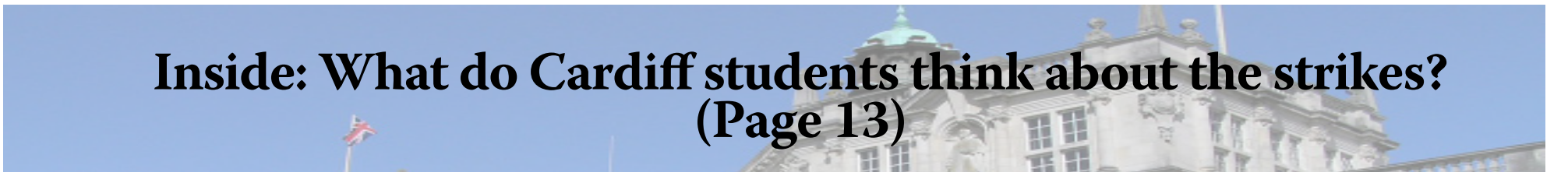
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20 Chwefror 2023 | 20 February 2023 | Rhifyn 1189 | Issue 1189



Inside: What do Cardiff students think about the strikes? (Page 13)

Earthquakes cause devastation in Turkey and Syria

George Gourlay
Politics Editor

Ongoing rescue efforts to locate survivors trapped under the rubbled remains of cities in Turkey and Syria are reaching exhaustion after days of searching following two earthquakes that have so far claimed the lives of over 25,000 people.

The quakes struck in the early hours of Monday, 6th February, along the East Anatolian fault near to the city of Gaziantep in Turkey. The first shock registered at 7.8 magnitude, followed by an aftershock of 7.6 magnitude just hours later. The temblors ripped across 31 miles in Southern Turkey and Northern Syria, extending to Syria's second largest city Aleppo. More than 40 aftershocks have been felt since the initial quake with tremors being felt as far as Cyprus, Egypt and Lebanon.

The impact has been severe with the death toll exceeding 21,000 in Turkey, 3,500 in Syria. 80,000 are currently being treated in hospital while millions (1.05m for Turkey, 5.3m for Syria) have been left homeless.

Rescuers have been undeterred in their efforts to retrieve survivors since Monday with the dramatic scenes even being broadcast on Turkish television, providing much needed hope to the anxious population.

However, as the hours since the initial tremors continue to tick along, the chances of survival for those still entombed in the ruins are becoming slimmer. Experts say that barely 6% of earthquake victims survive if they have not been rescued within 5 days. This is in contrast to 74% after 24 hours. Victims and rescuers have also been competing with freezing weather conditions as a winter blizzard has covered major roads in snow and ice.

In Syria, the situation is exacerbated by the longstanding civil war that has hampered international rescue teams' access to those requiring aid. Stéphane Dujarric, spokesperson for UN Secretary General, António Guterres, explained to the BBC that it is "hard to imagine a more complex emergency" in Syria.

Dujarric elaborates: "You're dealing with a country that has been in conflict for 12 years, where already before this humanitarian emergency there was a long-standing humanitarian crisis with more than four million people needing aid."

Aid to both Turkey and Syria has been arriving arduously to address the estimated 870,000 people who urgently need food and shelter. However it remains to be seen how the discrepancy in international favour between the two countries will translate into how much aid each receives as Syria remains under onerous Western sanctions. In an uncharacteristic move, the Syrian government, who have been internationally isolated for more than a decade, approved the delivery of humanitarian aid in cooperation with the UN, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent.

The World Bank has pledged $1.78bn in aid to Turkey and The United States has offered an $85m (£70.6m) support package for those in need.

Turkey's President Erdogan, calling the earthquake the "disaster of the century", has vowed to take "every necessary step", including the declaration of a state of emergency in ten provinces for three months.

However, criticism towards President Erdogan is also emerging over the government's initial response and the lack of preparation for the catastrophe. The public has started to express frustration over shortcomings in the relief response, in particular around the state's failure to coordinate with local authorities and relief agencies.

To read George's full article on the imapct of the earthquakes , turn to page 6

6



Wales lost in their first game to Ireland at the Principality Stadium, Image: Magnus Hagdorn (via Flickr)

Wales face major disappointment in Six Nations

Jess Margetson
Contributor

Under the roof of the Principality with the deafening roar of the Welsh crowd and Gatland back in charge, Welsh fans were in high spirits.

Unfortunately for Wales, their Six Nations got off to the worst possible start when they were beaten 34-10 by Ireland in Cardiff last Saturday. The opening stages were devastating for Wales as Ireland sealed their win within the first 25 minutes of the game. Reflecting on the match, Warren Gatland said his team "created a number of chances in the game and just weren't clinical enough to finish them."

Ireland had a great start scoring a try within the first 3 minutes, setting the tone for the rest of the match. Ireland's speed and recycling of the ball made it difficult for Wales to gain control, it was imperative for Gatland's Welsh side to slow the game down. Ireland's James Ryan secured the second try of the afternoon demonstrating excellent efficiency from the visiting side.

To read Jess' article on the Six Nations opening weekend, turn to page 23

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Zelensky vistis UK

Francesca Ionescu
Politics Editor

Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelensky, has visited the UK for the first time since the beginning of the Russian conflict, the invasion starting almost a year ago . The visit was not anticipated, and consisted of meetings inside Downing Street and a public address to MPs and peers. - a press conference with the Ukrainian leader and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and signing of the London Declaration.

To read Francesca's article on the Ukrainian President's visit, turn to page 10

10

Dathlu Dydd Miwsig Cymru

Nansi Eccott
Pennaeth Taf-od

Dros yr wythnosau nesaf bydd miloedd o Gymry ar hyd a lled y wlad yn bloeddio canu un o ganeuon enwocaf y wlad wrth i'n tîm rygbi gamu ar y cae ym Mhencampwriaeth y Chwe Gwlad. Er mai 'Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau' oedd un o'r caneuon cyfrwng Cymraeg cyntaf i'w recordio ym 1899, erbyn hyn mae gennym ni gyfoeth o ganeuon ac artistiaid Cymraeg yng Nghymru, a phwysig yw eu dathlu nhw.

I ddarllen erthygl Nansi am y newidiadau, trowch i dudalen 12

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Are concerts too expensive?

Evan Johnson-Charteris
Comment Editor

In the past few weeks Cardiff has been blessed with a number of world famous acts all announcing that they will soon be coming to perform in the capital. When one checks the TicketMaster website, the list of blockbuster names coming to Cardiff is astonishing; from the 'first lady of music' Beyonce to The Streets to recent Grammy award sweeping artist Harry Styles to countless more

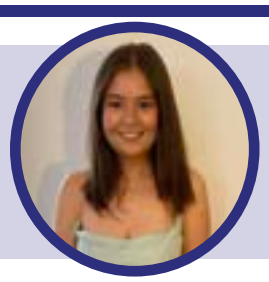
To read Evan's article on concert price controversy, turn to page 16

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A note from the Editor
Nodyn gan y Golygydd



LGBTQ+ History Month

Mis Hanes LHDTC+



'Behind the Lens':.LGBTQ+ History Month 2023 aims to raise awareness of the community's contiribution to film and TV . Image: PNNL (via Flickr)

'Tu ol i'r lens': Mae Mis Hanes LHDTC+ eleni'n ceisio codi ymwybyddiaeth i gyfraniad y gymuned i'r diwydiant teledu a ffilm. Llun: PNNL (via Flickr)

Beth Williams
Editor-in-Chief

As February draws to a close, so does LGBTQ+ history month, an initiative that attempts to reverse a previous anti-gay education law.

As part of the Local Government Act 1988, Section 28 diminish the representation of LGBTQ+ within education and ban teaching that 'intentionallypromote[d] homosexuality'.20 years after its repeal, School's OUT's movement is making strides in trying to reform the wayLGBTQ+ history and contribution are taught, shining a light on their underrepresented work.

This year's theme is 'Behind the lens' and aims to celebrate the contribution of LGBTQ+ individuals within the film and TV industry. Have attitudes towards the LGBTQ+ community really changed?

In 2022, transgender hate crimes rose by 56% within a year, while hate crimes targeting individuals'sexual orientations rose by 42%. Seen when, earlier this month, 16-year-old Brianna Ghey was killed in an alleged 'targeted attack'. 2023'S LGBTQ history month also marks a year since three peoplewere convicted of murdering Dr. Gary Jenkins in a homophobic attack in Cardiff's Bute Park in July2021. With acts of violence a regular occurrence, it cannot be denied that measures need to be taken to secure the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals.

On February 7th, the Welsh Government launched its LGBTQ+ action plan which details how the government aims to advance equality and the inclusion of LGBTQ+ individuals.

Wales is said to envision itself as becoming the most LGBTQ-friendly nation in Europe and the plandetails the policy-specific actions, from housing and education to promoting community cohesion, to improve the quality of life for LGBTQ+ individuals.

The action plan is part of a commitment made in the Cooperation agreements between Welsh labour and Plaid Cymru. Plaid Cymru Leader Adam Price said: 'The plan is ambitious but with hope at its heart. We are committed to meaningful changefor LGBTQ+ communities, creating a society and country where LGBTQ+ people are safe to live and love authentically, openly, and freely as ourselves.'

More LGBTQ+ movements and events are being developed in Wales. Caerphilly will host its first-ever

Pride march to commemorate Pride Month in June. Mas ar y Maes, a Welsh-language movement that partners with the National Eisteddfod, is hoping to develop an Eisteddfod specifically for LBGT+ competitors. While these proactive actions and movements are steps in the right direction, will the LGBTQ+ community have to wait even longer to see these attitudes reflected in all aspects of society?

Beth Williams
Prif Olygydd

Fel daw Chwefror i ben, mae mis hanes LHDTC+ hefyd. Mae'r mis yn ceisio gwrthdroi effaith deddf roedd yn erbyn addysgu am y gymuned LHDTC+, Fel rhan o'r Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol, roedd Adran 28 yn lleihau'r gynrychiolaeth o'r grŵp o fewn lleoliadau addysgu, ac yn gwahardd dysgu sydd yn 'hybu cyfunrywiol yn fwriadol.'

20 mlynedd ar ôl i'r ddeddf gael ei ddiddymu, mae'r mudiad School's OUT yn ceisio gwrthdroi'r ffordd mae hanes LHDTC+ yn cael ei addysgu, yn uwcholeuo y gwaith sydd yn aml yn cael ei anghofio. Themâu blwyddyn yma yw 'Tu-ol I'r lens' ac yn bwriadu dathlu cyfraniad y gymuned LHDTC+ I'r diwydiant ffilm a theledu. Ond, yw agweddau tuag at y gymuned LHDTC+ wedi newid go iawn?

Yn 2022, roedd troseddau casineb yn erbyn pobl trawsryweddol wedi codi o 56% o'r flwyddyn flaenorol, gyda throseddau casineb yn targedu pobl ar sail rhywioldeb yn codi 42%. Ar gychwyn mis yma, llofryddwyd Brianna Ghey, 16 oed mewn ymosodiad sydd wedi ei honni i fod yn un targed. Mae mis yma hefyd yn nodi blwyddyn ers i dri unigolyn gael ei dedfrydu am ladd Dr Gary Jenkins mewn ymosodiad homoffobic ym Mharc Bute, Caerdydd. Gyda thrais yn weithred reolaidd, ni all gwadu fod mesuriadau angen ei gosod i warchod hawliau unigolion LHDTC+.

Ar Chwefror 7fed, lansiodd Llywodraeth Cymru eu cynllun gweithredu LHDTC+ a ddatgelai sur mae'r llywodraeth yn bwriadu cyflawni cydraddoldeb a chynhwysiad pobl LHDTC+.

Mae Cymru yn rhagweld ei hun fel bod y wlad decaf yn Ewrop I'r gymuned LHDTC+, gyda'r cynllun efo manylion an weithredoedd polisi, o bolisïau tai ac addysg i hybu cydlyniad cymunedol, er mwyn gwella ansawdd bywyd unigolion LHDTC+.

Mae'r cynllun yn rhan o ymrwymiad gafodd ei wneud yn y cytundebau cyd-weithredu rhwng Llafur Cymru a Phlaid Cymru. Dywedai arweinydd Plaid Cymru Adam Price: Mae'r cynllun yn uchelgeisiol ond efo gobaith yn ei wraidd. Rydym yn hollol ymroddedig i newid ystyrlon i gymunedau LHDTC+, yn creu cymdeithas a gwlad ble mae pobl yn teimlo'n ddiogel i fyw a charu'n ddilys, yn agored, ac yn rhydd fel ein hunain.'

Mae mwy o digwyddiadau ac symudiadau LHDTC+ yn cael ei datblygu yng Nghymru. Bydd Caerffili yn cynal ei orymdaith 'Pride' gyntaf yn mis Mehefin i nodi mis 'Pride'. Mae Mas ar y Maes, symudiad iaith- Cymraeg sydd yn partner gyda'r Eisteddfod Genedlaethol, yn gobeithio datblygu Eisteddfod ar gyfer ymgeiswyr LHDTC+ yn unig. Tra mae rhain yn weithredoedd cadarnhaol ac yn camau I'r cyfeirad cywir, bydd y gymuned LHDTC+ yn gorfod disgwyl hyd yn oed yn hirach I weld y yr agweddau yma ar draws holl elfenau o gymdeithas?

Feature: Can students combat climate change?

Ruhaab Khalid invesitagtes what students are doing to combat climate change

Ruhaab Khalid
Features Editor

Increasing temperatures and changing weather patterns and the continued usage of fossil fuels are only some of the factors that mhas led to humanity facing its greatest challange yet; climate change

Scientists say that we have untill 2030 before the effects of climate change will become non-reversable. In a series of UN reports, scientists and governments have agreed that limiting global temperature rises to 1.5 degrees will help avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Yet, the policies in place currently predict that the actual rise of temperature will be 2.8 degrees by the end of the century.

The climate crisis continues to be a topic of worry amongst young people, with over 70% of young people said to be worried or very worried about climate change.

With activists such as Greta Thunberg, young people are leading the charge against the climate crisis, urging actions from governments and industry.



Climate Anxiety : Source: Flickr (via RawPixel)

FEATURES



Ruhaab Khalid



Grace Robson

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Source: NEC Corporation of America (via Flickr)

The Importance of Climate Literacy

Article 6 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) "seeks to reduce the impact of climate change by enabling society to be part of the solution". This article imposes a responsibility on countries to establish educational programs and campaigns aimed at educating the younger generation about the severe consequences of rapid climate change. This concept of 'climate literacy' should range from primary schools to universities.

The significance of climate literacy cannot be overstated. Education is the key to combating climate change as it not only raises awareness but also inspires young people to adopt new attitudes which can lead to well-informed and environmentally conscious decisions. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has established the Climate Change Education for Sustainable Development program to increase climate literacy and alert the public to the risks posed by global warming. This program has been expanded to include several educational initiatives, including the Action for Climate Empowerment and the Global Action Programme (GAP).

The future-focused outlook of the youth makes them the perfect champions of climate literacy in educational institutions. This is why educational institutions must adapt and respond to this global crisis.

70%
of young people are worried or very worried about climate

1 million
species are at risk of extinction because of climate change

40.3
degrees is the highest temperature ever recorded in the UK



One student proposed a ban on single-use plastic across campus-
Source: Radulf del Maresme (Wikimedia commons)

What solutions do students want?

Students in the UK have noted that their institutions are working towards carbon neutrality and achieving net zero emissions, as mandated by the government. However, they feel that more needs to be done than simply public awareness campaigns.

One student said: "We should move forward from acknowledging the global threat, practical steps should be taken to maximise public participation".

When asked about the role of climate literacy in combating climate change, a student responded, "education is hope, it empowers everyone".

Some students proposed solutions such as a complete campus ban on single-use plastics. Gabby said, "the university should disassociate itself from any company that contributes negatively to climate change".

Jibran recommended "introducing financial penalties for students who fail to adhere to the university's climate change policy or initiating environmental education as a separate module of equal importance in the curriculum to promote climate literacy".

Aban shared his contributions, "I have reduced the number of flights I used to take annually. I think every step counts, students can take small steps and give our best in our capacity. We need to feel a personal connection".

Another student said, "we need to come together, think as a community, recognise our responsibility and actively participate to mitigate this global challenge".

Students who have recognised the significant impact of education on climate change are advocating for action to be taken to tackle climate change as a global threat.

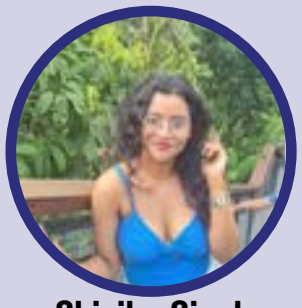
In conclusion, educational institutions have a crucial role to play in the fight against climate change. Educational institutions need to step up their efforts to combat this global crisis. Climate literacy must be given due importance. It helps the younger generation to be equipped with the knowledge and understanding necessary to make informed and sustainable decisions. By elevating the importance of this education and making it a central part of the curriculum, we can inspire hope and create a future that is cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable for all. The time for action is now, and it is imperative that educational institutions work together in a systematic and collaborative manner to tackle this pressing global crisis.

With determination, foresight, and education, we can secure a better tomorrow for generations to come.

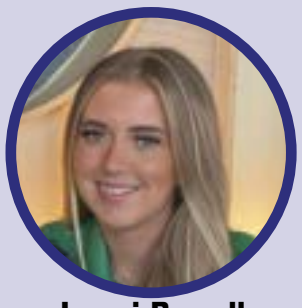
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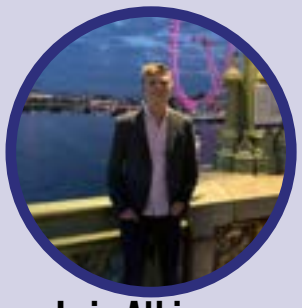
George Symonds



Shivika Singh



Lowri Powell



Luis Atkinson



Beca Dallis

ELSEWHERE IN NEWS

- Two teens have been charged with the murder of 16 year-old Brianna Ghey

- The teenager was fatally stabbed in an allaged 'targeted attack' on 11th February

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Students to receive a rise in maintenance loans

George Symonds details the ongoing 'Cost of Living Crisis'

George Symonds
Head of News

Now we are comfortably within 2023, the 'Cost of Living Crisis' which had dominated Britain's news in 2022 has seemingly been pushed to the side however, many people are still suffering the consequences of raised energy, food and home costs.

The money-saving expert and graduate of Cardiff University, Martin Lewis, has personally written to the chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, to "urgently consider postponing the 20% increase on the energy price guarantee scheduled for April." Lewis argues that this significant increase will have a detrimental effect on "people's pockets and mental health.

The number of fuel poor households will rise drastically from the already shocking 6.7 million to 8.4 million from April approaching double the 4.5 million households in this position in October 2021". Lewis is yet to receive a reply from Hunt.

In order to combat raising gas prices one family in Hull had all their radiators removed and had instead installed electric infrared wallpaper to stay warm during the cold Spring months. Thin, metallic sheets made by Ihelios are hidden behind the plaster of his walls, which are connected to the mains electricity of his house. These sheets emit heat by infrared waves.

Instead of using costly gas, the sheets use little electricity and had reduced the bills of Bilski residency significantly. Another way of monitoring gas and electric bills was by installing a smart metre, but many have found the metre a burden. The BBC interviewed Karen Alexandra who claimed that the constant checking of her smart metre had left her "anxious about her finances and feeling out of control". The smart metre nicknamed 'Demon on your shoulder' had to be turned against the wall and even hidden within her house to avoid her 'smart metre anxiety'.

However, the rollout of the smart metre by the government was meant to help members of the public have a direct viewing of their energy consumption and consequent bills. More than half of all households in the UK now have a smart metre.

The government has spent billions on their roll out, and for many households they are a useful tool. BBC Morning Live's Dr Ranj said: "Anxiety can be situational or general. When it's related to devices like smart metres there are some simple steps that can help alleviate the stress such as: focusing elsewhere, getting outside, taking control, stopping catastrophizing and getting help".

To help the continuous rise of household bills, the British Government has issued a rollout of a series of payments to help residents. This follows an announcement in the UK Parliament which confirmed the payment schedule for five direct cost of living payments through the 2023/24 financial year (Daily Record). More than 400,00 Welsh families will receive this payment scheme which has been estimated to be over £300. The Senedd Committee for the Welsh Government has argued that these payments "will do little to prevent households falling into hardship".

Students from Wales will get £1,000 more to help within their maintenance loans whilst those in England get just £200 on average.

The Welsh government had said that the maintenance loans and grants for its students would rise by 9.4% from September, with support for full-time students increasing from £10,710 to £11,720 on average. Students in England will get a rise of just 2.8% in the next academic year after the Westminster government's announcement last week. (The Guardian).

Tom Jones' anthem banned from Welsh rugby

Lowri Powell
Deputy Head of News

Choirs performing at Welsh international rugby matches at the Principality Stadium have been banned from singing Tom Jones' famous song 'Delilah'. The hit song released in 1968 has been a popular anthem for Welsh rugby fans over the last decades.

The song portrays a woman named Delilah who is having an affair with another man. The verses show her partner following her and becoming jealous. Her partner confronts her about the affair and she is later murdered by him.

The song was banned from half-time playlists in 2015, but the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) have now announced, 'Delilah will not feature on the playlist for choirs for rugby internationals at Principality Stadium,'

'Guest choirs have also more recently been requested not to feature the song during their pre-match performances and throughout games.'

'The WRU condemns domestic violence of any kind. We have previously sought advice from subject matter experts on the issue of censoring the song and we are respectfully aware that it is problematic and upsetting to some supporters because of its subject matter.'



Anthem Banned: Allegations were made in a recent BBC documentary about a toxic culture. Source: Raph_PH (via Wikimedia)

The banning of the song occurred as allegations were made in a recent BBC documentary about a toxic culture permeating through the WRU. The accusations included racism, homophobia and sexism.

The chief executive of the Welsh Rugby Union, Steve Phillips, was forced to resign after allegations of sexism, misogyny and racism within the organisation surfaced. This occurred as he had faced pressure over the governing body's handling of the issues raised in the programme.

Two women complained of a "toxic culture", while another former employee heard a racist term used in a work meeting. Former head of Wales women's rugby Charlotte Wathan said she considered suicide and claimed a male colleague joked in front of others in an office environment that he wanted to "rape" her.

Some people disagree with the decision. Fellow domestic abuse campaigner Rachel Williams, who survived a shotgun attack by her estranged husband, said she believed education surrounding violence against women was better than banning the content that featured it.

She said: "I loved the song [Delilah], but stopped singing it when I realised it was about glorifying the murder of a woman.

Tom Giffard, Welsh Conservative shadow sport minister, said people want "institutional change, improved working practices and a better complaints process for the WRU".

"Instead they are choosing to ban a much loved Tom Jones song. This action will solve nothing."

Cardiff West Labour MP for Kevin Brennan said: "I understand why people don't like that song, but I think it's a distraction from the really serious issues we ought to be talking about in rugby."

The Old Arcade pub in Cardiff, a popular match day venue for rugby fans, tweeted: "We will be playing Delilah... it will be loud..."

The disappearance of Nicola Bulley

Katie Jones
Contributor

The search for missing mother-of-two, Nicola Bulley, continues several weeks after her disappearance on 27th January. The 45-year-old went missing in St Michael's on Wyre, Lancashire whilst walking her dog. The case has drawn nation-wide attention and speculation due to the strange circumstances under which Bulley seemed to vanish. 'Nothing is making sense' said family friend Heather Gibbons, from the banks of the River Wyre where Nicola was last seen.

Doorbell footage captured Bulley getting into her car before dropping her daughters off at school. She then took her dog for a walk along the River Wyre, where she was sighted twice. Bulley joined a Microsoft Teams call at around 9am, however, when the call ended at 9.34am she stayed logged on. Around five minutes later Bulley's phone was found at a bench by the river, along with her dog and its harness and lead.

Lancashire police launched an investigation immediately and began appealing for witnesses. Bulley's partner Paul Ansell told police that both do the walk frequently and that their dog is very familiar with that chunk of the walk which could explain the removed harness and lead. Although there is CCTV at the back of a caravan park that may have captured Bulley's walk, the only camera that would have seen what happened was unfortunately not working.

Initially, police began working on the theory that Bulley had fallen into the river, employing specialist divers and volunteers to search the surrounding area. After the initial search resulted in no major breakthroughs, the family called in Peter Faulding and his team, who were supplied with £55,000 worth of sonar equipment to search the riverbed – however this search also found no trace of Bulley. Faulding admitted it is 'unlikely' that Bulley was swept out to sea due to the river being tidal. The team's search ended on 8th February, with Faulding concluding Bulley was not in the river and claiming he would not rule out a 'third party involvement.'

Police have faced mounting accusations of mishandling the case. Issues surrounding the contamination of the crime scene have been raised (police did not cordon off the area and allowed footfall across the path), and the family are 'not willing to at this stage to accept' the theory that Bulley fell into the river, claiming she was a strong swimmer, and her dog was completely dry when found. The police have since admitted that there is no evidence to suggest Bulley had fallen in the river, however they maintain there are also no signs of foul play at the scene.

> "Police have faced mounting accusations of mishandling the case.ssues surrounding the contamination of the crime scene have been raised"

The family have most recently condemned public conduct surrounding this case, highlighting 'grossly offensive' online comments, and likening the trespassing in the area to a 'tourist spot'. Police have issued a 48-hour dispersal order and several people have been warned over their behaviour. "Bulley's family have since urged people to 'keep an open mind', whilst the Lancashire police issued a reminder that 'the priority is Nicola and her family' and committed to 'provid[ing] answers to her family'.

Welsh Government breaks silence on strikes

With the unions continuing to strike, Luis Atkinson discusses responses from the Senedd

Luis Atkinson
News Editor

In light of discussions between the Welsh Government and Welsh health trade unions, the Welsh Government released a statement on the 3rd of February, reporting an 'enhanced' pay offer of a salary increase of '3%'. The deal includes a 1.5% 'consolidated' pay rise, with the other 1.5% being a one-off payment; these are on top of the 4-5% pay awards which are reported to have already been implemented for the work year 2022-23.

The Welsh Government has also stated that the rise in salary payments will include "non-pay commitments to staff wellbeing", of which this claim has not been decorated fully.

In response to the Welsh Government's offer, the health union the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has responded by saying that the new deal would be put to a vote to its members "within days".

Their strikes, due to take place on the week beginning the 6th of February, have been called off by the RCN; in response to the pay offer, RCN Wales director Helen Whyley described the strike action being taken as having "clearly been effective".

Whyley further expressed that elected RCN members had decided to postpone strike action due for Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th of February, and that the offer should be presented to members "for them to decide whether it truly respects and values the nursing profession".

Although, not all trade unions have transparently confirmed whether they shall be striking this week. UNISON, Wales' "biggest health union", responded to the pay rise offer by stating that "we are pleased intensive discussion between the trade unions and Welsh government has resulted in an improved offer.

"The new offer contains an element that will be consolidated into healthcare workers' pay, which is what UNISON has argued for throughout negotiations.

UNISON's healthcare committee will now meet early next week to discuss the offer in more detail. UNISON will continue discussions with Welsh ministers on the further improvements to employment conditions. We are absolutely determined to get the best possible deal for our nurses, midwives, healthcare assistants, paramedics, cleaners, porters, catering staff, admin staff and many more."

Little information was given in this press release as to whether members of UNISON would be moving ahead with planned industrial action.

It was reported by the Independent that Unite was the only NHS union holding strikes in Wales on the week beginning the 6th of February.

Sharon Graham, Unite's secretary general, informed the PA news agency that "the reason that we're still out in Wales is that it would be disingenuous for us to put an offer to pause the strike in the full knowledge the offer was going to get rejected.

What we want is not a sticking plaster – we want to have a deal on the table that will be accepted. I spoke to the health minister in Wales on a number of occasions yesterday; we're tantalisingly close."

In response to the new pay offer, the Welsh Government labelled it as the "only deal in town". Speaking to the PA news agency, Welsh health minister Eluned Morgan –

> "Unite was the only NHS union holding strikes in Wales on the week beginning the 6th of February"

in response to being asked if they believe suspended strikes is the "light at the end of the tunnel" – replied "I do hope so, but obviously the final decision will be by the members of these unions. But I think what's important is that they understand that this is the only deal in town."

"The end of the financial year is coming very soon, and obviously the money disappears at the end of the financial year so there is an issue for people to consider. So I do hope that people recognise that we've worked really hard on this, that we are restricted in how much we can offer because of the money we get from the UK Government.

"And I do think that there's a lesson here for the UK Government – the UK Government needs to understand that, in order to get any kind of deal, you need to sit down, you need to talk and you need to listen."

The first of 100 days of Sunak as PM

Aimee Szulczewski
Contributor

After surpassing his predecessor's record-breaking premiership, Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, has now been in Downing Street for over 100 days. What has Sunak used his first three months as Prime Minister to do? More specifically, what has he done to help Wales inside this window?

As the first South Asian PM in history, Sunak's appointment is already in the political history books. Like many history-making leaders his promises and pledges aim to make a difference, however, within the last 100 days, many Welsh citizens believe that there has been little improvement.

The Autumn Statement proposed extra funding for Wales, as Sunak and the Conservatives aimed to help the economic downturn in Wales. Although, as Welsh First Minister Mark Drakeford replied, if the budget increase was to follow the changes within the British economy, it should have increased by 15% rather than 7.9%.

Furthermore, in January, a total of 11 Welsh projects were granted £208 million as part of the Levelling Up Fund, in a bid to drive forward Sunak's pledge to grow the economy and "build a future of optimism and pride in people's lives". These projects include a £50 million cross rail in Cardiff, and the renovation of one of the most recognisable buildings in South Wales, the Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl.

Spending within the NHS is currently issuing 14% per person more than other countries, the Welsh NHS has been under increased pressures (as have other nations) with front line services continuing to strike over the coming months. Sunak's response to criticism was that he saw that Wales has had sufficient funding to deal with the increased pressures and his additional funding for England was in no way about "political point scoring".

A key aim of Mr Sunak was to 're-pair' the relationship between the House of Parliament and the Senedd. Since his appointment, Drakeford

> A total of 11 Welsh projects were granted £208 million as part of the Levelling Up Fund n a bid to drive forward Sunak's pledge to grow the economy"

and Sunak have had "constructive" conversations and discussed a "wide range of issues affecting Wales".

Overall, Sunak's 100 days in the Prime Minister's office has resulted in many promises and pledges and, as of date, many believe the results are yet to be felt. As the UK's economy is only expected to shrink in 2023, Sunak's Spring Budget in March is expected to create a clear path for economic growth, and hopefully greater support for Wales.

The Grammy Awards 2023- the 65th anniversary

Michal Lewis
Contributor

With all its glamour and drama, the 2023 Grammys awards event marked the 65th anniversary of the ceremony, with many familiar and new faces who made their mark the past year in the music industry. Here is all you need to know about who, what and why of this year's event.

The ceremony was hosted by comedian Trevor Noah, who hosted the Grammys for the past two years. While she still has yet to win a Grammy for 'Best Album of the Year', Beyoncé had won in four other categories- best dance recording for her song "Break My Soul", best traditional R&B vocal performance for "Plastic Off The Sofa", best dance/electronic album for "Renaissance" and best R&B song for "Cuff It".

Beyoncé has now won the most Grammys ever, passing former holder of the title George Solti with her 32 wins. In her speech Beyoncé thanked her family, but also the queer community for all their "love and for inventing the genre".

The artist who took home the prestigious award for best album of the year was Harry Styles for his album "Harry's House". "I've been so inspired by every artist in this category with me" Styles said in his acceptance speech. His album also won the best pop vocal album.

Another historical moment was made when Sam Smith and Kim Petras got the award for best pop duo/group performance- the first time for a non-binary person to win an award at the Grammys.

Adele received the best solo pop performance award for "Easy on Me", while Taylor Swift took home the best music video for her short film of "All Too Well".

In her speech for accepting the award of best record of the year for her song "About Damn Time", Lizzo chose to commemorate the late Prince saying that when he passed, she decided to "dedicate [her] life to making positive music".

She also highlighted and praised the emergence of music that promotes self-love and body positivity, and addressed Beyoncé saying that her music had changed her life, and that she is "clearly… the artist of our lives".

Kendrick Lamar also won big and took home three Grammys- best rap performance and best rap song for "The Heart Part 5", and best rap album for "Mr. Morale & The Big Steppers".

Jazz vocalist Samara Joy took both best new jazz vocal album for "Linger Awhile" and best new artist, and for best song of the year/new song of the year Bonnie Raitt took the prize for her song "Just Like That."

For best rock performance, Brandi Charlie came first with her song "Broken Horses", and the band Wet Leg won best alternative music performance for "Chaise Lounge" and best alternative album for their debut album "Wet Leg".

Another memorable moment happened when thirty-three Hip Hop artists came together to perform a tribute to the genre, in honour of celebrating its 50 year anniversary. This tribute was curated by Questlove, and amongst the artists were Missy Elliot, Run DMC, Queen Latifah, Busta Rhymes and more. Rapper LL Cool J, who also took part in the 14 minutes performance, said that it was a chance to "really give the audience an authentic taste of Hip Hop".

> Beyoncé thanked her family, but also the queer community for all their "love and for inventing the genre".

Shorter recession than expected

Jasmine Jones
Head of Sport

The UK is set to enter recession this year, but now the Bank of England has stated it will be "shorter" and "less severe" than previously predicted. As energy bills slowly start to fall, the economic downturn is now expected to last for only one year in comparison to the two year projection.

The Bank of England has warned however that the economy remains in a fragile state and interest rates will continue to rise to tackle inflation and the rising cost of living. Interest rates were raised to 4%, an increase of 0.5% in the last quarter, the highest rate in more than 14 years. In theory, higher interest rates will encourage people to spend less, which in turn will stop the price hikes.

The shortened recession does however mean that fewer people are likely to lose their jobs for the first time since before Covid-19. The number of people looking for work has also risen, with the office for national statistics recording 1.1 million job vacancies in the UK in Q3 last year, the highest number since 2001.

Inflation continues to be a problem despite the changes though, with price rises continuing resulting in the highest inflation rate for more than 40 years. Senior economists suggest that this number is over 5 times what it should be for a country of this size taking into account its capital and economic history.

Annual food inflation for example hit an all-time high of 16.8% at the end of 2022, with the prices of staples such as bread, milk, cheese, and eggs seeing the largest increases. The war in Ukraine and increased demands for oil and gas after the pandemic pushed prices up as resources became limited. Property owners have also been disproportionately affected, with the average mortgage owner paying £49 more a month than previously.

In a statement this week, Bank governor Andrew Bailey said that inflation is at its peak and will start to fall throughout 2023 but there are still "many big risks" the government and banks have to take to stabilise the economy. It is predicted by the end of 2023 inflation levels will be around 4%. The International Monetary Fund however has predicted in its annual report that the UK is set to be the only major global economy to shrink in 2023, expected to perform even worse than Russia.

Whilst the UK's recession is set to be shorter than previously expected, millions of people and businesses will continue to struggle with the rising costs and inflation in the coming year. The Shadow Chancellor Rachel Reeves has hit back at the government's economic policy measures, stating: "the reality is that under the Tories growth is on the floor, families are worse off, and we are stuck in the global slow lane."

The current forecast is that the UK economy will not recover to pre-covid levels until 2026.



Over 21,000 people have died in Turkey. Source: EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (via Wikimedia Commons)



A combined 870,000 people urgently need food and shelter across both countires. Source: Tasnim News Agency (via Wikimedia Com-

Earthquakes cause devastation in Turkey and Syria

George Gourlay discusses the recue efforts following the two earthquakes.

George Gourlay
Politics Editor

Ongoing rescue efforts to locate survivors trapped under the rubble remains of cities in Turkey and Syria are reaching exhaustion after days of searching following two earthquakes that have so far claimed the lives of over 25,000 people.

The quakes struck in the early hours of Monday, 6th February, along the East Anatolian fault near to the city of Gaziantep in Turkey. The first shock registered at 7.8 magnitude, followed by an aftershock of 7.6 magnitude just hours later. The temblors ripped across 31 miles in Southern Turkey and Northern Syria, extending to Syria's second largest city Aleppo. More than 40 aftershocks have been felt since the initial quake with tremors being felt as far as Cyprus, Egypt and Lebanon.

The impact has been severe with the death toll exceeding 21,000 in Turkey, 3,500 in Syria. 80,000 are currently being treated in hospital while millions (1.05m for Turkey, 5.3m for Syria) have been left homeless.

Rescuers have been undeterred in their efforts to retrieve survivors since Monday with the dramatic scenes even being broadcast on Turkish television, providing much needed hope to the anxious population.

> "The impact has been severe with the death toll exceeding 21,000 in Turkey, 3,500 in Syria."

However, as the hours since the initial tremors continue to tick along, the chances of survival for those still entombed in the ruins are becoming slimmer. Experts say that barely 6% of earthquake victims survive if they have not been rescued within 5 days. This is in contrast to 74% after 24 hours. Victims and rescuers have also been competing with freezing weather conditions as a winter blizzard has covered major roads in snow and ice.

In Syria, the situation is exacerbated by the longstanding civil war that has hampered international rescue teams' access to those requiring aid. Stéphane Dujarric, spokesperson for UN Secretary General, António Guterres, explained to the BBC that it is "hard to imagine a more complex emergency" in Syria.

Dujarric elaborates: "You're dealing with a country that has been in conflict for 12 years, where already before this humanitarian emergency there was a long-standing humanitarian crisis with more than four million people needing aid."

Aid to both Turkey and Syria has been arriving arduously to address the estimated 870,000 people who urgently need food and shelter. However it remains to be seen how the discrepancy in international favour between the two countries will translate into how much aid each receives as Syria remains under onerous Western sanctions. In an uncharacteristic move, the Syrian government, who have been internationally isolated for more than a decade, approved the delivery of humanitarian aid in cooperation with the UN, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent.

The World Bank has pledged $1.78bn in aid to Turkey and The United States has offered an $85m (£70.6m) support package for those in need.

Turkey's President Erdogan, calling the earthquake the "disaster of the century", has vowed to take "every necessary step", including the declaration of a state of emergency in ten provinces for three months.

However, criticism towards President Erdogan is also emerging over the government's initial response and the lack of preparation for the catastrophe. The public has started to express frustration over shortcomings in the relief response, in particular around the state's failure to coordinate with local authorities and reliefagencies.

> "Criticism towards President Erdogan is also emerging over the government's initial response"

Another complaint lies in the apparent mishandling of funds taken through tax to prepare the country for an event like this. Following a similar earthquake in 1999, which claimed the lives of more than 17,000 people, the state introduced the "special communications tax", which became known as the "earthquake tax", initially intended to be a temporary fix to the economic losses but subsequently became permanent and understood to be put towards preparing the country for similar disasters in the future. The tax is estimated to have collected around 88 billion lira in total with the amount collected last year being the highest at 9.3 billion lira.

This catastrophe could pose the greatest political challenge President Erdogan has faced in his 20 year tenure. Elections are scheduled for just after the state of emergency is intended to end.

Turkey is one of the world's most active earthquake zones with this latest episode echoing a quake of the same magnitude in 1939 which hit the east of the country and caused 30,000 deaths. Martin Griffiths, a United Nations emergency relief coordinator, speaking to Sky News, warned that the current death toll figure could double as more lives remain unaccounted for under the rubble.

> "In Syria, the situation is exacerbated by the longstanding civil war"

Welsh Government publishes climate change plans

Welsh Government sets out initiatives to source 100% of electricity from renewable resources

Luis Atkinson
News Editor

According to a report set out by the Welsh Government on the 24th January 2023, Wales' Climate Change minister Julie James published a consultation on what is described as "ambitious but credible" climate change targets for Wales. This consultation proposed an objective for the Welsh Government to seek 100% of its 'electricity needs' from renewable resources by 2035.

Statistically, it seems as if Wales is on track to achieve these ambitions. At point of print, roughly 55% of Welsh electricity is generated by renewable resources, and in a report published in 2017 by the Welsh government, 22% of total electricity generated in Wales was generated from renewable resources.

These proposals also include a target for 1.5 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity to be locally owned by 2035, excluding heat pumps. What was also outlined in the consultation was a target for 5.5 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity to be "produced by heat pumps by 2035", yet this ambition was said to be subject to "scaled up support from the UK government and reductions in the cost of technology".

Regarding these ambitions, Climate Change Minister Julie James stated that "our previous targets signalled our high ambitions for renewable energy and this Government's desire to move away from a use of, and reliance on, fossil fuels. However, the climate crisis shows that we cannot afford to rest on our laurels. Providing new targets compels us to stride towards Net Zero as quickly as we realistically can. The evidence is clear that towards the end of this decade we will need to rapidly ramp up our generation of electricity to meet our energy needs. The renewable energy target proposals that we are consulting on today are ambitious, but credible. I am very pleased that they propose a pathway for us to meet the equivalent of 100% of our annual electricity consumption from renewable electricity by 2035, and to continue to keep pace with consumption thereafter."

The minister detailed that Wales' supply chain and infrastructure would play a vital role in meeting these climate targets, and further exposed details revealing £1 million in funding to discover the impact of offshore wind. This grant will reportedly be 'match-funded' by the Associated British Ports for preliminary work to allow future floating offshore wind projects to be operational from Wales.

Highlighting these proposals, Julie James specified that "this investment signals, to both the industry and the UK Government, Welsh Government's commitment to the floating wind sector. It also provides important funding for the infrastructure that we will need to deliver floating wind to meet our ambitions. Of course, this is not the end of our support, and we will continue to work closely with Port Talbot, Milford Haven Port Authority and colleagues in the Celtic Sea Alliance to maximise the benefits from floating wind to Wales."

Moreover, Regional Director of Wales & Short Sea Ports added "Associated British Ports warmly welcomes this early-stage support from Welsh Government to help kick start the development of a major green energy hub at Port Talbot. This support is key to the construction of transformational infrastructure, which will enable the manufacturing, integration and assembly of floating offshore wind components at Port Talbot.

> "Roughly 55% of Welsh electricity is generated by renewable resources, a substantial increase from 22% in 2017"

"The roll-out of floating offshore wind in the Celtic Sea offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity for South Wales to lead a global market and will play a major role in contributing to Wales and the UK's net zero targets. By doing so it will support and create thousands of long-term, high-quality jobs. As the gateway to the Celtic Sea, and with unique capabilities and natural advantages, this support will help position Port Talbot at the heart of these emerging green technologies and industrial decarbonisation."

Chaos over Welsh railway services

Megha Roy
Contributor

Concerns have been raised by the Welsh equalities commission over the changes to rail services that could significantly impact disabled and vulnerable travellers. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has responded to a letter signed by several MPs and peers highlighting the negative effects of ticket office closures and the expansion of driver-only operation (DOO) services on some passengers.

The commission stated that public transportation provides an essential and often the only means of getting to work or school for many individuals and is a critical gateway to opportunity and an important aspect of the government's levelling up strategies. Thus, the commission shares the concerns of the MPs and peers that the changes to rail services are making travel by train more inaccessible.

The EHRC has received numerous reports about changes in staffing arrangements at stations and on trains and allegations that operators are unable to provide reasonable adjustments for disabled travelers, as required by the Equality Act 2010. This includes rail services that are under contractual obligation via a National Rail contract with the Secretary of State for Transport.

Mick Lynch, the general secretary of the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) union, welcomed the comments from the EHRC and stated that accessibility is a key component of railways and vulnerable groups, such as the disabled, must be given priority by ministers when making changes to the network. The RMT is committed to advocating for disabled passengers and ensuring good terms and conditions for its members.

The EHRC added that it has various regulatory tools at its disposal to respond to the concerns raised. The commission has written to senior officials at the Department for Transport and the chief executive of the Office of Rail and Road to remind them of their responsibilities under the public sector equality duty. This includes considering the equality implications of decisions, monitoring the impact, and taking action to ensure that rail services are accessible to everyone. The EHRC has warned that it will not hesitate to use its enforcement powers if necessary.

In conclusion, the Equality and Human Rights Commission has expressed its concerns over the changes to rail services and their negative impact on disabled and vulnerable travelers. The commission has reminded the Department for Transport and the Office of Rail and Road of their responsibilities under the public sector equality duty and has warned that it will use its regulatory tools, including its enforcement powers, if necessary.

> The EHRC has received numerous reports about changes in staffing arrangements at stations and on trains"

Welsh music celebrated across the country

Beca Dallis
News Editor

Mentrau Iaith Cymru and PYST have announced their collaboration on February 2nd providing opportunities for Welsh language bands to tour Wales. The circuit is also involved with the Arts Council of Wales' Night Out scheme which provides a chance for a variety of small village halls to hold gigs for the local community to enjoy. Heledd ap Gwynfor, spokesperson for Mentrau Iaith Cymru has said 'we can offer exciting opportunities for Wales' audiences to once again experience Welsh language at its finest'. She mentioned that times have been challenging with Covid for Welsh artists and the Welsh public.

The first tour will be in March and April, and the circuit is to ensure that bands tour and visit places they normally wouldn't play. The band HMS Morris will be supported by Mali Hâf, Elis Derby, Hyll and Bitw. The first gig will be held at Y Clwb, Llanrwst with Bitw playing on the 25th of March. They also will be in Dros Ben Tân, Neath with Elis Derby on the 14th of April and finishing in the Coopers Arms, Aberystwyth with Bitw. Alun Llwyd from PYST noted "The circuit is very necessary' and described it as 'an important step in securing that Welsh language music is enjoyed regularly by audiences in their local area".

On the 10th of February Wales celebrates Welsh Language Music Day. The Welsh Government has partnered with AM, a platform that includes all Welsh cultural arts in one space. They provide Welsh music within a bilingual context for non-Welsh speakers and less confident speakers, encouraging them to discover and learn about the music and enjoy the day.

Elan Jones, Co Head of Welsh Programming and Producing at Xpress Radio, Cardiff University's student radio has been celebrating the day. She described it as a 'special day in Wales to promote and raise awareness over a crucial day in Wales'. Also, she felt it was important 'to highlight that Welsh artists are important not only Welsh songs and Welsh speaking artists'. The radio shows on Xpress Radio during Welsh Music Day hope to be playing Welsh music or music by Welsh artists to celebrate the Welsh talent.



Live music: Performances to take place over the next few months. Source: Wheelplant (via Wikimedia)

On the weekend of Welsh Language Music Day, Clwb Ifor Bach organised a jam packed day of Welsh artists to celebrate. The artists that will be performing are Tara Bandito, Lloyd and Dom, Hyll, Gwcci, Mali Hâf, Hana Lili, Parisa Fouladi, Y Dail and Ci Gofod. This event is free for the public. Celebrations will also be taking place in Wrexham over the weekend many Welsh artists.

UCU strikes to continue throughout the semester

Shivika Singh
News Editor

More than 70,000 staff at 150 universities across the UK are set to go on strike for 18 days between February and March.

The strikes had been called amid disputes over pay, working conditions and pensions. The University College Union (UCU) said 'the clock is ticking' for university bosses to make staff a serious offer and avoid disruption. Members of the University College Union at all eight universities in Wales are joining colleagues at 150 institutions across the UK in strike action.

The union is demanding a reasonable pay rise in order to deal with the cost-of-living crisis and end the use of insecure contracts.

Employers imposed a pay rise worth just 3% this year following over a decade of below-inflation pay awards. The Universities and Colleges Employers Association (UCEA), which represents university employers, made UCU a pay offer worth between 4% and 5% earlier in the year however UCU says the offer is 'not enough'. Over a decade of low pay awards from employers has caused staff pay to fall 25% behind inflation.

There is also an issue of insecure employment and unfair workload within the higher education sector as there are over 90,000 university staff on insecure contracts and staff work an average of two extra days unpaid per week. In the pension dispute, UCU is demanding employers revoke the cuts and restore benefits.

The package of cuts made last year will see the average member lose 35% from their guaranteed future retirement income. For those at the beginning of their careers the losses are in the hundreds of thousands of pounds.

It is noteworthy that this sector holds £44bn in reserves and a yearly income of over £42bn. According to UCU general secretary Jo Grady, 'Whilst the cost-of-living crisis rages, university vice-chancellors are dragging their feet and refusing to use the vast wealth in the sector to address over a decade of falling pay, rampant casualisation and massive pension cuts.

'Staff aren't asking for much. They want a decent pay rise, secure employment and for devastating pension cuts to be reversed. These demands are reasonable and deliverable by a sector which has over £40bn in reserves.

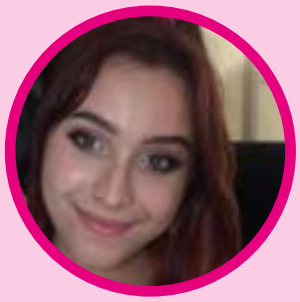
The strikes will impact nearly 2.5 million students through February and March. According to the UCU, the disruption is entirely the responsibility of university bosses who have refused to make staff fair offers.

> Staff aren't asking for much. They want a decent pay rise, secure employment and for devastating pension cuts to be reversed. "

POLITICS



Katherine Seymour



Francesca Ionescu



Jade Heath



George Gourlay

ELSEWHERE IN POLITICS

-Nicola Sturgeon has announced she is resigning as Scotland's first minister

She is the longest-serving first minister and the first woman to hold the positionsies abroad.

-Real splits within Plaid Cymru, MP Hywel Williams claims

Hywel Williams praised leader Adam Price but said a party had to be led by a team rather than one person.

Rishi Sunak haunted by predecessors looking for return

Katherine Seymour discusses the three previous PM's still sitting on Sunak's backbenches

Katherine Seymour
Head Of Politics

Since his so-called 'coronation' as Conservative party leader, Rishi Sunak has faced the unprecedented circumstance of not one, but three former Prime Ministers from his own party sitting on his backbenches. Those being Theresa May, Boris Johnson and Liz Truss, the latter two seemingly convinced that unfair coups caused their departures. Liz Truss' Op-ed at the weekend shows that she doesn't want to go quietly as it may have previously seemed.

The quick succession of UK Prime Ministers means that there are now three former Prime Ministers sitting on the Conservative backbenches. In the past there have been former Prime Ministers sitting with the Opposition, but rarely from the same party. Truss and Johnson seem destructive to Sunak's aims to make the Conservative Party electable again as people have increasingly lost trust in the Conservative Party. This is demonstrated by the recent opinion polls which put Labour in the lead across the board. On the basis of integrity, Johnson was seen to have increased public distrust in the party. However, it is thought that Truss has inflicted more damage on long-term economic trust - something which the Tories have always been regarded more responsible of than Labour throughout recent political history.

Boris Johnson has been much more subtle in his interventions in political life. His close allies, Nadine Dorries and Jacob Rees-Mogg, are mouthpieces for his political message as unwavering supporters. He had appeared on Nadine

> "Truss and Johnson seem destructive to Sunak's aims to make the Conservative Party electable again"



"Liz Truss' Op-ed at the weekend shows that she doesn't want to go quietly".
SourceNumber 10(via Flikr)

Dorries' first episode of her interview show, Friday Night with Nadine, on the 3rd of February. The show was controversial even before it was broadcast. Many questioned why Dorries, a sitting MP, was given a regular TV slot on Talk TV as a broadcaster subject to impartiality requirements. There were many leading questions (which many saw as being there to absolve Johnson of any wrongdoing) including: "Do you think, looking back, that you were too focused on saving lives, do you regret that you didn't spend your time prowling the corridors of Downing Street, checking that no one was having a party?". It is clear to see that this question was strategically designed to make allegations about parties happening in Downing Street seem obsolete against his 'commitment' to saving lives. While him speaking on his post-premiership hobby of mastering the art of drawing a cow isn't an indication of a comeback tour, there are many in the Conservative party who still hope to see Boris Johnson back in office.

Liz Truss has been much more radical in launching her political comeback with an Op-Ed written on the 5th February in the Sunday Telegraph, a newspaper more historically aligned with Conservative policies and viewpoints. In the piece, she acted unapologetically for her 45 days in office and blamed a "powerful economic establishment" and a lack of support from within the Conservative party for her downfall, she argued that she expected that her mandate from party members would have been more accepted among her colleagues. She also defended her economic plans, arguing that the bad press on the mini budget originated from treasury orthodoxy and arguments against the Prime Minister not having taken an OBR report on the announcement. She pointed out support for her mini-budget from business saying that "Tony Danker, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), hailed it as "a turning point for our economy" and "day one of a new UK growth approach", recognising that "a simpler, smarter approach to tax can pay dividends". While she received some support,ultimately her plan did result in a crashing British pound and thus economy. Whether or not she believed that her plans would save the economy in the long term, all indications were that there would be no economy left to save should the plan have remained in place.

Truss did seem somewhat regretful of the way she acted in office in her piece reciting: "Knowing what I know now, undoubtedly I would have handled things differently. I underestimated the extent to which the market was on edge and, like many others, was not aware of how fragile our system had become.". Through this, however, she recognised that she did not have all of the information available to her, appearing to put the blame on advisors again.

Theresa May, as a former Prime Minister, has been much less inflammatory to her party. Many view her as an elder statesman type of figure. She has continued her job as a constituency MP and has apparently helped her successors, providing criticism and advice as witnessed in her parliamentary contributions. As a Former Prime Minister in parliament she has been much less bitter, likely because she could not deliver Brexit and wanted to end the stalemate in her resignation. It is probable that she accepted her fate in resigning more easily than Truss and Johnson have done. After all, these two are evidently upset over the party orthodoxy, both blaming it for forcing them out of office.

The issue of several short-serving Prime Ministers since 2016 has arguably created a culture in which there are many bitter former Prime Ministers, along with their staunch parliamentary allies, seeking a return to the political fold.

Read Katherine's full article on Gair Rhydd's website.

Study reveals pandemic shame covered government failings

Jade Heath
Politics Editor

An academic study conducted by medical humanities scholars at the University of Exeter has concluded that an environment wherein blame directed towards individuals and marginalised groups was tactically created to steer it away from the government. Their book 'Covid-19 and Shame: Political Emotions and Public Health in the UK' details their study, and is considered the first academic analysis of the role that emotion played in political and public health discourse. The scholars argued that the categories of people who all felt the effects of shame and stigma include those with medical conditions such as obesity, people from ethnic minority groups, and health professionals.

> "The first academic analysis of the role that emotion played in political and public health discourse"

Examples of shame directed towards ethnic minorities are included in a chapter named "Coughing While Asian" which explores the racial hatred directed towards those assumed to be Chinese, and the emphasis that was placed on the idea of Covid-19 being a 'foreign' disease. It can be argued that BAME (Black, Asian and minority ethnic) groups were also heavily targeted during the pandemic. In July 2020, Conservative MP Craig Whittaker argued on LBC news that "it is the BAME communities that are not taking this seriously enough" in regards to lockdown rules. At the time, his constituency of Calder Valley in Northern England was an area which had been newly imposed with stricter lockdown instructions. Critics responded, arguing that many areas which had the highest rates of infection were actually predominantly populated with white individuals. Shadow Women and Equalities secretary Marsha de Cordova implied that Whittaker's comments were particularly disgraceful, given that BAME communities are those "whose lives and livelihoods have been the worst hit by Covid-19". The death toll and risks associated with Covid-19 were higher for these individuals as well.

The study also explores the way in which overweight people were treated as a burden on society - regarded as a group with increased chances of becoming seriously ill. Research has also been conducted on the treatment of disabled people during the pandemic. The Cabinet Office Disability Unit commissioned ethnographically-led research to be conducted into the experiences of disabled people during the pandemic. This was carried out by Policy Lab from July to September 2020. Their findings included some participants saying that pre-existing feelings of shame and guilt (surrounding their disabilities) were exacerbated by the pandemic and their treatment throughout.

The idea of shame during the pandemic was also explored on a more general level. For example, the book highlights an instance where a woman was shamed online for not 'clapping for carers'. As well as this,

> "Examples of shame directed towards ethnic minorities are included in a chapter named "Coughing While Asian"

the term 'Covidiot' began to circulate online in the early months of the pandemic. This emphasis on individual responsibility and 'curtain-switching' served "as a means of shifting focus away from bad governance," argued Luna Dolezal, one of the research's three co-authors and an associate professor in philosophy and medical humanities. Dolezal labeled the situation to be "a government sanctioned blame culture", which targeted the most vulnerable groups and ultimately encouraged division at a time where cohesion was most needed.

> "Dolezal labeled the situation to be "a government sanctioned blame culture"",

Liz Truss joins International Effort to address human rights and economic concerns in China

Megha Roy
Contributor

Liz Truss, the former Prime Minister of the UK, is set to make a major comeback on the international stage. Truss will join forces with two other former prime ministers, Scott Morrison of Australia and Guy Verhofstadt of Belgium, as part of an international campaign aimed at putting pressure on China over its human rights record and economic coercion against smaller countries.

The conference, organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China, is set to take place in Japan later this month and will bring together politicians from across the globe to coordinate their policies towards Beijing. The cross-party group of politicians is focused on issues such as upholding human rights and promoting trade fairness.

Truss's participation in the conference is expected to be a major moment for the former prime minister, who has been keeping a low profile since her resignation in October. However, her allies have recently formed the Conservative Growth Group, which aims to push her low-tax agenda. The group includes former ministers Simon Clarke and Ranil Jayawardena, both of whom served in Truss's cabinet.

> "Truss's role in the conference will be an important moment for the former prime minister



"Truss's participation in the conference is expected to be a major moment for the former prime minister" Source: Number 10(via Flickr)

Truss's speech at the conference is expected to focus on the threat to Taiwan, and observers will be watching closely to see if she takes a harder line than her former government, which still hopes to cooperate with China on climate change and trade.

In her speech, Truss is predicted to address the concerns raised by her predecessor and successor, Prime Ministers Rishi Sunak and Boris Johnson. In November, Sunak declared that the "golden era" of relations with China was over and that the closer economic ties of the previous decade had been "naive". Despite this, he stressed that the UK cannot ignore China's significance in world affairs, as it is a crucial player in global economic stability and issues such as climate change.

Johnson, who served as the Prime Minister before Truss, has also re-emerged on the global stage since leaving office. Last month, he visited Kyiv and met with President Volodymyr Zelensky and other Ukrainian ministers.

Truss's participation in the conference in Japan marks her return to the international stage, and it will be interesting to see how she will be received by her fellow politicians and diplomats. Her views and opinions on China and its human rights record, as well as its economic coercion against smaller countries, will be closely watched and analyzed.

With the threat to Taiwan and the concerns over China's human rights record and economic practices, the conference in Japan promises to be a major event in the ongoing international debate over China's role in the world. As one of the key participants, Truss's role in the conference will be an important moment for the former prime minister and will give a glimpse into her future plans and political ambitions.

US shoots down Chinese surveillance balloon

George Gourlay reports on how the US' actions threaten further diplomatic tensions

George Gourlay
Politics Editor

Floating over North America, a mysterious white balloon following the wind from the Pacific raised suspicions - and more than a few eyebrows - before it was shot down by the US military on the 4th of February.

Its country of origin, China, had remained secretive about the balloon's purpose as it carried out its tour, entering the US air defence zone north of the Aleutian Islands in Alaska on the 28th of January before travelling through Canada and re-entering the United States on the 31st of January over Idaho. The balloon was only brought to officials' attention after it was noticed flying over Montana by witnesses on the ground. From there, it journeyed under monitoring by the Pentagon in a South-East direction until it reached South Carolina, where it was apprehended by an F-22 fighter jet.

The decision to shoot the object down had been approved by President Biden three days prior, though the Pentagon abstained to let the balloon continue its journey until it was over water to avoid debris falling on populated areas.

The balloon was eventually shot down with one missile and fell to the sea near Myrtle Beach, SC following a small explosion. The military has been recovering debris spread over seven miles with two naval ships.

> "The decision to shoot the object down had been approved by President Biden three days prior"



Source: Chase Doak (via Wikimedia Commons)

US officials were sceptical of Beijing's reasoning that the balloon had blown off course while conducting scientific research and weather data collection. Speculating that its flight path was covering sensitive military sites, including a missile base in Montana, they levelled allegations of spying at China. The state department has since identified (from images taken of the balloon by U2 spy planes) that the equipment "was clearly for intelligence-surveillance and inconsistent with the equipment onboard weather balloons."

Tensions between the two powers now appear heightened beyond their usual exalted status. The matter prompted US foreign secretary, Antony Blinken, to postpone a scheduled trip to Beijing on the 5th of February where he would have met with President Xi Jinping. Blinken described the fiasco as "an irresponsible act." The Pentagon also made clear their dissatisfaction over the incident, which they say was an "unacceptable violation" of US sovereignty.

The episode has also caused issues for China's domestic agenda with Taiwan issuing a statement of condemnation. Self-ruled Taiwan, which China considers a breakaway province destined for indoctrination under Beijing, stated through its foreign ministry: "The Chinese Communist Party government's actions that violate international law and violate the airspace and sovereignty of other countries should not be tolerated in a civilised international community."

> The episode has also caused issues for China's domestic agenda with Taiwan "

Beijing confirmed that it had refused a phone discussion with US defence secretary Lloyd Austin which may have provided some consolidation on the matter, instead stating: "This irresponsible and seriously mistaken approach by the US did not create a proper atmosphere for dialogue and exchanges between the two militaries."

The United States' military is now set to bolster its already expansive presence in Asia through a deal with the Philippines for four additional military bases in the South China Sea. The move will fill a gap in the US' 'arc' around China, which already includes military bases in South Korea, Japan, and Australia.

> The balloon was eventually shot down with one missile and fell to the sea near Myrtle Beach"

Labour publishes analysis of government debit card spending

Francesca Ionescu
Politics Editor

The conservative government has been under fire from opposition, as a Labour study "uncovers" the spending on government debit cards (GPCs) in 2021.

The Conservatives accused Labour of using the study as a 'political stunt', their Transport Minister, Richard Holden, stating that the spending data has been available to the public since 2012. On Good Morning Britain he claimed that Labour was simply 'wasting' resources by using civil servant to uncover monthly published information. Labour's analysis, titled the GPC Files and amounting to 24 pages, focuses on every major government department of 2021 except the Ministry of Defence.

Amongst the expenditures were £344,803 spent by Foreign Office diplomats on "restaurants and bars", a £7,218 reception for Liz Truss as a foreign secretary and a huge £59,155 spent by the Department of Health on stationery, all only in the month of March 2021. The last expenditure is shocking compared to only £1,470 spent for the rest of 2021. The 14 departments analysed spent around £145.5m on GPCs in 2021, while the same departments spent around £84.9m in 2010/2011. The analysis does not however account for inflation, which has averaged around 2.0% a year since between 2010 and 2021.

Labour's deputy leader, Angela Rayner, has been accused of hypocrisy, as she has spent over £2,000 on Apple products. Labour is also facing criticism for spending almost £1bn on the GPCs while in government in 2009. The criticism does not hold well, as Labour's spending was across the entire public sector compared to the 14 government departments the analysis focused on. Adding on, Rayner defended her spending on Times Radio:

"I'm actually using the equipment right now as I'm speaking to you on the iPad."

The debit card scheme was introduced by Labour back in 1997, under then Prime Minister Tony Blair, and has come under scrutiny in 2009 after a major expenses claims scandal. The GPCs are funded by taxpayers money and were introduced an easy way to make 'low-value purchases'.

Labour's promise is that, if in government, they would have "an Office of Value for Money upholding transparency and high standards for all public spending, including on government procurement cards", according to Rayner. She also called the findings "a scandalous catalogue of waste" and pledged a future tough stance on it.

A conservative spokesman has said that the party has reduced the number of cards and required all spendings to be publicly declared, as a step towards further transparency.

Pressure builds for Hunt to cut childcare costs

Eva Castanedo
Contributor

A group of influential Conservative MPs have come together to form a pressure group aimed at convincing Chancellor Jeremy Hunt to reduce the high costs of childcare in the upcoming budget. The sector is currently facing a crisis, with Britain ranking as one of the most expensive countries in the world for childcare.

Led by Siobhan Baillie, the MPs have been holding regular meetings to discuss measures that could help cut costs and support parents as they return to work. These proposals include adjusting subsidies and loosening employment regulations. The former Prime Minister, Liz Truss, had planned a major overhaul of regulations to bring costs in line with other countries. Still, these plans were dropped by her successor Rishi Sunak, leaving Conservative MPs concerned about potential backlash from working parents.

Baillie said: "The Chancellor cannot ignore the issue of childcare in the budget. It is a crucial part of the discussion on economic inactivity." She is being supported by several backbenchers, including Robin Walker, the chair of the education select committee, and Edward Timpson. The group has been meeting with increasing frequency as they look to increase pressure on Hunt.

According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Britain has the third highest childcare costs among developed countries, with only Slovakia and Switzerland ranking higher. A report by the think tank Onward found that over the past five years, costs have risen by an average of 21% across the UK, with families now spending over a quarter of their joint income on childcare, compared to an average of just 9% among OECD countries.

The Chancellor is expected to focus his budget on getting economically inactive individuals back to work. The pressure group of MPs wants to ensure that parents with young children are among those who benefit.

The group is not proposing a re-introduction of the scrapped childcare ratios, but instead, they want Hunt to ease other regulations that they believe could help more people enter the childcare industry and allow parents to access the benefits they are entitled to. Demands include making it easier for parents to claim their tax-free allowance of up to £2,000 per year, of which only 20% of eligible individuals are currently signed up.

Other suggestions include eliminating business rates for private childcare providers, with a National Day Nurseries Association report uncovering that the average nursery paid £13,000 in business rates last year. The Treasury has declined to comment on measures being considered for the budget, but a spokesperson for the Department of Education said: "We understand that families and early years providers across the country are facing financial pressures, and we are exploring options to improve the cost, flexibility, and availability of childcare while ensuring that any plans prioritise improving outcomes for children."

Is Africa a solution to the Russia-Ukraine crisis?

Akash Dhanurkar
Contributor

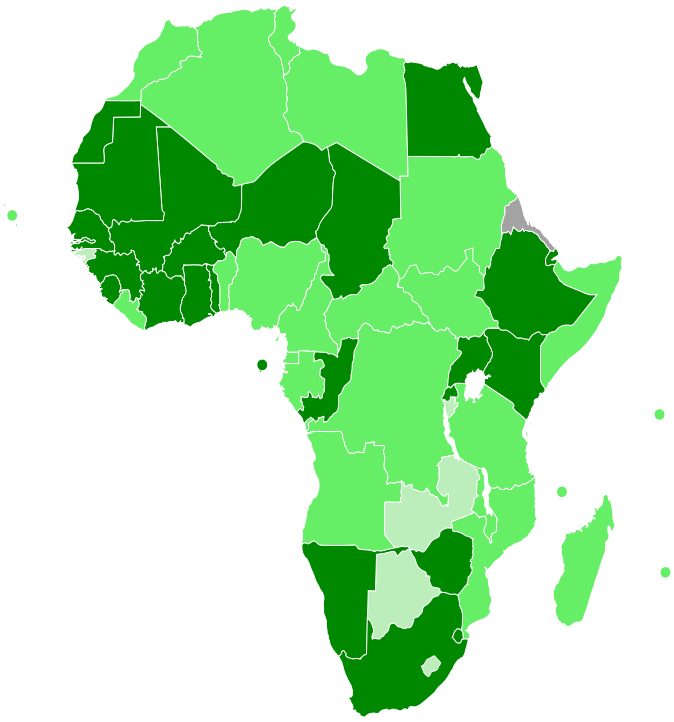
Post-pandemic. global inflation is still expected to remain elevated at 6 % in 2023 from 9 % in 2022. The growth is projected to slow to 1.9 % in 2023 due to the Russia-Ukraine crisis. Does the world see Africa as the investment hub to tackle global recession?

In 2021, the African continent hit a record of $83 Billion in foreign direct investment (FDI), according to a report published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on 9th June 2022. The investment flew to the continent largely in subregions of Southern Africa, East Africa, and West Africa while those in Central and North Africa recorded a decline in attracting FDI. Investment in Africa is being done largely by the European nations, the United Kingdom ($65 Billion), and France ($60 billion). China has topped the chart in terms of capital with an investment of $70 billion.

"If we exclude this transaction, the increase in FDI flows to Africa, while still positive, would be more in line with what we observed in other developing regions," said James Zhan, director of UNCTAD's investment and enterprise division.

The African continent reaps benefits from being the youngest continent in the world with 60 % of the population group aged below 25 years old; thus, fielding great manpower required by the businesses.

> "In 2021, the African continent hit a record of $83 Billion in foreign direct investment"



AfCFTA was formed under the free trade agreement signed by 54 countries.
Source:Mikemoral(via Wikimedia Commons)

Apart from the age factor, the continent is also rich in untapped resources and carries the massive potential for sustainable agriculture and a huge scope for e-commerce activities. According to the report by the Enterprising Investor, Africa accounts for 40 % of the gold reserves and 30 % of the mineral reserves.

One of the biggest benefits of the continent lies in AfCFTA (African Continental Free Trade Area), which was formed under the free trade agreement signed by 54 countries of the continent as of 2023 to promote the African market by eliminating trade barriers. An African organization, Mo Ibrahim Foundation, in its report predicted that consumer and business spending could set a record of achieving a $6.7 trillion economy by 2030.

According to the Agriculture in Africa 2021: Focus Report, Africa holds 60 % of the world's uncultivated Arable land, which makes it no less of a cakewalk for investors to grow agricultural startups. But a lot relies on modernizing and educating the local population. Intra-regional trade is one of the key factors that boost the chances of investors rallying to pour their investment into the region but security still remains one of the major challenges.

The 10-month civil war in Ethiopia known as the Tigray war lasted between 2020 - 2022 and displaced nearly 2 million people. West and Central Africa are haunted by drug trafficking.

According to a report by CSIS, China has built or funded nearly 46 ports in Djibouti. It is one of the leading flashy big-spenders in the African continent and has pumped more than $ 124 billion into Africa since 2000 without questioning the continent on human rights violations. According to a report published in 2022 by Human Rights Watch (HRW), an independent organization working closely in the continent on defending and protecting human rights states that apart from countries like Cameron, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nigeria, and South Sudan, where armed-conflict is frequently evident, Angola, Burundi, Eswatini, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zimbabwe, too, witnessed a rise in human rights violation.

The report also sheds light on how Ansar-al-Sunna, an Islamist-linked armed group has ravaged families of nearly 8,00,000 people in Mozambique. The terrorist organization has been using young children as soldiers in their fight against government forces. Terror-struck sub-regions of Africa are, however, not stopping countries from investing heavily in the continent.

"With the right policies in place, digital technology can give an unprecedented boost to sustainable development, particularly for the poorest countries. This calls for more connectivity; and less digital fragmentation. More bridges across digital divides; and fewer barriers. Greater autonomy for ordinary people; less abuse and disinformation," said UN Secretary-General António Guterres during the 17th Internet Governance Forum in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Zelensky in talks with Sunak during suprise UK visit

Francesca Ionescu
Politcs Editor

Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelensky, has visited the UK for the first time since the beginning of the Russian conflict, the invasion starting almost a year ago . The visit was not anticipated, and consisted of meetings inside Downing Street and a public address to MPs and peers - a press conference with the Ukrainian leader and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak , signing of the London Declaration, solidifying the support between the UK and Ukraine.

Zelensky has thanked the UK and acknowledged the country as an ally to "the most important victory of our lifetime". He has praised Boris Johnson in uniting people and has offered the House of Commons Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle the helmet of a Ukrainian pilot, which read: "We have freedom, give us wings to protect it." This seems foreshadowing of further conversations throughout the visit, the main focus on acquiring fighter jets for the Ukrainian troops.

Sunak has made multiple statements regarding the UK's support to the Ukrainian efforts, and Zelensky has confirmed that negotiations concerning defence are being finalised.



This was Zelensky's first visit to the UK since the start of the Russian-Ukraine war Source: Number 10 (via Wikimedia Commons)

The media raised some relevant questions. One reporter enquired whether Sunak can clarify the UK will provide fighter jets to Ukrainian troops. Sunak has said that the UK is "been very clear when it comes to the provision of military assistance to Ukraine and nothing is off the table".

Another reporter questioned London's involvement in laundering Russian money, to which the PM responded by claiming that the UK put in place "probably the most extensive and forward leaning sanctions of any country" surrounding the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. This came after the UK has released a new round of sanctions on Russia and its financial networks on the 8th of February.

At the beginning of Zelensky's visit, the UK made a commitment to training Ukrainian pilots. Although Zelensky asked for jets rather than training, the PM has stated that the RAF's Typhoon Jets could have their own com-

> Sunak has made multiple statements regarding the UK's support to the Ukrainian effort "

plications, as they are "sophisticated pieces of kit". The RAF struggles with training its own pilots, and Sunak has admitted that the fast jets would be a long-term solution, rather than an immediate fill, as they would require up to "three years" of traininZelensky has mentioned that Ukraine is running out of supplies and worried about a possible "stagnation" in the fight against Russia if the country does not receive jets or longer-range missiles. Around 10,000 Ukrainian soldiers are undertaking military training in the UK. Those arrived recently are being trained to use the Challenger 2 tanks. Sunak seems confident that the tanks could be rolled out in weeks

It remains to be seen whether Sunak will help the UK deliver the supplies that Ukraine needs. In the meantime, Zelensky will meet other EU leaders and push for military assistance - and even a possible EU membership for the Ukrainian state.

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Millie Stacey

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Ben Davies yn ymateb i feirniadaeth am siarad Cymraeg

Efa Ceiri
Golygydd Taf-od

Cafodd y Gymraeg ei chlywed am y tro cyntaf mewn cynhadledd i'r wasg yng Nghwpan y Byd Qatar llynedd diolch i amddiffynnwr tîm pêl-droed Cymru, Ben Davies. Yn ôl y Cymro o Gastell-Nedd, roedd yn deimlad "arbennig" i greu hanes wrth fod y cyntaf i siarad yr iaith ar lwyfan Cwpan y Byd. Yn y gynhadledd, dywedodd Ben Davies ei fod yn deimlad ffantastig fod yn rhan o'r garfan ac i gael y siawns i ddod â Chymru i lefydd o gwmpas y byd."

Derbyniodd Ben lawer o feirniadaeth ar-lein am ddewis gwneud y cyfweliad drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Roedd sawl sylwad negyddol i'w weld ar Twitter megis "Ben Davies speaking in gibberish", "Why can't Ben Davies speak English" ac "Why can't Ben Davies just speak English, he plays for Spurs."

Ymatebodd Ben Davies i'r sylwadau negyddol hyn mewn rhaglen ddiweddar o 'Y Byd ar Bedwar' gan ddweud fod "wastad pobl yn mynd i gael rhywbeth i'w ddweud am bopeth yn y byd, ac mae siarad yr iaith yn rhywbeth sydd yn gwneud i ni deimlo ein bod ni'n rhan o gymuned Cymru." Dywedodd hefyd fod "siarad yr iaith yn eithaf naturiol i mi ac yn rhywbeth sydd wedi bod gyda mi drwy fy mywyd."

Mae'r rhaglen diweddar o 'Y Byd ar Bedwar' yn cwestiynu pa mor debygol yw cyrraedd uchelgais Llywodraeth Cymru o filiwn o siaradwyr erbyn 2050 wrth ystyried fod bron 24,000 yn llai o bobl yn siarad yr iaith heddiw nag yr oedd 10 mlynedd yn ôl. Clywir barn athrawon am y galw ar lywodraeth Cymru i droi pob ysgol yn ysgol Gymraeg erbyn 2050, yn ogystal â barn un o Dregaron sydd yn credu nad yw'r Gymraeg o werth thu hwnt i bont o Gaerdydd. Mae'r rhaglen ar gael i'w gweld ar S4C Clic a BBC iPlayer.

Ymddangosodd Ben Davies hefyd ar 'Stori'r iaith' yn ddiweddar, rhaglen arall ar S4C sydd yn canolbwyntio ar bwysigrwydd hanes y Gymraeg i wynebau enwog y wlad. Yn y rhaglen, mae Sean Fletcher yn cael y cyfle i gyfweld â Ben yn dilyn ei gyfnod yng Nghwpan y Byd. Dywedodd Ben ei fod yn "deimlad neis gallu dangos bod iaith ein hunain gyda ni a bod cymeriad ein hunain gyda ni." Dywedodd hefyd ei fod yn "help" fod pobl fel Ian Gwyn Hughes yn gwthio'r Gymraeg a hanes yr iaith o gwmpas y tîm. Mae'r rhaglen hon hefyd ar gael i'w gwylio ar S4C Clic a BBC iPlayer.

Haf o gerddoriaeth fyw yng Nghaerdydd

Megan Haf Davies
Golygydd Taf-od

Braf yw cael cerddoriaeth byw yn ôl yn ein bywydau ar ôl blynyddoedd o gyfyngiadau yn dilyn y pandemig.

Does dim byd gwell na chanu gyda'ch ffrindiau a theulu... yn enwedig pan mae'r haul yn gwenu hefyd! Amlygir bod yr Haf yma yn addo i fod yn un llawn cerddoriaeth gyda sawl artist yn cyhoeddi eu bod nhw'n chwarae yn y brif ddinas eleni.

Ceir llawer o gyfleoedd i wneud hynny yng Nghaerdydd dros yr Haf. Cyhoeddwyd yn ddiweddar fod Beyoncé yn dychwelyd i'r brif ddinas ym Mis Mai. Ar ôl 5 mlynedd ers ei pherfformiad diwethaf yma yn 2018, does dim amheuaeth fydd ei thaith o'r enw "Renaissance" yn gwerthu'n gyflym a sylwir ar y galw cynyddol am docynnau ar wefan "Ticketmaster". Mae rhai tocynnau hyd yn oed yn gwerthu am bris



Fe fydd Stadiwm y Principality yn llawn dop yr haf hwn. Tarddiad: Sleepychinchilla (via Flickr).

rhyfeddol o £2000 ac nid yw'n syndod felly fod llawer o westai Caerdydd wedi llenwi yn barod.

Yn dilyn hynny, bydd mis Mehefin yr un mor brysur gyda Coldplay yn chwarae yn stadiwm y Principality. Mae 4 miliwn o docynnau bellach wedi eu gwerthu am eu taith ryngwladol sydd yn galw yng Nghaerdydd ar y 6ed a 7fed o Fehefin. Canmolwyd gan lawer am eu sioe gynaliadwy wrth iddynt bweru y rhan fwyaf o'u sioeau gyda 100% ynni adnewyddadwy. Hefyd, maent yn plannu un goeden am bob tocyn y gwerthir, a phrofwyd i fod yn gynllun effeithlon o farchnata.

Dau ddiwrnod ar ôl i Coldplay gyhoeddi'r gig, fe ddaeth cyhoeddiad y bydd Harry Styles hefyd yn perfformio yng Nghaerdydd ar y 20fed ac 21ain o'r mis. Aeth y canwr hoffus ar daith ryngwladol y llynedd o'r enw "Love on Tour" i ddinasoedd megis Manceinion a Llundain. Bu llawer o'r Cymry tu hwnt i gorneli'r wlad er mwyn ei weld yn canu'n fyw. Felly mae'n deg dweud fod cannoedd o'i gefnogwyr yn fwy na hapus ei fod yn dod i Gaerdydd eleni am y tro cyntaf.

21 mlynedd hir sydd wedi mynd heibio ers i Tom Jones perfformio fel prif ganwr yng Nghaerdydd. Ond yr haf yma, mae'r seibiant yn dod i ben! Mae'n canu yng nghastell Caerdydd ar y 21ain o Orffenaf o dan daith o'r enw "Ages and Stages". Cyhoeddwyd ei fod yn frwdfrydig i ddiddanu'r ddinas unwaith eto, yn dilyn ei berfformiad llawn gyda Coldplay llynedd. Braf yw cael un o enwogion mwyaf poblogaidd Cymru nôl ar lwyfan am beth sydd yn addo i fod yn nigwyddiad i'w gofio. Felly ceir digon o siawns yr Haf hwn i fwynhau cerddoriaeth byw o dan yr haul!

£100,000 i hybu cerddoriaeth dros Gymru



Cerddoriaeth fyw ar lwyfan yr Eisteddfod. Tarddiad: Nansi Eccott

Nansi Eccott
Pennaeth Taf-od

Dros yr wythnosau nesaf bydd miloedd o Gymry dros hyd a lled y wlad yn bloeddio canu un o ganeuon enwocaf y wlad wrth i'n tîm rygbi gamu i'r cae ym mhencampwriaeth y chwe gwlad. Er mai 'Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau' oedd un o'r caneuoncyfrwng Cymraeg cyntaf i'w recordio ym 1899, erbyn hyn mae gennym ni gyfoeth o ganeuon ac artistiaid Cymraeg a phwysig yw eu dathlu.

Dyma yn union a wnaed yng Nghymru ar Ddydd Gwener y 10fed o Chwefror wrth i'r wlad ddathlu Dydd Miwsig Cymru. Fe gynhaliwyd degau o ddigwyddiadau a gigs mewn tafarndai, neuaddau cymunedol, a chlybiau dros Gymru a'r byd.

Eleni yw'r wythfed tro i ni ddathlu'r diwrnod yng Nghymru a'r nod yn 2023 yw ffocysu ar gerddoriaeth o fewn cymunedau gyda'r pwyslais ar gynnal dathliadau mewn mannau cymunedol a lleoliadau bach ynghyd â hyrwyddwyr lleol.

Dyma ddiwrnod i ddathlu cerddoriaeth Cymraeg o bob math gan gynnwys pop, funk, roc, hip hop a bandiau ac artistiaid newydd ac annibynnol. Y bwriad yw annog pobl i ddod at ei gilydd i ddathlu a rhannu ystod eang o gerddoriaeth a cherddorion Cymraeg.

Ar Ddydd Miwsig Cymru eleni, fe gyhoeddodd Llywodraeth Cymru eu bod yn rhoi £100,000 ar gyfer cerddoriaeth Gymraeg ar lawr gwlad 'fel bod pobl yn mwyhau hyd yn oed mwy o gerddoriaeth.' Yn ôl gwefan y Llywodraeth, bydd y cyllid yn 'helpu mwy o bobl i gynnal gigs yn eu cymunedau lleol, gan wneud yn siŵr bod pawb yn cael cyfle i fwynhau cerddoriaeth o Gymru ac i ddefnyddio'u Cymraeg.'

Dywedodd Jeremy Miles, Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg: "Dydd Miwsig Cymru hapus! Mae'r Gymraeg yn perthyn inni i g y d ; dylai pawb yng Nghymru gael cyfle i'w defnyddio ac i gael blas ar hyfrydwch cerddoriaeth Gymraeg. Mae'r cyllid hwn yn bwysig i wneud yn siŵr bod pobl yn gallu dod ynghyd, a hynny drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg i fwynhau cerddoriaeth Gymraeg yn eu hardal leol."

Fe fydd y Llywodraeth yn parhau i rannu eu cynlluniau a'r manylion am sut gall cymunedau elwa o'u cynllun grant gan bwysleisio y bydd yn hoelio sylw ar ddatblygu sgiliau a gallu cymunedau i gynnal digwyddiadau cerddoriaeth byw gan ddefnyddio mentora a rhannu sgiliau i sicrhau hyn.

Nid yw'n rhy hwyr i ddathlu cyfoeth cerddorol Cymru, mae modd dilyn @Miwsig a defnyddio #Miwsig i glywed y diweddaraf o'r sin gerddoriaeth yng Nghymru ac i rannu eich argymhellion chi ar gyfryngau cymdeithasol.

Ewch i wrando ar restr chwarae Dydd Miwsig Cymru UMCC ar dudalen Spotify 'Cardiff Students' i glywed casgliad o hoff ganeuon ac artistiaid myfyrwyr a staff Caerdydd.

> "Ar Ddydd Miwsig Cymru eleni, fe gyhoeddodd Llywodraeth Cymru eu bod yn rhoi £100,000 ar gyfer cerddoriaeth Gymraeg ar lawr gwlad

Cymru a'r chwe gwlad hyd yn hyn

Millie Stacey
Taf-od

Gyda Warren Gatland yn dychwelyd yn ôl i Gymru, roedd 'y disgwyliadau'n uchel a'r pwysau ymlaen. Ar ôl ennill y gamp lawn yn ei ymgyrch cyntaf yn y chwe gwlad gyda'r tîm Cymreig yn 2008, roedd y Cymry yn uchel eu parch o Gatland. Roedd gan Gymru gystadleuaeth gref yn eu gemau chwe gwlad cyntaf yn erbyn prif pencampwyr rygbi dynion y byd,

> "Mae taith chwe gwlad Cymru yn parhau yn yr Alban cyn dychwelyd adref i chwarae yn erbyn Lloegr ar y 25ain o Chwefror."

Iwerddon. Disodlodd Iwerddon Ffrainc fel y sgôr uchaf, yn dilyn eu buddugoliaeth yn y gyfres brawf yn Seland Newydd. Yn yr un categori daeth y Cymru yn wythfed, ychydig y tu ôl i Alban a orffennodd yn seithfed.

Wrth i'r stadiwm lenwi a'r awyrgylch ddechrau adeiladu'n gyflym, daeth y chwaraewyr allan i ganu'r anthem genedlaethol. Dechreuodd y gêm o blaid Iwerddon gyda hwythau'n dominyddu'r hanner cyntaf, gan olygu bod y sgôr yn yn 3-27 i Iwerddon. Daeth Cymru yn ôl i mewn i'r ail hanner yn gryf gan ennill cais yn gynnar ar gynyddu eu pwyntiau i gyfanswm o 8.

Roedd hi'n ymddangos fel bod Cymru wedi dod yn ôl yn brwydro. Fodd bynnag, byrhoedlog oedd hyn gyda'r tîm a gafodd y sgôr uchaf yn y byd yn dod yn ôl, gan orffen y gêm yn 10-34 i Iwerddon.

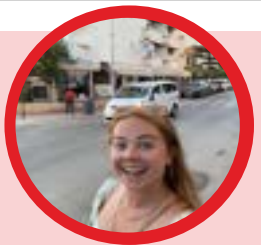
Mae taith chwe gwlad Cymru yn parhau yn yr Alban cyn dychwelyd adref i chwarae yn erbyn Lloegr ar y 25ain o Chwefror. Wrth i'r chwe gwlad barhau, mae Warren Gatland wedi penderfynu gadael Alun Wyn Jones allan o'r garfan yng Nghaeredin. Fodd bynnag, mae'n gêm gyffrous i Christ Tshiunza a Dafydd Jenkins a fydd yn chwarae am y tro cyntaf i'w tîm cenedlaethol yn erbyn yr Alban.

Yn anffodus methiant fu i Gymru yn Murrayfield wrth iddynt golli 7-35 i'r Alban. Dywedodd Gwyn Jones, cyn chwaraewr rhyngwladol mai dyma oedd "Y perfformiad gwaethaf gan Gymru dan Gatland erioed."

Gyda Lloegr yn curo'r Eidal 31-14, cawn weld beth fydd y canlyniadau penwythnos nesaf wrth i Gymru wynebu Lloegr yn Stadiwm y Principality.

> "Y perfformiad gwaethaf gan Gymru dan Gatland erioed."

Pryd o Daf-od Efa Prydderch



Prawf Newydd i Ddiodefwyr Endometriosis

Mae prawf swab newydd wedi cael ei ddatblygu a fydd yn cynnig gobaith i fenywod sy'n dioddef o endometriosis. Ar gyfartaledd, mae'n cymryd rhwng 6 a 10 mlynedd i dderbyn diagnosis o'r cyflwr, sy'n golygu blynyddoedd o ddioddefaint ac ansicrwydd i filiynau o fenywod. Mae doctoriaid yn dueddol o ddiystyru'r symptomau, gan roi'r bai ar symptomau cyffredin y misglwyf. O ganlyniad, mae nifer o fenywod wedi siarad am eu profiadau gan ddweud eu bod yn cael eu troi ymaith gan ddoctoriaid sy'n gwrthod gwrando ar eu pryderon.

Bydd y prawf newydd hwn yn haws i'w berfformio, ac yn cynhyrchu canlyniad o fewn cyfnod byr o 4 wythnos. Mae gobaith y bydd hyn yn arwain at fynediad cyflymach at driniaethau ac yn lleihau'r siawns o ddatblygu anffrwythlondeb o fewn menywod.

Mae'r prawf wedi cael ei ddatblygu trwy ddefnyddio micro-RNA, yr un wyddoniaeth a ddefnyddiwyd i greu'r brechlynnau Covid-19. Bydd y prawf ar gael am £1,000 o fewn gwasanaethau gofal iechyd preifat yn y misoedd nesaf, ac mae bwriad i'w ddarparu ar y GIG cyn gynted ag sy'n bosib. Dywedodd Jo Sinclair o'r mudiad Fertility First bod y datblygiad hwn yn fuddsoddiad bach iawn i'r GIG wrth ystyried y blynyddoedd o boen a gofid y mae miliynau o fenywod yn eu dioddef.

Beth yw Endometriosis?

Mae endometriosis yn gyflwr hirdymor sy'n effeithio ar 1 ym mhob 10 o fenywod ar draws y byd. Mae'n gyflwr sy'n achosi poen difrifol gan fod meinwe sy'n debyg i leinin y groth yn tyfu mewn mannau eraill yn y corff, yn aml o amgylch yr organau atgenhedlu a'r coluddyn.

Mae symptomau endometriosis yn gallu bod yn debyg i symptomau'r misglwyf, gan gynnwys poenau bol neu gefn difrifol. Yn wahanol i'r misglwyf arferol, mae'r poenau hyn yn gallu effeithio ar ansawdd bywyd unigolion, trwy eu rhwystro rhag ymgymryd mewn gweithgareddau arferol o ddydd i ddydd. Mewn achosion difrifol, mae endometriosis yn gallu arwain at broblemau iechyd meddwl, gyda nifer o fenywod yn dioddef o iselder o ganlyniad i'r cyflwr.

Ceir anwybodaeth o hyd ynglŷn â beth yn union sy'n achosi endometriosis ac, ar hyn o bryd, nid oes triniaeth yn bodoli sy'n cael gwared â'r cyflwr yn gyfan gwbl. Er hyn, mae triniaethau ar gael sy'n gallu lleddfu'r boen neu helpu i reoleiddio'r symptomau, gan gynnwys poen laddwyr cryf a llawdriniaeth i waredu ar y meinwe endometriwm.

Y llynedd, cyhoeddodd Llywodraeth Cymru bod nyrsys endometriosis newydd wedi eu penodi ym mhob bwrdd iechyd yng Nghymru, mewn gobaith o wella'r gwasanaethau ar gyfer y cyflwr cronig. Daw hyn yn sgil pwysau ar y Llywodraeth i wella gwasanaethau iechyd menywod yng Nghymru, sydd eisoes wedi darparu buddsoddiad o £1m i ariannu'r swyddi newydd hyn.

Dywedodd y Gweinidog Iechyd, Eluned Morgan: "Yn y gorffennol, nid yw gwasanaethau iechyd menywod wedi cael eu trin yn gyfartal, ac mae lleisiau menywod wedi cael eu hanwybyddu". Wrth glywed am brofiadau menywod sy'n dioddef o endometriosis, mae'r datganiad hwn yn taro'r hoelen ar ei phen. Er datblygiadau diweddar yn y maes, mae'r broses o ddarparu triniaeth resymol ac effeithlon i ddioddefwyr endometriosis ymhell o gyrraedd pen ei thaith.

Trafod gyda'r Taf-od Eben Pierce



Beth wyt ti'n astudio ac o le wyt ti'n dod?
Eben Pierece 'dwi a dwi'n astudio Cymraeg

Vodka neu Gin?
Vodka 100%!

Beth yw dy farn amhoblogaidd?
Mae Oasis yn overrated ofnadwy!

Oes gen ti unrhyw arferion drwg?
Dwi'n ofnadwy o fler, ma'n sdafell i'r llanast.

Hoff albwm?
Drysa- Fleur de Lys

Beth wyt ti'n edrych ymlaen at wneud eleni?
Mynd i Gaeredin i wylio'r rygbi

Hoff jôc?
Dwi'm yn berson ffyni, sgenaim jôcs...

Sut wyt ti'n gwella hangover?
Cycle diddiwedd o gysgu a bwyta

Beth oedd y ffilm ddiwethaf i ti wylio?
Moana, nyts o ffilm

Hoff gân carioci?
Anfonaf Angel, wasdad yn cal fi yn y feels

Pwy yw dy seleb crush?
Emma Walford, no brainer!

Pwy fydd yn trafod gyda'r Taf-od wythnos nesaf?
Ffion Davies

Barn Y Bobl- Sut ydych chi'n teimlo am ddarlithwyr yn strecio?

Jack Thomas
Blwyddyn 1
Cyfryngau a Chyfathrebu

Streiciau gan weithwyr y rheilffyrdd, streiciau gan weithwyr y GIG, a nawr streiciau gan weithwyr addysg! Mae'n teimlo fel petai pob un gweithiwr sydd â rôl allweddol yn y gymuned yn streicio ar hyn o bryd. Wrth gwrs, rwyf yn gwbl ddiolchgar am yr hyn maent yn gwneud, ac nid wyf yn rhoi'r bai arnynt am eiliad, achos yr unig beth maent yn gofyn am yw tegwch. Mae'r streiciau yn effeithio ar bawb ar hyn o bryd, ond rwyf yn cydnabod mai amcan streic yw achosi problemau bach er mwyn datrys un mawr. Er ei fod yn rhwystredigaeth, mae'n rhaid cofio pwysigrwydd yr arwyr yma yn ein cymuned, ac felly rwyf yn hapus dioddef yn y byr dymor er mwyn annog tegwch yn yr hir dymor, ond mae eisiau newid cyn hir.

Elin Angharad Huws
Blwyddyn 2
Cymraeg a Newyddiaduraeth

Rwyf o blaid y streiciau. Ydyn, maen nhw'n amhariad arall ar ein haddysg ac ein hamser yn y brifysgol, ar ben digwyddiadau'r blynyddoedd diweddar o ran COVID-19 ac ati, ond er hynny, rwy'n cytuno gydag achos y streiciau. Gyda fy rhieni'n darlithwyr, rwyf wedi gweld yn uniongyrchol y pwysau mae staff prifysgol o dan – oriau hir a thâl sydd wedi cwympo ers degawd. Heb os, mae'r holl streicio'n gwneud i mi boeni am asesiadau a'm haddysg yn gyffredinol, ond yn y pen draw, dyma'r unig opsiwn sydd gan y staff er mwyn ysgogi unrhyw newid yn eu sefyllfa.

Caitlin Griffiths
Blwyddyn 2
Newyddiaduraeth a Chyfathrebu

Dwi'n deall bod anghyfiawnderau yn y gweithle yn fater pwysig i aelodau'r Undeb Prifysgolion a Cholegau, ond mae'r nifer o streiciau sydd wedi'i chynllunio yn tarfu ar gymaint o addysg y tymor yma. Mae gymaint o bryder gennyf am effaith y gweithredu diwydiannol ar ddyfodol fy addysg Prifysgol. Dros y pythefnos diwethaf yn unig dwi'n teimlo mor tu ôl yn fy ngwaith, achos bod gymaint o ddarlithoedd neu seminarau wedi'i chanslo. Mae'n debyg i'r cyfnod clo ble oedd rhaid ceisio deall y gwaith o bwyntiau pŵer, sy'n anodd weithiau achos does dim syniad gen i am yr hyn maent yn trafod. Ond does dim byd allwn ni gwneud i ddatrys y broblem.

A oes angen aros degawdau am gydraddoldeb?

Anest Williams
Golygydd Taf-od

Mae Cymru degawdau i ffwrdd wrth gydraddoldeb rhwng dynion a menywod - dyma mae adroddiad pum mlynedd elusen Chwarae Teg yn ei ddatgan. Cyhoeddwyd yr adroddiad, gweddol siomedig ei gasgliad, hwn ddechrau mis Chwefror eleni. Daeth y datganiad ar y sail bod bwlch cyflog rhwng dynion a menywod dal i fod 11.3%. Er bod ychydig o gynnydd mewn cyflogau i fenywod ers cyhoeddiad yr adroddiad cyntaf yn 2019, nid yw'r bwlch wedi lleihau rhyw lawer. Felly, gan ystyried bod y targed o waredu ar y bwlch cyflog rhwng rhywiau, anableddau ac ethnigrwydd erbyn 2050 yn agosáu, a yw menywod Cymru wir ddegawdau i ffwrdd wrth gydraddoldeb? Beth yw'r sefyllfa yma ym mhrifysgol Caerdydd? Mae elusen Chwarae Teg yn elusen Gymraeg sy'n cefnogi datblygiad economaidd menywod, ac yn gweithio gyda busnesau a

> Fe fydd yn rhaid i fenywod Cymru aros degawdau am wir gydraddoldeb os yw'r cyflymdra cyfredol o weithio tuag ato yn parhau."



Cynrychiolaeth o'r bwlch cyflog. Tarddiad: OpenClipart (via Wikimedia Commons)

sefydliadau i ddatblygu arferion gwaith gwell. Yn ôl Natasha Davies, arweinydd polisi ac ymchwil yr elusen, fe fydd yn rhaid i fenywod Cymru aros degawdau am wir gydraddoldeb os yw'r cyflymdra cyfredol o weithio tuag ato yn parhau, ac aros am hyd yn oed yn fwy o amser bydd menywod anabl, menywod ar incwm isel neu o leiafrifoedd ethnig. Cynhyrchwyd yr adroddiad 'Cyflwr y Genedl' am y tro cyntaf yn 2019 er mwyn ei gwneud hi'n fwy hygyrch i ganfod ystadegau i asesu cynnydd cydraddoldeb yng Nghymru. Pum mlynedd yn ddiweddarach, mae'n "siomedig dros ben" i Natasha Davies fod y newid mor ymylol.
Wedi darllen canfyddiadau siomedig yr adolygiad, bûm yna'n ystyried gweithredoedd a pholisïau'r brifysgol dros y frwydr tuag at lwyr gydraddoldeb. Yn 2021, y bwlch cyflog canolrifol rhwng menywod a dynion yn y brifysgol oedd 13.7%, felly'n amlwg mae cryn dipyn o waith yn y frwydr i gau'r bwlch yma erbyn 2050. Mae cymdeithas ffeminist Prifysgol Caerdydd yn rhan bwysig o'r frwydr hon yn y brifysgol: maent yn trefnu gweithgareddau i drafod profiadau myfyrwyr o bob rhywioldeb, ethnigrwydd a rhyw o'r batriarchaeth, yn ogystal â threfnu digwyddiadau hwylus i bob un sy'n credu mewn cydraddoldeb i fenywod eu mwynhau.
Felly'n amlwg mae'r myfyrwyr am frwydro dros gydraddoldeb, a rhan fawr o hyn yw ystyried hyder menywod i fyw yn y ddinas. Ond, beth mae'r brifysgol yn ei wneud i sicrhau ein diogelwch? Dywedodd Natasha Davies ein bod ni'n parhau i wneud cynnydd annigonol yn y broses o frwydro trais yn erbyn menywod, trais domestig a thrais rhywiol. Fel un o'u camau i sicrhau diogelwch myfyrwyr, mae'r brifysgol yn ein hannog i lawr lwytho ap SafeZone lle mae modd rhannu'n lleoliad wrth gerdded yn y ddinas, a gofyn am gymorth os mewn perygl. A yw hyn yn ddigon? Oes digon o drafodaeth yn y brifysgol ynglŷn â'r mater difrifol o anghydraddoldeb, o ofn cyson menywod wrth gerdded trwy'r ddinas? A yw'r brifysgol ond yn ymateb pan fo'r materion yn cyrraedd y wasg, er enghraifft pan fu sylw arbennig ar y broblem o sbeicio yn hydref 2021? Fel y dywedodd Natasha Davies, mae'n rhaid i "eiriau cysurus droi'n weithredoedd, gyda brys cynyddol".

> Yn 2021, y bwlch cyflog canolrifol rhwng menywod a dynion yn y brifysgol oedd 13.7%, felly'n amlwg mae cryn dipyn o waith yn y frwydr i gau'r bwlch yma erbyn 2050."

Galw am addysg Gymraeg ym mhob ysgol ledled Cymru

Lowri Davies
Golygydd Taf-od

Mae ymgyrchwyr iaith Gymraeg yn galw ar holl ysgolion Cymru fod yn gyfrwng Cymraeg erbyn y flwyddyn 2050.
Mae ymgyrchwyr o Gymdeithas yr Iaith wedi galw yn ddiweddar am wneud y Gymraeg yn iaith swyddogol addysg yng Nghymru. Yn ôl ffigurau SYG o 2021, roedd 29.1% o bobl tair oed neu hŷn yn gallu siarad Cymraeg.
Yn ôl canlyniadau diweddaraf y Cyfrifiad, bu gostyngiad o 1.2% o gymharu â 2011 - gostyngiad o tua 23,700 o bobl.
Mae'r Senedd wedi gosod nod o gael miliwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg yng Nghymru erbyn y flwyddyn 2050. Mae Llwyodraeth Cymru yn buddsoddi £44 miliwn yn y

> Yn ôl canlyniadau diweddaraf y Cyfrifiad, bu gostyngiad o 1.2% o gymharu â 2011 - gostyngiad o tua 23,700 bobl.

> Mae'r grŵp Cymdeithas yr Iaith, yn dweud bod angen newid radical yn dilyn gostyngiad yn nifer y siaradwyr Cymraeg. "

Gymraeg ar gyfer 2022/23.
Mae'r grŵp Cymdeithas yr Iaith, yn dweud bod angen newid radical yn dilyn gostyngiad yn nifer y siaradwyr Cymraeg. Mae'r grŵp ymgyrchu eisiau bod hyd yn oed yn fwy uchelgeisiol – maen't eisiau i'r llywodraeth osod targed statudol i bob ysgol yn y wlad i ddod yn gyfrwng Cymraeg erbyn yr un flwyddyn.
Mae'r mesurau sydd wedi'u cynnwys yn Neddf Addysg ddrafft Cymdeithas yr Iaith yn cynnwys:

- Gosod targed statudol mai'r Gymraeg fydd iaith system addysg Cymru erbyn 2050
- Sefydlu rheol bod yn rhaid i bob ysgol newydd fod yn un cyfrwng Cymraeg
- Disodli cynlluniau strategol addysg Gymraeg lleol gydag un fframwaith cenedlaethol
- Gosod pob ysgol ar lwybr tuag at ddod yn ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg erbyn 2050 fan bellaf
- Rhoi dyletswydd ar gynghorau i ddarparu cludiant am ddim i ysgolion Cymraeg

Ychwanegodd Cadeirydd Cymdeithas yr Iaith, Mabli Siriol Jones: "Yn ddiweddar, cyhoeddodd y Llywodraeth dargedau ar gyfer nifer y plant Blwyddyn 1 y dylid eu haddysgu yn y Gymraeg erbyn 2026 a 2031. Mae'r twf hwn yn rhy araf os yw'r Llywodraeth am gyrraedd ei tharged o filiwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050.
Dywedodd is-gadeirydd grŵp addysgy gymdeithas, Toni Schiavone, wrth raglen materion cyfoes S4C, Y Byd ar Bedwar, fod angen "newid radical a thrawsnewidiol" er mwyn cynyddu nifer y siaradwyr Cymraeg ac ennyn diddordeb pobl ar bob lefel.
Pan ofynnwyd i Jeremy Miles sef Gwenidog dros Addysg a'r Gymraeg a oedd yn cytuno a galwadau Cymdeithas yr Iaith, dywedodd:

> Mae'r twf hwn yn rhy araf os yw'r Llywodraeth am gyrraedd ei tharged o filiwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050."

"Dydw i ddim o blaid hynny – rydym ar lwybr nawr lle mae nifer y plant sy'n dysgu trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn yr ysgol ar gynnydd. Yr hyn rydw i eisiau ei weld yw cynnydd yn y niferoedd sy'n dewis addysg Gymraeg, i fanteisio ar hynny ac i gael yr hyder a'r gallu i siarad Cymraeg."

> Yr hyn rydw i eisiau ei weld yw cynnydd yn y niferoedd sy'n dewis addysg Gymraeg."

Cornel Cyfieithu Learner's Corner

Our Welsh Editor, Malen shares the days of the week for our brand new section for learners



Monday	Dydd Llun **'Deeth Hleen'**
Tuesday	Dydd Mawrth **'Deeth Mowrrth'**
Wednesday	Dydd Mercher **'Deeth Merr-kherr'**
Thursday	Dydd Iau **'Deeth Yigh'**
Friday	Dydd Gwener **'Deeth Gwen-err'**
Saturday	Dydd Sadwrn **'Deeth Sad-oorn'**
Sunday	Dydd Sul **'Deeth Seel'**



Source: Free SVG

COMMENT



Clelia Frondaroli



Evan Johnson-Charteris



Frances Marsh

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Eco-fascism: the weaponisation of environmentalism to support ideas of white supremacy

Clelia Frondaroli
Head of Comment



How are eco-fascists weponising the climate change cause for their own agenda? (Source: Jeanne Menjoulet Via Wiki-Media Commons)

In the months leading up to the 2019 Christchurch mosque shootings, Brenton Tarrant posted a manifesto online that followed classic eco-fascist ideology. His frequent posts largely referred to 'the birth rates' and overpopulation; ideas which, after the act of terrorism that would go on to claim 51 lives, the self proclaimed 'ethno-nationalist eco-fascist' would use to justify his crimes. This is the legacy of eco-fascism, a radical ideology which combines alt-right fascist beliefs with environmental concerns.

Playing into existentialism, those who subscribe to this ideology argue that the current demise of the environment is largely a result of overpopulation, the blame for which is disproportionately placed on non-white and impoverished communities. Their thinking is rooted in Nazi ideas of 'blood and soil', where globalisation and immigration have 'threatened' the purity of the white race and believe that white communities are 'more deserving' of the planet's resources. Therefore, at the core of their fascist beliefs, they suggest that immigration should be halted or (at their most extreme) that ethnic genocide take place in order to preserve the earths remaining resources. Eco-fascism then, can be better understood as an expression of white supremacy rather than environmentalism, where the apparent concern for the environment acts as a guise to justify racist and extremist beliefs.

> "Eco-fascism then, can be better understood as an expression of white supremacy rather than environmentalism'

Yet, Brenton Tarrant was not a lone participant in this ideology. Since the Christchurch shootings, the perpetrators of the El Paso mass shootings in 2019 and the Buffalo shootings in 2022 have also cited eco-fascist values as explanations behind the execution of these attacks. However, as acts of extreme violence against minorities continue to rise, eco-fascism remains a relatively underreported ideology in the media. Although reports do emphasise these attacks as 'domestic terrorism', eco-fascist ideology is often not cited (or barely mentioned) as the cause behind these attacks despite evidence stating so. By failing to understand and reveal the true intentions behind these shootings, eco-fascism continues as a covert ideology which has the potential to carry out future attacks.

Furthermore, the overpopulation argument is repeatedly used within the news media to justify a link between overpopulation and climate change. Although not used within the context of eco-fascist ideology, the argument itself remains problematic and outdated. Initially created by Paul Elhricht in his book 'The population bomb', the author advocated for coercive incentives to control the growth of the population and illustrated this using the case study of India. Since then, the country (and much of the global south) have been plagued with negative associations and misconceptions which border on prejudiced. Although it is clear that population growth has increased the strain on natural resources, it is not fair or accurate to put this blame on the global south- where inhabitants emit 10 times less emissions than those in western countries. In fact, the global north continues to emit more than 92% of total global carbon emissions. Environmental degradation is also largely not due to overpopulation, rather it is the result of unsustainable consumption and production practices which have dramatically reduced the earth's resources. It could be said then that arguments of overpopulation use the global south as a scapegoat and have allowed extremist thinkers (such as eco-fascists) to infiltrate and weaponise these beliefs.

Therefore, radicalists exist in any kind of social movement and environmentalism is no exception. Eco-fascists have established themselves as a violent and extremist group, and their ability to effectively weaponise a positive and socially just movement could mean more people may be harmed by their beliefs.

Are concert tickets too expensive?

Evan Johnson-Charteris reflects on TicketMaster and the concert price controversy

Evan Johnson-Charteris
Comment Editor

In the past few weeks Cardiff has been blessed with a number of world famous acts all announcing that they will soon be coming to perform in the capital. When one checks the TicketMaster website, the list of blockbuster names coming to Cardiff is astonishing; from the 'first lady of music' Beyonce to The Streets to recent Grammy award sweeping artist Harry Styles to countless more (especially at the Y Plas & the Great Hall) - we are truly spoilt for choice. But, as any fan of music will no doubt ask themselves when they finally get to the front of the virtual queue to book, why are the tickets so expensive? Who has made them this expensive and why have they been allowed to do so?

To many, the first point of call would be to point the finger squarely at the platforms who sell them, the most famous of which being TicketMaster (subsidiary of LiveNation). Although this can largely be right (as many Swifties would agree I'm sure!), with LiveNation owning or being in an exclusive agreement with a quite frankly stupendous amount of music venues (estimated at 70% of music venues by CNBC in January 2023) - making it almost impossible for many artists to perform without them. It is important to note that people, artists and labels alike use these services for a reason - convenience.

> "TicketMaster was forced to admit only in 2019 that they had indeed helped artists "scalp" tickets"

The simple fact of the matter is that these companies are largely universal at this point, across many countries, languages, and genres; and using them is simple and effective. On top of that, the fact that these platforms can initially advertise the cost of tickets at a much lower rate than their true cost (making up this gap by adding on fees during the buying process) - means that they can be blamed instead of artists, as many don't want to take the heat of advertising their baseline tickets at a huge price. On top of that, TicketMaster was forced to admit only in 2019 that they had indeed helped artists "scalp" tickets - the practice of allocating tickets to be resold at a higher price on the 'resale' market. Truly squeezing every last penny out of each consumer.



The re-selling of tickets has spiralled out of control (Source: Samuel Zeller Via Stocksnap)

So what does this mean for the average joe? Well according to Time Magazine in 2022, concert tickets have almost tripled since the mid 90s. Add that to the current cost of living crisis where each pound stretches thinner and thinner for most of us, it is no wonder why consumers are being priced out.

But what about the artists themselves? Well in the past few months the likes of Easy Life, Little Simz and more have cancelled their US tours due to the sheer financial burden it would give. Although there are artists like the 1975 who vow to keep their concert tickets low enough to be accessible to fans of all backgrounds, it is important to note that they are a financial juggernaut (on top of having pricey merchandise as covered in their concert review last Gair Rhydd issue), and for many artists, who are already feeling the holes in their pockets, they have no choice but to raise ticket prices.

Therefore, ticket prices are not a quick solution issue, to make them affordable again will take solutions from all parties involved. Unfortunately though it appears many of the big players who could help solve this, actually have zero incentive to do anything.

‘You ain’t my muvva!’: Why Soaps Continue to Resonate With Viewers

Frances Marsh
Comment Editor

North or south, rural or city, village or hospital. There’s a soap out there for everyone. Whether you like your scandals to take place with a Yorkshire accent or cockney, there’s no denying that soaps are as popular as they’ve ever been and they’re tackling tougher storylines than ever. In the last year alone the soap world has seen brain tumours, serial killers, sexual assault, money troubles, car crashes, child murderers and several returns from the dead. There’s just something about a camp soap villain that everybody loves, and I can’t say I blame them.

EastEnders and Emmerdale are my personal favourites, though I’m the first to admit that Emmerdale isn’t at its best currently. Neither has been known to shy away from a tough storyline and it’s this recognition of real-life issues that keeps people tuning back in. EastEnders’ current main storylines revolve around fan favourites Lola, who has been diagnosed with a terminal brain tumour, and Whitney, whose unborn baby has been diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder. For both storylines, the BBC is working closely with charities focused on the conditions to ensure that not only is the story told accurately, but that viewers know where to turn if they want to seek further information on the topic.



Why do soaps still recieve such high viewership? (Source: Mohammad Hassan, Via Stockvault)

A storyline which seems to have been placed on the back burner is Zack’s HIV diagnosis. This storyline was praised for being particularly important as it raised awareness that the illness can be contracted by anyone, and not just from having sex, as Zack is straight and was exposed by sharing needles. It was confirmed that google searches looking for information about HIV increased dramatically after the storyline aired, and the Terrence Higgins Trust (the UK’s leading HIV and sexual health charity) had a 75% increase in website traffic. It’s clear that these storylines matter to viewers.

Even with all the dramatics, it’s the characters that lie at the heart of every soap. Characters that viewers care about are the reason that these storylines work. We root for their relationships and are genuinely upset when things don’t go their way. Fan favourite relationships spark intense discussion and viewers tune in specifically for the characters they care about. When a re-cast Robert Sugden departed Emmerdale village for the second time in 2019, fans of his relationship with Aaron Dingle (affectionately nicknamed ‘Robron’) were devastated, and to this day

> “It was confirmed that google searches looking for information about HIV increased dramatically after the storyline aired’

there is hopeful speculation about whether actor Ryan Hawley would ever reprise the role.

Fans of soaps are also extremely vocal about which characters they feel are not being blessed with enough screen time. Callum Highway is such a hit with EastEnders viewers that it was met with celebration, and several news articles, when his character was seen on screen last week after a short period of absence. There is speculation and theories about the reason for his lack of screen time since his last big storyline in 2022, but many viewers are hoping for a storyline based around the character this year.

Hard-hitting storylines are at the core of soaps, and they continue to be recognised for their importance, but it’s the balance struck between characters that feel incredibly real and the distinctive over-the-top drama of the genre that keeps people tuning in. Writers can throw every shocking plot twist they like into a script, but none of it matters if the characters aren’t ones we can root for.

Love Island and Sexuality

Are the ideas of heterosexuality in dating shows outdated in a time where all sexualities are celebrated?

Tegan Davies
Contributor

Last year, I regrettably formed a new guilty pleasure. You guessed it – I bit the bullet and fell down the hole of the hottest dating show of our generation – Love Island. As addicting as it is to watch the downpour of drama that helps you escape the genuine problems in life (many of which these contestants will never have to worry about again – like money, and job-seeking, and qualifications, and, oh, sexuality – we’ll come back to that one later), the toxicity that seeps from the shows every pore is something that should never be celebrated or popularised.

If, for some reason, you’re currently in the position that I was just this time last year, and have never watched an episode of the entertaining tripe, I’ll give you a quick rundown. Stereotypically beautiful men and women are shacked up in a Spanish/African villa for months with the goal of ‘coupling up’ with their one true love and winning the big cash prize. For every man, there is a woman – equal numbers for equal, but painfully straight, couples.

Now, going into the show, I wasn’t expecting to see anything remotely relatable in the first place.



Why have heterosexual couples remained the norm on dating shows? (Source: Nico Donnelly Via WikiMedia Commons)

All the girls are literally perfect, and the likes of last series’ Italian Stallion Davide was handcrafted by Michelangelo himself. There is not one belly roll when they sit, and the Islanders snack on fruit instead of devouring a whole pack of Oreos within a minute. But one thing was more certain than anything – It was going to be nuclear (excuse the pun). Boy and girl, girl and boy. Every Islander is expected to be dead straight.

You’d at least expect, however, for some form of acceptance for a percentage of us viewers, the ‘others’. Last year, contestant Luca Bish expressed some pretty harsh disgust at the suggestion of Sapphic intimacy that was potentially unfolding in front of his very eyes. “You can’t do that!” he exclaimed as two girls locked lips inches away from him. A vile comment, when you consider past contestant Sophie Gradon, who took her own life after the bullying she endured following her experience being part of the shows first and only queer coupling.

In 2021, Love Island’s producers deemed the introduction of same-sex couples on the show as being “logistically difficult” to execute. Now, those of us in the LGBTQIA+ community have been called a lot of things – many of which I cannot reiterate in this column. But, ‘logistically difficult’ is, for me, a new one. Now, you can read this as me

> In 2021, Love Island’s producers deemed the introduction of same-sex couples on the show as being “logistically difficult” to execute. ’

‘taking the comment too far’ all you like – but there is literally nothing difficult as accepting that there are other sexualities and identities that exist outside of straight and cisgender, and I’m sick of such people complaining about how incredibly effortful and excruciating it is to remember someone’s pronouns and preferences. It is quite literally the most basic level of respect you can offer to another person.

Love Island, you may indeed think that it is ‘logistically’ too much effort to try to include a wider range of our society on your more-modern-than-ever ‘reality’ programme, but I’d argue that you are ‘logistically’ inept, devoid of any actual empathy and lacking of innovation. To remain as relevant as you are, you must begin to bin the outdated versions of love that so many of us are sick of seeing.

Oh, and also, the girls and the gays would argue that we do it better. If you want drama, we’ll give you it tenfold – much more than Becky lipsing George could ever muster.

Are young people less likely to find love in 2023 compared to the past?

Adam Dunstan
Contributor

In recent years, studies have shown that young people are dating and having sex less. Research by the General Social Survey in 2018 found that 51% of Americans aged between 18 and 34 had no steady partner, a figure up from 35% in 1986. This is likely due to changes in the dating world since our parents were our age.

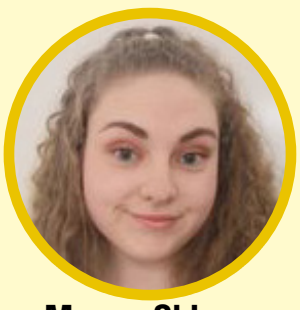
The plethora of dating apps available, such as Hinge and Tinder, creates the illusion that dating is becoming easier for young people. However, the opposite is happening. Kate Julian, the author of “The Sex Recession”, found it took more than sixty swipes to find a match on Tinder and that a match would scarcely often lead to a date. Furthermore, while sociologist Dr Jean Gunsaullus credits dating apps with making it easier to find a match, she also argues they make keeping a match less likely by removing the “hard work” involved in forming relationships. Societal changes have also altered the way we date. The median age of marriage is increasing as many people say they haven’t found the right person. Women have become more encouraged to pursue a career, making them more financially independent. This has meant more people have found satisfaction by staying single and focussing on their careers. This is evident in a study by Tinder, which found 71% of 1000 singletons aged between 18-25 were making “a conscious decision” to stay single.

Anxiety around contemporary issues such as climate change, the Russo-Ukrainian war and economic conditions have also caused young people to feel anxious about their future, with some believing there are more important things to worry about than their dating lives. The COVID-19 pandemic likely worsened this, with people feeling isolated because of successive lockdowns.

Nevertheless,contemporary issues may make it more likely young people will find love in 2023. For example, having a shared interest in topics such as politics or the fight against climate change may lead to young people utilising their passion for these subjects by attending events, conversing with like-minded people and resulting in the formation of new relationships. Furthermore, the world has reopened since the end of the pandemic meaning young people can experience previously banned activities such as clubbing and international travel. This will allow us to surround ourselves once again with people who have similar interests and shared experiences, meaning it can be easier to find love in 2023.

Overall, there are new and existing challenges for young people in finding love in 2023. However, we can overcome them by embracing new opportunities and doing things which we enjoy. At the same time though, there is nothing wrong with living your best single life!

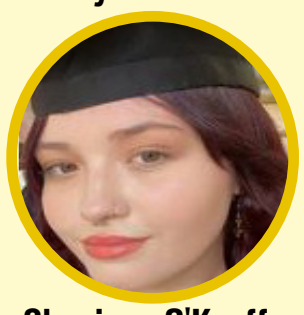
ADVICE



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Celebrating the little things in our lives

Shaniece O'Keeffe explains how and why you should celebrate your everyday activities.

Shaniece O'Keeffe
Advice Editor

Outlooks on life differ from person to person, and it's the same for what we class as achievements. Personally, something that I have begun to value more is the smaller achievements which can be monthly, weekly or daily moments I am proud of.

I used to only praise myself for achievements that would be recognised by most people; such as achieving a good grade in an important assessment, completing my undergraduate degree or getting a new job. I realised this isn't the mindset I want to have anymore. Instead, praising the little things begins to open your mind to a more positive outlook on life.

Sometimes we get caught up in the mindset that only big achievements matter and the little things that we do don't even get recognised. This is damaging to our everyday life. No one is completing these massive achievements daily and if they are, it's unrealistic to compare our lives to this. Sometimes life is calm, and with no big events coming up then there becomes a period of no sense of achievements in life. Changing your outlook on what is seen as 'worth' appreciation is the hardest part. Sometimes thinking 'why am i praising myself for waking up early or for eating breakfast?' then if these are things you have struggled with or struggle to maintain in your life then why shouldn't you feel proud?

> Instead, praising the little things begins to open your mind to a more positive outlook on life. "

Another conclusion which I had come to was, if I'm just living for these big moments and great successes, does that mean the everyday doesn't count? When you think of it like this it seems silly that we haven't been kinder to ourselves sooner! This is all easier said than done but some tips I would suggest taking up is journaling in the evenings or mornings. What are you proud of from that day; was it that you completed a load of mundane tasks that were long overdue, or you got through a 30 minute workout? What do you want to achieve tomorrow? Is it to be kinder to yourself, eat healthy or to tidy your room? By writing down your goals and being able to recognise your achievements it gives your days purpose and allows you to be proud and keep tabs on your goals.



The little things matter too: Success can be found in our everyday tasks. The way others percieve our challenges doesn't determine what we have achieved. Source: Oziel Gómez (via Pexels)

> It's important to change the mindset of what's worth celebrating."

Another way is rewarding your achievements, whether that's with a coffee, a meal out or a relaxing night in; treating yourself for moments you are proud of is an important way to take care of yourself. Self-care is so important and making sure you stay positive in all that you achieve really makes the difference when going about life.

The little things in life are important and the sooner we realise and praise ourselves, the more we start enjoying life and the little things in life which bring so much happiness and sense of achievement. Continue to recognise these moments and be proud of your achievements no matter how big or small they are. It's important to change the mindset of what's worth celebrating.

> By writing down your goals and being able to recognise your achievements it gives your days purpose and allows you to be proud and keep tabs on your goals. "

Gaining leadership qualities and confidence in your ability

Megan Shinner presents some top tips in improving your self-belief in social and academic settings.

Megan Shinner
Head of Advice

University life can be very overwhelming. You're in such a big city where the campus remains unfamiliar long after you've arrived. This can knock your confidence massively, and you may just feel like a name or a statistic in the grand scheme of things. However, you are so much more than that and you have so much potential – you just need to find how to let it shine. 20th February marks National Leadership Day, and we want to provide you with some top tips on how to improve your confidence in your abilities and how you can use develop leadership qualities throughout your time at university.

Making decisions

We all have to make decisions on a daily basis; what am I going to have for dinner? What clothes do I wear? Should I buy this? Whether they're small or big, we are constantly making. There are, however, some people who struggle to make decisions alone, even decisions that seem simple to so many. A great way to improve your confidence is to make decisions without seeking the approval or opinion of others. As time goes on, you'll get used to naturally making plans for yourself, you'll be sure of what you want to do and overall spend less time worrying. Additionally, you'll get used to dealing with consequences if there are any. Most people are deterred from making decisions because they are worried about having to deal with any negative consequences. However, most daily decisions don't involve negative decisions. When it comes to making bigger decisions, you won't feel a hesitant or nervous; the ability to make decisions confidently is paramount for a good leader.



Believe in yourself: . From carving scary faces or making a pumkin pie, pumpkins will always be a staple in households during the Halloween season. Source: Thirdman (via Pexels)

Working in a Team

There will be many situations in your everyday life where you are required to work with other people, and therefore teamwork is essential to get used to! Even if you're buying something in the shop or ordering a coffee, you are cooperating and communicating with another person. Great leaders often manage large teams of people and have to meet new people all the time. If working with others isn't exactly one of your strong points, there are loads of ways you can build your confidence. Start buy ordering a coffee or speak to the sales assistant rather than using a self-checkout. Maybe try making your next doctor's appointment over the phone and go and collect your food order rather than having it delivered. In university, take the module that offers the group project if it interests you and join a society, eventually joining it's committee. Every interaction you have will improve you people skills and confidence in social situations, eventually allowing you to be a strong team player.

Dealing with Criticism

Now, no one likes to receive relentless criticism. However, just because we don't like to hear it, doesn't mean it can't work in our favour. Accepting that you will receive criticism is a huge step in terms of maturity in itself. Accepting criticism means that you can take responsibility for your own actions, you are an individual who is willing to improve, but also that you respect and willingly listen to the opinions of others regardless of whether they are nice to hear. Criticism doesn't necessarily mean you are doing something wrong, it just means that someone else has spotted that there is room for you to keep growing. Taking on board criticism can be really helpful to your development and gives you an idea of how others around you see you. Obviously, some people can be mean and go too far with what they call "criticism". On the whole, there is normally a way that criticism can be made constructive and you can rise from it.

I hope these tips help you become the leader you desire to be, and you develop the self confidence you so righly deserve.

Life Advice with Lucy Advice Column





Source: Alena Darmel (via Pexels)

Struggling with the Fallout of a "Situationship"

Disclaimer – this advice is written by a student. This is not professional advice*

Lucy Matthews
Advice Editor

Recently I found myself in a club bathroom comforting and listening to a girl recount a relationship that, seemingly at first glance, would have put her back in an asylum when mania could be cited for such a reason. She was shattered, broken beyond repair and I could tell that even when the tequila was out of her system and she awoke sober the next morning, she would be nursing this loss for a very long time. As I sat by her side, pondering to what sort of monster she had run into in the scary darkness of dating alley that had committed such terrible tortures on her heart, I concluded that it must have been a first love, one of those ones that you never truly get over until the next person comes along. My presumptions were stopped short however, when she revealed the mightiest of all plot twists: they had never even been in a relationship. She had fallen victim to the ambiguous, puzzling, hybrid horror situationship and in that moment, as I sat on the bathroom floor surrounded by other equally as drunk and broken girls who took a share in her pain, I understood her hurt.

Relationships come with the promise of mutuality and security. You don't need to frequently ask the loaded (and loathed) question of 'What are we?' every month or so, (which seems to have more weight in society today than the big 'Do you take this person to be your lawfully wedded whatever)The honeymoon phase has been and gone, and you are no longer mentally in the beach destination of your dreams , accompanied by this individual. You have settled down comfortably with someone you can confidently label as your partner at the dinner table when your grandparents ask you for the umpteenth time if you are seeing anyone. Meanwhile, on the other side of the romance equator there is a place that is visited every so often by those who are yearning to seek something that doesn't require labels or emotional attachment in the slightest. It's like a puzzling mathematical answer that is correct, but isn't accompanied by all the working out demanded by your maths teacher. It's a cheat code for the non-committers and a hazard for the ones looking for something real, enticed in by the ugly disguise of the malevolent sitautionship.

> My presumptions were stopped short however, when she revealed the mightiest of all plot twists: they had never even been in a relationship. ""

How are you meant to tell people about the 'once in a lifetime' holiday you had been banging on about for the past six months when the plane never actually ended up taking off? There were no lazy beach days where you gobbled up books under the jubilant sun; just the Gatwick airport departures runway with a screaming child sat behind you. It's the 'what could have been' potential and scenarios that individuals deeply struggle with after the fallout of a situationship, and there is no need to ask why. You haven't got to know this person well enough to discover their flaws as you haven't made enough bad memories with them to reflect on and use as a safety blanket when in the getting-over stage. Essentially, you have created a fantasy in your mind. You're gaslighting yourself into believing it wasn't a real relationship and you are undeserving of the intense emotions you are now struggling with.

The rules and regulations of the five stages of grief: anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance need to be updated for the victims of a situationship's sake. As you regret ever agreeing to be more than friends, yet less than lovers, you question whether this really is the end, as a track record of seeing them over and over again looms behind you. An imbalance of feelings, attraction and expectation dominates a situationship, and when mourning a relationship, just being able to acknowledge that it was a relationship helps more than people realise. In situationships, on top of getting over all the highs, you have to acknowledge the fact that you felt so strongly for someone you never even got to call your own. This is why the five stages of grief can't be used as comforters for those who have found themselves wound up in a situationship settling for something that they didn't expect to have such a lasting effect on them. Anger? This is only directed at yourself for ever letting someone only have half of you in the first place, bargaining? The only bargaining you deal with is convincing yourself that if you stay around for long enough they will eventually be so captivated by your entire being that they demand your hand in marriage. Anger and grief? They go hand in hand and tend to come and go, just look at Taylor Swift's All Too Well for evidence of that. The only acceptance you may find in the whole situation is acknowledging that everything your situationship threw at you prepared you for the real deal, and that there are so many more chances for you to be experienced in HD by others who will be with you and love you fully.

> Dating in society today is an intensely imprinting and indelible affair. "

Dating in society today is an intensely imprinting and indelible affair. Many retreat into the safety of situationships to avoid the commitment and reality of being with someone in this way. Perhaps you've been hurt in the past and vowed to never let anyone get to know you in this way ever again and that's why you now go through life faling in and out of situationships. Maybe you have even found someone who is looking for the same no-strings- attached experience and it just works for both of you. Whatever your past dealings with situationships are, there is no denying that they still come with the same emotional and physical consequences of a 'serious' and 'valid' relationship. These consequences may look like daily meetings with therapists as you reel off all the memories you made with this person (despite never actually officially being with them) or it may look like endless conversations with your friends in club bathrooms as you drunkenly and tearfully recount how you got carried away by someone who wasn't ready to commit. After all- every situation is different.

When social media says yes, I say no!

Tegan Davies
Contributor

The word 'no' has haunted me throughout my teenage years. Pressure to fit in, when I clearly didn't. Pressure to smoke and drink, to like boys, to party. Don't get me wrong, I was never unfamiliar with the word – I was told it an awful lot. "No, I don't want to hang out with you", "no, you're not invited to my party". These painful memories of being shut out from the mainstream encouraged me to avoid using the term at all costs.

My childhood was that weird in between phase – one foot in the old, one in the new. Zoella, one of the most popular YouTubers from my childhood, adopted the phrase "just say yes" as her slogan. It was on everything – her merchandise was plastered in the three words as an attempt to make young girls gain the confidence to do the daring things they never would have dreamt of had their idol not encouraged them to. I always thought it was weird, even as a naïve adolescent. Why would I say yes to something that made me uneasy and anxious? Then the trends started popping up – 'saying yes to everything for the day' was a common video title plastered all over social media. Light-hearted? Oh yes, and edited to perfection. It was obvious, if the video wasn't scripted, that saying yes to every single suggestion someone made in a day would cause much more trouble than wearing odd socks.

Although, the more I've grown, the more I've changed and realised I don't have to abide by the "rules" social media plasters all over it's pages. Decisions as small as cutting my hair short exposed me to ruthless bullying, and ultimately made me feel the need to conform to the standards of social media. During the first lockdown, when I was finally free from high school, I learned that it honestly did not matter how my decisions made others feel.

I suppose the Coronavirus pandemic taught us all a thing or two about what is and isn't normal, didn't it? The girls I saw out every single night suddenly were the ones trying to be me, the hermit that lays in bed all day, asleep until teatime, playing animal crossing until the birds began to sing. The "no" that I once familiarised with wanting to stay in was the same word that the government used to respond to our pleas for some sort of normality. I've stopped trying to like partying and alcohol, because I know that I am most comfortable when I'm myself. The people that truly matter and are worthy of any place in your life will get it, and they won't care if you say no. I sit here now as the following: eighteen, mentally unwell, unmotivated, bisexual, and awfully straight edge. A girl, who has never gotten drunk or had a cigarette in her life (despite the relentless peer pressure).

I write this as my accommodation group chat plans a rave for the floor above. Me? I'll be sat here, rewatching Grey's Anatomy and not waking up with a gruelling hangover. So, no! Thank you for the offer, but I'll have to reject it. I'm fine just the way I am.

REVIEW



Alice Moore



Billy Edwards



Haris Hussnain

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#Girlboss by Sophia Amoruso- The Most Tone-Deaf Attempt at Empowerment

Alice Moore
Head of Review

I recently had the most debilitating experience of reading #Girlboss by Sophia Amoruso. As evident from the title, the former Nasty Gal CEO's book was released back in 2014 to satisfy the millennial thirst for relatable celebrity content. Adorned in pink and inspirational quotes, it was clear that quality was not Amoruso's checklist.

In a weak attempt to be relatable to the average woman, Amoruso recounts her 'rags to riches' story of going from dumpster-diving to running a multi-million dollar fashion giant. She scorns at her previous anarchistic self, lamenting on how she used to view capitalism as the 'big bad' and slate the 1% of society for their selfish money-making ways. If you're looking for an example of irony, this book is exactly what you need.

To give some context for my criticism, Sophia Amoruso stepped down from her role as CEO of Nasty Gal in January 2015 and, in November of the following year, the company applied for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. Rumours of workplace harassment and mistreatment later began to spiral, with a 2015 lawsuit claiming that Nasty Gal had illegally fired four women for getting pregnant. Regardless, Amoruso went on to found 'Girlboss' in 2017, a company designed to create content for millennial women to "progress as people in their personal and professional life". Much like Amoruso's ideology, this was flimsy and short lived, seeing her leave the company in 2020 due to pandemic cuts. Throughout her career, Amoruso has attempted to maintain her image as an ambitious strong-headed entrepreneur, naming herself as 'The' Girlboss' in her statement after her empire's pandemic collapse. However, she leaves behind a legacy of privilege, malpractice, and fast fashion. It appears that Amoruso built her way to 'girlbosshood', but promptly pulled the ladder up behind her.



The founder and former CEO of Nasty Gal 'accounts her 'rags to riches' story. Credit:Tech Crunch (via Wikimedia Commons)

> "It appears that Amoruso built her way to 'girlbosshood', but promptly pulled the ladder up behind her."

Despite my hateful tone, some elements of Amoruso's book are somewhat inspiring. Her motivation to start renovating vintage clothes and sell them on eBay in a one-woman show is a noteworthy feat. The hours, days, weeks and months that she poured into her independent business definitely paid off. I enjoyed the snippets of interviews with female peers and co-workers who had similar journeys to her, and her tips toward securing employment were helpful for a girl who is about to graduate in six months. Above all, '#Girlboss' gave me a lot of material to work with for my dissertation, which exists to critique Girlboss Feminism as a whole – a backhanded compliment rather fitting for a backhanded book.

> "This reoccurring rhetoric of "just try a bit harder!" has faltered,"

Looking back upon the era of the #Girlboss in 2023, it is easy to see through this millennial pink cash grab disguised as empowerment. This reoccurring rhetoric of "just try a bit harder!" has faltered, especially since the mass critique of capitalism and the working world since the pandemic. As much as I would love to live in a world where careers were not our main goal, I need to afford rent somehow. However, the 2020s have collectively opened our eyes to the superficiality of the #Girlboss, and the futility of equating female empowerment to financial prosperity.

De La Soul's 3 Feet High and Rising

"It's a classic 'party' record for all moods: it uses humour, but isn't afraid of a good funk"

Billy Edwards
Review Editor

At the approach of the 20th century's conclusion, America's anxieties were reflected in hip-hop. 1988 had seen the genre firmly enter the mainstream with stunning, no-holds-barred records, notably Straight Outta Compton by N.W.A and It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back by Public Enemy. Yet, a New York fringe movement was quickly gathering pace. It prioritised the optimism in Afrocentrism over violent imagery of guns, drugs, and crime. This positive self-expression style would be coined by De La Soul as "The Daisy Age" and perfectly encapsulated in their masterpiece LP, 3 Feet High and Rising, now finally reissued and available to stream.



Credit: Toby Mott (via Wikimedia Commons)

3 Feet High and Rising dreams of an easy-going 90s. It's a classic 'party' record for all moods: it uses playfulness and good humour, but isn't afraid of a good funk. De La Soul's eccentric three MCs, who refer to themselves here as Plug One, Plug Two, and Plug Three, are all instantly charismatic and so confidently different; not only from each other, but unlike anything else you've ever heard over 24 unique tracks. Their liberation through inside jokes, innuendos, and all kinds of silliness is completely novel; it's very accessible for newcomers to hip-hop.

You may know the irresistible buoyancy of 'The Magic Number' already, a souped-up sweet lullaby, bolstered by a sample lifted from the Velvet Underground's Sunday Morning and gleefully brisk: "fly rhymes are stored on a D.A.I.S.Y. production - it stands for "Da Inner Sound, Y'all". It's the biggest hit from the album and featured in the recent Spider-Man film. 'Buddy' has a terrific groove to get lost in, you'll start rocking in your chair like a baby; with perfect flow from Q-Tip of A Tribe Called Quest (my other favourite hip hop group), and the Jungle Brothers. 'Eye Know' is a bright love song in which Plug One and Two offer their affections in a very sweet way: "Hold my hand and we'll pick my plantation of Daisies for a bouquet of Soul". In its Otis Redding whistle and hazy horns, it's wonderfully evocative of sunset over Amityville.



The album is now available on streaming sites and apps. Credit: Blue Coat Photos (via Flickr)

The record speaks through a thoroughly American vocabulary of stars of the 20th century – there are more than seventy samples, their sheer diversity evident in names such as James Brown, The Ramones, Johnny Cash, and Steely Dan. It's a haven for music fans. Yet these entertaining reinventions are partly why it has been so hard to hear; its complex licensing issues meant De La Soul has pinballed between labels in the digital age with none sufficiently making the move. Until now.

It's great news for the group that after years of negotiations, this album is finally coming to streaming platforms. New audiences - particularly young people - can access its magnificence. For my money, it's the most creative, entertaining, and just plain greatest hip-hop album ever made. I compel you to shake, rattle and roll onto Spotify, Apple Music, and everywhere else from 03/03/2023 – see what they did there?!

Hogwarts Legacy- 'I would give this game 4 stars'

Haris Hussnain reviews the game based on the mutch loved book and film series

Haris Hussnain
Review Editor

I brought the deluxe edition of Hogwarts Legacy a while before the game officially came out. As a big Harry Potter fan, I was excited about anything that came after the already-established series. But a game where I could go to Hogwarts and ride a broom was just something amazing.

There have been a few Harry Potter games in the past, but they were a bit odd to me. I'm sure everyone remembers PS1 Hagrid and the awful janky graphics of the older games. The Lego games were also not great in terms of personal touch, although they were great for younger children. Hogwarts Legacy, however, is a completely welcome change from this. I can choose a house that I most align with, which is, unfortunately, Hufflepuff, and I can play my own character at Hogwarts in the Harry Potter universe. It's just a dream come true for me and many others.

In terms of mechanics, I would say the game is like a magical GTA online experience since there is the ability to use spells and brooms. Your character can just develop in the open world of Hogwarts, exactly like you see in the films. A personal favourite and overlooked feature is the ability to play in Slytherin and visit the common room. I think that in a lot of games, the players are restricted to the good guys when the cooler abilities and storylines are usually from the bad guys.

I think a big step in this game (and many other games in recent years) is how inclusive it is. Some characters are BAME and part of the LGBTQ+ community, and it's not just shoehorned in either. I believe these are just mechanics every roleplaying game should have because it's a game set in another universe, and the player is telling their own Hogwarts story.

Overall, I would give this game 4 stars. My one criticism is that I'm a big fan of wands, but really wish that there was more freedom with wand customization. However, this is a really enjoyable game that I would recommend to Harry Potter fans and gamers alike.

'My Year of Rest and Relaxation' by Otessa Moshfegh

Ella Dorman
Contributor

Published in 2018, 'My Year of Rest and Relaxation' by Otessa Moshfegh is a polarizing depiction of realism. Set in New York City in the early 2000s, the text is characterised by intricate imagery of a depressive scene as the protagonist, a young socialite, attempts to sleep for a year in an effort to emerge as a better, higher self.

The novel presents subtle criticisms of late-stage capitalism, whereupon the young woman feels the only way for her to avoid the stress and chaos of the modern world - in order to rejuvenate and heal - is to hibernate in an extreme way. The protagonist's ability to hibernate for a year is also a privilege afforded to her by the death of her parents, granting her financial stability. The text presents various images of death and wealth, interspersed by substance abuse - another symptom of late-stage capitalism. Furthermore, the premise of the text suggests that capitalism does not allow for rest or relaxation, and this is perfectly visualised in the imagery of bustling New York - the city that never sleeps.



Credit: Ari Evergreen (via Flickr)

Over her year of 'rest and relaxation', the protagonist experiments with a vast array of narcotic drugs to extend her sleep, prescribed by a dubious psychiatrist. One drug in particular has adverse effects and sends the woman into blackouts that take her sleepwalking across New York; disrupting her original plan of doing nothing but sleep for the year. The blackouts signal the woman's internal, perhaps subconscious urges to explore, learn, feel, and love, yet she does everything in her power to prevent them from happening, with the worry they will disturb her chrysalis.

The timeframe of the text preempts 9/11, and there is an ironic shift in the young woman's outlook once the novel depicts the attack. Whilst the young woman has spent the optimistic years of pre-9/11 revelling in drugs, sleep, fast food, social isolation, and persistent pessimism, after the attacks she emerges from her slumber starkly optimistic. It can be inferred that Moshfegh is hinting that with darkness comes light, a simple yet moving essence when synonymously capacitated with an image of the young woman's best friend falling from one of the Twin Towers. It is striking that it takes an event as devastating as 9/11 for the young woman to emerge from her guarded hibernation; another signal toward the bounds of capitalism.

It is clear throughout the novel that the protagonist is disgusted yet subtly entranced by herself - she maintains her slim figure and pretty face which grant her a sense of peace, in that she is still an attractive, sexual being despite her hibernation. Moreover, Moshfegh takes a feminist perspective regarding her presentation of the protagonist. The young woman's self-interest, vainness, and overall dissatisfaction with the world paint her as a deeply unlikeable character, yet readers still pity her. The novel is therefore an oxymoronic tale of reality, intersected by feminist commentary and a dislike of the hustle of New York. The text calls for what its title depicts - a year of rest and relaxation - but is this truly possible without financial privilege?

> "Moshfegh takes a feminist perspective regarding her presentation of the protagonist."

Oscar-nominated 'The Banshees of Inisherin'

Dilichi Dieobi
Contirbutor

From Best Picture to Best Actor, the 2022 film The Banshees of Inisherin has been nominated for a whopping nine Oscar awards. Naturally, this drove me to book my cinema tickets to watch it as soon as possible – and I can confirm, it deserves every Academy nomination it received. Directed by Martin McDonagh, the film is set on a fictional rural Irish island during the 1920s. It is full of beautiful cinematography of the Irish coast, and even more beautiful moments. The cast is made up entirely of Irish actors, all of whom are insanely talented. This includes the stellar Colin Farrell, Brendan Gleeson, Barry Keoghan, and Kerry Condon.

One thing that director McDonagh has been repeatedly praised for in The Banshees of Inisherin was his ability to combine dark humour and tragedy so effortlessly. Whilst the film has many humorous moments, the more sorrowful and emotional parts spoke to me the most. To give a brief summary, the film follows two best friends - Pádraic Súilleabháin (Colin Farrell) and Colm Doherty (Brendan Gleeson), and their friendship break-up after Colm decides he would no longer like to continue being Pádraic's friend as he is too "dull". Pádraic, confused and hurt, tries to understand why Colm no longer likes him and goes to extreme lengths to save their friendship.

Although the plot seems basic and somewhat two-dimensional at face value, one metaphoric interpretation I have been enjoying explains that the film is actually all about the Irish Civil War and Irish history. The war is referred to multiple times throughout the film, with dialogue or silences often being interrupted by the sound of a canon on the mainland. The loneliness felt by Pádraic represents the generational depression caused by the war, and Colm's desperation to be remembered for his music represents Ireland's fear of being forgotten as an independent country and how this has led them to destroy themselves whilst trying to ensure their culture is acknowledged. Notably, the death of Pádraic's donkey reflects the thousands of civilians killed during the 800-year crossfire. Even without this deeper layer, the film still holds such emotional weight, as I am sure many people can relate to being dropped randomly by a friend they held in high esteem.

The film had a truly great impact on me, a very much normal audience member with no detailed prior knowledge of the Irish Civil War, and prompted me to do a bit of research on it myself. It has also convinced me that I'm in need of an emotional-support donkey. I also discovered that the cozy jumpers worn by the cast in the film were made by a local woman in her 80s, Delia Barry. She worked closely with costume designer Eimer Ní Mhaoldomhnaigh to create jumpers that reflected each character's personality and remained true to 1920s Irish fashion. Impressively, Barry did not know any of the actors' measurements before knitting the jumpers but managed to get them almost spot on. The film is now streaming on Disney+ and I urge everyone to give it a watch!

> "I can confirm it deserves every Academy nomination it received."

Amazon Prime's Generational Wealth

Rose Hancock
Contributor

Over a career spanning more than 20 years, Lauren Greenfield has focused on the extremes of capitalism, linking body image, greed, narcissism, and sex. In 'Generation Wealth', the photographer asks why we want what we want. Piecing together interviews with previous subjects, she charts a journey of shifting values in Western society, identifying a compulsive need for more – whatever the cost.

What follows could be described as a series of cautionary tales. Greenfield clearly identifies herself within 'Generation Wealth' and feels empathy for her subjects. There's Suzanne Murphy, a successful hedge fund executive, whose career aspirations almost cost her the ability to have a baby. Then there's Cathy, a school bus driver who became homeless after expensive cosmetic surgery. She later explains her difficulty in helping her own daughter overcome body image struggles. These stories are unified by the question of how 'Generation Wealth' should look to raise their own children.

Greenfield also follows these themes through her own family. Her father, Sheldon Greenfield, was brought up by immigrant parents, later attending Harvard and qualifying in medicine. He had an upbringing characterised by frugality and discretion. Greenfield's sons, on the other hand, are seen struggling with the burden of familial legacy. Like many teenagers, they are well accustomed to the forces of bling and celebrity.

Like any cautionary tale, Generation Wealth has a moral – money can't buy love. Yet, this never feels fully substantiated.

First, it is clearly difficult to weave such a broad selection of personalities into a single film. The portrayals sometimes feel one-dimensional. While Greenfield is empathetic towards her subjects, some have a greater degree of moral culpability in their own downfall (for example, the FBI-wanted hedge fund manager Florian Homm). Others, for various reasons, don't neatly fit the redemption narrative, and as such, the film reaches only loose conclusions.

Second, Greenfield's focus on lived experiences means that economic and political arguments play a minor role. While the 2008 financial crash features briefly, other factors up to this point are summarised in a brief and reductive way. This reinforces the central idea that societal values and psychology have created 'Generation Wealth.' Instead of external forces controlling us, this suggests that we may shape our own destiny by connecting with our community. But some expert commentary might help to pull together the divergent testimonies, which provide an imprecise direction for the film.

Finally, Greenfield never quite brings together the experiences of her family and her interviewees in a satisfying way. Her family is a high-achieving product of social mobility. Although her children have mixed feelings about her 'workaholism', they are a seemingly happy family overall. This appears to present an alternate conclusion. Must we prioritise family and love over our achievements? Or is it possible to enjoy both?

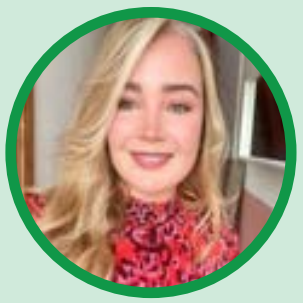
SCIENCE



Edward Sutton



Aditi Kallanagoudar Girish



Freya Shepherd

ELSEWHERE IN SCIENCE

Dislodged fuel filter blamed for rocket failure

The first ever satellite mission from the UK failed due to a rocket engine overhearing

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End of the Golden Era of Big Tech?

They've had it so good for so long, so are the cracks beginning to show?

Edward Sutton
Head of Science and Tech

If you look at the headlines surrounding Big Tech today, the picture wouldn't look too rosy. Layoffs, shares slumping and valuations tumbling don't make for a good combination for companies that have seemingly grown exponentially for the last decade. So, what's going on here?

It seems to many economists and people on Wall Street that we are in the midst of a change of direction for many of these companies. From frivolous spending to more frugal budgets – Big Tech can no longer aimlessly spend. The prospect of recession around the world, the slowing down the global economy and supply chain issues have hit these tech companies hard. The money isn't pouring in as fast and production issues are forcing products to take longer to release. This is the same for many companies the economy over, but tech stocks were seen as high value for many investors and now with the multitude of issues facing them, investors are looking elsewhere. This is a big change from during the pandemic where many of these companies were reaching record highs in their stock price and market capitalisation.



Big tech companies like Google and Amazon have dominated their sectors - now they're facing a financial reckoning Source: Huzaifa Abedeen (via Wikimedia Commons)

Tech companies are tightening the purse strings and one of the quickest ways to save money is to lay people off. Within the last 4 months, Amazon, Microsoft, Meta, and Alphabet (Google) have laid off 50,000 people. The layoffs in other sectors of the economy haven't been as large as in tech. Originally a lot of these layoffs had been in America but recently Deliveroo has announced it is laying off 10% of its workforce, possibly starting this trend amongst more UK tech firms.

Dealing with the disruption to supply chains might be one way to remedy some of the downturn these companies are facing. Semiconductors are still partially affected by COVID with more demand and reduced production over the pandemic. The worst seems to be over for chip makers, but manufacturing is the next challenge. China previously had a Zero Covid Policy which caused strict lockdowns for areas that had a few cases. This has caused major delays in the production of electronics and delayed big products like the iPhone and PS5.

Focusing on more profitable projects is another way the tech world might prove to investors that it's a stocks worth investing in again. We're on the cusp of an AI revolution, with an AI powered search battle between Microsoft and Google brewing. Big conversations are happening in the boardrooms of big tech around these new technologies, so we'll have to wait and see what is in store for us as consumers.

> "From frivolous spending to more frugal budgets – Big Tech can no longer aimlessly spend."

How good is ChatGPT's chat?

Freya discusses the AI that has taken the internet by storm and possibly the classroom next.

Freya Shepherd
Science and Tech Editor

Every now and then, a new application comes along that gets everyone excited (and even a little nervous) about the possibilities of artificial intelligence (AI). ChatGPT is the latest trend and has been taking the internet by storm. Launched in November 2022 by OpenAI, built on top of OpenAI's GPT-3 family of large language models, ChatGPT has been fine-tuned using supervised and reinforcement learning techniques. This has led to a 'bot' that can interact with the user in a 'conversational way',

> "It has been criticised by some for its factual inaccuracy, particularly in when dealing with code."

OpenAI has described. Because of its ability to answer follow up questions, admit its mistakes, challenge incorrect premises, and reject inappropriate requests it can be used to assist the user in almost limitless ways. You can ask it pertinent questions about the history of a country, to help you write or rewrite a speech or presentation, give you ideas for a birthday gift and improve a section of code. The options are endless. I could have used it to write this article – if it wasn't always 'at capacity'.

Unfortunately, only the prototype was free to use and now, following its success, there is a paid for subscriber version too. For $20/month you won't be faced by the annoying 'at capacity' message and have faster response times. Although, this may be justified as estimates currently sit at around $3 million per month to continue running ChatGPT, which is around $100,000 per day – and that is supposedly the cost of the servers only. A lot has also been spent on training the AI not to produce offensive content, despite when being asked to by users. OpenAI claims it has safeguards in place in order to "build a safe and beneficial artificial general intelligence."

> "The World Economic Forum has stated that while some jobs may become redundant; people won't."

But how good is it? Can it write as well as a human? Is this the start of us being replaced by robots? It has been criticised by some for its factual inaccuracy, particularly in when dealing with code. However, reports are overwhelmingly positive. More so than anything that has come before it, ChatGPT is capable of producing just about any kind of text or written output to a quality that – very nearly – appears as if it was written by a human. So, it may be able to write as well as humans, but it is missing some things. The World Economic Forum has stated that while some jobs may become redundant; people won't. Emotional intelligence, empathy and the ability to solve multiple problems at once are all skills that only humans can do. Instead, we should work with AI. Use it to do the jobs it can do – use it to automate the mundane and routine. Freeing us up to concentrate on developing and using skills that machines don't have yet. And might not do for some time.

So yes, ChatGTPs chat is pretty good. But not yet good enough to write your dissertation.

End of the line for the Boeing 747

Thomas Mahoney
Contributor

The colossal airframe, the instantly recognisable flight deck hump, and that earth-shattering rumble at full throttle: aeroplane enthusiasts worldwide will be misty-eyed at the news that,as of January, the final Boeing 747 jumbo-jet has left the production line in Washington state, USA. Though the aircraft is expected to remain in operation for decades to come, this revelation signifies the end of an era in the aviation industry.

> "Over 1,500 aircraft were built, delivered to various high-end airlines like British Airways and Lufthansa ."

The Boeing 747 can in many ways be considered as much of a pioneer as the De Havilland Comet or Concorde, in that it redrew the boundaries of air travel. Making its debut flight as early as February 1969 (the month before Concorde did so), the B747 was intended as a more capacious alternative to the older, single-deck Boeing 707. Since then, over 1,500 aircraft were built, delivered to various high-end airlines like British Airways and Lufthansa, including cargo-orientated equivalents operated by companies like FedEx and CargoLux.

Never before had air passengers been transported in such volume – the first B747s used the trademark upper deck behind the cockpit as a lounge for passengers originally, whereas even this space was enlarged and designated as a business class section in newer versions. The model's largest variant can seat as many as 467 people, all the while attaining a maximum cruise speed of 580mph (933kph). With an empty weight of 220 tons, that's roughly the same as 6 two-carriage trains that serve Cathays station! A highly customised B747 has even transported the incumbent US President in Air Force One since 1990.

This magnificent feat of engineering leaves little to be desired performance-wise, but alas, the discontinuation of its production isn't without good reason. Moving a machine of this size through the air at 0.85 times the speed of sound requires a mind-boggling amount of fuel – up to 7 pints per second. Concerns about our climate, the B747's efficiency and running costs have rightfully triggered a cease of production. More modern and efficient twin-engine alternatives such as the Boeing 787 and Airbus A350 will replace it, dramatically reducing pollution and running costs. These airliners are also considerably quieter – welcome news for residents near international airports.

> "With an empty weight of 220 tons, that's roughly the same as 6 two-carriage trains that serve Cathays station"

Nonetheless, the aviation world raises a glass to the Boeing 747 and is respectfully cognisant of its revolutionary role in the transport industry.



Source: Iberia Airlines (via Wikimedia Commons)

Six Nations Roundup - Wales v Ireland

Gatland's side faced major disappointment during the opening Six Nations game against Ireland

Jess Margetson
Contributor

Under the roof of the Principality with the deafening roar of the Welsh crowd and Gatland back in charge, Welsh fans were in high spirits.

Unfortunately for Wales, their Six Nations got off to the worst possible start when they were beaten 34-10 by Ireland in Cardiff last Saturday. The opening stages were devastating for Wales as Ireland sealed their win within the first 25 minutes of the game. Reflecting on the match, Warren Gatland said his team "created a number of chances in the game and just weren't clinical enough to finish them."

Ireland had a great start scoring a try within the first 3 minutes, setting the tone for the rest of the match. Ireland's speed and recycling of the ball made it difficult for Wales to gain control, it was imperative for Gatland's Welsh side to slow the game down. Ireland's James Ryan secured the second try of the afternoon demonstrating excellent efficiency from the visiting side. Johnny Sexton secured a conversion, with Ireland totally dominating the first half.

> "Liam Williams scored a try to bring the score back to 27-10 as Wales reacted to their lack of intensity in their first half.

Wales's lack of discipline within the first 10 minutes will be incredibly frustrating for Gatland. Wales seemed to have opportunity after opportunity, with Rio Dyer racing towards the try line but unable to secure any points. Finally, after a painstaking 15 minutes, Dan Biggar secured 3 penalty points for Wales.

Ireland moved further ahead with James Lowe scoring, illustrating a spectacular ability to read the mistakes of the opposition. It became apparent that Wales' confidence was beginning to deflate, from fans and players alike.

Wales was criticized in the media for making multiple basic errors at an international level. It seemed Wales couldn't get a grip on their discipline handing penalties over to Ireland. With 7 penalties in the first 25 minutes, it wasn't looking good for Wales.

More Welsh indiscipline allowed Ireland full access to their half, and around the halfway point, Sexton delivered another penalty to increase the margin. Jac Morgan was thwarted at the goal line as the first half came to a close for Wales. Wales trailed 27-3 at halftime, making it a dismal 40 minutes of rugby overall.



Source: Ungry Young Man (via Wikimedia Commons)

Wales' first shot came early in the second half. This time, Ireland's lack of discipline ended up being costly. Liam Williams scored a try to bring the score back to 27-10 as Wales reacted to their lack of intensity in their first half. The stadium erupted encouraging Wales on their attack, with their defense improving, causing Ireland's pace to slow significantly. Despite this, Williams receiveing a yellow card made things worse for Wales.

From a Welsh perspective, this was a poor start to their Six Nations. Ireland seemed to be a well-oiled machine, with a blinding pace and top-notch discipline. Having said that, despite Wales underperforming, they showed promising character during the second half with many remaining hopeful that they'll improve under the new coaching staff headed by Warren Gatland.

Biggest financial scandal in Premier League history?

Jasmine Jones
Head of Sport

The Premier League has charged Manchester City with breaking its financial rules. The news broke last week after an investigation spanning more than 4 years charged Manchester City with more than 100 counts of financial breaches between 2009 and 2018. There is now controversy amidst rival clubs and fans campaigning for City to be kicked out of the league if they are found guilty.

Manchester City has allegedly broken multiple financial rules that are in place to make sure every club's finances are declared accurately, fairly, and through the proper public channels. The Premier League has suggested that Manchester City has not provided accurate information regarding its revenue streams, including lucrative sponsorship deals, and its operating costs over the last decade. Much of the club's income was coming directly from the club owner, the Premier League claim, and was being disguised as sponsorship income. If this is found to be true it is a serious deceit of the financial fair play rules.

> "Manchester City has allegedly broken multiple financial rules that are in place to make sure every club's finances are declared accurately, fairly, and through the proper public channels.



Manchester City Football Club. Source: Guts Gaming (via Flickr)

Another separate set of breaches alleged against the club is in relation to its ex-manager Roberto Mancini, who is said to have had secret contracts worth millions of pounds more than the amount they disclosed between 2009 and 2013. By doing this, it artificially deflated the costs of running the club by only putting a small percentage of what the managers were earning through the club books. This isn't the first time Manchester City has been accused of serious breaches of conduct either. In 2020 the club was handed a suspension by UEFA for breaking club licensing and financial fair play rules but the 2 year ban from European football was ultimately overturned.

Manchester City has responded, in a statement claiming they were given no prior warning of the charges or ongoing investigation. They also questioned the timing of the public allegations, highlighting political motives with the governments' football governance white paper to be published within the next month. This means that when the Premier League executives are asked to provide evidence that they deal with financial misconduct timely and accurately by the government, they can use Manchester City's case as an example. BBC Sports Editor Dan Roan said that "the Premier League wants to send a message to government that it can regulate itself" rather than through proposed independent regulators.

The club's statement also explained that they were "surprised" by the charges but confident in their position that the independent commission over the alleged breaches will find the club not guilty. However, with winning 6 Premier League titles in the last 11 years, there is a lot at stake for the club if they are found guilty. Possible punishments according to the independent commission investigating the case include league and cup ties to be replayed, cancelling the registration of players, and even suspension from the league. Whilst some argue that taking away Manchester City's titles from this period would be meaningless, others suggest that this along with point deductions is the only suitable penalty for the magnitude of this case.

> "Manchester City has responded, in a statement claiming they were given no prior warning of the charges or ongoing investigation.

The investigation is said to continue for many months to come, with current manager Pep Guardiola warning he will resign if the club is found to have broken the rules. Whilst we will have to wait for the outcome, no big club has ever had as many serious allegations against them and therefore this case has the potential to be the biggest financial scandal in football history.

> "BBC Sports Editor Dan Roan said that "the Premier League wants to send a message to government that it can regulate itself" rather than through proposed independent regulators.

SPORT



Jasmine Jones



Ryan Harris-Jewell



Eloise Martin



Rohan Kakar

ELSEWHERE IN SPORT

Kansas City Chiefs fight back to win Superbowl LVII

The Chiefs became NFL champions after fighting back to claim a thrilling 38-35 win over the Philadelphia Eagles

Sky Brown has become Great Britain's first skateboarding world champion at the age of 14

Brown won gold at the World Championships in Sharjah, UAE, with a best score of 90.83

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Adran Premier League Phase One round-up

Eloise Martin
Sport Editor

It has been a thrilling few months in women's Welsh domestic and international football. It has been a game-changing period for women's football everywhere following last Summer's UEFA Euro. With the Welsh national team just falling short of World Cup qualification and a competitive first phase in the domestic league, there is plenty to discuss!

The Adran Premier launched for the 2021/2022 season in a bid to revamp women's football in Wales. The new structure aims to raise the profile and quality of the domestic game to give some of the top talents in Wales the chance to thrive without having to travel to England to play top-class competitive football.

> The Adran Premier launched for the 2021/2022 season in a bid to revamp women's football in Wales

The league consists of eight Welsh teams who battle it out in the first phase for a spot in the top four. After the first phase concludes the league is split into a top and bottom four. The second phase begins on the 26th of February and the bottom four play against each other twice with hopes of winning the conference place and avoiding the dreaded relegation. While the top four go head-to-head to be crowned league champions with a spot in the qualifying rounds for the Champions League.

The phase one action concluded last weekend when The New Saints beat Abergavenny to steal the final spot in the top four from Pontypridd United. The task in hand for TNS was to beat bottom of the table Abergavenny by four goals and the spot in the top four was theirs. This came after Pontypridd United had their successful run slowed as they lost 1-0 to Abergavenny in their final game of the phase allowing that fourth spot to slip out of their hands. The New Saints equalled Pontypridd United in points, but an advantage of just one goal separated the sides.

> The phase one action concluded last weekend when The New Saints beat Abergavenny to steal the final spot in the top four from Pontypridd United

The competitiveness in the league has risen significantly since last year and the fight to finish in the top four went down to the wire. As a result of this Pontypridd United, Aberystwyth Town, Barry Town United, and Abergavenny all finished in the bottom four and Cardiff City, Swansea City, Cardiff Met, and The New Saints occupy the top four spots.

In previous years Swansea City has dominated the women's league in Wales but this year Cardiff City has taken the league by storm. The Bluebirds remain unbeaten in the 14 league games so far and sit seven points clear at the top of the table.



Source: Cardiff City FC (via cardiffcityfc.co.uk)

Something evident in this season is the array of youth talents coming through the ranks in Wales. Olivia Francis, Phoebe Poole, and Lily Billingham are just some of the names to remember as they have been making a statement week in and week out. The FAW's recent push to increase participation and opportunity for girls and women in football is paying off and the future is bright.

With the second half of the season starting in a few weeks, it's the perfect time to get involved and enjoy what is set to be an exciting next phase.

> Olivia Francis, Phoebe Poole, and Lily Billingham are just some of the names to remember

Mason Greenwood charges dropped

Catrin Edith Parry
Contributor

In January 2022, Mason Greenwood, 21, was accused of assault by his partner at the time. The allegations were posted on Instagram; photos, videos, and voice clips, showing obvious signs of injury and forceful behaviour by a man, insisting that she would have sex with him, against her will. However, all of the charges against him have since been dropped and he's now free to carry on with his life.

Has he got a future at Manchester United?

Before these allegations came to light Mason Greenwood was a shining young star at the club, in the 83 appearances he made for the side he scored 22 goals and created many chances on the field, he certainly made an impact. Most definitely he was becoming the next big star for Man United at a time when this team certainly needed a fresh new spark. He was a fan favourite, amongst all ages of supporters. He was driven and had skills, a teenager that could change things. Where does this leave him now? Is there a chance that he could return to the club? Yes, of course, all of the charges have been dropped, and nothing is stopping him.

> The allegations were posted on Instagram; photos, videos, and voice clips, showing obvious signs of injury

But what does this mean for the football community? The news of allegations being dropped and the possibility of him returning to football has worried many women; this does not create an environment that makes women feel safe, it doesn't make them want to be a part of a community that lets alleged sex offenders back in. Giving Greenwood this platform to start playing again could give the wider community, people who don't follow the sport usually but are familiar with the case, the wrong impression. There is little support from the team's followers, and other football fans to see him back on the field, especially women, which is understandable as it plays into the belief that women are side-lined when it comes to cases similar to this one. Should Mason Greenwood be allowed to play again, I believe many women will boycott whichever team lets him continue playing.

> There is little support from football fans to see him back on the field, especially from women

FIFA sponsorship plans sparks outrage from women's game

Ryan Jewell
Sport Editor

FIFA has received widespread criticism over its plans to allow a Saudi tourism company to sponsor the upcoming 2023 Women's world cup.

The sponsorship deal, which is yet to be formally announced, is part of a new commercial partnership that FIFA has set up to allow more brands to support the women's game.

One of the brands involved in the deal is Visit Saudi, a tourism agency that forms part of the country's Ministry of Tourism.

Insiders within FIFA have claimed that the deal will deliver a significant stream of finance which will be reinvested into women's football.



Source: Ben Sutherland (via Flickr)

However several high-profile figures in the game have spoken out against the deal, citing the gulf states poor human rights record.

"Morally, it just doesn't make sense," said two-time world cup winner and USA forward Alex Morgan.

"It's bizarre that FIFA has looked to have a Visit Saudi sponsorship for the Women's World Cup when I, myself, would not even be supported and accepted in that country."

According to human rights groups such as Amnesty International, women in Saudi Arabia are still facing discrimination in areas such as marriage, family, divorce and in employment despite recent reforms.

The rights of LGBTQ+ people are also severely repressed in the religiously conservative country, with same-sex relationships being illegal under the state's strict interpretation of Sharia law.

Members of the LGBTQ+ community in Saudi Arabia have reportedly faced beatings, torture and imprisonment by local authorities who are often accused of human rights violations.

> "It's bizarre that FIFA has looked to have a Visit Saudi sponsorship for the Women's World Cup when I, myself, would not even be supported and accepted in

If the deal does come to fruition, it will represent an even further encroachment into the game by the Saudi state. Which has been accused of using its involvement in football as a form of sports washing.

The takeover of Premier League club Newcastle United back in 2021 sparked controversy due to the involvement of a consortium featuring the Saudi Public Investment Fund.

This year's upcoming world cup is expected to be watched by over two billion people, highlighting the rapid rise of the women's side of the game.

The tournament, which starts on the 20th of July and ends on the 20th of August, is being hosted in both Australia and New Zealand. Making it the first senior world cup for either gender to be held across multiple confederations.

Both the Australian and New Zealand football authorities have criticised the sponsorship proposals, whilst also claiming that the world governing body failed to consult them on the matter.

In a statement released after the plans were made public, the Australian FA said that "We are very disappointed that Football Australia were not consulted on this matter prior to any decision being made."

"Football Australia and New Zealand Football have jointly written to FIFA to urgently clarify the situation."

"If these reports prove correct, we are shocked and disappointed to hear this as New Zealand Football haven't been consulted by FIFA at all on this matter," said the New Zealand FA.