAYLOR-SMITH
WRITER

THE FALLING

Director: Carol Morley
Screenplay: Carol Morley
Cast: Maisie Williams, Florence Pugh, Greta Scacchi, Maxine Peake



The *Falling* is written and directed by Carol Morley, whose first feature film was the moving docudrama, *Dreams of a Life*.

Set in 1969, *The Falling* centres on a bizarre fainting epidemic at an English girls school.

Although this is a fictional account, there are records of similar episodes throughout history and Morley based this drama on such events.

Maisie Williams (*Game of Thrones*) plays Lydia Lambert, the confused and angry teenage girl at the heart of the outbreak.

Talented newcomer Florence Pugh is Lydia's charismatic and precocious best-friend, Abigail Mortimer.

Whether for a modest skirt length or meticulous punctuality to lessons, rules at the girls' school are tyrannically enforced.

This is not an environment tolerant of mass hysteria. Most of the scenes are quiet and intense, hinting at repressed emotions that could surface at any time. Lydia clearly adores Abbie and there is a suggestion of lesbianism to their relationship.

However, it's not just the students with hidden depths; one of Morley's



Maisie Williams and Florence Pugh in *The Falling*. Photo: Carol Morley/Metrodome

"This is not an environment tolerant of mass hysteria"

many strengths is that she writes her minor characters with the same care that she would give her protagonists.

Greta Scacchi gives a confident performance as Lydia and Abbie's snarling form tutor; and the wonderful Maxine Peake plays Lydia's affectionless mother.

The spooky and downbeat film score is composed by Tracey Thorn, of *Everything But the Girl*.

The instrumentation is sparse, mainly relying on acoustic guitar, a low, clear singing voice, and the kind of instruments you might find in a school music lesson.

The result is a soundtrack that doesn't intrude on the drama, signposting what will happen next;

it is a part of the atmosphere itself, heightening the action at times, but not afraid to lapse into silence.

The Falling is a great accomplishment by Morley. It's odd and disturbing, exploring themes of repression, sexual curiosity and the grey areas between what is and is not real.

The performances are engaging, particularly from Pugh and Williams; and the scenery is beautifully shot, the country landscapes looking like paintings.

There's nothing else like *The Falling* in cinemas at the moment so don't miss out. It's a haunting film which will stay with you for days after you've watched it.

"It's odd and disturbing, exploring themes of repression [and] sexual curiosity."

Last week in Film: Suicide Squad

JACK STEADMAN
SECTION EDITOR

In the face of **Marvel's** continued success with their Cinematic Universe, **DC** have begun throwing out early glimpses of their upcoming slate, kicking off with a trailer for *Batman vs Superman: Dawn of Justice**, and now the first image of the Suicide Squad all together.

David Ayer posted the group shot to his Twitter account, giving fans their first glimpse of Margot Robbie's Harley Quinn, alongside Will Smith as Deadshot, Jai Courtenay as Captain Boomerang, and a heavily made-up Cara Delevigne as Enchantress.

This all follows on from the first image of Ayer's Joker, as played

by Jared Leto. That image caused some controversy (as all these things are bound to do), with some fans decrying the tattoos sported by this new iteration of the character. The backlash wasn't that far off that caused by the announcement of Heath Ledger in the role for Christopher Nolan's *Dark Knight*, so until actual video of Leto in the role judgement can probably be withheld.

The group shot is an interesting one, though. It's mostly composed of Ayer's trademark gritty, grungy style, with the characters' appearances reflecting that. It's all dark greys and greens and not much colour.

Harley Quinn looks like the only one to have actually sprung from a comic book, so seeing her play off the other Squad members, as well as



Margot Robbie on set as Harley Quinn (L), the whole Squad together (R).

the Joker (and Ben Affleck's Batman, who's making an appearance) could be the real highlight of the film. Robbie is

one to watch, after all.

*Again: yes, that is the real title.

This week at Imperial Cinema



This week at Imperial Cinema we've got a trio of cinematic treats for you, from a sci-fi classic to a new masterpiece of horror.

First up, it's Ridley Scott's *Blade Runner*, as part of this year's re-release of the 2007 'Final Cut' by Scott.

This is the definitive version of the classic film, starring Harrison Ford as Rick Deckard, a retired Replicant Hunter. Forced out of retirement to hunt four escaped Replicants, he encounters the mysterious Rachael, and starts to question his own existence...

Next, we've got Disney's latest film, *Big Hero 6*, based on the Marvel comics of the same name. Hiro Hamada is a prodigy with robotics, but he spends his days participating in illegal bot fights.

Rescued by his older brother, and introduced to a world of possibilities, he gets to meet the lovable nurse robot Baymax.

When tragedy strikes, Hiro must track down a whole new kind of threat.

Finally, we're also showing *It Follows*, a brand new horror film. To say too much about it would spoil it, but it might just rival *The Babadook* for 'best horror this decade'.

Blade Runner is playing at Imperial Cinema on Monday 18th May at 19:00.

Big Hero 6 is playing on Tuesday 19th May at 18:30 and Thursday 21st May at 20:30.

There's also a 3D screening on Wednesday 20th May at 19:00.

It Follows is playing on Tuesday 19th May at 20:30 and Thursday 21st May at 18:30.

Tickets are £3 for members and £4 for non-members.

www.imperialcinema.co.uk



Television

television.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Television Editors || Guila Gabrielli & John Park

Documentary TV: The Theroux Effect

Jonathan Masters finds himself questioning the aims of TV docs

Those of you that have a TV Licence, or have had a look at BBC iPlayer recently (much more likely), will have seen that Louis Theroux – the mild mannered, inherently awkward, bespectacled documentarian – has a new series, of which three episodes have already been broadcast early, due to the Clarkson-shaped hole in BBC Two's Sunday scheduling. My question is, is it anything more than voyeurism or does he have a genuine positive effect?

Theroux has been making documentaries since 1998, starting off with the often comical *Weird Weekends* series, which varied from him spending time with Black extremists in America, to trying to embark on an admittedly short lived gangsta rap career. The humour of this series was then slightly lost in his next endeavours, which consisted of numerous interviews with various personalities, including the infamous episode where he interviewed Jimmy Saville, an incredibly uncomfortable piece of television to watch now with the knowledge of Saville's history of abuse. The next series was to become Theroux's template for many to come: a much more mature and confident portrayal of issues such as the crystal meth culture of Fresno, or institutions specifically for rehabilitating paedophiles.

His current series has focussed on firstly a two-part piece on a psychiatric hospital for criminals that have committed crimes by reason of insanity, an extremely interesting watch that portrays seemingly placid inmates who have committed horrifically violent crimes. There is an uncomfortably intriguing sequence where it is uncertain if one inmate is falsifying his mental condition in order to bypass serving a longer jail sentence, highlighting the uncertainty of mental health within the judicial system. The third episode focussed on transgender children, the youngest interviewee being a 5 year old who, although born Sebastian, now identified themselves as Camille.

Also an extremely interesting watch, especially highlighting the dilemmas that the parents of these children face in whether or not to dismiss it as a phase, or encourage it to the point of seeking hormone therapy for the child. Quite interesting also for the fact that it evoked a moral ambiguity in myself, making me consider if I would allow my (hypothetical) child to make the same decisions at this age that the other parents had allowed

At its best, documentarian film-



Louis Theroux and Camille, in the BBC Two documentary *Transgender Kids*, broadcast last month, which sparked a debate about transgender issues in childhood. Photo: BBC

making can induce this sort of moral introspection, but one has to wonder where you draw the line between portrayal and voyeurism – whilst watching the first two episodes based in the psychiatric hospital, I found myself drawn to not so much the life of the inmates in the facility, but to what crimes they had perpetrated, and I think that the documentaries themselves are structured in a way that it leads the audience into wanting to know what heinous crime they committed, and almost enjoying the knowledge of it.

Louis Theroux as a documentarian is unparalleled in his curiosity, frequently asking extremely personal questions, even questioning his interviewees' fundamental beliefs, such as in an episode where he visits the controversial hate-inciting Westboro Baptist Church, leading to his trademark long awkward pauses, and cringe inducing stares. In an interview with Sophie Heawood

of *The Guardian* he stated that his greatest fear was that he “is not helping” the situations that he portrays in order to draw attention to them and provide greater public knowledge; however, this begs the question: Is greater public awareness helpful, or just a passive act?

This is a question that I believe must be asked by not only documentarians but journalists as a whole. It's all very well writing about the stagnant state of British politics, but perhaps only writing about it is just shifting the responsibility to someone who is willing to actually make that change.

If that is the case, then what is the point? Surely it would be far more effective to try and be the change that you want to see in the world (I apologize for the shoe-horned quote). This issue also came up in the *Question Time* appearance of Russell Brand and Nigel Farage, where an audience member asked Brand why

he has never tried to stand if he thinks that the current selection of candidates are homogenous. Now although I am in no way an advocate for Farage nor Brand, I do think it's an interesting point: what does promoting awareness do if not pass the torch along the line? Perhaps eventually someone will do something, but what about now?

The *Guardian* interview with Theroux then ends with Heawood questioning why he does not intervene in places, such as young boy in the Westboro Baptist Church who had a vitriolic hatred of homosexuals, taught by his mother. Theroux replied with “No, I go in to tell stories, to reveal the truth and to try to understand. Not to set people straight,” he says. “I don't go into this with the agenda of saving the world.” It's possible that this passive approach, rather than the authoritarian world-policeman one, is a more worthy position to take.

“Is this anything more than voyeurism, or does it have a positive effect?”

“What does promoting awareness do if not simply pass the torch along the line?”

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FRIDAY 15 MAY



Spin
YOU CHOOSE THE MUSIC

Friday 15 May
20:00 - 02:00
Metric & FiveSixEight
Free before 20:00
£2.50 after

Spin the wheel to choose which song you'll hear next!



h Wine tasting

29 MAY
18:30, H-BAR
ACTIVITIES SPACES
£7.50

The h-bar will be holding its tasting session on the 29 May from 18:30. Come and taste all of our great wines from all over the world.

COMING UP!

Date	Event	Time	Location
Friday 15	Cocktails at the h-bar	17:30 - 00:00	h-bar
Friday 15	Reynolds Cocktail Club	17:30 - 00:00	Reynolds
Friday 15	Spin	21:00 - 02:00	Metric
Every Tuesday	Super Quiz	20:00 - 22:00	FiveSixEight
Every Wednesday	CSP Wednesday	19:00 - 01:00	FiveSixEight & Metric
Every Wednesday	Pub Quiz	19:00 - 22:00	Reynolds
Friday 22	Cocktails at the h-bar	17:30 - 00:00	h-bar
Friday 22	Reynolds Cocktail Club	17:30 - 00:00	Reynolds
Friday 22	Spin	21:00 - 02:00	Metric

Union Page

And the 2015 SACA winners are...



The 2015 Student Academic Choice Awards (SACAs) Ceremony was held in the Union Concert Hall on the evening of Monday 11 May.

The SACAs are Imperial College Union's flagship event for empowering students to recognise, reward and celebrate excellence amongst College staff.

This year there was a record breaking number of nominations, with 407 members of staff receiving at least one nomination. The total number of nominations received was a staggering 808! Over 120 students & staff attended the ceremony, where eight SACA Trophies were awarded.

Closing the event, Prof James Stirling, Provost of Imperial College London, said

"The SACAs are not only an important event in Imperial College Union's annual calendar; they are an important event in the College's calendar too... I would like to personally congratulate all the nominees for tonight's awards and particularly, of course, the winners"

Thank you to all student nominators and staff nominees, and congratulations to our SACAs 2015 winners!

For more information on SACAs visit: imperialcollegeunion.org/news/and-2015-saca-winners-are

The winners were as follows:

BEST SUPERVISION
Dr John Pinney
Life Sciences

BEST TUTORING
Martin Holloway
Bioengineering

BEST GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT
Claudia Schulz
Computing

BEST TEACHING FOR UNDERGRADUATES
Dr Steve Cook
Life Sciences

BEST SUPPORT STAFF
Anup Jethwa
Medicine - Northwick Park

BEST INNOVATION
Dr Elizabeth Hauke
Horizons & Science Communication

BEST FEEDBACK
Dr Paul Mitcheson
Electrical & Electronic Engineering

BEST TEACHING FOR POSTGRADUATES
Dr Michael Jones
Medicine - Hammersmith

We want to know
what you think
about

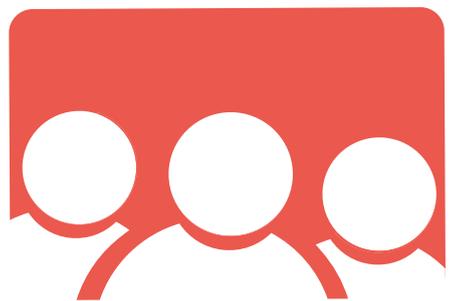


Union Survey 2015

Your **annual chance** to give your **honest feedback** about all of your **Union's services and outlets.**

Take the survey online now at imperialcollegeunion.org/survey

Take the survey and you could win an iPad Mini!



YOUR OFFICER
Elections 2015

Your Officer Elections is your chance to get involved in making a difference to students' lives at the Collge. All of the positions are an essential part of our representation structure at the Union.

We are electing:

- ▲ **Graduate Students' Union (GSU) President**
- ▲ **BME (Black, Minority, Ethnic) Officer**
- ▲ **LGBT Officer**

Our Liberation Officer roles (BME and LGBT Officers) are open to Undergraduates and Postgraduates to nominate themselves for and vote in; the GSU President role is open to Postgraduates only.

You can nominate yourself during our Nominations period (21 - 28 May), and then you can campaign to all students at the College. All students are then able to vote from 1 - 5 June, and the results will be announced online. If you are elected in post, you will take up the role for the 2015/16 academic year.

Visit the Election page for more information about each role. We also have some training materials that will answer any queries you have about writing a manifesto or campaigning.

For more information on Your Officer Election 2015 and how to stand visit: imperialcollegeunion.org/elections

Imperial Plus

Developing your skills

Develop your leadership skills and gain a qualification

Applications are now open for students with a volunteer role in 2015/16 to apply to participate in the Imperial Plus Volunteer Qualification – an ILM Level 5 Award in the Management of Volunteers.

This nationally recognised qualification will support any volunteer holding a leadership role, where they have significant responsibilities or where they supervise the work of other volunteers.

The qualification will enable you to motivate and support your volunteers,

develop effective working relationships with key stakeholders and get the best out of the teams that you lead. The qualification will provide you with skills and knowledge to support you in your volunteer role now, as well as in any leadership or management role in your chosen career.

Applications close on Sunday 31 May. For more information and how to apply visit: imperialcollegeunion.org/volunteering

‘Life on Foot’: Discovering Spanish shoe brand Camper

Cécile Borkhataria visits the exhibition at London’s Design Museum, discovering a unique shoe brand which prioritizes comfort first



Pelotas shoes aligned at ‘Life on Foot’ at the Design Museum. Credit: Jill Tate

After arriving at the Design Museum soaking wet from London’s pelting rain, I joined a group of journalists ready to be guided through the Museum’s latest exhibition entitled *Life on Foot: Camper at the Design Museum*. The exhibition marks the 40th anniversary of the Spanish footwear Brand Camper, which is well known for its casual styles, many of which are unisex. The exhibition guides visitors through the process of how a shoe collection is researched, created, manufactured and presented –

from initial sketches to the detailed graphics on the shoebox.

I was amongst a group of journalists greeted by the director of the design museum, Deyan Sudjic. He explained that the museum, along with an exhibition design company, had worked closely with Camper brand representatives to develop the exhibition. The introduction was followed by some words from the brands CEO, Miguel Fluxá. Miguel’s great grandfather, Antonio Fluxá, founded the first shoe factory in Spain in 1877. He was a farmer

who went to France and England to learn the craft of shoe making, after which he came back to Spain with the equipment he needed to set up a shoe-making factory. In 1975, Miguel’s father Lorenzo joined the family business and so the brand ‘Camper’ was born. The brand name pays homage to Miguel’s great grandfather, as the word means ‘farmer’ in the language of Mallorca (Mallorquí) where the company was founded.

Camper places a strong emphasis on individuality to create a brand

that is different and has its own identity. This sense of individuality is reflected in Camper stores across the world, where no one store design is the same. Miguel Fluxá thinks that the world today is becoming a little boring and uniform, so he thought it would be interesting for the stores to be different. For instance, Camper’s Milan store is famed for having dedicated a single blank wall solely for its stores visitors to decorate with graffiti. Recognizing this fun gimmick, the design museum has replicated this idea for the exhibition,

and visitors are welcome to graffiti the blank wall space next to an impressive wall display of white camper trainers.

The exhibition guides the viewer through six of the brand’s key styles, for example Pelotas – the brand’s bestseller for the past 20 years, Himalayan, Twins and Wabi, whilst exploring the design, manufacturing and history of the family-run business whose designs are iconic and purchased in their millions worldwide.

The process of designing and

Fashion

fashion.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Editor || Cécile Borkhataria



Camper has been in business for 40 years. Credit: Jill Tate

creating a Camper shoe begins at the company's design studios in Mallorca, Spain. Manufacturing then takes place in one of its factories in China, Indonesia or Vietnam. Although the brand used to manufacture its shoes on site in Mallorca, like many product-based businesses, it seized the opportunity of manufacturing its shoes at a much lower cost in East Asia.

The opening of the exhibition features a video illustrating the painstakingly detailed precision required to make a Camper shoe. Whilst some aspects of manufacturing are mechanized, such as sewing the sole of the shoe onto its base, many others, such as cutting out individual pieces of leather for constructing the shoe, are done by hand. Contrary to what I expected from a mass production factory in Asia, this video made the process look like it was taking place in an artisanal shoe shop in Spain. Interestingly, whilst making a pair of Camper shoes usually only takes a few hours in the factory, up to 300 people may be involved in the making of one single shoe.

Two seasonal collections of Camper shoes are designed every year, with each collection containing around 500 shoes which are produced by many of the companies designers, as well as external collaborators, in response to a design brief set by the company's creative director, now French designer Romain Kremer. These briefs usually specify the style, mood and colour palette for that season, whilst also predicting

trends for the coming year. What makes Camper unique is that at the design stage, and all the way through manufacturing, the design of a shoe is based on 'the last', a model of the human foot. The lasts are made by a team of technicians at Camper, advising the design team on comfort for the wearer. The same last used during design is also used during manufacturing, to ensure that the actual shoe fits the foot in the intended way.

The flagship product of the brand remains the Pelotas, the company's most distinctive shoe design. Over ten million pairs of Pelotas have been sold since they were first launched by Camper in 1995. The design was inspired by vintage American sports trainers, and its name means 'balls' in Spanish, referencing the 87 indented balls on the sole of a Pelota shoe

Another of Camper's most famous designs is arguably the 'Wabi', meaning 'peasant' or 'rustic' in Japanese. It is meant in a sense of simplicity, a modesty with no pretension. Wabi shoes are made for indoor use, placing an emphasis on sustainability in the materials they're made of. They are directed to all ages, for use throughout all seasons of the year. The first prototypes of the Wabi were made using hemp and coconut, but now, a standard Wabi's sole is composed of recycled rubber and its upper is usually made of wool. Following the Wabi's, the next iconic design showcased are the 'Twins'. These shoes, first introduced in the early 90's, were unique in that they were non-identical pairs of shoes,

"Up to 300 people may be involved in the making of one single shoe."

which were revolutionary at the time. Across its product range, Camper has collaborated with many different designers, including celebrated Spanish artist Joan Miró on a pair of graphic 'twins'.

The exhibition forays into Camper's various advertising campaigns, past and present. The company uses adverts in a humorous way, whilst also questioning mass consumerism. Many of its adverts avoid using direct images of shoes, and most use English instead of Spanish, appealing to a global audience. One famous advertising poster, created by Guixé in 2002, bore the slogan "No los compres si no los necesitas", meaning "Don't buy it if you don't need it". This paradoxical take on advertising emphasizes that Camper is different, and is as much a maverick lifestyle brand as it is a global shoe retailer.

In line with Campers position as a lifestyle brand, the company launched their 'walking society' advertising campaign in 2001. The campaign's slogan "Walk, Don't Run", emphasizing the conflict between the slow pace of the rural world and the fast pace of urban reality, bringing them together.

Finally, the exhibition explores the potential future of walking, looking at the ways in which technological and sociological developments might change the landscape for everyday pedestrians. An array of speculative design ideas look at new directions and possibilities for pedestrians. For example, researcher Shamees Aden studies protocells, an area of synthetic biology that may offer new approaches to footwear design in the future. Protocells become semi-living substances through the manipulation of their chemical structures, and an

'amoeba trainer' designed by Aden suggests that these cells could mould around the foot, creating a type of second skin shoe. As this part of the exhibition focuses on 'life on foot' as a whole, it looks at innovation in space suit design. It showcases images of newly developed space suits that look like a wetsuit rather than a traditional bulky space suit, allowing a more seamless walking experience in Space. The final parts of the exhibitions take a look at changing city landscapes as a result of technological innovation and changing walking habits. The exhibit displays an interactive screen showing the number of average daily steps taken in cities around the world. It shows that Tokyo is one of the world's most active cities in terms of average steps per day, due in part, no doubt, to the lack of efficient public transportation and the reliance on cars for displacement. By contrast, Los Angeles has some of the lowest levels of steps taken. Such insights have led city planners to investigate the possibility of widespread 'express walkways' becoming mainstream in cities, similar to flat moving walkways in airports. These could resemble motorways for pedestrians, with shoe repair stations, food shops and other amenities along the way. These ideas may change the landscape of cities as we know them in the near future, whilst redefining the footwear fashion sphere.

The exhibition is open to the public at London's Design Museum from the 13th of May till the 1st of November, located at 123 Shad Thames. Student tickets cost £9.75 and adult tickets are £13. Tickets give access to three exhibitions in the museum, which is located just south of the river. The closest tube stations are Tower Hill and London Bridge.

"No one store design is the same ."



Protocell trainers. Credit: Cecile Bokhataria

Fat or muscle?

We are inviting healthy volunteers to take part in a research study comparing body fat and metabolism in young adults. It will involve a single visit to Chelsea & Westminster Hospital for 3-4 hours. You will have a full body Magnetic Resonance scan, which is safe, and does not involve x-rays. You will also be asked for a blood, and urine sample and a buccal swab taken from the inside of the mouth. This study is open to people aged 19-27 years; we would particularly welcome interest if you were born prematurely.

For more information please email James Parkinson, Research Associate, jrcp@imperial.ac.uk or text 07814 296596

When Satire Starts to Age

Clara Nevola Clark finds Product's humour dated



Olivia Poulet in the Arcola Theatre's production of Mark Ravenhill's *Product* Photo: Richard Davenport

A film about a successful, rich, lonely businesswoman who falls in love with a handsome, dangerous jihadist she meets on a plane. She's a 9/11 widow; he's an Al-Qaeda terrorist. Scenes of torrid sex followed by moments of rising hysteria, as the full extent of the jihadist's plans are revealed. Will love win? Or will Western righteousness triumph over terrorism? She's torn between her irresistible animal attraction to him and her strong sense of morality which tells her that stuff just shouldn't be bombed. What a dilemma.

This is the script that a B-movie Hollywood producer (Olivia Poulet) is trying to pitch to a famous actress, in the hope that she'll agree to star as Amy, the protagonist. The script is terrible and she knows it, but she tries desperately to sell it in the hope of redeeming her career.

To do so, she acts out the whole script to the listening actress, peppering it with comments ("you're wearing a gorgeous Versace suit, Versace are on board"). The script she's trying to pitch is uncomfortably cringe-worthy, starting with the awful

title – *Mohammed and Me* – right through to the predictable scenes, the repetitive script, and the outrageous plotline.

Product, written by Mark Ravenhill in 2005, is a one-woman show, and Olivia Poulet is fantastic at carrying the audience through the hour-long monologue, alternating between her enactment of the script, full of false flattery for the actress, and comments about the lighting and the body-doubles.

As the scripts get more ridiculous the actress becomes unconvinced, and the producer becomes increasingly panicked at the thought of missing this shot.

The pace quickens and, just as the farce of the plot rises, Poulet abandons all restraint and becomes more and more dramatic in the reading, desperate to get the actress to agree. The result is hilarious and utterly convincing.

While the satire on the second-rate film industry is funny, it's also most definitely facile. *Product*-placement, hysteria, stereotypes, and easy morals are rife in rubbish movies – but did we really need a 50-minute show to

point this out to us?

This dig at the callous, shallow and poor-taste film industry ends up feeling almost overegged, not only due to the script, but also because of the dated nature of the topic. Although the global terrorism paranoia that followed the September 11th Attacks is still very much in full swing, the fact that it hasn't (yet) been a butt of a disrespectful film makes a weird choice for satire. *Product* was written ten years ago as a fresh, edgy comedy for the Edinburgh Fringe festival. Topical satire of this type doesn't age well.

The play's funny, and Poulet is great, but essentially it's a prolonged, scripted stand-up routine, and it's starting to show signs of age. *Product* is a great vehicle for Olivia Poulet's enormous capacity for humour, and she'll keep you squirming and laughing throughout the play; but ultimately topical satire just isn't as funny more than a decade after the events.

Product is on at the Arcola Theatre, Dalston, until the 23rd May. Tickets from £12; available online.

"While the satire on the film industry is funny, it's also most definitely facile"

"Product is a great vehicle for Poulet's enormous capacity for humour"

Editorial: An Uncertain Future

FRED FYLES
KAMIL MCCLELLAND
SECTION EDITORS

For those of you who have been following *Felix Arts*, you should know that each week we theme the issue. We look at what articles we have that week, and then think of how we can link them together, drawing together different strands to weave a rich tapestry of culture. We will not be doing that today. This week's issue, if I wish to speak from the heart, would probably be The Uncertainty Issue. Or perhaps The All-Change Issue. Or maybe simply The Grief Issue. That would be most appropriate given the new UK government, and their plans for the future of British art. For the 63.1% of the population who didn't vote Conservative, I empathise. My Thursday night was spent googling various permutations of the question "how accurate is an exit poll?" before I went to bed, waking up to a Tory majority that none of us ever thought was possible. For those of you who did vote Conservative, congratulations. Your party of choice made it into power, and now – without the Liberal Democrats to temper their more radical policies – are free to pursue whatever aims they wish, unimpeded by an opposition. For the moment, it is difficult to tell what the future will bring, although we can make predictions: Michael Gove will continue to repeal the Human Rights Act; Nicky Morgan will continue to campaign for equality by voting against LGBT+ rights; and the cuts to UK arts funding will continue, most likely at an accelerated pace. It is this last point that I am most worried about. While the election talk centred around immigration, the electorate have failed to realise that a multicultural society is what has birthed such incredible writers as Zadie Smith and Bonnie Greer. Politicians are obsessed with the economy, but failed to mention that each pound invested in UK arts gives a return of £4. The phrase 'British Values' has been thrown around, but people have failed to understand that so many of our values revolve around our arts industry. The future is uncertain, but it certainly looks bleak.

Arts

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Arts Editors || Fred Fyles & Kamil McClelland

Celebrating the Queen of Modernism

Jingjie Cheng on the ROH's new ballet, based of Virginia Woolf's work



A scene from *The Royal Ballet's Woolf Works* Photo: Tristram Kenton

From the very opening moments of *Woolf Works*, the audience realises that what they are about to experience will not be anything one would expect from a conventional ballet, but a bold, mixed-media theatrical experiment with dance as its main act.

We are greeted by a recording of Virginia Woolf's own voice, musing on the intricacies of language, as the stage fills up with a cloud of projected words, and Alessandra Ferri's Mrs Dalloway stands alone on the centre of the stage. Split into three acts, the **Royal Ballet** resident choreographer Wayne McGregor's first full-length ballet corresponds to three separate stories by Woolf – *Mrs Dalloway* (1925), *Orlando* (1928) and *The Waves* (1931).

Called back from retirement at 52 to carry the central character of the first and third acts, Ferri is a commanding presence on stage, her dark hair and eyes and beautifully expressive body embodying the melancholy of Clarissa Dalloway, the eponymous upper-class housewife from what is arguably Woolf's most famous work. It is clear, however, that the ballet is as much about the characters as the author herself, as we feel her presence shift in and out of Clarissa, weaving her personal narrative into her heroine. In the third act when Ferri returns, she is Woolf herself, both an outsider and participant to her own story as she

dances around her struggles with mental illness and eventual suicide. Ferri delivers a performance that is both technically superb and intensely emotional, lending a deep sincerity to McGregor's choreography.

The first act follows the narrative of *Mrs Dalloway* closely, and it is possible to identify the heroine dancing with her husband while observing her younger self. The stage is anchored by three large wooden frames that the characters dance in and out of, gliding through the past and present, through fiction and reality. In a parallel world, mentally disturbed war veteran Septimus, played by a captivating Edward Watson, tries to free himself from his own shell-shocked mind while holding on to his wife, who is all that is left of his tenuous link to reality. It is a sparse act, with not more than five dancers on stage at any one time, but the result is an intensely affecting one, helped by Max Richter's beautifully flowing score.

It is unfortunate that the three acts were not more connected to each other – it seemed instead like three separate mini ballet performances. After the very moving first act, the second, supposedly based on *Orlando*, came as a surprise, with laser beams slicing through space and time and troops of androgynous dancers marching up and down the stage in golden bodysuits complete with ruffs and tutus. It was more of

an impression of Orlando's time-travelling narrative and gender fluidity, rather than a faithful interpretation. McGregor, known precisely for such post-modern takes on ballet, seemed to use energetic movements both individually and collectively to capture the relentless pace of the novel. While interesting at first, the act got repetitive quickly, and seemed to try too hard to be avant-garde. All the fancy embellishments only distracted from the dancers themselves. At times, the score here also bordered on unpleasant, with whirring electronic notes and techno beats that, together with the flashing neon beams made the theatre feel like a giant club.

The Waves is one of Woolf's most experimental novels, revolving around the narratives of its six characters from childhood till old age, exploring their individual stories but also their collective experience of life. Weaving in Woolf's own story into this act was apt, I felt, especially since the novel was said to be inspired by the lives of those around her. The act begins with a poignant reading of Woolf's suicide note, as a slow-motion movie of waves crashing onto the shore plays atmospherically in the background throughout. Young dancers blended in with older ones, creating a fabric of the journey of life, moving across the stage like the motion of the tide. Ferri's Woolf occasionally joins in their dance, and

even dances with the characters, but mostly we feel her troubled presence being tossed around the human waves around her, as she decides, eventually, to drown herself, just like the character Rhoda in her story.

Woolf was known as a literary innovator of her time, part of the influential Bloomsbury group of artists and intellectuals. The three stories chosen in this ballet were all radical in their own way, whether it was the all-in-a-day stream of consciousness narrative of *Mrs Dalloway*, the gender non-conforming and time-travelling *Orlando*, or the interwoven narratives of *The Waves*. In a way, the unconventionality of *Woolf Works* captures this spirit of challenging boundaries with its interesting use of words, recordings, movies, sets, and lighting. Ballet is also a very technically demanding art form requiring precision, which makes it a fascinating medium to experiment with freedom and originality within structure.

An enjoyable, albeit long, performance with an interesting take on the author and her works, *Woolf Works* indeed has moments of brilliance, but it still has some way to go in being tastefully experimental without overwhelming the senses with attention-seeking gimmicks.

Woolf Works is on at the Royal Opera House until 26th May. Tickets from £4. Available online.

"It's a bold, mixed-media theatrical experiment with dance as its main act"

"Woolf Works captures a spirit of challenging boundaries with its stagecraft"

Slash and Burn: The Future of British Arts under the Tories

Indira Mallik guides us through the proposed changes to funding for culture under the Conservative majority



John Whittingdale, the new Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, in a valiant attempt to try and appear normal outside Number 10. Photo: Creative Commons

Last Friday, Britain woke up to an entirely changed political landscape. Instead of days of coalition talks, or discussing the constitutional ins and outs of a minority government, we were faced with a Conservative majority. Within the space of hours, the commentators went from discussing the probability of the vote share to the probability of who would end up in the cabinet. On Monday we found out that David Cameron had appointed John Whittingdale as Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. Already the tabloids have claimed this as “declaring war on the BBC”. Whittingdale has a history of being notoriously anti-licence fee, proclaiming it as “worse than the poll tax”. Despite no doubt ruffling a few feathers at **Broadcasting House**, the choice of John Whittingdale, who was Shadow Culture secretary and later Chairman of the Media Select Committee, certainly seems to makes

more sense than his predecessor Sajid Javid, who by all accounts struggled to convince journalists and the art world alike that we was interested in the performances it was his job to attend.

The Conservatives have pledged to deliver their manifesto in full now they are unhindered by coalition partners, but what does this mean for the arts? Throughout the election campaign, the arts barely got a look in, as the discourse was dominated by immigration and the economy. Likewise, the arts feature in a fraction of the Conservative manifesto, in which the Tories promise to “keep our major national museums and galleries free to enter, support school sport, support our creative industries and defend a free media”. So far, so vague.

The details of this pledge pertain mostly to investing in a “Great Exhibition in the North”, particularly the building of the **The Factory**, a new theatre in Manchester to which

Chancellor George Osborne has already promised £78m. Whilst this is a welcome step towards addressing the long standing bias towards funding London-based projects at the expense of the rest of the country, it worryingly suggests that the **The Factory** is being pushed as the face of investment into the arts whilst savage cuts are made into the overall arts budget as part of reducing the deficit. In the last government, £168.5m in real terms was cut from the English arts as a whole since 2010, representing 36% of the total arts budget. The funding cuts have forced the main arts funding body in England – **Arts Council England** – to rely completely on Lottery funds from April 2015 to fund some of its core portfolio. **National Campaign for the Arts** (NCA) say in their *Arts Index* – the ‘health check’ on arts in England – that over-reliance on Lottery fund will “leave the sector vulnerable [because] lottery income

can vary hugely depending on the mood of the people”.

In order to fulfil their pledge of cutting a further £12bn from departmental budgets, the Treasury would have to commit to cuts at the same scale for the next 5 years. In all likelihood, this will lead to the closing of local museums and libraries, cutting off the grass roots level investment that is so vital in allowing the arts to sustain themselves in the future. In November last year, protesters took to the street when the local council in Liverpool announced plans to close 11 out of its 19 libraries. Newcastle-upon-Tyne published a draft three-year budget in 2012, which projected a cut to funding for arts organisations of 100% effective from April 2015. Soon, other councils may follow suit with similarly drastic proposals.

The arts in England are on the cusp of “serious and irreversible damage” caused by cuts to funding,

the findings of the *2015 Arts Index* have revealed. It further reports that in order to sustain themselves, arts institutions have been forced to raise prices to raise the earned income generated. The NCA says that income raised in this way is soon to saturate “the amount people are prepared to pay for a ticket is limited, and so is the number of seats”, and that higher ticket prices are creating a barrier to access to the arts; a recent study found that though engagement in the arts was higher in the 2013/2014 period, those participating were from higher socioeconomic backgrounds. Reducing access to lower socioeconomic groups creates a barrier towards ethnic diversity too, and in light of the recent proposals to cut funding to arts organisations that fail to increase diversity in their programmes and audiences, the funding shortage risks driving a vicious cycle of exclusion and financial shortfall.

Arts

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Arts Editors || Fred Fyles & Kamil McClelland



The Barbican Centre, above, one of London's best cultural centres, will be one of the hardest hit, with an ACE cut of 20% Photo: Mindseye Lighting

David Cameron proposes to plug this funding hole by asking private parties to step up to the plate. The 'Big Society' pledges come directly after the arts pledges in the manifesto, suggesting a growing reliance on private philanthropy and privatisation to sustain the arts in the face of falling government subsidy. This has been the party line for some time now. Back in 2010, the then Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt said "if you said to me what is the one thing I could do [...] that would make a real difference to the arts, I would say it would be to help foster an American-style culture of philanthropy to the arts and culture here in the UK." Critics of this policy point out that the tax system in the UK does not encourage philanthropy in the same way as the US, where a culture donating to the arts has been built up over decades. Placing all of the funding power in the hands of private philanthropists instead of centralising to some degree such as to Arts Council England poses the risk of supporting only a narrow range of artists, stifling creativity that currently thrives despite being on the peripheries of mainstream culture. Silencing this group of new artists still finding their voice would further reinforce a chronic lack of diversity that has already taken root in this country's artistic landscape.

More and more, young artists may find themselves relying on charities such as Arts Emergency which seeks to provide opportunities for young people in the arts via inclusion in the 'Alternative Old Boy's Network'. Privatisation, on the other hand, has already led to chaos at the **National Gallery**. When management chose to outsource two thirds of its gallery

"The 'Big Society' suggests a growing reliance on private funding of the arts"

staff to a private security firm earlier this year, the union representing them, PCS, organised two 5-day strikes. A third is planned if a new pay cannot be negotiated.

These strikes have meant closing off gallery spaces housing some of the most important art in the country – including Vincent Van Gough's *Sunflowers* – behind huge black doors; school trips were cancelled, tourists were left disappointed. Citing this example as a possible harbinger of worse to come, Jonathan Jones, art critic for *The Guardian*, wrote this week that "five more years of Cameron will reduce the arts to a national joke".

Not everyone is so pessimistic. Newly appointed chief executive of Arts Council England Darren Henley claimed that Conservatives understand the value of the arts, telling *The Stage* that the Tories had been more supportive of the arts in the previous parliament than they were of many other sectors. Certainly, Labour's plan for the arts didn't seem to differ much from their opponents': when a Tory dossier emerged earlier this year claiming that Labour would reverse £83m of spending cuts to the arts, the Labour press team took to Twitter to simply say "we won't".

Although under fire from all sides, the country's cultural capital is perhaps one of the strongest exports we have. The creative industries generate £76.9bn annually – that equates to £8.8m per hour and accounts for over 5% of UK jobs. Last year, as productivity fell, the creative sector actually grew by 1%. Speaking to *The Guardian* John Kampfner, CEO of Creative Industries Federation, says "[success in the arts] has not come by accident or in isolation, but

is the result of several decades of smart investment and policy-making. To make any further cuts in arts and arts education budgets at a time when we have irrefutable evidence of their economic value (let alone their social value) would be to bite the hand that feeds us." Jane Webb, director of studies at Manchester Metropolitan University adds "art and design is about changing the world, not just producing more images, objects, or working within jobs that already exist." The July 2013 report *Humanities Graduates and the British Economy: The Hidden Impact* conducted by the University of Oxford has found that 80% of all Oxford humanities graduates go on to be employed by key economic growth sectors such as finance, law, media, and education. This is a trend that has been replicated across universities.

The arts are often referred to a 'soft subject', which to politicians can too often mean code for 'easy target', but the new government must look to the long term when deciding where the cuts should fall. Being too short sighted and caving to the pressure to cut the arts budget in order to protect others may do more harm than good all round according to David Pountney, the chief executive and artistic director of **Welsh National Opera**, who wrote last month "well-being is not something that can be segmented into physical health alone. A lively mind stimulated and nurtured by cultural experience is one very important kind of health – a kind of health that can inspire and energise a new generation." He added that unless the government could recognise this fact, the "new generation [could become] the lost

generation".

In a typically eloquent address in the *Arts Council England (ACE) Annual Report for 2013-14* published last month, Sir Peter Bazalgette, the Chair of ACE, wrote "we do hear the question asked, "Can we afford to fund the arts?" The answer is simple: "We can't afford not to". And the tougher things get the more important our cultural life becomes." He goes on to cite a 1945 radio address made by John Maynard Keynes, who established public funding of the arts in Britain: "[arts funding is] to replace what the war had taken away". The case for survival of the arts is has never made more clearly than by **Donbass Opera** in Donetsk, Ukraine, which remained open to give performances even as tanks rolled down the streets. Deputy Director Natalia de Kovalyova said "tickets were free and there were hundreds of people queuing, we crammed in as many as we could. Two old ladies were in tears, on their knees and kissing his hands in gratitude that he had opened the season".

Nothing so dramatic is likely to happen here, but there is still something to be said for escaping into art when life seems hard. We should be encouraging people to come together and enjoy and participate in the arts, not starving it of oxygen. Ultimately, the new government has a choice to make; they could view the arts in a purely economic sense in the short term and cut further into the arts budget, or see the arts as an opportunity to invest in the creativity and the talent of its citizens and reap the rewards in the long run. I know which one I would choose.

"We should be encouraging people to enjoy the arts, not starving it of oxygen"



The Almeida Theatre's production of *Chimerica*, which won rave reviews. Despite this the Almeida is facing ACE cuts of 17%. Photo: Almeida Theatre

Welfare

felix.welfare@imperial.ac.uk

Welfare Editors || Diba Esbati & Chanon Wongsatayanont

Support for the Supporters

Chanon Wongsatayanont has tips to make helping friends easier

This is the mental health awareness week and I'll focus on a slightly different but related angle today. In welfare, mental health is a much discussed issue with ever-increasing helpful resources, but there is a group of people often left out from the media spotlight. These are the friends who support friends with eating disorders, those in relationships who lighten up their partner's depression, or parents who calm their child with anxiety, to name a few examples.

Considerate friends and family make every effort to understand and accommodate their loved ones with mental conditions. Unlike professional supporters, they often have little to no training themselves, willing to learn by patient trial-and-error, consulting online forums or call centres, just so they can help their loved ones however they can.

It's not easy and can be quite taxing for the friends and family. Outsiders might think it's simply about "listening" and "being there" for those who need it. But that's a huge over-simplification; mental conditions aren't like "feeling down" where a good heart-to-heart talk can fix everything. It's a sustained commitment, helping the sufferer through the ups and downs of the condition, trying to be understanding even when they don't quite understand what's asked from them. Especially as friends and family, they know that their loved ones rely on them.

So to help the supporters, I've compiled a list of tips and things to bear in mind in order to make it easier.

It's not you, it's not me

Sometimes, supporters can be hurt by what their loved ones say during their phase. For depression, the sufferer might go silent for days until you think that you've done something wrong. During an anxiety attack, they might burst out with insensitive accusations because they're feeling overwhelmed by their emotions. What makes it particularly sting is because they're so unlike their usual character.

You should understand that this is the condition talking, not them. And don't feel guilty too because it's not your fault. The sufferer will often come to their loved ones to apologise after the phase, for it is never their intention to hurt the people they also love (perhaps even more than themselves in the worst of times).

Depression, anxiety and bipolar disorder cloud the mind, crippling it



A group of kind committed friends can bring even an old grey grumpy donkey to a smile. Image: hdwallpapersdesktop

with hopeless or a rush of thoughts that couldn't be turned off. Even subtler conditions such as eating disorders can plant doubts and false assumptions in your head, making it feel like it's the most obvious truth. They've got their hands full to overflowing dealing with the thoughts in their head.

Therefore, distancing yourself from the disruptive condition might be the best way to prevent yourself from getting hurt when trying to help. It can be as simple as attributing the hurtful things said to the illness itself, trying not to get your feelings involved as you comfort them. By doing this, you don't care less about them. In fact, it makes you a more effective supporter, because you'll focus on the issue at hand.

Know that they are suffering

Going through the lows of the illness is not something they'd choose to feel if they could help it. They are in the grips of their thoughts, driven on by the condition, and it is a horrible feeling that they can't control.

As you support your friends or family members, it helps to remember that it is not a choice or overreaction, but something involuntary. Sometimes, they would communicate that they need help with it when it is too much for them to bear alone, but sometimes it is

possible that the sufferer prefers to stay quiet and cope with it themselves so it wouldn't become worse.

Regardless, I want to remind you that by sharing their vulnerabilities and suffering, they are placing a lot of trust on you on a sensitive topic, which shows how much they appreciate you.

It will pass

Mental illnesses usually come in phases. For example, depression oscillates between normal and relapse periods. For some people, these occur every week for a few days at a time. For others, they last for weeks but occur only once every few months. As someone close to the sufferer, you'll know this better than most or begin to notice patterns that aren't yet confirmed. So even when you feel worn down, do remember that it is not always this way.

Don't let it define your relationship

There's a misconception about living with people with mental illness where it's believed that the supporter has to spend all of his or her time supporting the sufferer. This is far from the truth, as you'll probably realise from the 'it will pass' section.

It will only be a small part of the relationship, such as how a couple

where one person is suffering from depression can hang out and travel just as much as everyone else, and is in need of support every once in a while. Sure, you might not be able to do certain things when one is suffering an episode, but the intimate understanding and trust make the relationship special in its own way.

Plus, despite the fact that these conditions stay with a person throughout their lives, things don't always have to be the way it currently is. Loved ones can significantly help in developing mechanisms that helps sufferers to cope. As they are familiar with the onset, they can remind the sufferer that a phase is coming in so they can stop the onset of an anxiety attack before it spirals out of control. It will be a constant fight against this illness, but you both can get better at beating it.

I hope the tips are helpful to the kind friends and family supporting their loved ones through their personal struggle.

If you have specific questions, there are a lot of guides available online that are geared towards supporters. More importantly, the call centres listed on the side can also be helpful for the supporters as well as sufferers. Remember that people on the other end of the phone are also supporters. It's their job. So they could truly understand and sympathise what you're going through.

Mental health helplines and resources

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

Helplines

If you are distressed and need someone to talk to :

Samaritans (24 hr helpline):

Phone: 08457 90 90 90
www.samaritans.org.uk

Anxiety Help :

Anxiety UK

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

No Panic

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

Eating Disorders: Beat

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

Addiction:

Alcoholics Anonymous

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

Narcotics Anonymous

Phone: 0300 999 1212
www.ukna.org

College Resources

Student Counselling Service

Phone: 020 7594 9637
e-mail: counselling@ic.ac.uk

Imperial College Health Centre

Telephone: 020 7584 6301
e-mail: healthcentre@ic.ac.uk

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



No. 1605
15th May -
22nd May 2015
FREE

PRIVATE ICL

FELIX IN BDSM SCANDAL



EDITOR: DID I TELL YOU ABOUT THE TIME I [CENSORED]

HANGMAN



News in Brief: Hangman has been rated 'U', "Suitable for All"

hangman@imperial.ac.uk

Centrefold star suffers from "overexposure"



An example of the *Felix* Centrefold spread, featuring a popular celebrity.

One of *Felix's* most recognisable faces was arrested last night when police officers discovered the many violations of public indecency laws undertaken when posing for the newspaper's well-known Centrefold spread.

Investigators' suspicions were aroused when they were searching the *Felix* basement following anonymous reports that the Deputy President (Hugs and Tampons) had been kidnapped by the *Felix* Editor-in-Chief.

(Ed.: Sadly, we are restricted from further reporting on the rumours of the Deputy President (Hugs and Tampons)'s kidnapping by the Felix Editor, as she's

sitting right next to us and she's glaring at us right now and I'm a bit worried. Send help.)

Once they entered the basement the officers discovered the News team's 'wank bank' of past Centrefolds plastered over the walls.

The suspect was discovered sitting in front of their many Centrefolds, semi-naked and rocking gently.

When they reached the station and went to take a mugshot, further uproar erupted as the suspect began to disrobe entirely.

The confusion was resolved after the station chief, M. Asterbate explained that it "wasn't that kind of picture" and advised the suspect

to "keep that kind of thing for the weekend".

However, further twists in the tale were to emerge when the suspect sued the police force for what they claimed to be "sexual harrassment" while they were in custody.

The suspect alleged that when they attempted to strip for their mugshot, they overheard one of the officers remarking "phwoar, what a nice arse. Think I've seen that one before somewhere."

These allegations are yet to be substantiated, and no court date has been set for the suspect's claim against the police.

More to follow as it happens.

Deputy President (Hugs and Tampons) ruins everyone's day

There was outrage across campus today as the Deputy President (Hugs and Tampons) announced an additional day of bell ringing from Queen's Tower.

The move caused controversy almost immediately, with the majority of students responding negatively to the news.

Said one student, who asked not to be named: "why the fuck would anyone want to do this? Nobody cares about the bells. I didn't even know the bells existed. Why do they have to make noise?"

Similar sentiments were heard across the campus, particularly in the Central Library, which is famously

located next to the Tower in question.

Hangman initially tried to interview several students on the Fourth Floor of the Library, struggling boldly against the oppressive heat in the name of reporting the news.

Sadly, the only comments Hangman was able to get off was "fuck off, I'm trying to revise you massive wanker" and "why the shit are you wearing a morph suit in this heat? Who do you think you are, Hangman?"

(Ed: we do indeed think we are Hangman. No existential crises here, thank you very much.)

After being ejected from the

Library by a staff member for "harrassing the students", Hangman hung around outside the Library, asking passing students for their opinions.

An anonymous DP (Hug and Tampons) gave us the only positive response to the news, telling Hangman that "I've always looked up to Kris and his big bell, and I'm delighted to hear that we wil be getting more of both.

"I personally can't wait to hear all about Kris' bell in *Felix*."

In other news, Hangman has now received a lifetime ban from the Library for "being a massive perv." Hangman is appealing the charges.

From the Felix message boards

Members of the Felix readership (all seven of them) comment online about the latest issues affecting Imperial

Felix withdrawn from campus over Imperial Festival weekend

Copies of Felix aren't going to be on the South Kensington campus during Imperial Festival. What do you guys think?

Lol whatever I only get it for the centrefold anyway
-HavingACheekyOne_InTheLoos

Thank goodness. Finally someone has seen sense and stopped this dreadful rag polluting our campus.
-ActualRealLifeJournalist

Fuck dis bullshit man, fight da power! KEEP THE CAT FREE GUYS
-@UNGAGTHECAT

This is literally censorship, I can't believe this is going on. How can anyone stand for this? It's so unacceptable. Has someone told the Union about this?
-AFreePress_IsTheOnlyPress

This is the best possible decision anyone could have made. I'm so glad someone had the common sense to think of the children. The material printed in Felix was not fit for anyone under the age of 18, and it was extremely irresponsible of the Editor to run the story without considering the consequences.
-JustCommonSense

Is it coming back after the Festival?
-Concerned_Felix_Reader

W8 guiz duz dis meen Felix iz cancelled 4eva? Dats not veree cheeky lol
(throw hand sign)
-xxxILYKFELIXxxx

We shouldn't fight the power. This isn't censorship, it's just displaying common sense. Get over yourselves and move on.
-Diego_UnionOverlord

BELLO. Thought they loved a bit of Hangman.
-Do_you_fancy_a_bit_of_D(PW)

HAHAHAHAHA FUCK YOU FELIX
-TotallyNot_The_Tab

Great stuff guys! - Felix Editor

HANGMAN



News in Brief: Hangman would like to announce his resignation from *Felix*, as he takes up a new post at The Tab

hangman@imperial.ac.uk

Diary of a Fresher, aged 19 0/4

Sunday 8th May

I've given up on revision, it just all seems a bit pointless. I've just started surfing on there, it turns out. [REDACTED] looking at those kind of websites. I usually get going it gets really addictive. I found one site where you can pay to get the [REDACTED] waiting for my student loan to come in, so I don't have enough money for it at the moment.

Monday 9th May

My student loan for this term came in! Finally. Now I must have enough money to pay for access to the [REDACTED] if you pay a little more you can get into the really good bits, which have a ton of real [REDACTED] good. I can't get enough of it right now.

Am I addicted?

Tuesday 10th May

I'm definitely addicted. [REDACTED] I saw a news story in Felix about [REDACTED] at some really dodgy [REDACTED], and it sounds like some of the pictures that I had to pay for may have been dodgy [REDACTED].

Wednesday

[REDACTED] I heard that the Police are going to come through my door. I really hope I'm just paranoid.

THE POLICE [REDACTED]

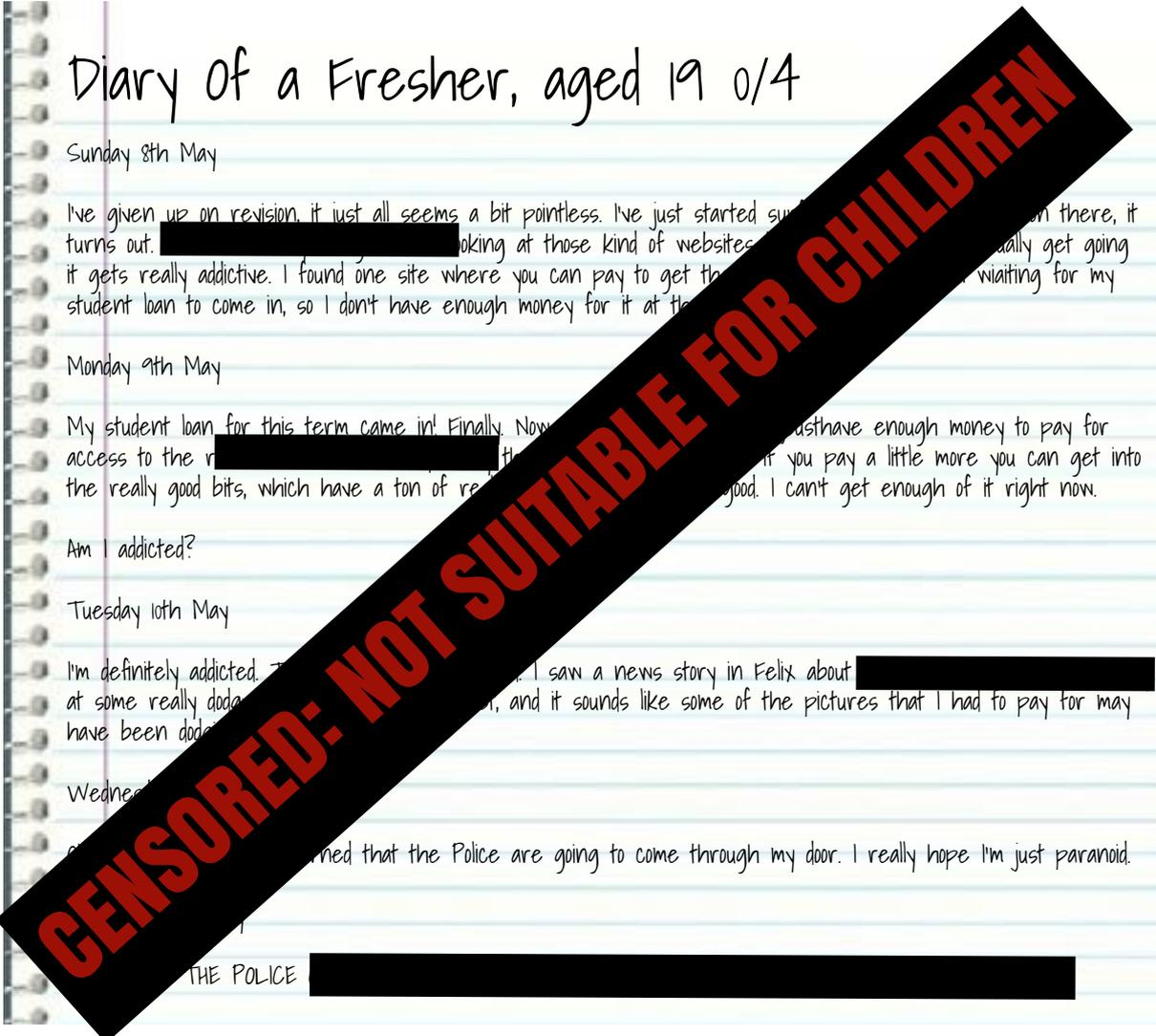
NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS



Predators spotted at Imperial Festival



Hangman "needs to calm down"

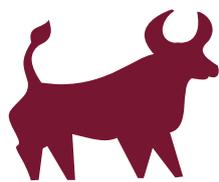


HOROSCOPES



ARIES

This week you are the CGCU President. You decide to climb the statue of Prince Albert outside the RAH while off your face, but mid-climb you slip, fall, and break most of your important bones. You demand a horoscope as reward for your stupidity. Well done. We're judging you.



TAURUS

This week you are still in shock and gutted over the most recent election result as you are such a lefty, you'd probably bang Tony Blair. As a result, you launch a revolution against South Kensington by painting yourself red; unfortunately there was lead in the paint and you are hospitalized. No NHS for lefties though.



GEMINI

This week you decide to go for a cheeky Nandos after perusing through your local JD sports, planning to get fucking mashed at the local 'Spoons afterwards; however you, being a fucking ledge, go for the extra hot option. This unfortunately causes your tongue to peel off. Peak times.



CANCER

This week in a shock decision, Chris Kaye is elected as leader of UKIP, meaning he unfortunately has to resign as Deputy President (Finance). His first act is deporting all non-fresh pizza bases back to Iceland due to a misunderstanding and he is forced to return to Imperial.



LEO

This week due to the increased stress from your exams you decide to go to a petting zoo to alleviate some stress; however you accidentally pet a puppy a bit too hard and kill it. You sneak it out in your jacket potato container from the library and try to forget about everything.



VIRGO

This week due to the toilets in your halls being clogged up, you are forced to defecate in a bucket whilst trying to maximise your revision time. After it has festered for a few weeks you then give it to the Tate Modern where it wins several Pulitzer prizes.



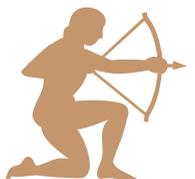
LIBRA

This week you are reminded just how infertile you are by Lord Professor Sir Dr Robert Winston, causing you to have a midlife crisis at 23. Perhaps you should freeze some eggs, find a life partner, or even buy a cat? You instead decide to carry on doing BuzzFeed quizzes to find out which West Wing character you are.



SCORPIO

This week you are still embittered by the fact that you bought 50 Dip Dabs, angry that the money didn't go somewhere more useful. you actually hate the taste of them now - like the idea of consuming another one makes you physically sick. Honestly, if you want one just ask. I don't. Fuck Dip Dabs.



SAGITTARIUS

This week, you are Hangman again. You've managed to get your job back by insisting you don't even know what a "standard" is, let alone how to have them, but your horoscopes writer submits another dodgy one and you censor it. The Editor has you shot to prevent further problems.



CAPRICORN

This week your friend asks you how sexually frustrated you are as a consequence of your most recent horoscopes. You then proceed to look far into the distance whilst "The Sound of Silence" by Simon and Garfunkel plays in your head for a couple of minutes.



AQUARIUS

This week, joyed by the election of the Tories and the subsequent legalization of fox hunting you decide to lead a brigade of your chums across Hyde Park; however you are out a little too late and you have to boost your horse over the fence because the peasants locked the gates.



PISCES

This week you are the horoscopes writer. Embittered by Hangman's censorship of one of your horoscopes last week, you try and sneak a jab at editorial censorship into this week's horoscopes. You think Hangman won't notice.

You are wrong.

Blue News

The weekly newsletter of the Faculty Building

Provost Post of the Week

Every week, a member of our esteemed Provost board shares their thoughts with our collaborative, cohesive community. This week, we welcome back Al Pologies, Vice Provost (Arbitrary Excuses)!

Unfortunately, Al was too busy making plans for our upcoming All-Staff Party to celebrate Imperial Festival, so he wasn't able to write his column this week either.

We'll get hold of him one day, I promise!

In place of Al's column this week, we've invited Emma Perial, Vice Provost (Marketing) to give us a few words about Imperial Festival!

Hi everyone, Em here!

I just wanted to say a massive thanks to everyone who helped out at Imperial Festival, anyone who came along over the weekend, and all of you who sent us positive thoughts and encouragement throughout the stressful preparation time.

I'm so delighted at how successful the Festival turned out to be – there were happy, smiling children all over the campus at the weekend, and it was wonderful seeing the joy and enthusiasm for science on their little faces.

There were adults around too – obviously, haha! – and it was just as brilliant seeing those of us with a few more years experience still learning something new.

Imperial's cutting-edge research gives us an enormous edge, and it was a privilege to be able to lead the charge of showing all of our work to the masses.

To borrow a famous phrase, I think our mission statement could be summed up as:

"Give me your young, your old, your huddled masses yearning to learn more about world-leading science."

And with great delight, I feel confident in saying we succeeded. Imperial Festival was an impossibly vast success, from our brilliant marketing campaign to the Festival itself.

Thank you again, one and all – until next year!

Hello all,

Welcome, welcome, welcome to this week's Blue News! After the resounding success of Imperial Festival, it's a week of celebration here in the Faculty Building!

We've got all sorts of events planned, but I'm most excited for this week's All-Staff Briefing Party, which is an excellent excuse for everyone to let their hair down after a hard week's celebration.

As part of the celebrations, I went for a jubilatory meal with Emma Perial, the Vice Provost (Marketing), and we paid a visit to the rather delightful Nando's restaurant on Gloucester Road! As a newcomer to the world of Nando's, I have to admit I was a little confused by Em's referring to our lunchtime trip as "taking the Pres for a cheeky Nando's".

When I asked her what was so "cheeky" about our outing, she had to explain to me what was going on. A bit of internet research later, and I must confess I'm still slightly confused by you "cheeky" Brits! Just an entertaining anecdote to liven up your day!

Finally, I think it's worth addressing quite possibly the only issue to have come up at Imperial Festival: the noisy complaints from the student "newspaper" (their words, not ours) that we removed their bins.

Firstly: I don't quite understand their complaints, as no garbage receptacles were moved anywhere over the weekend. Secondly, I wish to reiterate our support for student media in all its forms (and regardless of quality). Imperial's status as a world-leading institution is confirmed by our highly active body of students, and their engagements with a wide variety of hobbies outside of their degrees. We firmly believe in ensuring that our students get value for money leave this university feeling like fully-rounded human beings with a wide skill-set.

Besides, would we publish Blue News here if we didn't think a student "newspaper" (again, their words) was worthwhile? Of course not. We'd have to pay for it, for a start!

Have a productive, cohesive, collaborative and happy day!



Alice Gast: Thought of the Week

"I'm delighted to see that Imperial Festival was such a success this weekend. A truly collaborative effort, this showed the depth and breadth of the wonderful work staff are doing at this world-leading institution. It was a genuine treat to see so many staff members collaborating to bring science to the masses, as well as removing that bloody rag Felix from the campus. Good riddance."

What is going on inside the Blue Cube this week

This week's staff events are all Festival-themed, so make sure to keep your delightful Festival t-shirts to hand!

Advice On: Exercise

Our "Advice on" series continues with this session on keeping fit and active, and discovering the joys of a good exercise regime!

Whether it's running away from pesky student "journalists" (their words) asking irritating questions, or making the daily trip along the Sherfield Walkway while dodging the unwashed masses (a true obstacle course), exercise is a vital part of life in the Faculty Building, so come along and get ahead of the game!

International Diplomacy Course

On Wednesday at 1pm, we're having a debrief session on Imperial Festival, to discuss what went well, and what went even better!

We'll be talking through the big highlights from the Festival, as well as making plans for next year's Festival. There are rumours of doing two in one year – how exciting!

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

All-Staff Briefing Cancelled

Our weekly staff briefing has been cancelled by the Vice Provost (Arbitrary Excuses) and replaced with an All-Staff Party on Friday night from 7pm.

Join us in the Board Room to raise a glass (or three!) to the success of Imperial Festival, and party the night away with our usual glorious view over Dalby Court.

We'll be providing a bar, and we're putting a tab behind it to help express our thanks to all of you who helped make the Festival a success. Thanks go to the lovely boys in Finance for finding the funds "down the back of the sofa" for this party – how they do it, we'll never know!

What is going on outside the Blue Cube this week

With Imperial Festival now over, the marquee is coming off Queen's Lawn, the tents are coming down, and life is slowly turning back to normal.

Nothing else of any interest whatsoever is taking place.

Clubs and Societies

felix.clubsandsocieties@imperial.ac.uk

C & S Editor || Ben Howitt

It's not all about rape and murder

Alex Beaghton on the Law Society's intersectional discussion this May

It's almost the end of the academic year. Have you thought about what you are doing in the future? Knowing which career to pursue can be daunting for many students, but did you know that graduating with a STEM or business degree sets you up for a wide range of careers beyond scientific research or finance?

The Imperial College Law Society is proud to present a careers event on 21st May, open to all students at College. The event is designed to answer all those burning questions you've been thinking about as you consider your future career and employment. It has been planned as an interactive panel discussion, in which three leading legal professionals will talk about the routes they took to get into the profession, discuss what life is like as a lawyer or patent attorney at a big pharmaceutical company or law firms, and answer any questions that you might have.

We are being joined by Dawn Goff, a patent attorney at GlaxoSmithKline, Funke Abimbola, an in-house lawyer at Roche, and Saufung Ma, a lawyer at UK law firm Taylor Wessing. These three lawyers represent three major forms of legal expertise in science and industry.

Saufung is a senior associate in Taylor Wessing's Intellectual Property department. He works on both contentious and non-contentious intellectual property matters, including patent litigation and trade mark prosecutions. Saufung spent six months in Taylor Wessing's Cambridge office where

he assisted with a number of venture capital, inward investment and acquisition projects, particularly in relation to technology-rich businesses. Saufung has a degree in Biochemistry from Oxford University, a PhD in Molecular Biology and Medicine from Imperial College and was awarded a distinction from BPP Law School. Saufung is a member of Taylor Wessing's pro bono committee. He speaks fluent Cantonese.

Dawn Goff is a patent attorney at GlaxoSmithKline, working in highly interesting areas such as anti-counterfeiting. All patent attorneys need a scientific or technical background, making STEM students at Imperial College very suitable candidates. A patent attorney must have the ability to acquire, and enjoy exercising, legal skills of drafting, analysis and logical thought, and, particularly the skill to use the English language aptly and accurately, in written work. Patent attorneys act at an exciting interface between disciplines of law, language and science.

Funke Amimbola is Managing Counsel (UK & Ireland) for Roche, leading the legal team that supports Roche's pharmaceutical operations in the UK, Ireland, Malta and Gibraltar. A recognised legal expert working within the life sciences sector, Funke is also a notable diversity champion within the UK legal industry and has received multiple awards and other recognition for both her legal work and her diversity work. She speaks regularly at legal and



Funke Amimbola leads the legal team that supports Roche's UK pharmaceutical operations

diversity conferences both in the UK and abroad. As a working mother, Funke juggles the demands of her career with home life and regularly supports working mothers on how best to achieve the elusive work/life balance. She is passionate about the law, diversity, education and the healthcare sector. In addition, she is an expert mentor and regular fundraiser for charities including Cancer Research UK.

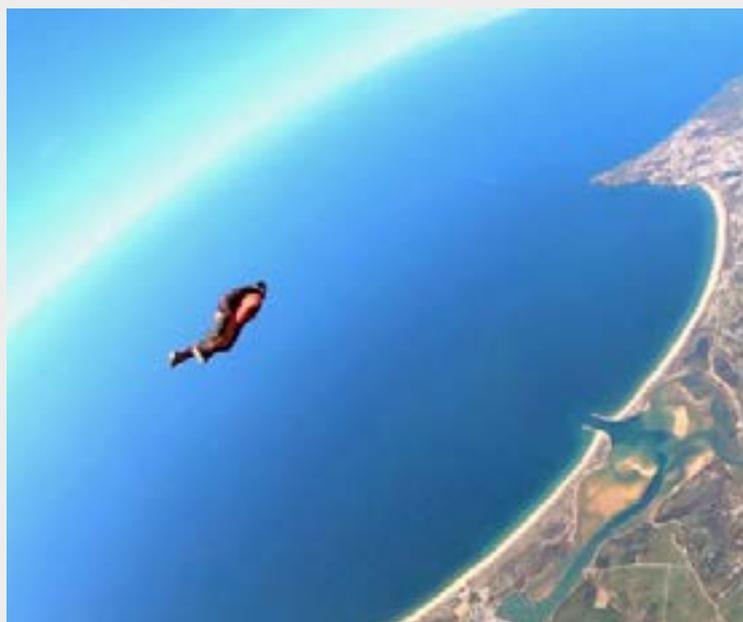
This event gives Imperial students

a useful opportunity to speak to someone with a similar background to theirs and who was once in the same position as they are now. The discussion itself is intended to explore the intersections between the legal industry and other industries such as finance or biotechnology. Students interested in a career in business, law or science will have the opportunity to gain extremely useful information, including how to develop their commercial awareness. The panel

interview has been designed to answer whatever questions the audience may have, whether relating to science, industry or commerce, which means that you do not need to be interested in a career in law to be interested in this event!

If you're interested in attending the event, all you need to do is email lawsoc@imperial.ac.uk with your name and course.

The talk is to be held in G34 (SAF building), and will start at 13:00.



I. Am. Envy. Photo: IC Skydiving

Ladz on tour in record numbers

At Imperial probably one of my favourite things that we get to support Clubs, Societies and Projects with is tours. If I mention it to anyone at other Students' Unions they can't believe that we not only support students going on tour but also fund it. Though I guess that in a lot of other places 'tour' is often more synonymous with 'drinking tour' rather than "we're going to go do our club activity somewhere new that lets us experience it in a different, exciting way".

All of our funding for tours comes from the ICTrust, and as part of this we have to send them a report of how we've spent the money. To do this I request tour reports from any society that we've funded, and compile them all together. Getting to read these tour reports is, to be honest, really freaking cool. I love hearing about what you guys have been up to and the pictures almost always fill me with a huge amount of envy—literally, get skydiving to send you some photos if you've ever wanted to feel like you've missed out on an incredible trip. I've

got a fear of heights but there's now nothing I've ever wanted to try so much!

We've already had an incredible number of tour applications from clubs this year, and [rather surprisingly!] still been able to support a huge number of them. Skydiving went out to Portugal, Cycling popped over to the French Alps, and Cheerleading took the entire society to a National competition, bringing home one first and two third places—and that was just over the Spring Break!

We're right in the middle of sorting out budgets with clubs for the summer tours and it's looking like there is going to be another great batch during the summer holiday. If you're a student on the edge of deciding on whether to go on tour with your club this summer I'd definitely recommend it!

ABI DE BRUIN
DEPUTY PRESIDENT (CLUBS AND SOCIETIES)

Clubs and Societies

felix.clubsandsocieties@imperial.ac.uk

C & S Editor || Ben Howitt

Touch down in The Algarve

José Videira dives straight into IC Skydiving's week long Spring Tour to Portugal

A skydiver's greatest enemy, especially in the UK, is inclement weather. So for the first ever international tour of IC Skydiving we followed the sun to Skydive Algarve in Portugal, which like our own club has recently expanded to new levels of successful operation with the acquirement of a new plane and procurement of a new team of world expert instructors and dropzone managers.

The dropzone was nice enough to even provide us with discount rates for both beginner AFF (Accelerated FreeFall) courses (300€ off a 1800€ course) and individual jumps (28€ instead of 30€) for our licensed members.

Of course, while the main intention of the trip was to improve our skydiving skills and get

people progressing through their qualifications, we started the trip with a day of sightseeing in Lisbon to get our bearings and get to know each other, apart from novice member Hassan starting off a trip tradition of wandering off and disappearing at crucial moments.

However, once he'd gone on treks for swimming shorts, socks and chewing gum, we headed south to the dropzone. It was jump after jump for every member, and most nights ended with exhausted skydivers passing out by the house pool after dinner. Trip officer José even managed to miss his birthday – too busy jumping!

Along with a regular core of club jumpers, we were accompanied by a small number of guests of the club – namely, two alumni who could

provide assistance and training, for no cost, in things like formation skydiving and license progression, and four members of our allied skydiving club at the University of London, including their current and future presidents, solidifying our growing partnership.

We were all super sad to say goodbye to the dropzone and all the skydivers. We could have been sadder though, as we'd had beautiful weather almost all week and the forecast for the following week was atrocious. So the schadenfreude kept us all a bit happier.

By the conclusion of the trip, 5 people had earned their A license, everyone had rapidly growing jump numbers by everyone and we had participated in the first official team training jump in Imperial history!

Arrival in Lisbon

We landed in Lisbon at lunchtime, before checking-in to a hostel in the "nightlife" district. Guided by locals, we had a traditional Portuguese meal followed by a night on the town, where everyone properly got to know each other and formed a convivial spirit that would be carried forwards through the rest of the trip. After a late breakfast of the world-famous Portuguese pastry, Pastéis de Nata, we drove 4 hours south in convoy, to move in to our shared villa in the Algarve, only 15 minutes' drive from the dropzone.

José enforced a tour playlist of garage and dubstep music in his car, and Lucy Marriott went from detesting the genres at the beginning of the trip, to aggressively demanding them after a couple of days. Pippa countered by playing rock and metal in her car, while Isaac's car had Tchaikovsky and Debussy.

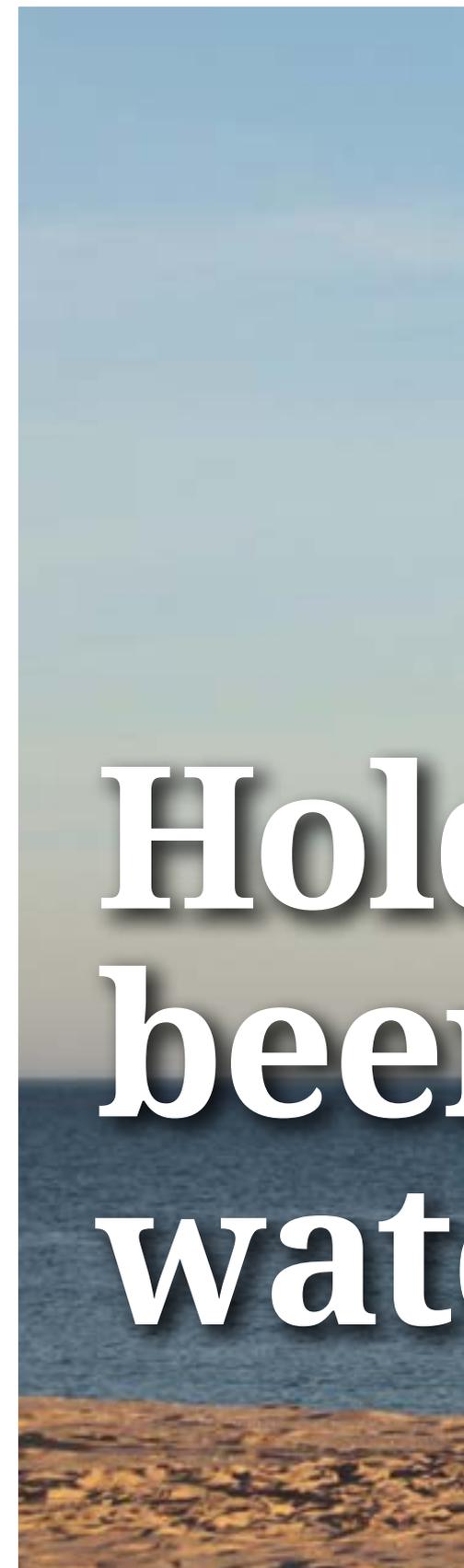
The group was pressed for time to finish breakfast and get to the airport to collect the hire cars when we realised that Hassan had wandered off to find swimming shorts. He ended up buying socks. Later, at the airport, he disappeared again to find gum, starting a tradition that would continue throughout the trip.

In the Algarve, after the boring but necessary registration process, and with the day's jumping finished before we could get there, a barbeque feast was provided by the group's more culinary members, followed by an early night, ready for a week of non-stop skydiving.

Hitting the dropzone

The five student skydivers spent the first day doing their intensive ground school training, while some of the experienced members got a taste of the incredible things the dropzone had to offer by landing on the beach, at sunset!

Many milestones were reached on the second day, with Jonny successfully completing his formation rating, the first team jump ever in Imperial College Skydiving's history was completed with great



GoPros abound as José and some friends take

success. Additionally, Isaac reached the milestone of 100 jumps, which was celebrated in fitting style with what can only be described as aerial chaos (involving a Power Rangers morphsuit, a potato and a "hotdog-in-a-blender" configuration).

After Hassan had popped off for breakfast, our AFF students were going to get their morning refresher briefing, before doing their first jump! All of our beginners got 3 jumps in this day! Day two was also trip officer José's birthday! He forgot all about it though, as he was too busy jumping (we reminded him later on in the bar).



IC Skydiving's first 4way team jump. Photo: IC Skydiving

Clubs and Societies

felix.clubsandsocieties@imperial.ac.uk

C & S Editor || Ben Howitt

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The week in numbers

José

45 jumps. Hit 300 jumps in total. First beach landing! First time leading tracking and wingsuit groups.

Jonny

12 jumps in 3 days. FS1 formation qualification in 5 jumps (average is 10)!

Isaac

17 jumps in 3 days. Hit 100 jumps in total.

Iulian

Achieved his A-licence with the minimum requirement of 18 jumps!

Hassan

Achieved his A-licence with the minimum requirement of 18 jumps!

Lucy

16 jumps. Went solo, only 2 jumps away from A-licence!

Nicole

8 jumps, reached solo standard! 10 jumps away from A-licence.

Pippa

45 jumps. Hit 100 jumps in total.

Charlie

35 jumps. First beach landing!

IC Skydiving 4way team

First ever jump together!
Managed 9 points.

a much needed break. Photo: José Estiveira

Rain, showers and fruit theft

Wednesday saw continued progression by everyone, particularly from the students, with Hassan and Iulian successfully reaching fully-solo standard, with the minimum requirement of 7 jumps.

Three members departed the group on the fourth day to return home. Back at the dropzone, a passing front meant unfavourable weather for beginners after the morning, which slowed progress for the students. The remaining experienced skydivers managed to get a few jumps in between showers. Later on in the day, both Lucys completed level

7 and went solo standard! Hassan wandered into Alvor town and found a fruit he hadn't seen since he was in Jordan around this time last year, and brought some back to the dropzone to show us. He told us he had "borrowed" them from a Portuguese farmer. Pippa hit 100 jumps, and Isaac liked Lisbon so much he missed his flight. Oops.

Solo Jumping

By Friday, all of the novices were onto jumping solo, which meant no more waiting around for available instructors. This put them at a stage that allowed them to jump in

any dropzone around the world! Nicole decided that landing on the designated landing area was too mainstream (high winds forced her to drift off) and so landed (safely!) a couple of miles away, on the other side of the river next to the dropzone. Friday was the main social night of tour – we went to the skydivers' local haunt, which that night was overwhelmed by hordes of skydivers, and had a great time.

Once we'd all pulled ourselves out of crippling hangovers the next day, we go straight back to jumping (with a few members taking it a bit slower than others). José and Pippa were on the first jump of the day at 09:00

sharp and smashed through 8 jumps each. Iulian and Hassan completed their 10 consolidation jumps and achieved A-licence status, making them officially qualified skydivers!

Members got a couple more jumps in on the last day before having to leave in the afternoon for Lisbon. We slept over at the airport as we had a stupidly early flight in to London. Hassan took the opportunity for one last wander around when everyone else was asleep.

IC Skydiving were the only university society at the skydive event (otherwise known as a boogie) in the Algarve, and our attendance there

secured international recognition in the skydive community, as well as creating a fantastic bond with the dropzone to ensure a continuous partnership for the future. We also earned a reputation for giving cured ham to the masses, thanks to Pippa buying a whole leg of ham and bringing it to the dropzone, feeding everyone around her. You have to look no further than the constant Facebook updates the dropzone were publishing to the wider world on our students and their progression, to see how much they liked us! We will be returning there every year with guaranteed discounts for our members!



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