



Read Online

Happy Halloween from Gair Rhydd! Noswyl Calan Gaeaf Hapus oddi wrth y Gair Rhydd!

The death of high street shopping

Grace Robson
Head of Opinion

Walking down the high-street of my small, Devon hometown, I am faced with nothing but chain stores and 'To Let' signs. To those of us who grew up in a small town, this is nothing new. For the past decade, any business owner who dares set up shop on our high-streets has faced closure within a few years, and that's if they are lucky. Many of these shops nowadays barely last a few months unless they are cradled by a bigger company. Every time a new shop pops up, we say to ourselves, well that won't last long. We've come to expect this failure. Where previously this issue has mostly only affected smaller towns, it has now become an inevitable threat to the once thriving high-streets of bigger cities. The death of high-street shopping is edging closer and closer and with ever-growing, convenient online shopping platforms, it is only a matter of time before our high-streets entirely kick the bucket - losing culture and originality with it.

In 2023, the BBC published an article with data showing that Cardiff has the second most vacant shops in the UK with the percentage being around 17% earlier this year. This data collected from the Welsh Retail Consortium also found that footfall decreased by 18.8% in early 2022 and when looking specifically at the city centre, the footfall had decreased by 33.2% in the same month. It is clear that even bustling city centres like Cardiff are beginning to face the same dramatic decline that small-town highstreets have been burdened with over the past decade.

With platforms such as prime delivery, in which you can order items online and have them at your door in less than 24 hours and in some cases like Argos, same day delivery. Online shopping has become a fast, convenient and often cheap alternative. While this convenience can be incredibly useful, especially for those who live particularly busy and hectic lives, it begs the question; is this convenience worth losing our high-streets to?

shopping habits and to ask their opinion. Firstly, I asked the group where they buy the majority of their clothing. Online shoppers made up 60.9% with only 39.1% buying them in-person. Secondly, I asked them where they would choose to shop if they were buying a gift, 60.9% once again said they would buy online and 39.1% said they would buy them in-person. I then asked them, hypothetically, if they had run out of something they needed urgently, where would they choose to get these necessities. This is where the results entirely switch up with only 17.4% buying these necessities online and 82.6% choosing to buy them in-person. It is clear from these results that when shopping in a non-urgent context, many of them would choose online shopping over in-person shopping. It is only when faced with an urgent situation that they then choose to shop in-person. This is likely because unless you are willing to pay a subscription or are willing to pay extra for delivery, those urgent items can sometimes take days to arrive and in an urgent context, you may not have days to wait. With these online platforms rapidly becoming quicker and more affordable however, it is only a matter of time before the matter of urgency and affordability is solved and when this issue is solved, what hope do our high-streets have left?

I spoke to a small group of Cardiff University students to assess their shopping habits and to ask their opinion. Firstly, I asked the group where they buy the majority of their clothing. Online shoppers made up 60.9% with only 39.1% buying them in-person. Secondly, I asked them where they would choose to shop if they were buying a gift, 60.9% once again said they would buy online and 39.1%



To read the rest of Grace's look at whats happening to our high streets, turn to page 14

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Source: Jack Moreh (ia Stockvault)

Flora: A Tribute to Sisterhood and Black Women — A celebration of the role black women play as the backrock of our community. Designed by UNIFY and painted by Prime Mural Artists.

Cardiff's Live Music Scene

Nancy Cook
Spotlight Editor

Live Lounge. If you are a student at Cardiff or if you've ever been in the radius of our city you've heard of Live Lounge. You told your mum, dad, and cat, "It's not freshers' flu"! You just spent Saturday night screaming to the best renditions of "Valerie" and "It Wasn't Me" and "Good For You" that you've ever

heard, who can blame you? Of course, you're still classy and you can't say no to the Old Fashioned and smooth jazz waiting for you at the Bootlegger. It's a balance baby. Cardiff is a paradise for music lovers. Live Lounge, located in The Friary, is open 7 days a week with live music from midday until midnight and you really can't go wrong.

Now for bigger fixtures the Utilita is THE venue: the largest indoor venue in Cardiff with upcoming shows from

Fall Out Boy, Madness, The Prodigy, Anne Marie and Sophie Ellis-Bextor. You can expect a fantastic and thrilling experience at the arena, with amazing atmosphere. The arena is so popular that you might want to book your tickets in advance to avoid missing out. After all, even Elton John himself has played there. Need I say more?

To read the rest of Nancy's piece, turn to page 4

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BAFTA Cymru 2023 - Llwyddiant y Cymry

Efa Ceiri
Pennaeth Taf-Od

Cynhaliwyd gwobrau BAFTA Cymru 2023 yng Nghasnewydd ar y 15fed o Hydref eleni. Mae gwobrau BAFTA Cymru yn gyfle blynyddol i gydnabod ac i ddathlu llwyddiant darlledu a chynhyrchu ffilmiau, gemau a theledu yng Nghymru. Daeth 32 o einillwyr i'r brig yn ystod y noson a arweinwyd gan seren The One Show, Alex Jones. Ymhlith yr enillwyr oedd yr actor o Aberystwyth sydd bellach wedi gwneud enw mawr i'w hun o fewn y diwydiant ffilm, Taron Egerton.

I ddarllen gweddill erthygl Efa am y BAFTAs, trowch i dudalen 8

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Killers of the Flower Moon - Review

Tamsin Fraser
Head of Review

Rarely does a three-and-a-half-hour period drama live up to its hype, but Scorsese delivers a thoughtful and masterfully executed piece of cinema with spellbinding performances across the board.

Killers of the Flower Moon can easily be compared to fellow recent historical drama *Oppenheimer*, the pair clocking in at a gargantuan 386 total minutes. Both combine direction from one of the most celebrated auteurs...

To read Tamsin's review, turn to page 19

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Women in Motorsport: Jessica Hawkins

Aimee Szulczewski
Head of Sport

Jessica Hawkins, former W Series and British karting champion, just became the first woman to test modern-day Formula 1 machinery in five years, driving for Aston Martin at the Hungaroring.

Prior to Hawkins' opportunity, the last woman to test an F1 car was Tatiana Calderon for Alfa Romeo in Mexico, thus this achievement has 'changed the race' for women in motorsport. Hawkins, already a driver ambassador for the team, tested the Aston Martin AMR21 at the Hungaroring. To read Aimee's article, turn to page 23

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Nodyn gan y Golygydd

It's Got Real

Mae Realiti Wedi
Taro*Why face your problems when you can just go to Penarth?*

Source: Kezziah Revans

Third year myths have a lot more reality to them,
for me at least...Edward Sutton
Editor-in-Chief

As I go off to swimming training, I'm trying not to think about jumping into the proverbial deep end as my graduation looms nearer. This may all sound like I'm kicking up a big fuss about nothing — graduation is months away and we've only just started the year — but to me at least, uni has flown by and now the panic is creeping in.

Everyone's got that one person who's said to them to make the most of uni, whether it's family, or friends who have long since graduated. It's good advice, but it's very extremely prone to interpretation. What quantifies making the most of uni? Can you distil it to a quantitative measurement like the amount of VKs drunk over 3 years or the number of lectures attended? It's hard to put your finger on it, as it's obviously very subjective, but I have to fill out the National Students Survey this year — there's definitely a few measurable elements.

Leaving uni leads to a very different world — the infamous graduate life. Waking up at midday is not as fun as it once was when your mum is yelling from downstairs to get a job. No more Wednesday nights when you have to

get up at 7:30 to catch the train. It's an unpleasant transition that I don't think is talked about enough. Three years is a long time, and you develop routines and a way of living that are pulled out from under you in the middle of June. That's where the panic can set in. Some people start a Master's that they otherwise might not have thought about in order to keep the uni lifestyle alive, while others change course altogether and start again.

For me, being on such an open ended course means that the panic comes from not knowing which direction to take. There's a lot of potential forks in the road for me to turn down and not much time to choose. Master's applications and graduate schemes come and go like the wind, so being proactive is very draining. At the end of the day, uni is what you make it and however you quantify it is up to you. If you're feeling the third-year panic, reach out to your friends, housemates, and family — I'm sure you'll find some solace knowing that it's not just you and with that renewed view, maybe the path will be that bit clearer.

Mae yna lawer o wirionaeth mewn myths am y
drydedd flwyddyn, wel i fi o leiaf...Edward Sutton
Prif Olygydd

Wrth i mi fynd i'r pwll nofio rwy'n ceisio peidio meddwl am neidio i'r pen dwfn diharebol wrth i fy arholiadau olaf agosau. Gall hyn swnio fel fy mod yn gwneud ffwddan am ddim byd — mae graddio misoedd i ffwrdd a dim ond newydd ddechrau'r flwyddyn rydym ni — ond i mi o leiaf, mae fy nghyfnod yn y brifysgol wedi hedfan ac erbyn hyn, mae'r panig yn dechrau taro.

Mae rhywun wedi dweud wrthom ni gyd i wneud y gora' o'n hamser yn y brifysgol, boed hynny'n deulu neu'n ffrindiau sydd wedi graddio ers tro. Mae'n gyngor da ond mae'n agored iawn i'w ddehongli. Beth sydd yn mesur gwneud gorau o'r brifysgol? Oes modd ei grynhoi i fesur penodol fel nifer o VKs gafodd eu hyfed dros dair blynedd neu nifer o ddarlithoedd aethpwydd iddyn nhw? Mae'n anodd pwyntio bys yn union ar y peth gan ei fod yn amlwg yn bwnc goddrychol ond mae'n rhaid i mi lenwi yr arolwg Myfyrwyr Cenedlaethol eleni — yn bendant mae ychydig o elfennau mesuradwy.

Mae gadael prifysgol yn arwain at fywyd gwahanol iawn — bywyd graddedig gwaradwyddus. Dyw deffro am

hanner dydd ddim yn hwyl fel yr oedd pan mae eich mam yn gweiddi arnoch chi o lawr grisau yn annog arno chi i gael swydd. Dim mwy o nosweithiau Mercher pan rydych yn gorfod defro am 7:30 i ddal y tren. Mae'n draw-snewid anymunol nad wyf yn meddwl sydd yn cael ei drafod digon. Mae tair mlynedd yn amser hir ac rydych yn datblygu ffordd o fyw sydd yn cael ei dynnu oddi arnoch chi ganol fis Mehefin. Dyna lle gall y panig gychwyn. Mae rhai yn cychwyn cwrs masters efallai na fyddent wedi meddwl amdanynt mewn nodau o gadw ffordd o fyw'r brifysgol yn fyw. Mae eraill yn newid cwrs yn gyfan gwbl ac yn dechrau eto.

I mi, mae dilyn cwrs penagored yn golygu bod y panig yn dod o ddim yn gwybod pa gyfeiriad i fynd. Mae llawer i mi droi i ffwrdd a dim llawer o amser i ddewis. Mae ceisiadau ôl-radd a cynlluniau graddedigion yn mynd a dod fel y gwynt. Ar ddiwedd y dydd mae'r brifysgol yn beth rydych chi'n ei wneud ohonno. Sut bynnag yr ydych yn ei fesur, chi sydd i benderfynnu. Os ydych chi'n teimlo'r panig sy'n gysylltiedig â'r drydedd flwyddyn, cysylltwch â ffrindiau a teulu — rwyf yn siwr y byddwch yn teimlo rhyddhad yn gwybod nad chi yn unig sy'n teimlo felly ac efallai y bydd y llwybr ychydig yn gliriach.

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SPOTLIGHT



Belle Lee



Nancy Cook



Noor Ehsan



Source: Dana B (via Flickr)

Interview with Karl Spires - Give it a Go Co-ordinator

Belle had the pleasure of talking to Karl Spires about the scheme and its benefits.

Belle Lee

Head of Spotlight

I sat down with Karl Spires, the co-ordinator of Give it a Go, to learn more about the scheme and its benefits.

CAN YOU BRIEFLY SUMMARISE WHAT GIAG IS?

Give it a Go is a scheme of activities, events and trips designed by the Student Union to encourage people to try new things and be aware of all the opportunities available while studying at Cardiff.

WHAT KIND OF EVENTS DO YOU OFFER?

There are two sides to 'Give it a Go'. The student-led side is where all the clubs, societies, media, and volunteering groups can host their own 'Give it a Go's' to allow other students the opportunity to see into what they get up to regularly as a society. This varies from dressing up as Disney characters and visiting children's hospitals, a range of different cultural groups, the Taylor Swift Society club nights and all of the different sports clubs. The other side of



Give it a Go offers trips to places such as Snowdonia, Edinburgh and Bath Christmas Markets (Dave via Flickr)

'Give it a Go' is the Student Union-led side, where my focus is. This largely focuses on events and organised different trips to places such as Stonehenge, Oxford and Edinburgh. These trips give students the opportunity to see the UK and have a small break from their studies.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY THE BEST THING ABOUT THE SCHEME IS?

A difficult question! I think the fact that we have made these trips comes

at such a low cost for students. Because we are a charity, we are not out there for the money but ultimately, this is something subsidised by the Student Union. It's here as we really believe it benefits students, rather than a money-making enterprise. We offer a Resi-Life Discount on certain trips as well to encourage more people to come along and help out students where we can.

WHAT KIND OF SKILLS CAN BE GAINED WITH GIAG?

Some of the skills to be gained are public speaking skills, the ability to think on your feet and the ability to be a leader. These invaluable life skills demonstrate the benefits of the scheme to individual people, however, because it is so varied, we encourage students to take away whatever they can from the events.

IS IT ONLY FOR FRESHERS?

Not at all! While open to everybody, we highly recommend international students get involved as it gives them an opportunity to see more of the UK at an affordable cost.

COULD YOU SUM UP THE SCHEME IN ONE WORD?

Inspiring.

Thank you to Karl once again.

“Some of the skills to be gained are public speaking, the ability to think on your feet...”

Cardiff's Palestine Solidarity Society

Joud Mustafa

Contributor

As the President and founder of the Cardiff University Palestinian Solidarity Society, I am thrilled to introduce this initiative aimed at uniting Palestinians and their supporters in shedding light on the Palestinian cause. Being originally from Palestine, I find great purpose in advocating for a cause that holds deep personal significance.

My connection to Palestine is rooted in my family's history. My grandparents, like many Palestinians, endured the tumultuous period of the late 1940s to early 1950s, fleeing their homeland in search of safety and stability. This legacy of resilience and determination fuels my commitment to the cause, despite never having set

foot on Palestinian soil.

The society's core objectives reflect our mission to educate, inspire, and advocate. Through workshops, seminars, and panel discussions, we aim to provide accurate and balanced information about the Palestinian struggle's historical, political, and social dimensions. This knowledge will empower our members to engage in informed conversations and advocate for change.

Cultural exchange lies at the heart of our endeavours. By showcasing Palestinian art, music, cuisine, and traditions, we aim to foster a deeper understanding among our diverse student community. These events will serve as bridges of connection, dismantling barriers and building empathy. Advocacy and activism are the driving forces behind our society. We aim to

mobilize students to participate in campaigns, petitions, and peaceful protests, both on and off campus. By amplifying our message through collaborations with other societies, student groups, and local organizations, we hope to reach a broader audience, making a tangible impact on the discourse surrounding Palestine.

Networking is a powerful tool for change, and we are committed to creating a platform for students to connect with Palestinian communities, activists, and scholars worldwide. Beyond advocacy, our society believes in humanitarian support. We aim to collaborate with relevant organizations to provide aid and support for Palestinians in need. This facet of our work embodies our commitment to embodying the principles of empathy, compassion, and solidarity. By joining

the Cardiff University Palestinian Solidarity Society, students embark on a journey of enrichment. They become part of a community that actively contributes to cultural diversity, academic discourse, and positive social change. This society is inclusive and open to all students, regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, or religion.

In our pursuit of justice and understanding, we invite all students to join us in this collective endeavour. Together, we can make a meaningful impact, one informed conversation, one cultural exchange, and one act of advocacy at a time. Let us stand united in solidarity with the Palestinian people, championing their cause for a brighter future.

Study with a Coffee - The Best Places to Study in Comfort

Michal Lewis

Contributor

Need new study spots? Here are a few places to try!

While the SU building does provide the ultimate, completely free space to study, sometimes you just want to spice it up a bit with a new place, and possibly get a steaming cup of coffee while you're at it. If you are looking for new, cute corners in Cardiff for your next study session- this one's for you!

“If you're looking for new cute corners in Cardiff for your next study session — this one's for you.”

BIG MOOSE COFFEE CO.

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9.30-4.30 pm; Sun 10-3.30 pm.

Tucked in the corner of the alley next to Boots, this cute coffee shop offers you a quiet place in the city centre to study, with loads of options for a light meal or a drink.

Big Moose Coffee Co. also works with the Big Moose Charity organization which aids people suffering from poor mental health and works to prevent suicide and homelessness- definitely a worthy cause to support.

ATMA LOUNGE

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 11-5 pm. If you want a super chill spot, Atma Lounge might be the perfect fit! With loads of sofas to sit on, calm music and

mouth-watering, cheap, completely vegan food- it is definitely worth a visit. Whether you are looking for a full meal, such as their delicious Thali platter, a sweet treat, or a nice cup of chai - Atma Lounge has it all. Atma Lounge is also a charity, working to fight against hunger by providing free meals to those in need.

BLWM

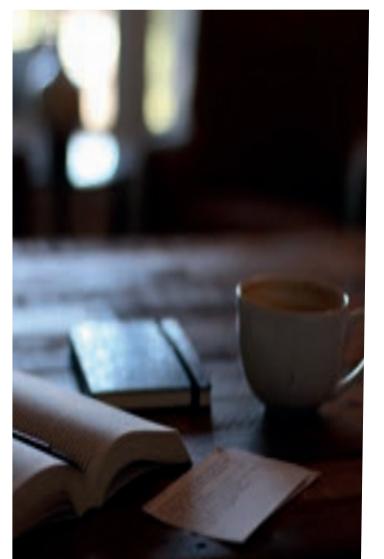
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8:30-4:30 pm; Sat-Sun 9:00-4:00 pm.

If you want to get slightly away from the student masses and don't mind the small walk, Blwm, situated along the way from Cathays towards Roath, is a cosy little gem with amazing drinks such as their incredible rose hot chocolate, as well as delicious treats.

MEC COFFEE

Mon-Fri 8-3 pm; Sat-Sun 9-4 pm; Bank holidays 9-4 pm

If you are a big coffee person, Mec coffee offers steaming cups full of the good stuff- for those who really have the sense for it. While the place is quite small, it has some seats right by the window which with the natural light gives off a great vibe. If you stick for more than an hour, you may request another item, but it is definitely a good location for a study session.



(April H via Flickr)

Where to Listen — Cardiff's Live Music Scene

Nancy Cook gives you the best places to experience live music in the City

Nancy Cook
Spotlight Editor

Live Lounge. If you are a student at Cardiff or if you've ever been in the radius of our city you've heard of Live Lounge. You told your mum, dad, and cat, "It's not freshers' flu"! You just spent Saturday night screaming to the best renditions of "Valerie" and "It Wasn't Me" and "Good For You" that you've ever heard, who can blame you? Of course, you're still classy and you can't say no to the Old Fashioned and smooth jazz waiting for you at the Bootlegger. It's a balance baby. Cardiff is a paradise for music lovers. Live Lounge, located in The Friary, is open 7 days a week with live music from midday until midnight and you really can't go wrong.

Clwb Ifor Bach, or Welsh club: located just across from the Castle, this three-story building hosts a variety of music genres, from Welsh language bands to international acts such as Coldplay, Catfish and the Bottlemen and The Libertines to name a few. Clwb Ifor Bach also organises the Swn festival an annual showcase of

new music from Wales and beyond. The ground floor is a cosy pub with a stage for acoustic acts and DJs, the first floor is a larger room with a balcony for rock, indie, pop, and hip-hop bands. The second floor is a smaller room for mostly electronic, dance and experimental music.

Now for bigger fixtures the Utilita is THE venue: the largest indoor venue in Cardiff with upcoming shows from Fall Out Boy, Madness, The Prodigy, Anne Marie and Sophie Ellis-Bextor. You can expect a fantastic and thrilling experience at the arena, with amazing atmosphere. The arena is so popular that you might want to

book your tickets in advance to avoid missing out. After all, even Elton John himself has played there. Need I say more?

The Dead Canary: You might think that Barrack Lane is just a boring backstreet, walk past a door that says, "Fire exit: Keep clear" and not give it a second glance. But if you are curious and adventurous, you might notice something unusual above the door, an empty birdcage. And if you look closer you might spot a golden feather on the wall next to it. A hidden entrance? Welcome to the Dead Canary. A hidden gem, The Dead Canary is a secret speakeasy-style bar that serves



its immaculate cocktails in teacups, flowerpots, cauldrons, and a roster of live music that includes jazz, folk, 50s and other songs throughout the ages. It is a cosy and intimate atmosphere with live performances usually at the weekend but in true secret speakeasy-style I can only tell you so much...you really do have to try for yourself! If jazz is your thing and this hits the spot The Bootlegger opposite the castle is another gorgeous little cocktail jazz bar to try!

Now, I have to mention the Glee Club. If you are looking for a night of comedy and music, then The Glee Club in Cardiff Bay is the place to go. It's an award-winning venue that features some of the best musicians in the UK like Gregory Porter, KT Tunstall and Tom Odell, with an upcoming gig from The Fun Lovin Criminals! So, whether you want to see your favourite band or discover new talent; whether you want to sing along or dance the night away; whether you want to be part of the crowd or a secret club, you can always find something that suits your taste and budget in this lively city.

Source: Markheybo via Flickr

Cardiff University's Television Station

Sophia Crothall tells all about CUTV, from socials to high-quality training

Sophia Crothall
Spotlight Editor

CUTV is Cardiff Union's award-winning television station. We are in the Student Media Suite and are open to all students across the university.

Our members can get involved in a range of activities, ranging from filming and presenting, to script writing and directing. They also can edit and produce videos. This year we have departments which include news, entertainment, sports, and livestreaming.

We have seen a huge increase in the demand for membership from

“For just £5 a year, students who join the society get access to training, industry-level equipment, social events and more!”

students across a range of courses and year groups who wish to get involved. Some of our upcoming and ongoing projects include the remaining episodes of our dating series, a yearlong documentary surrounding one of Cardiff's football teams and a weekly news show.

For just £5 a year, students who join the society get access to training, industry-level equipment, social events and more! Students don't need any experience to join either. We love the diversity of our society which is filled with a range of courses and year groups.

We are also affiliated with the National Student Television Association where we hope to win plenty of awards in April 2024 as we depart for Manchester. Being affiliated means members can also access mentoring, job updates and technical workshops.

There is no need for prior experience as we offer full training to all members. We meet every Sunday at 4 pm in the Student Media Suite (third floor of the Students' Union). Each week we run a short workshop which teaches a technical skill, in addition to a general meeting where we discuss upcoming projects, new pitches and additional opportunities.

We also host socials every other Wednesday which range from a night out in YOLO to a tour of the BBC. We have our own Halloween social taking place on Wednesday 1st November. Come along to our pre-drinks before heading off to either your pre-booked night out in YOLO or into town with us (likely to be Live Lounge).

For those who wish to watch our content, they can do so on our YouTube channel, which recently reached

over one thousand subscribers! We have also revived our TikTok account and will soon be posting daily news content, bringing students the latest news about the university, campus, and wider society.

We recommend everyone follows our Instagram to keep up to date with what is happening and once you have purchased a membership, you can gain exclusive access to our WhatsApp and Facebook groups.

If CUTV sounds like the right society for you, then don't wait around any longer- head to the SU website to purchase your membership today!

Where to Take your Friends who are Visiting

Lily Morey
Contributor

Your friends are coming down to Cardiff? Why not show them the beautiful sights and fun activities the city has to offer!

THE CASTLE

Starting off with the most famous landmark in Cardiff, is the medieval castle. It is located right in the city centre and can't be missed. Although there is an admission fee into the castle, you can walk around the grounds free of charge. Even if you aren't so much into history, it provides a great location to have a wander and grab some coffee.

ST DAVID'S CENTRE

Providing the most obvious location to take your friends is the city centre. St David's shopping centre boasts over 160 shops, cafes and restaurants to explore; it will keep friends and family entertained and occupied during the day. Although, it is easy to get carried away with the huge selection of shops!

BUTE PARK

Perfect for autumnal walks, Cardiff is home to Bute park. It is about a 10 minute walk from the city centre to the 130 acres of landscape gardens. It is filled with greenery and wildlife and provides a location for a refreshing walk or even a jog! The park is family friendly, with many children and dog walkers, perfect for friends

and family visiting. Although being in a capital city, but park allows a spot to unwind and take a step away from the fast paced centre. You can access it by many entrances and explore all the different parts it has to offer!

CARDIFF BAY

Next, we have Cardiff Bay, just 15 minutes from the town centre. It is situated at the mouth of the River Taff and Ely. Also known as Mermaid Quay, overlooking the stunning waterfront and many boats. It acts as a perfect place to take visiting friends due to its huge variety of places to eat and drink. Nice enough to get some fresh air, it is still close enough to the heart of Cardiff. Additionally, it provides boat trips and fun excursions for an adventure!

For those who wish to watch our content, they can do so on our YouTube channel, which recently reached

BARRY ISLAND

Iconic Barry Island. Whatever the weather, this is always a classic when friends and family come to visit. A 30-minute drive or train ride away from the centre, the famous island is known for the British Sitcom 'Gavin and Stacey'. It has amusements and rides, Marco's cafe, serving the best hot chocolate and many great fish and chips spots. Along with its fun atmosphere, it looks out to its stretch of golden sands paired with the

“

Bute Park allows a spot to unwind and take a step away from the fast paced centre...”

SPOTLIGHT

Gem&Ange Review

To our new Gair Rhydd friends, it's a pleasure to meet you. To our long-standing Gem and Ange Review supporters, welcome back! We are pleased to make our newspaper debut!

As the air gets colder, and the coffee gets hotter, we come to you on this fine autumnal day with a new spot to add to your Roath Park roaming. For those who don't know Roath Park - get to know.

Jivey's is an adorable mobile coffee shop, converted from a horsebox, offering student-friendly prices on delicious hot beverages!

Gemma went for her classic oat flat white whilst Ange (the juvenile) devoured a hot chocolate: she's yet to mature to caffeinated drinks.

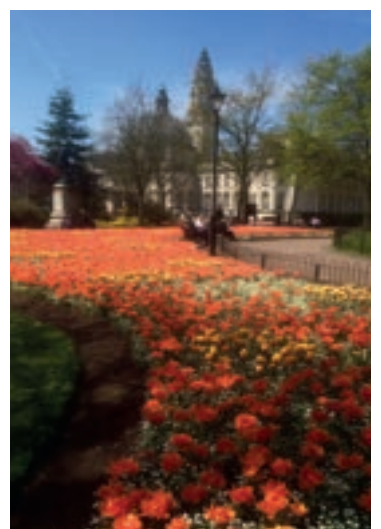
The oat flat white was rated 7/10 - an incredibly high score by Gemma's standards - she would recommend this to all oat girles. It was a perfect size and a perfect temperature. It warmed her soul as we meandered onwards.

The hot choccy overtakes the oat flat white with a rating of 8.3/10 - Ange's highest-rated beverage ever on @gemandangereview - it was delightful. We suspect whole milk and posh hot chocolate powder (not just your bog-standard Cadbury's).

Overall: creamy, decadent, scrumptious. Also please note: the lady who served us was lovely, which is ALWAYS a bonus point in the Gem and Ange handbook. However... if one so choose to venture, please beware of the swans. No elaboration is necessary.

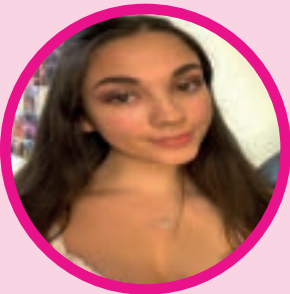
We will catch you next time, Gair Rhydd gal-pals. Follow us on our well-established Instagram to tide you over until the next issue.

@gemandangereview



Source: David Owen (via Flickr)

POLITICS



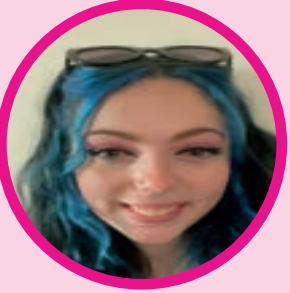
Lauren Tutchell



Laila Dawelbeit



Adam Dunstan



Cerys Upstone



Thomas Wilson

ELSEWHERE
IN POLITICS

Starmer faces pressure over Gaza stance

Welsh Tory MP Andrew RT Davies accused of misogyny for GB news jibe

Welsh Youth Parliament call for free public transport for all under 25s

politics@gairhydd.com

Sunak says UK will stand with Israel “in solidarity”

Amid Israel's war against Hamas, the UN warns that an escalation of attacks on Gaza could be catastrophic.

Laila Dawelbeit
Politics Editor

Following talks to secure the release of hostages held in Gaza by the Palestinian Islamist militant group Hamas, the British prime minister told his Israeli counterpart, Benjamin Netanyahu, that the UK will stand with Israel ‘in solidarity’ and that the UK wants Israel ‘to win’.

Rishi Sunak's strong show of diplomatic support comes after Hamas fired a barrage of rockets into southern Israel on October 7. Fighters crossed into Israel in an unprecedented, multipronged operation and killed and held captive many attendees of the Supernova music festival.

The music festival was located near the Gaza strip, which has been put under a blockade by Israel since 2006, restricting the free flow of people and goods. The blockade has devastated Gaza's economy and worsened its living conditions, causing many human rights organisations to label it an “open-air prison”.

From October 8, Israel launched retaliatory airstrikes, levelling buildings in Gaza city; indiscriminately hitting refugee camps, hospitals, mosques, residential buildings, and educational institutions. Throughout the week, Israel announced a “total blockade” on Gaza and ordered the evacuation of 1.1 million Palestinians living north of Wadi Gaz to relocate south within 24 hours.

The Israeli army announced a safe route for Palestinians from Beit Hanoon to Khan Younis via Gaza's two main roads but continued to target the city, including the roads that Pal-



Source: Pro-Palestine protest in Cardiff by Laila Dawelbeit

estinians were using to escape. The United Nations (UN) human rights office has said that Israel's evacuation order could amount to the “forcible transfer of civilians” which is a crime against humanity punishable by the ICC.

The World Health Organization (WHO) also strongly condemned the evacuation order and said that verified reports of the death of health workers and the destruction of health facilities denies civilians the basic human right of life-saving healthcare, which is “prohibited under international humanitarian law”.

For the first two weeks of the war, Israel had not allowed the Rafah border crossing to open which had meant that a humanitarian convoy of 20 trucks from Egypt had been unable to enter Gaza. The US President, Joe Biden, brokered a deal with Israel following hours of talks with Netanyahu which allowed the opening of

the Egypt-Gaza border for the delivery of desperately needed aid, a move that was argued to be “too little too late” for already struggling Palestinians.

It also comes after the US vetoed a UN security council resolution that would have called for a humanitarian ceasefire to allow for the delivery of aid and would have urged Israel to rescind its evacuation order.

Keir Starmer has written to Labour councillors to express his sympathy for innocent Palestinian and Israeli people amid criticism of his Israel-Gaza stance. On the final day of the Labour Party conference, Starmer said that Israel “has the right” to withhold water, power and food from Palestinians causing many Labour councillors across the UK to resign from the Labour Party, with more expected to quit. Resignations have been in large Muslim communities which could result in Labour

eventually losing control of them.

The Labour Muslim Network has told the Guardian that the leadership's stance has left many Muslims and Palestinians “feeling that their lives are not valued in the party”.

Hundreds of thousands have taken to the streets across the globe calling for a ceasefire, condemning Israel's “collective punishment” of Palestinians in response to the Hamas attack, and wishing for an end to Israel's occupation of Palestine, which many deem illegal and describe as apartheid. Over the last week, the police have made a dozen arrests across the UK and following comments on the potential criminality of waving Palestinian flags and the singing of chants advocating for freedom made by Suella Braverman, the Home Secretary, many have been left unsure about their protest rights.

As Israel plans to intensify its attacks on Gaza, the UN warns that an escalation of military activities in the strip would be catastrophic with 4,741 Palestinians already killed and 15,898 injured. In Israel, 1,403 people have been killed and at least 4,629 injured. 203 people are still held captive by Hamas.

“ Israel's evacuation order could amount to the “forcible transfer of civilians” which is a crime against

Could Nigel Farage be the next Conservative leader?

Lauren Tutchell
Head of Politics

You may have thought (or hoped) you'd never have to see or hear about him again, but the rock-star reception that Nigel Farage was warmly welcomed with at the Conservative party conference earlier this month clearly confirmed that he is back and bigger than ever before.

He circled around the conference hall like a hungry vulture sizing up his prey as a sea of Tories showered him in praise and attention. He was then later videoed dancing with former Home Secretary Priti Patel with a big smile sprawled on his face at the conference after party.

It's unsurprising that he looked so glee though considering many political pundits have predicted he may be making a prominent return to British politics, with Farage himself boasting that he'd be “very surprised” if he was not made “Conservative leader by 2026”.

Although, this reveals more about the Tory Party than it does Farage, as it demonstrates just how desperate they really are that they're



Source: Michael Vadon (via Flickr)

willing to support someone who was once seen as a hostile outsider to their party but has now arguably been promoted as the commanding general.

Farage was actually a member of the Tory party until 1992 where he left to form the infamous UKIP which he has since resigned from. Perhaps he hopes a blue rosette might finally grant him access to Parliament.

Although, the prospect of him actually becoming Conservative party leader was denounced by the party chairman Greg Hands, who

said: “First of all there is no vacancy, and secondly I would be extremely surprised if Nigel Farage were ever to be Conservative leader.”

However, Farage's appearance at the Tory conference in Manchester is the first time he has attended such an event in decades which cannot go unnoticed. It is also undeniable that his loyal supporters, many of which tune in daily to his popular GB News channel, could prove extremely useful in rejuvenating support for the Tories and breathing some life back into their deflated party.

The fear of losing the next general election has thus pushed the Tories to the edge of a very dangerous cliff. They're being squeezed by both sides of the spectrum - with Labour and the Lib Dems on the left and Reform UK and Britain First on the right - which is dividing and splitting the Conservatives core base.

What Sunak is doing clearly isn't working, and the pressure to perform is thus pushing him further and further to the radical right. His conference speech, which was riddled with tendentious soundbites and controversial catchphrases, was clear proof this is the case.

Yet the right-wing zealots in Sunak's party still don't think he's doing enough and are demanding an even firmer stance on topical issues such as immigration and Net Zero.

The danger is, if Sunak continues to succumb to such pressure, then far-right ideology may become firmly legitimised into our society and pave the way for even more extreme politicians to emerge in the future.

Labour wins two more by-elections

Is this a sign the Tories are on their way out?

Adam Dunstan
Politics Editor

Labour has been victorious in two further by-elections this month as former-Conservative constituencies 'Mid-Bedfordshire' and 'Tamworth' turned red. This comes two weeks after Labour won another by-election against the SNP.

Both seats were safely Conservative, with the party winning huge majorities in 2019: just under 10,000 in Tamworth and 25,000 in Mid-Bedfordshire. However, following Labour's win in the constituency of Selby & Ainsty, as well as the Liberal Democrats numerous by-election victories in Southern England, a Conservative loss in the constituencies looked more likely.

In Mid-Bedfordshire, a constituency which has returned a Conservative MP since 1931, Labour increased their vote share from 2019 by 12.4% while the Conservatives saw their vote share fall by 28.7%. Overall, Labour won a 1,192-vote majority in the constituency, which leader Keir Starmer attributed to being a result of former-Conservative voters "despairing at the state of their own party"



Source: Keir Starmer (via Flickr)

and turning to Labour.

The Liberal Democrats also performed well in Mid-Bedfordshire, where they came third in this three-way fight with 23.1% of the vote share. This is double what the party achieved in the 2019 general election, leading deputy leader Daisy Cooper to claim her party "played a crucial role in defeating the Conservatives". This was disputed by shadow minister Peter Kyle, who called the Liberal

Democrats' campaign "dumb politics".

Further north, in Tamworth, Labour increased their vote share by 22.1%, achieving 11,719 votes, whilst the Conservative vote share dropped by 25.6%. The seat has previously been

represented by Labour between 1997 and 2010.

In looking at the results, it's important to remember why these by-elections

were triggered. Mid-Bedfordshire's previous MP, Nadine Dorries, announced in June that she would resign her seat "with immediate effect" after "dupliciously and cruelly" being blocked from appearing on Johnson's resignation honours list by the Prime Minister. Furthermore, Tamworth's former MP, Chris Pincher was forced to resign amid allegations of sexually assaulting two men.

Rishi Sunak attributed these factors to the losses, adding that by-elections were "always difficult for incumbent governments", yet the results have certainly provided a boost for Keir Starmer.

However, Professor Pete Dorey of Cardiff University believes Labour should be cautious when boasting its victory. In both constituencies, turnout was down by over 20,000 as compared to 2019, implying Conservative voters may be staying home until the next election. Labour's majority in both constituencies was also just over 1,000 which is less than the number of votes the new right-wing party 'Reform' achieved.

Time will tell whether these seats can be held at the next election, or whether the results just reflect anger at the incumbent Conservative government.

Governments plan to scrap pollution regulations blocked

Rhian Hutchings
Contributor

The Government's controversial amendment to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill was blocked by the House of Lords last month following a vote of 203 to 156.

The proposed amendment to the Levelling up and Regeneration Bill would have eased regulations and removed the need for proof that projects are "nutrient neutral" and not contributing to water pollution in protected areas. As the proposed bill was rejected at this stage, the government cannot attempt to modify the bill again. Instead, any new proposals would need to be brought forward by way of a new bill.

Speaking during a debate in the House of Commons, the Minister of State for Housing and Planning Rachel Maclean claimed that without the amendment the legislation would cause a "block on building that is hampering local economies and threatening to put small and medium sized local builders out of business."

Following the defeat, the Levelling Up Secretary Michael Gove, claimed that Labour had ordered peers to block "the dream of home ownership for thousands of families".

The victory for Labour was led by deputy leader Angela Rayner in her new role as Shadow Levelling up secretary. She accused the conservative party of attempting "to score cheap political points" with a "flawed plan". The defeat was also welcomed by members of the Liberal Democrat party and the Green Party alongside some green groups who backed regulation to protect waterways nationwide.

The nutrient neutrality regulations were created to regulate the nutrients leaked by developments into local wetlands and waterways, affecting 62 local authorities. Ministers who were in favour of deregulatory regulation assured that they would deliver an extra 18bn in economic activity for housing developers.

Sam Hall, director of the Conservative Environment Network has said that he feels that housebuilding was only a "small contributor" to river pollution. However, following this defeat local planning authorities should now continue to follow the existing regulation and will continue to only

be able to proceed in sensitive catchment areas.

The advice from Natural England to the government is to ensure that developers pay for pollution, claiming: "fixed-rate contributions could be faster and offer more certainty in enabling planning permissions to be granted."

“ Labour had ordered peers to block “the dream of home ownership for thousands of families.”

Interview with Andrew RT Davies, Part Two

Thomas Wilson
Politics Editor

How do we stop channel crossings?

What we've got to do is tackle the smuggling gangs whose business model enriches themselves and endangers lives. I believe legal migration is sensible yet what I am against is the criminal gangs who are profiteering by human misery which cannot be tolerated. Its not racist to call that out. Cooperation with France and other countries is essential as they should not be facilitating illegal crossings as they are the first point of entry. If people want to come in legally, they go through the process and what we as a country must have is a screening system which gets through applications in a timely manner and to root out bogus claims. If they don't meet the criteria on our specification it is not our responsibility to play host. Ultimately, you only solve the migration problem on an international basis and by international agreements.

Can you summarise your opposition to the 20mph speed limit being implemented?

The first is that they haven't taken people with them as is shown by this petition, with even their own backbenchers highlighting this. The second is that the data from Spain and Belfast indicates there hasn't been a reduction in road traffic accidents and in the Spanish context a lot of the evidence was taken during the Covid crisis where we saw a large amount of cars off the road anyway.



Source: National Assembly for Wales (via Wikipedia)

Thirdly, it's the harm to the economy overall which the government's figures indicate. We could have a hit of over 9 billion pounds. I do believe 20 mph is a sensible compromise outside sensitive sites such as by hospitals, care homes, schools etc but it is the blanket nature the government has imposed which is the problem. When it comes to justifying the 20mph policy they cite air pollution, yet people are now driving around in second gear revving their cars which sees more pollutants going out into the atmosphere. The public are told that this money is being reinvested into public transport yet they are not seeing any uplift in public transport. We all want easier modes of transport but I believe the independence of having a motor car is one of the great liberators of the 20th century. At the moment, we have a war on motorists by the Welsh Labour government which is doing no good for the economy and communities.

What do you feel the coming GE may hold for the Tories?

I think people are seeing that Rishi is not shying away from taking the tough decisions which is important as people want to see leadership from their Prime Minister and that people are seeing the economy is starting to settle down after Covid and we are seeing growth, compared to countries like Germany who currently find themselves in recession. We didn't see the spike in unemployment after Covid that many predicted which was averted due to the calls made by the Prime Minister. People will put a greater reliance on economic data that comes out as we come closer to the election as they will want to know if they will be economically secure. It will be up to us as a party to put forward a manifesto that puts confidence in people that we have a vision for where we want to be in five years' time after the election and to high-

light Labour's extreme policies here in Wales, particularly as Starmer is on record for saying he'd like to do across the United Kingdom what Labour have done in Wales. When you look at 20 mph or £1,600 being given to migrants coming in, one has to fear for the United Kingdom if Starmer was to hold the reigns of power.

Given your time at the NFU, how do you feel the current industrial disputes may be resolved and ended?

At the end of the day, it is around the table and all disputes must be solved through negotiation, although you have to be in the same ball park. If you look at the junior doctors calling for a 35 percent pay rise, I think even the most ardent supporters would pause and reflect whether that was a reasonable position. No organisation could pay that and ultimately given the government have paid out according to the Independent Remuneration Board, you have to question whether these disputes are just for political purposes or are they genuinely on the members behalf. I would say there's a lot of politics at play here and when you look at the waiting times going up and up, it is a real area of concern. We have to discuss these issues face to face and around the table but you must have reasonable positions on both sides that can result in a settlement in the middle. By having a 35 percent pay rise, this would do no good but rather fuel inflation which is the bedrock of these disputes.

What could a Trump presidency mean for Starmer?

Laila Dawelbeit
Politics Editor

The leader of the opposition, Keir Starmer, has said that a future Labour government would "have to make it work" if Donald Trump wins the next US general election.

Despite the long list of lawsuits against him, the former US president is making a bid to return to the White House next year. If Trump succeeds, he could be in power at the same time as Starmer, who would be the first Labour prime minister in 13 years.

"I mean, I think one of the things about being a leader is you don't get to choose the other leaders around the world," Keir Starmer says on the BBC's Political Thinking with Nick Robinson podcast.

Earlier in September, the Labour leader said to Politico's Power Play podcast that a 2024 Trump victory would not be his "desired outcome".

These remarks come at a time when ahead of the Republican Party presidential nomination, the Republican candidates attended the second Republican debate in late September. Donald Trump skipped out on the debate, even though he is far ahead of the seven candidates present in the race for the party's nomination.

The candidates took Trump's absence as an opportunity to attack his legitimacy. Robert DeSantis took a dig at Trump being 'missing in action': "He should be on this stage tonight. He owed it to you to defend his record". The former Governor of New Jersey, Chris Christie, made attacking Trump the central feature of his campaign, branding him "Donald Duck".

Although Trump is ahead in the polls, his campaign may be interrupted by the ongoing civil fraud trial and a number of trials set to take place next year.

In the current financial fraud case, Trump has already been found guilty by the New York supreme court justice of fraudulent reporting for 23 Trump Organisation properties and assets from 2011 to 2021. He and others within the Trump Organisation brokered deals, obtained favourable loans and bolstered the appearance of his net worth using false or misleading financial statements.

The trial will now determine how much Donald Trump will have to pay for the verdict. The stakes are high as if the prosecutors end up victorious, Trump and his company would have to pay \$250m and be banned from doing business in New York, taking Trump Tower and the rest of his holdings, which helped garner his nationwide fame and reputation, away from his grasp.

Trump is also facing three criminal indictments with their trials set throughout 2024: two relating to his alleged election meddling and one for the hush-money payments made to Stormy Daniels. Another trial set is for his involvement in the January 6 Capitol insurrection. Altogether, Trump is facing 91 felony charges, and has denied all of them.

UK Refugee Convention Changes Spark Controversy

Prasanna Mangesh Joshi
Contributor

Suella Braverman has faced criticism from the United Nations refugee agency for suggesting that global leaders have refrained from making comprehensive changes to human rights legislation due to concerns about being labelled "racist or illiberal."

The United Kingdom's government is currently grappling with significant criticism and controversy surrounding its proposed alterations to the Refugee Convention.

This contentious issue has raised concerns among various advocacy groups and political figures, who are closely monitoring this unfolding debate on matters related to human rights, discrimination, and international diplomacy.

The genesis of this controversy lies in a recent address by Suella Braverman, the UK's Home Secretary. In her speech, Braverman articulated the government's intention to reevaluate the nation's commitment to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

This announcement has set off a



Source: House of Lords 2022 / by Roger Harris (via Flickr)

vigorous debate within the hallowed halls of Parliament and beyond.

Students have taken a keen interest in this issue due to its potential ramifications for global refugee protection. The UNHCR plays a pivotal role in providing support to refugees and advocating for their rights on a global scale. Consequently, any shift in the UK's stance is viewed as a matter of paramount international concern.

Critics contend that the proposed changes could result in discrimination, particularly affecting LGBTQ+ refugees. As reported by The Independent, numerous charitable organizations and advocacy groups have voiced their apprehensions, suggesting that the UK's commitment to safeguarding the rights of LGBTQ+ asylum seekers may be imperilled.

The Guardian's updates on this matter have illuminated the divisive

nature of the debate within the realm of UK politics.

While some argue that the government's stance is aimed at more effectively managing immigration, others voice concerns about the potential for human rights violations.

The controversy around Braverman's statement underscores the critical importance of young individuals participating in political discourse and gaining insight into the intricacies of international relations.

Students, as global citizens, are urged to consider the diverse viewpoints on this issue and its implications for refugees and asylum seekers.

In the wake of this controversy, it remains to be seen how Suella Braverman's comments will impact international discussions on human rights reform.

The next steps may involve further clarifications from the UK government and continued dialogue with global leaders and organizations to address concerns raised by the United Nations refugee agency.

The outcome will be closely watched as the debate on human rights and global reform continues.

Starmer would not "diverge" from EU if he is made PM

Conservatives claim he wants to re-join the European Union in "all but name"

Lauren Tutchell
Head of Politics

Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer came under fire last month at a centre-left conference in Canada where he remarked on stage that he wouldn't want to "diverge from the EU" if he is elected as prime minister in the next election.

The comment came as Sir Keir reflected on the relationship between the UK and EU and the conflict that has arisen between the two since the Brexit referendum.

He cited that the main source of this dissension is the fact that the UK "wants to diverge and do different things to the rest of our EU partners." He went on to emphasise how the more the UK and Brussels "share a future together", the less friction there will be between the two.

His seemingly controversial comments triggered a sea of attack from the Tories, with Foreign Secretary James Cleverly claiming that the use of the word 'diverge' in Starmer's speech indicates that a Labour government would "want to rejoin the EU in all but name". Michael Gove also affirmed that his speech revealed "the real Keir Starmer" and his wishes would reduce the UK's Brexit "power".

However, Starmer has made it clear that a Labour government would not rejoin the customs union or single



Source: Keir Starmer (via Flickr)

market - the two biggest components of the Brexit referendum. He also stated that the party does not support 'dynamic alignment' - the idea that the UK would blindly follow evolving EU rules in an area indefinitely - and emphasised how any decision to align would be discussed and decided formally in parliament.

Many Brexiteers have purported that one of the presiding benefits of leaving the European Union is our ability to change regulations in areas which were previously legislated by them, such as product standards or the environment.

However, several trade unions and environmentalists have warned against diverging as they emphasise the importance of keeping UK standards high and many businesses have expressed their concerns for the extra costs that made me entail from such divergence.

Critics have also questioned the

necessity of even diverging from EU standards in the first place. Earlier this month, it was reported that the UK had failed to ban 36 harmful pesticides that are now restricted from use in the EU. This is hardly a glamorous advertisement for Brexit.

Labour's shadow chancellor, Rachel Reeves, spoke of Starmer's statement, stating how "it shouldn't come as a surprise to people that an incoming Labour government doesn't want to dilute workers' rights, environmental protections or food standards."

Starmer has assured the public that he would seek a "much better" Brexit deal than the one we currently have, although there has been no formal details announced yet to explain what this may entail.

His speech at the Canada conference concluded that there is "a lot more common ground than you might think", and "the more we share

values, the more we share a future together".

Starmer's 'pro-EU' stance endured even further scrutiny from the Conservatives following his announcement last month that he would seek an EU-wide returns agreement for asylum seekers to deal with the small boats problem.

The deal would involve a "quid pro quo" where the UK would accept a quota of migrants from the EU bloc in return for sending back illegal migrants, with those who already have family here in the UK being prioritised.

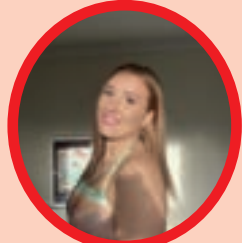
His controversial comments triggered a sea of attack from the Tories, including the Party Chairman, Greg Hands, who tweeted: "Labour plans opening the doors to 100,000 extra illegal migrants from the EU every year. Labour means unlimited and uncontrolled immigration."

However, this figure has been denounced as infactual and misleading as there have been no formal discussions with the EU about how many migrants the UK might take and Labour has not revealed what the deal would involve.

Senior Conservatives who have spread this false figure, including the Prime Minister Rishi Sunak himself, have consequently been accused by the 'Full Fact' charity (who monitor factual accuracy of public political statements) for spreading "misleading claims" and "damaging our democracy".



Efa Ceiri



Beca Dalis



Ffion Wyn Jones



Jack Thomas



Llyr Eirug



Millie Stacey

S4C yn diswyddo Llinos Griffin Williams

Millie Stacey
Golygydd Taf-od

Ledled Cymru, mae amrywiadau yn yr iaith gyda gwahanol ardaloedd yn defnyddio geiriau gwahanol. Er hynny, yn sylfaenol, yr un iaith yw'r Gymraeg a chydau nodau a osodwyd gan lywodraeth Cymru i gynyddu siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050, rydym wedi gweld cynnydd yn y dathliad o bobl yn defnyddio'r iaith yn amlach. Digwyddiad sy'n bwysig i'r Cymry yw cwpan rygbi'r byd serch hynny, stori sydd wedi dod i'r amlwg o ganlyniad i'r digwyddiad yw diswyddo Llinos Griffin Williams. Cafodd ei diswyddo o'i rôl

fel prif swyddog cynnwys s4c, rôl y mae hi wedi bod ynddi ers mis Ebrill diwethaf. Cafodd uwch bennaeth y darlledwr Cymraeg s4c ei ddiswyddo ar ôl honiadau o sylwadau amhriodol am Mike Phillips. Dellir bod Llinos Griffin-Williams wedi dweud nad oedd Cymraeg y cyn fewnwr o safon ddigon uchel. Mae cyn fewnwr Cymru, Mike Phillips, wedi bod yn rhan o dîm s4c sy'n rhoi sylw i gwpan rygbi'r byd. Mae ei rôl yn cynnwys siarad ar y gemau fel cyflwynydd i Gymru. Mae Phillips, siaradwr Cymraeg iaith gyntaf a enillodd 94 o gapiau dros Gymru, yn dod o deulu ffermio ym Mancyffelin, Sir Gaerfyrddin. Dechreuodd ei yrfa rygbi proffesiynol gyda'r

Scarlets ac roedd wedi treulio amser gyda Gleision Caerdydd, y Gweilch, Bayonne a Racing 92 yn Ffrainc. Ar ôl ymddeol o rygbi, symudodd i Dubai ac mae wedi serennu mewn rhaglen ar S4C am ei fywyd yno. Mae adroddiad blynyddol S4C ar gyfer 2022-23 yn rhestru cyflog gros Ms Griffin-Williams fel £124,000 y flwyddyn. Yn ogystal a hyn, yn dilyn y digwyddiad hwn, mae Sian Doyle, prif weithredwr S4C, wedi cael ei harwyddo i ffrwdd o'i gwaith gyda straen ddiwrnod ar ôl ei chynghreiriad agos, Llinos Griffin Williams. Bydd y cyfaryddwr cynnwys a strategaeth gyhoeddi, Geraint Evans, a'r prif swyddog gweithredu, Elin Morris, yn rhannu cyfrifoldebau yn

ystod absenoldeb Ms Doyle. Mae staff wedi cael cais i beidio â chysylltu â Ms Doyle. er y 27ain o Fedi.

(Tarddiad Wikimedia commons)



BAFTA Cymru - Llwyddiant y Cymry

Efa Ceiri
Pennaeth Taf-od

Cynhaliwyd gwobrau BAFTA Cymru 2023 yng Nghasnewydd ar y 15fed o Hydref eleni. Mae gwobrau BAFTA Cymru yn gyfle blynyddol i gydnabod ac i ddathlu llwyddiant darlledu a chynhyrchu ffilmiau, gemau a theledu yng Nghymru. Daeth 32 o enillwyr i'r brig yn ystod y noson a arweinwyd gan seren The One Show, Alex Jones.

Ymhlith yr enillwyr oedd yr actor o Aberystwyth sydd bellach wedi gwneud enw mawr i'w hun o fewn y diwydiant ffilm, Taron Egerton. Daeth y wobwr yn eiddo iddo yn dilyn ei waith actio yn y ddrama boblogaidd, Black Bird. Er mai eleni oedd y tro cyntaf i Taron Egerton dderbyn gwobr

BAFTA Cymru, nid yw ennill gwobrau yn rhywbeth diethr i'r Cymro wrth iddo ennill Golden Globe nôl yn 2020 am chwarae'r enwog Elton John yn y ffilm Rocketman. Actorion eraill oedd wedi eu henwebu am y gwobr oedd Graham Land am ei waith yn Dal Y Mellt, Owain Arthur yn The Lord of The Rings ac Rhys Ifans yn House of The Dragon.

Yr actores a ddaeth i'r brig oedd Rakie Ayala o Gaerdydd am ei gwaith yn The Pact. Roedd enwebiad hefyd i Eiry Thomas – Y Sŵn, Katy Wix – Big Boys ac Ruth Wilson – His Dark Materials.

Roedd y noson yn sicr yn un lwyddiannus iawn i'r darlledwr 'amddrywan' Hywel Gwynfryn a dderbyniodd Gwobr Cyfraniad Arbennig BAFTA Cymru 2023.

Rhuanedd Richards, Cyfaryddwr BBC Cymru a gafodd y fraint o gyflwyno'r wobwr i Hywel Gwynfryn a dywedodd fod ei gyfraniad i'r byd darlledu, i'r genedl ac i'r Gymraeg yn 'amhriodol'.

Enillodd Y Sŵn y nifer mwyaf o enwebiadau BAFTAs eleni. ... y ffilm yn gynharach eleni gan ddilyn hanes Gwynfor Evans ynghlwm â Chymdeithas yr Iaith a Plaid Cymru frwydro am sianel cyfrwng Cymraeg. Daeth y ffilm i'r brig ddwywaith ar y noson, gan ennill gwobr y Ffilm Nodwedd / Deledu orau ac yng nghategori Golygu Ffuglen.

Aeth y gwobr Newyddion a Materion Cyfoes i dîm Y Byd ar Bedwar yn seiliedig ar eu gwaith am gostau cynnal cystadleuaeth Cwpan y Byd Qatar y llynedd. Mared Jarman o'r rhaglen gomedi How This Blind Girl...

enillodd y wobwr Cymru Torri Trwodd. Hefyd wedi eu henwebu am y wobwr oedd Emily Morus-Jones o Diomysus: More than Monogamy ac Issa Farfour o Wales this Week and Wales at Six.

I ddarganfod rhagor o enillwyr BAFTA Cymru 2023, mae modd ymweld â gwefan BAFTA Cymru.

(Tarddiad Flickr)



Cynrychiolaeth Merched o fewn Chwaraeon

Beca Dalis
Golygydd Taf-od

Ar benwythnos 21-22ain o Hydref cynhaliodd yr Urdd gynhadledd genedlaethol ieuencid benywaidd mwyaf Cymru, #FelMerch.

Yn ôl yr Urdd mae'n gyfle mae'n 'darparu cyfleoedd i ferched a menywod i ddod ynghyd i gael eu hysbrydoli a'u ymbweru'. Roedd siaradwyr gwadd yno o'r maes chwaraeon, gan gynnwys Non Stanford MBE, Lowri Morgan a Gemma Grainger yn eu mysg.

Cafodd gweithdai eureddeg gyda'r bocsiwr Rosie Eccles, BBC Sport, Chwaraeon Cymru a llawer mwy.

Mae clwb tîm pêl-droed merched o dan 14 oed

Rumney AFC wedi cael cyfle anhygoel yn ddiweddar gyda'r rapiwr Americanaidd fyd enwog, 50 Cent, bellach yn eu nodd.

Roedd Richi Brown sydd yn un o'r prif hyfforddwyr yn y clwb wedi cyflwyno cyfle unigryw i'r tîm.

Gweithiodd Richi Brown ar daith 50 Cent ac ofynnodd i'r rapiwr pe bai'n gallu'n nodd i'r clwb.

Dywedodd yr hyfforddwr nad oedd yn disgwyl iddo gytuno o gwbl, ac wedi hynny roedd hyn yn sioc llwyr.

Roedd y rapiwr â phroffil uchel wedi nodd i'r cit gemau oddi cartref.

Cytunodd i fynd amdani a chreu trasiwt i'r merched hefyd.

Mae'r tîm i gyd yn gyffrous ac yn gobeithio bydd hyn yn helpu i hybu proffil y tîm a Chaerdydd ar lefel fynd eang.

Dywedodd Ellie Tro-mans sydd yn chwarae i dîm cyntaf rygbi y brifysgol "fel merch mae'n gallu bod yn anodd i gael fy nodd oherwydd llai o arian a phroffil sydd yn chwaraeon i ferched".

Ychwanegodd hefyd buasai cael nodd gan ber-sen enwog yn anhygoel.

(Tarddiad Michael Reilly via Flickr)



Adolygiad Noson Gomedi Coleg Cymraeg

Efa Ceiri
Pennaeth Taf-od

Be' gwell ar noson oer o Hydref 'na noson gomedi yn yr Undeb Myfyrwyr i godi hwyliau. Roedd Cangen Caerdydd wedi cyd-weithio â Menter Iaith Rhondda Cynon Taf i ddarparu noson llawn chwerthin i staff ac i fyfyrwyr Prifysgol Caerdydd. Ni wyddwn beth i ddisgwyl cyn y digwyddiad gan nad oeddwn i wedi clywed am y digrifwyr (comedians) oedd yn cymryd rhan – ond teg yw dweud nad oeddwn wedi fy siomi!

Y comedian MC Beth Jones o Ddimbych oedd yn cyflwyno'r noson a doniol iawn oedd clywed am ei chyfnod hi fel myfyriwr ym Mhrifysgol Bangor ble'r oedd yn bosib iddi fynd allan am y noson a dim ond gwario £5 – rhywbeth anarferol iawn i ni fyfyrwyr heddiw! Roeddwn i'n gwybod o'r cychwyn y byddai'r noson yn ddiddannol wrth i MC Beth Jones lwyddo i ddennu sylw'r gynulleidfa o'r munud y camodd hi ar y llwyfan.

Yr ail i ymddangos ar y llwyfan oedd Eleri Morgan o Aberystwyth. Yn sicr, llwyddodd Eleri i ddifyrru'r gynulleidfa gyda'i straeon crai. Wrth gymharu diwylliant plentydon Cymraeg i ddiwylliant Saesneg llwyddodd Eleri i bwysleisio pan mor rhyfedd yw ystyrion hwyangerddi Cymraeg – ac roedd llond 'stafell o chwerthin i'w glywed.

Harri Dobbs o Gaerffili oedd y trydydd i gamu ar y llwyfan. Er nad yw Harri wedi bod yn perfformio ers yn hir, fe lwyddodd i ddyddannu'r gynulleidfa cymaint â'r gweddill. Agorodd allan am faterion personol iawn,

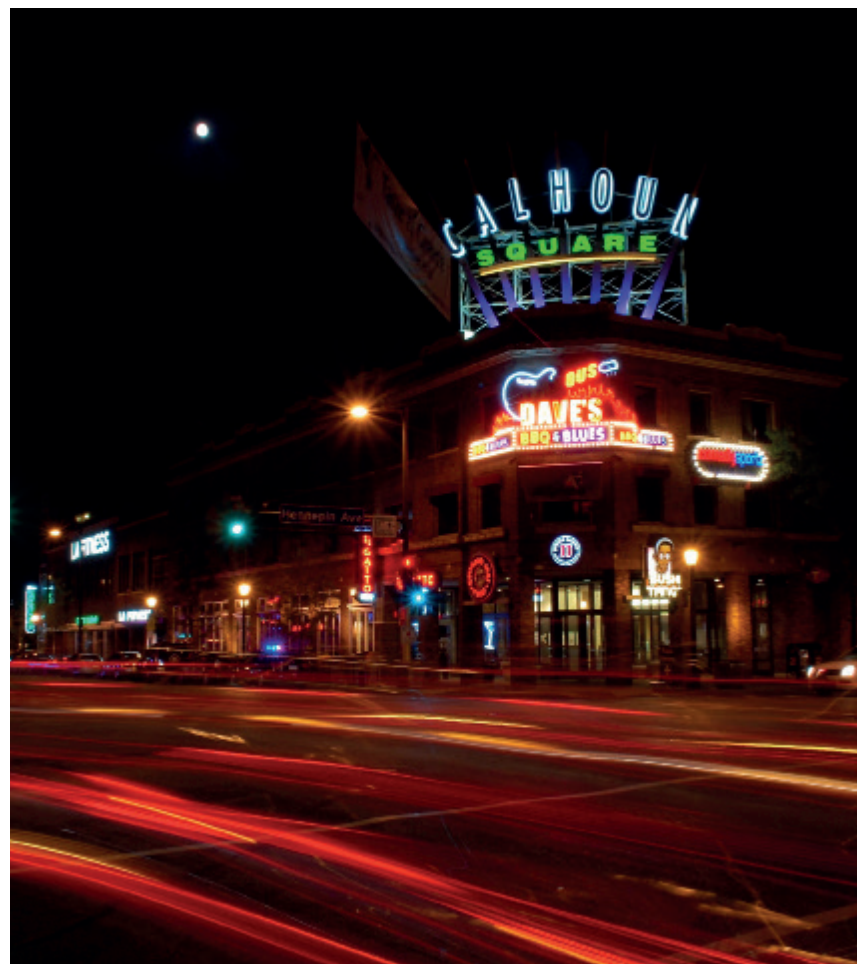
megis iechyd meddwl, rhywioldeb a perthnau teuluol – ond yn parhau i gadw'r ysbryd comedi, rhywbeth dychmygwn sydd ddim yn hawdd i'w wneud. Rwyf yn edmygu hyder Harri i ddifyrru cynulleidfa ag yntau mor ifanc.

Yn dilyn yr egwyl, cyfle Josh Pennar oedd hi ar y llwyfan. Os oes rhaid imi ddewis ffefryn, dyma fo! Hoffais y ffordd roedd Josh yn cymdeithasu ac yn cynnwys y gynulleidfa yn bennaf. Doniol oedd clywed ei hanes yn yr ysgol yn ogystal â'i farn ef amdanom ni y gogs. "Mae gogs yn meddwl bo' nhw yn fwy cwl achos nhw sydd gyda'r miwsic gora", meddai Josh – mae rhaid dweud bod hynny'n wir!

Dan Thomas oedd yr olaf i ymddangos ar y llwyfan i sôn am y cynnydd sylweddol sydd o fewn comedi Cymraeg yn ddiweddar. Adrodd straeon doniol iawn am y 'Free Wales Army' ac mai'r peth gwaethaf yr oeddwn nhw yn ei wneud oedd dod fyny gyda 'nicknames.' Roedd Dan hefyd yn llwyddo i siarad â'r gynulleidfa, ac dwi'n siwr nad oedd yn deall gair o fy acen Caernarfon i ac roeddwn i yn cael trafferth deall ei acen Abertawe o!

Roeddwn wedi mwynhau'r noson yn fawr ac braf iawn oedd clywed am gynnydd gigs comedi Cymraeg – fodd bynnag, bechod garw nad oedd mwy o fyfyrwyr wedi troi fyny ar gyfer y noson!

(Tarddiad bradleyjohnson Flickr)



Dewch i adnabod Criw Taf-Od 2023 / 24

Efa Ceiri - Pennaeth Taf-Od

Efa Ceiri 'dwi ac rwyf yn wreiddiol o Gaernarfon ond bellach yn fy nhrydedd flwyddyn yn astudio Cymraeg a Newyddiaduraeth yma ym Mhrifysgol Caerdydd. Rwyf yn edrych ymlaen yn arw i gyd-weithio gyda criw talentog Taf-od eleni i hyrwyddo newyddion o bob math i chi'r darllenwyr. Bydd pob rhifyn yn cynnig straeon gwahanol sydd yn berthnasol i Gaerdydd, yn ogystal ag o amgylch y byd. Braint yw cael bod yn bennaeth ar adran cyfrwng y Gymraeg Gair Rhydd. Os oes diddordeb mewn ysgrifennu erthygl unrhyw bryd, mae wastad croeso i chi gysylltu. Dyma gyflwyno criw Taf-Od 2023/24:

Beca Dalis - Golygydd Taf-Od

Mae ein golygydd Beca hefyd yn astudio Cymraeg a Newyddiaduraeth yn ei thrydedd flwyddyn. Hoff glwb Beca yng Nghaerdydd yw Clwb Ifor Bach ac ei hoff gan Cymraeg yw Pulo - Thallo

Millie Stacey - Golygydd Taf-Od

Mae Millie yn astudio Newyddiaduraeth a chyfathrebu, hefyd yn ei thrydedd flwyddyn.

Clwb Ifor Bach yw ei hoff chlwb yng Nghaerdydd a Rhedeg i Baris gan Candelas yw ei hoff chan Cymraeg.

Llyr Eirug - Golygydd Taf-Od

Yn wreiddiol o Aberystwyth, mae Llyr bellach yn ei ail flwyddyn yma yng Nghaerdydd yn astudio Cymraeg a Newyddiaduraeth. Fel mwyafrif o'r criw, mae Llyr hefyd yn hoff o dreulio ei amser yng Nghlwb Ifor Bach ac ei hoff gan Cymraeg yw Nefoedd gan Swci Bocsawen.

Jack Thomas- Golygydd Taf-Od

Mae Jack yn ei ail flwyddyn ac yn dilyn cwrs Cyfryngau a Chyfathrebu. Yn wahanol i'r gweddill, Live Lounge yw hoff glwb Jack yng Nghaerdydd ac Y Cwm gan yr enwog Huw Chiswell

yw ei hoff gan Cymraeg.

Ffion Wyn Jones - Golygydd Taf-Od

Mae ein golygydd Ffion hefyd yn ei hail flwyddyn yn astudio Cymraeg a Newyddiaduraeth. Fel Jack, mae Ffion hefyd yn mwynhau nosweithiau allan yn Live Lounge ac yn mwynhau gwrando ar Y Bandana, yn enwedig Siwgr Candi Mel.

Alys-Mai Walters - Rheolwr Cyfryngau Cymdeithasol

Alys-Mai Walters o Landybie yw rheolwr cyfryngau cymdeithasol taf-od eleni. Mae Alys yn ei thrydedd flwyddyn yn astudio Cymraeg a Newyddiaduraeth ac yn mwynhau treulio amser yn y clwb Proud Mary's. Nos Sul a Banglan Bay yw hoff gan Cymraeg Alys. Cofiwch gadw llygaid allan ar ein cyfryngau cymdeithasol am unrhyw ddiweddariadau!

Mwynhewch y darllen!



Tocynnau gŵyl Sŵn yn 'ddrud' i fyfyrwyr Prifysgol Caerdydd

Llyr Eirug
Golygydd Taf-od

Penwythnos diwethaf (20fed-22ain o Hydref) cynhaliwyd gŵyl gerddorol Sŵn ar draws amryw o leoliadau gwahanol yng Nghaerdydd, gydag artistiaid enwog megis Parisa Fouladi, Sage Todz a Chroma yn rhan o'r arlwy. Roedd yn gyfle i fyfyrwyr Prifysgol Caerdydd i fwynhau rhai o oreuon y sin roc Gymraeg yn perfformio'n fyw.

Onid mae prisiau tocynnau'r ŵyl wedi arwain at ambell fyfyrwr o'r Brifysgol i beidio â mynychu. Gyda phrisiau yn amrywio o £30 i £80 teimlai rhai fod pris yr ŵyl yn 'eithaf drud' ac yn 'anfforddiadwy'. Rhannodd dwy fyfyrwr o'r ail flwyddyn eu barn ar hyn.

Ym marn Lili Evans. Blwyddyn 2
'Rydw i a llawer o fy ffrindiau yn teimlo nad ydy'r tocynnau yn fforddiadwy i ni fel myfyrwyr, sy'n siom oherwydd mae'n bwsig i bobl ifanc fod yn rhan o ŵyl fel Sŵn. Yn fy marn i, buasai cynnig discount i fyfyrwyr/pobl ifanc yn annog mwy ohonom i fynychu'r ŵyl a chael blas ar gerddoriaeth o bob genre.'

Yn ôl Glain Llwyd. Blwyddyn 2
'Dwi'n credu bo nhw'n rhy ddrud, a mae cael opsiwn tocyn £30 fel yr opsiwn rhataf yn rhyfedd! Yn fy marn i dyle fod rhywfath o bris myfyriwr, neu bris pobl ifanc yn cael ei gynnig. Credaf byddai hyn yn denu mwy o bobl ifanc i fynychu'r gigs.
Cymharwyd lineup Sŵn gyda gŵyl arall

sef gŵyl Tafwyl – gwyl arall sydd yn rhoi llwyfan i artistiaid Cymraeg yn y ddinas. Fodd bynnag, mae mynychu Tafwyl yn rhad ac am ddim tra bod angen talu hyd at £80 i fynychu Sŵn. Derbynnia Tafwyl fuddsoddiad ariannol i allu cynnig mynediad am ddim, ac fe nodir ar wefan Sŵn fod yr ŵyl yn cael ei hariannu'n rhannol gan Lywodraeth Cymru, felly a yw hi'n bosib i Sŵn gynnig opsiwn rhatach i fyfyrwyr a phobl ifanc, tybed?

Gofynnwyd i Sŵn i ymateb i'r posibilrwydd o ostwng pris eu tocynnau mynediad i fyfyrwyr, ond ni dderbyniwyd ymateb ganddyn nhw.



Tarddiad: Llyr Eirug and Stephen Griffith via Flickr

Cymru ar Lwyfan y Byd: Rygbi Torcalonnus a Phêl-droed Gobeithiol

Jack Thomas
Golygydd Taf-od

Mae Cymru fel cenedl wedi bod yn cadw llygaid barcud ar y byd chwaraeon yn ddiweddar wrth i'r wlad gystadlu ar y lefel uchaf yng Nghwpan Rygbi'r Byd, a gemau pêl-droed Rhagbrofol Euro 2024.

Wrth ddechrau gyda'r rygbi, siom enfawr oedd gweld y crysau cochion yn colli mas i'r Ariannin yn yr wyth olaf, mewn gêm gystadleuol a orffennodd gyda'r Puma's yn fuddugol o 29-17. Mae'r sgôr gorffenedig yn gamarweiniol, rhaid ystyried roedd y sgôr yn gyfartal ar 17 pwynt yr un gyda 12 munud ar ôl, a bu'r gêm yn gallu mynd y naill ffordd ar y pwynt yma. Bu'r golled yn anodd i Gymru gan eu bod yn dominyddu'r gêm am fwyafrif yr hanner cyntaf, ond yn ei gweld yn anodd cymryd mantais o'r chwarae da gyda phwyntiau, wrth orffen yr hanner triphwynt yn unig ar y blaen.

Gyda sawl chwaraewr allweddol yn cario anafiadau bychan, mae'n debygol roedd y gêm un yn ormod i Gymru, sydd yn anffodus wedi gorffen eu hamser yn Ffrainc yn dilyn pencampwriaeth llawn syndod, gobaith a chyffro.

Mae gobeithion carfan pêl-droed Cymru yn bell o fod ar ben, gyda thîm Rob Page yn cystadlu am le yn rowndiau terfynol yr

Ewros yn yr Almaen y flwyddyn nesaf. Bu'r garfan newydd-ei-olwg yn brwydro'n arwrol yn erbyn tîm cryf, profiadol y Croatia ac yn ennill triphwynt hanfodol yn erbyn ffefrynnau'r grŵp. Gôl taclus gan Harry Wilson rhoddodd Cymru ar y blaen, ond ei beniad o groes Daniel James brofodd yn dyngedfeddol wrth roi Cymru ar y blaen o ddau gôl i ddim. Gôl Mario Pašalić oedd yr unig i Croatia wrth iddynt golli am y tro cyntaf i Gymru yn eu hanes.

Bu cwestiynau am dynged Rob Page fel rheolwr y tîm pêl-droed rhyngwladol yn amgylchynu gwefannau cymdeithasol yn y dyddiau yn arwain at y gêm hon yn y brifddinas, ond mae'n sicr bod Page a'i ddynion wedi'u huno er mwyn dangos y gallu sydd ganddynt. Mae cefnogwyr Cymru yn teimlo'n hyderus y bydd Page yn arwain y garfan am y 2 gêm sy'n weddill yn gemau rhagbrofol yr Ewros, sydd i'w chwarae ym mis Tachwedd.

Mae'r ddwy gêm sy'n weddill yn hanfodol i ymdrechion Cymru i gyrraedd pencampwriaeth yr Ewros haf nesaf, gydag Armenia a Thwrci yn sefyll yn eu ffordd. Bu Cymru'n colli i'r ddwy wlad ym mis Mehefin, ond yn gobeithio y gallent orffen yr ymgyrch yn llwyddiannus gyda buddugoliaethau a fydd yn warant lle iddynt yn yr Almaen yr haf nesaf.

(Tarddiad Flickr and Jeremy Segrott via Flickr)

“

Rydyn ni yn hyderus bod ni'n gallu 'neud rhywbeth spezial' – Ben Davies, amddiffynnwr Cymru
Ben Davies - amddiffynnwr Cymru



Trafod Gyda'r Taf-Od

Myfanwy Grug
Cymraeg a Newyddiaduraeth

Beth wyt ti'n astudio ac o le wyt ti'n dod?

Dwi o Gwm Gwendraeth ac yn astudio Cymraeg a Newyddiaduraeth

Beth wyt ti'n edrych ymlaen at wneud eleni?

Joio a chymdeithasu!!

Beth yw dy hoff raglen teledu?

Outnumbered

Sut wyt ti'n gwella hangover?

Cysgu trwy'r dydd tan fod yr hangover wedi mynd

Vodka neu Gin?

Vodka!

Beth yw dy farn amhoblogaidd?

Mae'n well gen i gathod i gwn

Hoff albwm?

Pob albwm Taylor Swift

Hoff ffilm?

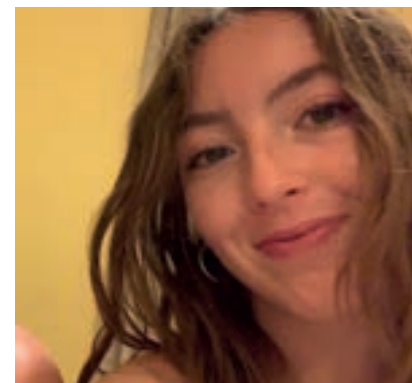
Mamma Mia!!

Hoff gân carioci?

You Belong With Me gan Taylor Swift

Stori embarrassing meddw?

Cracko'm mhen ar agor mewn foam party!



Barn y Bobl - 'Oes gobaith o hyd i Gymru gyrraedd yr Ewros?'

Owain Davies
Cymraeg a Newyddiaduraeth

Wel cyn gem Croatia doedd dim gobaith i weld. Ond erbyn hyn mae bob dim wedi newid! Dwy gem enfawr i fynd! Mae pawb yn gwybod y siom o'r gêm Armenia diwethaf felly fedra' ni ddim gymryd y buddugoliaeth yn ganiataol. Dyda' ni ddim yn ei wneud yn hawdd i ni'n hunain ond dwi dal i gredu fydda ni yn yr Almaen haf nesa'. I mi, os mae'n bosib curo'r tîm sydd 8fed yn y byd, gallwn curo unrhyw un. Gyda'r ieuenctid megis Jordan James yn datblygu ac yn

mae'n rhaid i ni gwneud y job yn y ddwy gêm nesaf! Ymlaen i'r Almaen!!

“



Tarddiad: Trwy Flickr)

Tarddiad: Skyler Pradhan

cael munudau ar y cae gan Rob Page, mae'r dyfodol yn edrych yn ddisglair i Gymru. Gyda'r ymgyrch yn afantol yn y gem olaf yn erbyn Twrci yng Nghaerdydd, mi fydd y swm yn y stadiwm yn fuddarol. Yn bersonol, dydw i ddim eisiau gorfod mynd i'r gemau ail gyfle i allu fynd i'r Ewros felly,

Osian Tudur
Y Gyfraith a'r Gymraeg

Cyn y fuddugoliaeth yn erbyn Croatia roeddwn yn teimlo yn reit anobeithiol am gyrraedd yr Ewros blwyddyn nesaf. Ond roedd y buddugoliaeth yn erbyn Croatia yn anferth i ni, ac yn hwb mawr yn hyder y chwaraewyr a hefyd

y cefnogwyr i gyd. Yn amlwg nid yw'r 2 gem sydd ar ôl yn hawdd o gwbl, mae'n bwysig cofio hyn. Mae chwarae i ffwrdd mewn gwlad bell fel Armenia wastad yn her, a mae gen Twrci dîm talentog dros ben. Ond rwyf yn credu fod gen ni ddigon o dalent a cefnogaeth i gael 6 pwynt o'r 2 gem olaf.



“

dwi'n hyderus yn ddistaw bach fod ni am ei néud hi!

NEWS

Imprisoned Iranian activist wins Nobel Peace Prize

David-Owain Leah
News Editor

Imprisoned Iranian human rights activist Narges Mohammadi has won the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize. On October 6th 2023, the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced that Mohammadi, a 51-year-old activist from Zanjān, Iran, won the renowned prize, noting the “tremendous personal cost” inflicted on her as she serves an ongoing prison sentence. Campaigning against the death penalty, for women’s rights and for Iranian prison reform, Mohammadi has been an outspoken critic of the Iranian regime, having been an activist since her university days. Mohammadi, who has a background in Physics and Engineering, has been incarcerated for 13 years, arrested 13 times since 1998, sentenced to a total of 31 years imprisonment and has received 154 lashes for her outspoken protests against the state. She is currently serving numerous concurrent sentences, having most recently been incarcerated in 2021 for writing the

forward for the Iran Human Rights Annual Report on the death penalty. The reason for this imprisonment - “spreading propaganda against the system”.

Iran took a more totalitarian and authoritarian turn after the election of former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in 2005. Stepping up enforcement of modest dress and chastising behaviour under the Guidance Patrol Institution, the Arab country, north of the Persian Gulf, increasingly suppressed those who held progressive and centrist ideologies, particularly in the weeks and months leading up to the 2009 election, where Mohammadi was subsequently arrested and had her passport revoked for her participation in the newly banned Defenders of Human Right Centre. Unable to leave the country, Mohammadi was ultimately arrested and charged many times in the years that followed; she was continuously imprisoned between 2016 and 2020. She was later imprisoned once again in 2021 for attending the protest for Ebrahim Ketabdar, a fellow activist killed in 2019 during a

protest against increased fuel prices in the country.

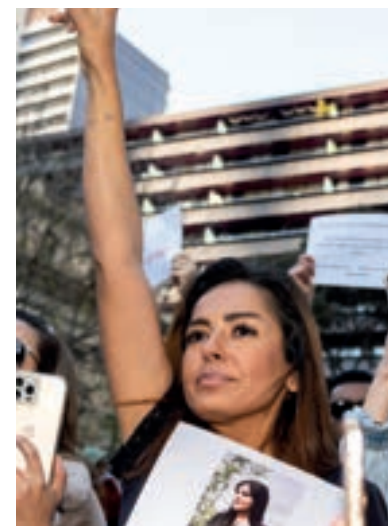
Mohammadi’s success in this year’s Nobel Peace Prize is not the first time the activist has been credited for her long standing hardship, work and logrolling, having been nominated in two years previous in 2021. However, this nomination was used against her in a conviction in January of 2022.

Incarceration did not dim her spirit, having been hailed for leading educational workshops and even dance sessions during her time behind bars. Later, talking to the French news agency, Agence-France Presse, she described the female wing of Evin - the notoriously harsh prison in which she was jailed - as “the most active, resistant and joyful political prisons in Iran”, referring to the optimism and encouragement the other women praised her for. Not only this, she also bravely discussed the harsh and inhumane torture she witnessed and was subject to.

After highlighting the lack of transparency and critiquing the government in regards to the death of the young Iranian woman Jina Masha

Amini- who died while in custody for “improper attire”- Narges Mahmhamadi was announced to be the recipient of the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize for her ongoing fight promoting women’s and human rights as well as freedom for all in the Arab country.

(Source: Matt Hrkac via Flickr)



T is the new A – Say Goodbye to A-levels and make way for new T-levels

Dilichi Dieobi
Head of News

Starting in August 2024, over 200 A level and BTec courses will be scrapped to introduce a new form of level three qualification aimed at 16 to 19-year-olds – T-levels. This is part of the Government’s plan to “streamline further education” in the UK, which will ultimately result in the introduction of the Advanced British Standard, completely replacing A levels and T-levels. However, some sixth forms and colleges fear that this will lead to a lack of alternative options for students who wish to study other courses instead of T-levels. So, what actually are T-levels? T-levels

are vocational qualifications that focus on practical skills and subjects, rather than academic ones. The courses offered include accountancy, finance, manufacturing, digital business, and healthcare. Hairdressing, craft and design, barbering, beauty therapy, media, broadcast and production, and catering courses have also been offered but have been delayed until 2024/2025.

Each course lasts two years - just like the A level and Btec courses - and is worth roughly the same. T-levels also have the same grading system as other vocational courses – a distinction* being equivalent to three A’s (168 Ucas points). Unlike A levels and BTecs though, T Levels provide an alternative for students wishing to do an appren-

ticeship and complete further education without having to juggle the two separately. Students will be graded on their coursework, exams and industry placements. In 2023, the pass rate was 90.5%; out of the 3,448 students who took a T level this year, 3,119 of them passed – but studies revealed that 5,120 students began the course in 2023, so some of them never completed it. The Department for Education said it was “quite normal” for students to switch courses after enrolling in their T levels and they are working to improve student’s retention.

T-levels were introduced as the number of vocational students (BTecs, NVQs, and SVQs) steadily increased from 2000 to 2020; initially numbers were under

90,000 but now are over 300,000. Due to the development of T-levels, the government has had to remove funding from other vocational qualifications. For this reason, there have been recent delays regarding the implementation of T-levels - reportedly “at least one year” according to Education Secretary Gillian Keegan. Previously, the plan was to have a two-year overlap between the original level three qualifications and T-levels. Keegan also stated that T-level courses “will only be approved for delivery when we are sure they are good enough and can be delivered to a high standard”. For now, A levels are here to stay, but be prepared to move further down the alphabet very soon in upcoming academic years.

ELSEWHERE
IN NEWS

Suspect still
at large as
18 killed in
shooting in
the US State of
Maine

UN reduces
Gaza aid
operations as
fuel runs out.



Overcrowding in prisons leading to judges being told to delay sentencing for rapists and burglars

Adam Gaston
Contributor

TW: Sensitive topics, including SA.

Judges across Wales and England have been told to delay sentencing of defendants convicted of serious crimes including, rape and burglary, as a result of overcrowding in prisons across the UK.

Lord Edis, the presiding Judge for England and Wales, has ordered judges to delay sentencing from Monday. Edis said in a Court of Appeal case earlier this year that for offences that attracted shorter sentences, Judges and Magistrates should consider imposing suspended sentences given “current prison population levels” (The Guardian, 2023). The prison population has grown to over 88,000 since then, with the Crown Court sentencing hearings delayed, leaving anyone on bail free in the community or

held in temporary cells in the magistrate’s courts.

This has come after the news from The Independent revealed that overcrowding prisons were nearly at breaking point with some holding 70 per cent more prisoners than their capacity should allow. Nearly two thirds of jails in England are officially overcrowded with free spaces in prisons falling to 651 this week.

Justice Ministers have also reportedly proposed releasing some prisoners early with Chief of Prison Governors, former Home Secretary Jack Straw and former Tory Prisons Minister all warned last week that early release of prisoners may have to be considered to tackle the crisis. Further pressure has come from the Prison Union who have threatened to take legal action if the Ministry of Justice asks to find extra capacity in overcrowded prisons. President of the Prison Governor’s Association

Andrea Albutt said: “If the government further overcrowd our prisons, we will take legal action”.

A senior judge, who had been told to not send jail defendants on bail, expressed concerns about the call stating that their biggest worry being the defendants charged with historic rape or rape of child under 13 or other sexual assault. They said “What am I going to do if a jury finds someone guilty (of rape), Do I release that person who is now convicted back into the community, where the victim might see them? What will the victim think?” (The Independent, 2023). It is predicted that the dilemma judges face with the Government will only worsen with estimates of a further increase in prison population, with numbers upwards of 93,100 to 106,300 by 2027. (The Independent, 2023)

To combat the problem, speaking at the Con-

servative party conference, Justice Secretary Alex Chalk announced plans to rent prison spaces in foreign countries to reduce pressure on prison systems in England. He went on to claim the pandemic as well as the barristers strike were possible factors for the backlog of prisoners awaiting trial and part of the reason for this unprecedented growth in the prison population. He defended the service saying, “The Prison service has already put in place measures such as rapid deployment cells and doubling up cells to manage these pressures” whilst announcing Government plans to build more prisons. These claims would reportedly be the “biggest prison building campaign since the Victorian era” and would create 20,000 new places. However, these plans have yet to come into fruition, leading to the ever-increasing anxieties regarding the status of defendants convicted of some of the serious crimes.

Taylor Swift course to be offered at Queen Mary University

Imogen Edmonds
Contributor

Taylor Swift has taken the world by a storm recently; gracing the big screen with her Eras Tour movie, to news of her new American-footballer love interest, Travis Kelce, she is certainly in the limelight.

Remarkably, she doesn't stop here; extending her influence beyond the music industry and into academia - she now has a role in redefining university syllabuses. In light of this, Russell Group Queen Mary University of London has newly announced a 'Taylor Swift and Literature' summer school course, where students will critically analyse Swift's songs, gaining an understanding of pop-culture's connection with literature.

The programme explores whether Swift's iconic songwriting can be deemed

as works of literature, looking fundamentally at whether she is 'worth studying in the same way that one would study Shakespeare or Dickens?'. According to the course overview, students 'will build an understanding of Swift as an artist who is deeply interested in the relationship between her lyrics and the literature of the past'. Additionally, due to Queen Mary's London location, the course aims to focus its attention on how the UK, and London in particular, feature in Taylor Swift's genius lyrics.

This two-week long course commences in June 2024, where Swifties will take part in 150 hours of study, including lectures, seminars, and field trips, for a tuition fee of a steep £2,100. As part of the course, students are to be assessed through a 2,500-word essay, accounting for 80% of their grade, and a 10-minute presentation worth the remaining 20%.

Surprisingly, Queen Mary University is not the first to offer a Taylor Swift inspired course. In fact, you can study Taylor Swift courses and modules at universities around the world, including a course called 'Psychology of Taylor Swift: Advanced Topic of Social Psychology' at Arizona State University, a module named 'Literature (Taylor's Version)' for masters students at The University of Ghent in Belgium and even an 'All Too Well (Ten Week Version)' course at Stanford University.

Taylor Swift's ability to combine music and storytelling has resonated with fans worldwide, making her a fascinating figure for academic investigation. Moreover, having released 10 original studio albums which she has won a host of awards for, her extensive discography is certainly one to delve into.

Whilst no university currently offers a

degree exclusively on Taylor Swift, it is likely that we shall see an increase in universities offering courses related to the musical mastermind of this era in coming years, as her unique sound begins to captivate scholars and fans alike.



'I Kissed a Boy' star speaks out about Homophobic attack

Hannah Wild
Contributor

(TW: Homophobia)

Everytime a hate crime occurs, the victim and their story is shared in the media and often with the promise that through these distressing stories there comes an opportunity for change or even a slight shift in attitude. The quantity of these stories and their ever-present nature suggests otherwise and it is hard to not feel gloomy about the state of the world when they occur.

Dan Harry, winner of the BBC show 'I Kissed a Boy', an exclusively gay dating show, shared his story and actively encourages others to speak out about homophobia related attacks. Dan recounted his story for the BBC, saying the alleged attack took place over a year ago in Central London. Dan says he was surrounded by a group of men threatening to push him in front of the train tracks.

As Harry recounts the story, he was alone on a tube platform when three men started to crowd around him as they asked if he was gay. He claims '[he] wasn't causing a threat. [He] had [his] earphones in, [he] wasn't looking at anyone, [he] wasn't talking to anyone, I [he] just wanted to go home.' Harry suggests that

the group of men were nudging him closer to the platform edge as they surrounded him further. He says they then started to threaten him saying 'you know the train is coming', Harry thought that they were going to push him. When the train arrived, Harry took the opportunity to run away from the men to the farthest carriage on the platform. This did not seem to stop their attack as, Harry states, they were 'walking along the platform' and 'looking in the carriage for where [he] was' which he says 'happened for maybe three stops'. When the men reached Harry, they did not go inside but shouted verbal abuse and a number of homophobic slurs at him through the tube window.

Not only was Harry unpleasantly surprised by the attack, he was also taken aback by the lack of response or reaction from the public who were on the train. Harry states that there were people on the carriage with him and yet 'no one said anything. No one asked if [he] was alright'. Harry strongly advocates for support for the LGBTQ community, as they need help and reassurance that they are not alone when these attacks happen. Harry spoke to Attitude Magazine and said "That's why [he is] partnering with Stonewall to demand change. We can't face this battle alone; rather, we must tackle it together as a community."

Staff at 32 colleges vote to strike over low pay

Emily Clegg
Contributor

UCU members at over 30 colleges nationwide are striking due to low pay, unrealistic workloads and poor working conditions. Throughout October staff have been striking across the UK for a pay rise that reflects the current rate of inflation and the ongoing cost of living crisis.

Internal surveys completed by the UCU revealed that an alarming 96% of college staff described themselves as struggling financially. A further 79% of staff said that the situation had taken a toll on their mental health.

The survey found that some staff were having to use food banks and reduce utilities costs like heating as their salary simply isn't enough to support them. General secretary of the UCU, Jo Grady, stated that 'good quality education cannot be built upon the backs of staff who cannot afford to heat and eat... If college bosses want to avoid disruption, they need to offer realistic pay, address workloads, and make a commitment to binding national bargaining'. The Association of Colleges (AoC) has suggested a pay increase of 6.5%, but colleges have no legal requirement to put in place this pay rise.

Government funding cuts to the Associa-

tion of Colleges have made it challenging for pay rises to be implemented in all striking colleges. However, the AoC wants to communicate with unions to explore bargaining the options that do not cause disruption to students. The chief executive of the AoC, David Hughes, said he was 'disappointed' that UCU members voted in favour of the strikes as many of the unions know that funding isn't accessible for all colleges.

If a deal is not negotiated and accepted by the UCU walkouts are expected to start in early November. UCU members who are employed by universities have also been taking industrial action for similar reasons.

Education worker strikes are rising alongside other industries where pay is insufficient to support staff with the ongoing increase in inflation rates. Many workers in public sectors, such as healthcare, education and transport, have been striking more frequently as Britain faces its worst inflation rates in over 40 years. In these past two years, the cost of living crisis has made it difficult for workers in all sectors to navigate and afford a post-covid economy.

UNITE Bin Collection strike leads to cancellations

Megan Huws
News Editor

Walking through Cathays the evidence of the bin strikes are unavoidable, with piles of green recycling bins and overflowing food waste bins outside every house. Fortunately, some of these bins were collected recently, but that does not mean that the strike is over. According to the Cardiff Council website, the UNITE union announced strikes up until Sunday the 26th of November. However, this does not mean that a month's worth of our waste will be sitting on the street outside our houses as, the collections are a lot more infrequent. During the strikes, both general waste and food waste will be collected as normal, in an attempt to avoid leaving rotting food to attract rats and other vermin. However, the green recycling bags and the hygiene waste will now only be collected fortnightly with general waste with, garden

waste collections cancelled. These strikes have made an already complicated waste system increasingly complex, leaving most students to just guess when their waste will be collected. Many people have resorted to, due to confusion and lack of space, to just piling their rubbish on the side of the street. However, many other students have been threatened with fines for leaving waste out on days that it won't be collected. To help make these complicated rules simpler, the Cardiff Council website has a page which tells you which bins you need to put out based on your postcode. To help further, there is an option to get this information emailed to the day you need to put the bins out, simplifying this complicated situation.

Whilst the bin strikes do cause an inconvenience to us as students, and makes the waste problem in Cathays significantly worse, there should be a focus upon why the strikes are happening. The members of UNITE in both Cardiff and Wrexham are striking over

pay disputes. These strikes are continuing until the 26th of November due to an overwhelming majority vote to reject the pay increase of £1,925, offered by the local authorities. The Unite Wales Region Secretary, Peter Huges, has criticised Huw Thomas and Mark Pritchard (Council Leaders) as they 'both employ chief executives who are earning salaries that are seven to nine times higher', in stark contrast to the salaries of UNITE union members. Every resident of Cardiff is experiencing the importance of the council workers collecting our rubbish, yet they are struggling to get the pay that they deserve. In a letter from the National Employers, in which they offer the pay rise of £1,925 and emphasise the importance of the 1.4 million people employed, they state that their offer is 'full and final, [and] is fair in the current circumstances'. This clash will have to be resolved, as Unite is openly willing to negotiate, in order for regular collections to resume

(Source: Jeff Djevetvia Flickr)



OPINION

Welcome to Opinion



From Toys 'R' Us to Wilko: The death of high street shopping

Grace Robson
Head of Opinion

Walking down the high-street of my small, Devon hometown, I am faced with nothing but chain stores and 'To Let' signs. To those of us who grew up in a small town, this is nothing new. For the past decade, any business owner who dares set up shop on our high-streets has faced closure within a few years, and that's if they are lucky. Many of these shops nowadays barely last a few months unless they are cradled by a bigger company. Every time a new shop pops up, we say to ourselves, well that won't last long. We've come to expect this failure. Where previously this issue has mostly only affected smaller towns, it has now become an inevitable threat to the once thriving high-streets of bigger cities. The death of high-street shopping is edging closer and closer and with ever-growing, convenient online shopping platforms, it is only a matter of time before our high-streets entirely kick the bucket - losing culture and originality with it.

In 2023, the BBC published an article with data showing that Cardiff has the second most vacant shops in the UK with the percentage being around 17% earlier this year. This data collected from the Welsh Retail Consortium also found that footfall decreased by 18.8% in early 2022 and when looking specifically at the city centre, the footfall had decreased by 33.2% in the same month. It is clear that even bustling city centres like Cardiff are beginning to face the same dramatic decline that small-town highstreets have been burdened with over the past decade.

With platforms such as prime delivery, in which you can order items online and have them at your door in less than 24 hours and in some cases like Argos, same day delivery. Online shopping has become a fast, convenient and often cheap alternative. While this convenience can be incredibly useful, especially for those who live particularly busy and hectic lives, it begs the question; is this convenience worth losing our high-streets to?

I spoke to a small group of Cardiff University students to assess their shopping habits and to ask their opinion. Firstly, I asked the group where they buy the majority of their clothing. Online shoppers made up 60.9% with only 39.1% buying them in-person. Secondly, I asked them where they would choose to shop if they were buying a gift, 60.9% once again said they would buy online and 39.1% said they would buy them in-person. I then asked them, hypothetically, if they had run out of something they needed urgently, where would they choose to get these necessities. This is where the results entirely switch up with only 17.4% buying these necessities online and 82.6% choosing to buy them in-person. It is clear from these results that when shopping in a non-urgent context, many of them would choose online shopping over in-person shopping. It is only when faced with an urgent situation that they then choose to shop in-person. This is likely because unless you are willing to pay a subscription or are willing to pay extra for delivery, those urgent items can sometimes take days to arrive and in an urgent context, you may not have days to wait. With these online platforms rapidly becoming quicker and more af-

fordable however, it is only a matter of time before the matter of urgency and affordability is solved and when this issue is solved, what hope do our high-streets have left?

Lastly, I asked the group of students whether or not they believed that the convenience of online shopping was worth losing our high-streets. 78% of the group said flat out - no, they did not think that the convenience of online shopping was worth losing our high-streets. Only one student said yes, with the rest remaining mixed. One student stated that they believed online shopping should replace big chain stores but shouldn't replace independent stores. Another student argued that while no longer necessary, high-street shopping has become more of a social activity that shouldn't entirely be lost. Based on these results, it is clear that the general consensus is that while online-shopping can be a quick and affordable alternative, it is simply not worth losing our high-streets to. Instead, the general public must find a balance which allows the high-streets to continue thriving while using online-shopping where absolutely necessary. It is however important to note that those I asked were all young adults, had I asked members of an older generation, the results would likely be different.

While the increased use of online shopping has clearly had a dire impact on high-street businesses and those who rely on them for an income, we also have to consider the environmental impact of online shopping. When buying online you must consider the huge amount of CO2 that shipping packages all over the world produces. One study published on Earth.Org found that in

2020, the shipping of goods to and from the buyer and sender accounted for 37% of the total greenhouse gas emissions. The environmental impact is huge and this is without considering the amount of packaging that these online companies use when shipping. A 2017 study by Roland Geyer, Jenna R. Jambeck and Kara Lavender Law, published by Science Advances, found that only 9% of the world's plastics are actually recycled. When considering the amount of packaging and plastics that these shipping companies use in conjunction with this horrifying statistic, the reality of online shopping and its environmental impact is entirely jarring. Choosing to shop with smaller local businesses greatly decreases both the CO2 emissions we produce and the packaging needed and, overall, hugely decreases the environmental impact of our shopping habits. At a time where the climate crisis is getting worse and worse at an alarming rate, it is vital that we consider the environmental impact of our everyday habits like shopping.

It is clear that we the public need to make a greater effort to support high-street shops, particularly smaller local businesses who may not have the additional support of being owned by a bigger business or chain. So, to conclude, next time you fancy a new pair of earrings or need a prop for your fancy dress social, don't just whip out your phone and order it from a big company, as convenient as it may be. Instead, have a browse around your local high-street, especially smaller local businesses, and see what you can find. You may just find a favourite new piece of jewellery or clothing all while supporting a struggling business and helping to ease the climate crisis.

The relevance and importance of Diwali in the 21st century

By Ishani Patwal - Opinion Editor

With the festival of Diwali coming up imminently, many communities are celebrating this significant date. Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and Newar Buddhists all recognise the occasion, with each faith having their own individual histories and beliefs connected to Diwali, but with the same underlying themes presiding over the holiday. These themes include the victory of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance.

For Hindus, Diwali celebrates the return of King Rama to Ayodhya after his victory over Ravana and his 14-year exile. The Hindu goddess of Wealth, Lakshmi, is also celebrated as she is the bringer of the blessings for the celeb-

ration of the New Year. For Sikhs, the sixth Guru, Hargobind Singh, was released from prison on Diwali in 1619, as well as the day the foundation stone of the Golden Temple at Amritsar was laid in 1577. For Jains, Diwali is the day that Lord Mahavira reached spiritual awakening in 527BC.

It is clear, therefore, that there is not just a rich history connected to the festival, but also that its significance spreads throughout a range of cultures and religious traditions. Whilst this is deeply important for many communities, the question must be asked - how is this relevant to people in the 21st century celebrating Diwali?

Apart from religious and spiri-

tual importance, the lessons that Diwali teaches are relevant to all audiences and serve as genuinely good practice for how to live. The emphasis on the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance are lessons that we can take forward in different ways into our day to day lives. For example, the significance of knowledge over ignorance would remind us that before we speak on an issue, we would do well to be educated about the topic prior to the discussion. The importance of good over evil reminds us that being a good person is the most powerful thing we can do in this world. There are many other applications of this, but the New Year is a good time

to start fresh, refocus, and reinvent oneself in an image that is kinder, more knowledgeable and more optimistic.

Outside of the deeper meanings and the lessons we can take from Diwali, in a non-religious way, there are other things we can take away from this celebration. In some ways we do not have to learn anything at all because if nothing else, it acts as a way to bring families together to share food, culture, and overall bond over shared traditions that have been happening for centuries. Divas are lit, rangoli patterns are created, fireworks are set off, and food is shared between generations of family.



Keval Tank/Wikicommons



Welcome to Opinion

The lesbian uniform: Exploring the queer aesthetic

Simran Patel
Opinion Editor

Someone recently told me that they knew I was queer within minutes of meeting me, because of my hairy armpits. I felt myself swell with satisfaction; the idea that they openly advertise my queerness is strangely pleasing to me. After years of grappling with the body hair debate, I stopped shaving them earlier this year in an 'F you' to the patriarchy. I also just love how they disgust and repel (straight) men. Yet I would be lying if I said that 'looking gay' wasn't a welcome benefit to my decision. There's just something about subverting traditional beauty standards that is distinctly queer. My friends and I – mostly queer women – frequently joke about the 'Lesbian Uniform'. Take a sweeping look around Kings and Pulse and you'll find a freakishly high proportion of us with similar features. Think nose piercings, tattoos (extra points for Venus symbols or nude women), mullets, carabiners, and Doc Martens. Why is it that these seemingly normal pieces, when combined together, form an image that we all recognise as queer? Traditional femininity is based on a heteronormative ideal of what women should look like. Soft. Hairless. Delicate. The queer community is known for challenging the norm, and fashion is no different. It's difficult to pinpoint, but this lesbian aesthetic can be characterised by its refusal to go along with convention, favouring instead the female gaze. It is more nuanced, scattered with references that might go amiss to the untrained eye. It's just for us. While others may overlook the 2 short nails on my dominant hand, the lesbians know better.

This is especially intriguing to me as I have always presented as 'femme' – a lesbian who appears stereotypically feminine, oftentimes indistinguishable from a straight woman. Once again, it should be noted that conventional 'femininity' is problematic and based on straight ideals. I therefore sometimes wonder if this presentation is a result of my not being out at home, and coming from a more traditional background. Toeing the line between visibility (for personal fulfilment) and 'straight-passing' (for safety) is a frustrating dilemma that will take time to play out. Despite my pride in my identity, conspicuous queerness is an ongoing battle, and so being recognised as queer in a safe space is a much-needed source of validation. It's a secret language that only we can speak, and it says "I'm just like you!". Of course not every queer woman fits this aesthetic, but I find the Lesbian Uniform amusing and quite comforting. And considering how happy they make me, I really don't think I'll ever shave my armpits again.



Source: Taqwomen/ShimmeringAtoms (via Wikimedia Commons)

“Traditional femininity is based on a heteronormative ideal of what a woman should look like.”

Disney's 'feminism' - How far have we really come?

Chloe Milne
Opinion Editor

I clearly remember going to watch 'Frozen' in the cinema in 2013 and absolutely loving it. It had everything – a fantastic soundtrack, a talking snowman, and, most notably, two strong-willed, independent female characters who made their own decisions. The fact that the 'act of true love' was actually between sisters, rather than a heterosexual couple, felt, and was, groundbreaking at the time. Although Disney princesses like Mulan (princess status still largely debated) displayed strength, independence and courage, there is no doubt that the phenomenon that was Frozen paved the way for characters like Moana, and solidified a new type of princess; one who was bold and self-sufficient, and showed little interest in being saved or even involved in a prince. Whilst this is certainly an important milestone in terms of lifting female characters out of the 'damsel in distress' box that Disney once confined them to, it can really only be seen as a baby step. Both Elsa and Anna are still unrealistically slim, Euro-typically beautiful, and the film still pushes women's role as wives and mothers as their main purpose in society. In fact, Anna is so keen to fulfil this role that she accepts a marriage proposal from a complete stranger. Of course, this doesn't work out, but the fact that she is romantically involved with Kristoff so quickly suggests that her happy ending was somewhat dependent on a heterosexual relationship. Elsa, of course, is fiercely independent – but is she really? She is exiled from civilisation because the people of Arendelle revere her powers, and is destined to live life in solitude because she embodies society's fear of powerful women. So yes, she isn't romantically linked with a man, but it would be naïve to suggest this is entirely her own feminist decision, rather than a position she was forced into by patriarchal standards. The recent announcement of a Snow White remake also paints the princess as a fierce

warrior; title actress Rachel Zegler controversially said Snow White is “not going to be saved by the prince. And she's not going to be dreaming about true love. She's dreaming about becoming the leader she knows she can be.” Although the principle of presenting female characters as independent is admirable, it still puts women into one of two boxes – damsels in distress, or powerful action characters with no interest in romantic relationships. Can't we be both? If we desire romance, does that make us less feminist? Disney princes can be funny, handsome, courageous and strong, all whilst still getting the girl, whereas princesses do not enjoy this same freedom. Is this really the message we want to send to young girls? Disney has been largely applauded for its progression, but its worth questioning whether, in the 21st century, polarising women in this way is feminist progression at all.

Source: Richard Hsu (via Flickr)



Clothing micro-trends

Why it is important not to feed into them - Olivia Griffin

As a former fresher, I can vouch for the freshers' week roller-coaster. Before moving to Cardiff, I had meticulously planned out every outfit I wore during freshers' week. Taking advice from various social media platforms, the majority of my freshers' week wardrobe was made up of 'trending' fast fashion pieces. A year later, my freshers' outfits were just pieces I already own, pulled from the depths of my wardrobe. Clothing micro-trends are hard to avoid (especially during freshers' week), but it is important that we stop feeding into the ever-accelerating fast-fashion cycle.

There is no denying that micro-trends are the fuel to fast

fashion engines. The alarming rate at which clothing companies capitalize on micro-trends has pushed consumption to terrifying new levels. Many of these fashion companies have questionable track records when it comes to labor and environmental impact; they design, produce, and sell 'trendy' clothing for often under five pounds – a questionably low price if you consider the manufacturing process behind the garment.

Historically, trend cycles repeat every 20 years. The main influence on 90's style was a 1970s revival in women's clothing, inspired by the disco look and famous flared jeans. Online, almost every week there seems to be a new fad that

is the 'must-have' item, building up a frenzy that sells the product out almost immediately. Since the rise of social media platforms micro-trends have accelerated the trend cycle from years to months, and more often than not, merely weeks. Rapidly rotating fashion cycles create a breeding ground for micro-trends and encourage over-consumption.

Arguably, micro-trends shouldn't be considered entirely negative – with accelerating trend cycles, re-visiting fashion trends quickly is not new. Much to the disgust of some, many of these micro-trends have been plucked out of the past with the same enthusiasm taken to eyebrows in the 90s (the skinny brow is back by

the way). Not every micro-trend is evil, in fact, many of the trends we are currently witnessing on social media platforms encourage consumers to participate in conscious consumption – vintage hauls, and charity shopping videos have infiltrated mainstream fashion media. Second-hand clothing platforms like Vinted, Depop, and eBay have surged in popularity, particularly among Gen Z due to the affordable prices and quality clothing offered on these sites. Furthermore, ASOS, the largely considered fast fashion brand has introduced 'asos marketplace', second hand shopping made as convenient as next week's fad.

Source: Wikimedia Commons



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For one month they lived up to their name. It is interesting how quick this chapter of the movement's history came to an end.

Opinion



‘Just stop oil’ Paint fuelled protesting: Do they give environmental activism a bad name?

James Roberts
Contributor

Just stop oil may think that acting like a righteous doomsday cult will prevent some ill-defined apocalypse and draw together the public for the good the environment. But instead, their bizarre and attention seeking tactics prevent the rest of the country from having a reasonable conversation about the effects of pollution on the climate and further the deepening divisions within political discourse. Imagine you are a plumber or a bricklayer driving your van in outer London, already harassed by ULEZ cameras, you find a procession of middle-class fanatics blocking the road demanding an end to oil. The very thing that allows you to earn money and feed your family. You try to reason with them but to no avail, they are utterly wedded to their cause and see no reason to move and let you pass, and the resulting delay cripples your income for that day. I imagine that most

ordinary people would come away with a decidedly negative opinion of whoever was blocking the road. As this situation plays out over and over again across the country the cause of tackling climate change becomes an ever more fringe issue in the public conscience. Apparently, this was not always the chosen modus operandi of Just Stop Oil. In April 2022 they began actions against oil giants such as ExxonMobil and Valero, blocking distribution centres and attacking infrastructure. For one month they lived up to their name. It is interesting how quick this chapter of the movement's history came to an end. Court injunctions were placed upon them and they moved on to their current tactics of disrupting the lives of normal people. Herein is where they lost credibility as a good cause and it is interesting how quickly they submitted to the courts when faced with the legal might of global corporations. Surely the thought of a little prison time is nothing compared to the end of the world? It would seem not and since the middle of 2022 they have moved

to more divisive tactics, turning the streets into another front of the culture wars. Just Stop Oils tactics are completely ineffectual in creating any meaningful discussions around climate change, and I struggle to understand the reasoning behind them. What do they think is going to happen if they sit in the middle of busy junctions or the M25? Will this really cause the kind of public enlightenment on climate issues they say they want? Indeed, the aggressively antisocial

nature of some of the group's actions make me think that they are motivated by a supercharged sense of righteousness, as if they are the apostles of environmentalism, rather than any rational alarm for the climate. This sense of righteousness has always been a feature of middle-class activism, but this latest manifestation has a slightly disturbing ferocity which should not be taken lightly. For just about anything can be justified when you believe yourself to among the elect, warning of imminent doom.



Source: Olav Gjerstad (via Wikimedia Commons)

TikTok's terrifyingly silent Bigotry *By Aneurin Davies*

TikTok is rife with bigotry - you just can't see it. Bigotry on TikTok is absolutely out of control. Sometimes it's so in-your-face it's laughable. Other times it may be portrayed as a more nuanced argument that requires a slight amount of critical thinking to debunk. But what if I told you that you've absolutely read a bigoted post or comment and dismissed it as an absurdist statement? These absurdist remarks have their own term - dog whistle. Basically the aim of a dog whistle is for members of certain groups to identify each other without anyone else knowing. It can be anything from a simple statement to

a confusing question. Recently, they've grown in popularity to the point that it's sometimes difficult to identify them. Without a doubt the most obvious dog whistle that's come to light recently is 'Gnome' TikToks. It's literally as simple as it sounds - pictures of gnomes in a slideshow. That's it. But, if you open the comment section you're greeted with the comment "billions wear the hat" over and over. An absolutely baffling comment that means nothing unless you've had this dog whistle explained to you. The "hat" here refers to the Jewish kippah. This dog whistle purposefully targets Jewish people and reveals to anyone who reads this comment that the commenter themselves is anti-semitic. Another unbelievably ambiguous sentence that you've probably read in a comment is

"well, well, well". This sentence is possibly one of the most popular dog whistles that exists on TikTok right now. Chances are you've seen this comment underneath a video of someone doing an act that some people see as stereotypical of specific races (sometimes also used to target transgender people). The saving grace of this sentence is that people have thankfully caught on and the replies are usually full of people asking "what is wrong with you?". It's unfortunate as sometimes dog whistles are interpreted by users as just another popular phrase that doesn't really mean anything. The repetition creates a cycle of accidental bigotry, reaching a wider scope of the wrong people. It makes sense, so many meaningless sentences are popularised every month. Whether that be

a meme or a quote from television, you'll hear a repeating tagline being mimicked in real life whether you like it or not. On an app as fast moving as TikTok, it really is difficult to keep up.

The sad truth about dog whistles is that they're constantly being created by bigots online.

4Chan and 8Chan are more often than not the origins of a majority of these phrases. It's impossible to list every single dog whistle in existence because there's just too many. If you're a user on TikTok, be weary! Dog whistles hide where no one really expects them, and ending their cycle can prevent larger communities forming of a bigoted nature.

Object Men: 'Bunny', 'Boy Parts' and why I love unhinged Women in Modern Literature

By Ella Lane - Opinion Editor

As an English Literature student, over the summer I decided to take a break from the doom and gloom of required reading, opting for books a little more unhinged than your run-of-the-mill classics. Two of these have refused to leave my mind, and I catch myself thinking of them at least once a week, just because of how truly messed up they were. This spoiler-free article will aim to convey why I hated to love these books, and why I think you will too.

Eliza Clark's 'Boy Parts' follows our protagonist Irina, a successful freelance photographer who works in a bar and spends her free time scouting men to shoot on the streets of Newcastle. As the story progresses, we see her slow demise into complete insanity, as her photography and thirst for success takes over her life, causing her to alienate everyone close to her. As an unreliable narrator we find her dislikeable

through her ruthless treatment of both men and women; she is truly the author of her own demise. Overall, an American Psycho style grapple between reality and insanity, the reason I enjoyed this book as much as I did is because it was refreshing to see a true female villain who is not sugar coated or easily digestible. This book was a truly uncomfortable experience that I thoroughly enjoyed. It had been a while since I had read something where I despised the main character and rooted for her downfall.

The other unforgettable text that I can't seem to shake is Mona Awad's 'Bunny'. This story follows our protagonist Samantha Heather Mackey who has been accepted onto a prestigious writing course at Warren University, where she falls in with a boy-obsessed clique of girls who only refer to each other as 'bunny'. Their friendships become dark and twisted, moving beyond intimate into cult territory. The Crime riddled city where the novel is set pales in com-

parison to what these girls get up to in their free time. Stifling descriptions and demonic activities make this novel feel like an Alice In Wonderland-esque trip into Samantha's mind, accompanied by plenty of twists

and turns down a symbolic rabbit hole. The reason I loved this book was because it represents a subversion of the average experience of womanhood with dark undertones, making it hard to forget.

Both books manage to both echo the classics and create something new. They represent a struggle between the conscious and unconscious minds, both protagonists

weaponizing their femininity to claim a sick power over objectified men. If you enjoy dark stories, please take the time to read these two, I cannot recommend them enough.

(Source: Charlotte Henard via Flickr)





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Students'
Union

Undeb
Myfyrwyr
Caerdydd

black history month.

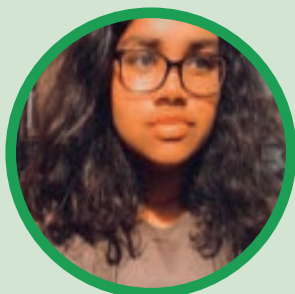
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SCIENCE



Aditi Kallanagoudar Girish



Caitlin Rider

ELSEWHERE
IN SCIENCE

**Climate Change Committee says UK no longer a world leader
Plan to send all-UK astronaut mission into orbit**

Source: NASA (Via Flickr)



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Nasa's Psyche Mission: Journey to the Center of the Earth

Aditi tells Gair Rhydd about Nasa's Latest Mission to Psyche

Aditi Kallangoudar Girish
Science and Tech Editor

Nasa's latest venture is a probe heading to visit a highly unusual celestial body, Psyche - an asteroid that has more metal than rock or ice. The probe has just begun what will be a 6-year journey to the Trojan Belt between Mars and Jupiter where Psyche is located. Psyche launched Oct. 13, 2023, at 10:19 a.m. EDT from Kennedy Space Center aboard a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket. It is the first in a series of NASA missions to be the primary payload launched on a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket. The Psyche spacecraft's voyage to its namesake asteroid could very interestingly, almost be considered a journey to the center of the Earth. The asteroid which is suspected to be an exposed core of a planetesimal, an early planetary building block who's exterior must have been stripped by violent collisions during our solar system's early formation. Alternatively, some scientists speculate that Psyche might be a primordial and unmelted body, formed from the earliest materials in our solar system that aggre-



Source: Billy Brown (via Flickr)

gated under the influence of gravity, preserving its original state since then. If it is a planetesimal, the asteroid Psyche could potentially offer a rare opportunity to closely examine the interior of terrestrial planets, including Earth. Unlike Psyche, we currently lack the means to bore a path to Earth's metal core or the cores of other rocky planets. Consequently, a visit to Psyche could provide a one-of-a-kind window into the turbulent history of collisions and matter accumulation

that led to the formation of planets like our own. "The big thrill is that we're going to go see a kind of world that humans have never seen before," says principal investigator Prof Lindy Elkins-Tanton from Arizona State University. Presently, our techniques for studying Earth's core remain highly indirect. Occasionally, we gain limited insights into the solar system's early history, and by extension, our planet's history, through metallic meteorites that reach Earth from distant celestial

bodies. However, this perspective is limited. Another approach to probe the Earth's core involves seismology, which entails studying how seismic vibrations from earthquakes traverse the planet's interior. However, due to limited data sources and technical challenges this approach provides only a restricted view of the Earth's core, which is buried deep beneath numerous outer layers. Asteroid Psyche's gravitational pull is projected to capture the spacecraft in late July 2029, marking the commencement of the prime mission in August. Over a span of approximately two years, the probe will orbit the asteroid, capturing images, mapping its surface, and collecting data crucial to unraveling Psyche's enigmatic composition. This remarkable journey is poised to unlock new chapters in our understanding of the cosmos and the history of our solar system.

As the spacecraft embarks on this voyage, the world must watch in anticipation, to witness the revelations that Psyche may grant us in the years to come.

Study Warns of Concerning Heatwaves in the Future

Prasanna Joshi
Contributor

A recent study by Pennsylvania State and Purdue Universities has highlighted the dangers of heat waves in the context of climate change. The study revealed that heatwaves could be even more harmful than previously thought, and global warming is exacerbating the situation.

The research found that the human body can tolerate much less heat than scientists had initially estimated. This means that heatwaves are a more significant threat than we had previously understood, and we need to take them more seriously. As the planet continues to warm up, we must take steps to protect ourselves from the harmful effects of heatwaves.

The study revealed some concerning facts about our vulnerability to moist heat stress, which is more se-

vere than previously thought due to lowered thermal limits. Even a slight increase in temperature of 1.5°C could result in brief exceedances of the critical environmental limit in areas like the Middle East and the Indus River Valley.

If temperatures continue to rise to 2°C, a broader threat of dangerous heat stress could emerge, affecting regions like eastern China and sub-Saharan Africa. These findings highlight the potential dangers of global warming and the urgent need to take action to mitigate its effects.

The US Midwest is identified as a potential moist heat stress hotspot under a scenario of 3°C of global warming, making it essential to take effective climate mitigation measures. As the world faces unprecedented heat extremes, we need to take a multifaceted approach to address heat stress, including adapting our behaviour, culture, and technology.

The study's findings reveal that immediate action is imperative. With rising temperatures and humidity, addressing heat stress will require a comprehensive approach. While some physiological adaptation is possible, the study emphasises the indispensable role of additional behavioural, cultural, and technological adaptations to safeguard the well-being of billions in the face of unparalleled heat challenges.

The research also underscores the regional disparities in heat adaptation strategies. Lower-middle-income countries in the moist tropics and subtropics are predicted to exceed these reduced thermal limits even before a 3°C temperature rise. Moreover, further global warming extends the risk to drier regions, including North America and the Middle East, necessitating distinct heat adaptation strategies.

The study's findings reveal that keeping global warming under 2°C can significantly reduce the possibility of widespread and irreparable moist heat stress. These outcomes underline the pressing need for prompt and effective climate measures to safeguard our planet and its inhabitants from the impending danger of extreme heat.

The study is a wake-up call for everyone to work together to tackle the urgent issue of climate change. With unpredictable and extreme weather events becoming more common, we must take action to protect ourselves and our planet. Our best defences against the looming climate crisis are to adapt to the changes and take steps to reduce their impact.

X Faces Regulatory Pressure over Israel-Hamas Conflict

Malgorzata Rudnicka
Contributor

X, a platform owned by Elon Musk and formerly known as Twitter, has been accused of being susceptible to misinformation and propaganda and is now being formally investigated over the content regarding the Israel-Hamas war. X has been allegedly full of graphic images, hate speech, and terrorist and violent content, causing misinformation about Hamas' attack on Israel. The European Commission services sent Musk's platform a request for information under the new EU technology

regulation, the Digital Services Act (DSA). EU officials are due to determine whether X has failed to comply with the new framework that seeks to make the online space safer and ensure accountability and transparency of online platforms. Misinformation on such a large scale can have prominent consequences, shaping people's political opinions and affiliations. Furthermore, according to Reuters, in his letter to Musk, EU commissioner Thierry Breton expressed: "Given that your platform is extensively used by children and teenagers, you have a particular obligation to protect them from violent content depicting hostage-taking and other graphic videos

which are reportedly widely circulating on your platform without appropriate safeguards."

After acquiring X, Musk dissolved the previously existing Trust and Safety Council, responsible for, among others, controlling hate speech. He is also said to have cut the number of employees from 7,500 to approximately 1,500, worsening the efficiency of content moderation. Following the warning given to Musk, EU industry chief Thierry Breton has cautioned Mark Zuckerberg (Meta) and TikTok for not sufficiently controlling the spread of misinformation on their platforms. Major social media companies have been reminded of their need

to comply with regulations on the spread of harmful content. EU services requested X to provide information on the activation and functioning of X's crisis response protocol by 18 October, and other issues by 31 October. Based on the EU's assessment, the following measures could involve formal proceedings and imposition of penalty payment of up to 6% of the company's global revenue if found guilty.

"X, a platform owned by Elon Musk has been accused of being susceptible to misinformation."



Source: Danny Oberhaus (via Flickr)

REVIEW



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Killers of the Flower Moon – Scorsese at his Best

Will it dethrone *Oppenheimer* as period drama darling?Tamsin Fraser
Head of Review

Rarely does a three-and-a-half-hour period drama live up to its hype, but Scorsese delivers a thoughtful and masterfully executed piece of cinema with spellbinding performances across the board.

Killers of the Flower Moon can easily be compared to fellow recent historical drama *Oppenheimer*, the pair clocking in at a gargantuan 386 total minutes. Both combine direction from one of the most celebrated auteurs in cinematic history with a stellar cast of renowned actors, immediately allowing for a sweep at the Academy Awards next year. However, *Oppenheimer* comes across as somewhat generic compared to Scorsese's refreshingly unconventional take on the revisionist Western.

The film's editing is an obvious highlight: it creates a jarring, fast-paced environment for Scorsese to thrive in. Jarring cutaway shots depict the brutal murders of the Osage population as nothing more than a second thought, reflecting the indifference to the genocide

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Here is a man who has been honing his craft for over 60 years, and it absolutely shows.”



Scorsese at an interview for the film Source: Raph_PH (via Flickr)

taking place felt by the film's white characters.

A wonderfully creative epilogue in the form of a radio show (starring Scorsese himself) makes the deliberate choice to leave the audience unsatisfied with the film's conclusion. Inter-titled, monochromatic reels emphasise the divide between Oklahoma's Osage and white citizens; the Osage are consistently depicted as nothing more than inferior spectacles, accepted purely due to their wealth — setting the tone perfectly for the film ahead.

This, combined with impeccable sound design and practical effects, shows the extent of Scorsese's

prowess as a director. Here is a man who has been honing his craft for over 60 years, and it absolutely shows. Despite the longevity of his career, Scorsese still shows obvious passion for his craft. *Killers of the Flower Moon* is a fast paced, tightly run ship with no room for mistakes.

Ironically, if there was any aspect of the film I could change, it would be something that once again reminded me of *Oppenheimer* — only this time, in a negative way. Both utilise a line of dialogue in a way that I've only seen before in Marvel films; a famous character is mentioned in passing, only for one of the film characters to quip that they don't know who they

are, as they aren't yet famous. Hilarious, right? With *Oppenheimer* it was the “young upstart John F. Kennedy”, with *Killers of the Flower Moon* it's “J. Edgar Hoover — I've never heard of him”. This wink-wink-nudge-nudge to the audience is something that I can just about bear in a Marvel movie, but after Scorsese's constant jibes towards comic book films, you'd think he would be above such an eye-roll of a cheap joke.

Of course, its cast was the film's initial selling point, and it goes without saying that everyone involved was outstanding. Robert DeNiro doesn't particularly step out of his comfort zone as the cold-blooded, immoral patriarch, but plays the part magnificently. Jesse Plemons' cut-throat FBI agent brings a suavity reminiscent of Willem Dafoe in *American Psycho*.

Comic relief — whether intentional or not — appears in the form of an unexpected Brendan Fraser, who brings an energy to his role that I can only liken to the Kool-Aid Man. Leonardo DiCaprio is perfect as the ignorant, wolfish protagonist; he grimaces and stumbles through the film with an Oscar-worthy spinelessness. Unexpectedly, the best performance by far comes from relative newcomer Lily Gladstone, who steals the show with a perfect portrayal of a strong-willed Osage woman

Prima Facie – Provocative, Distressing, and Necessary

Emily on Jody Comer's one-woman play about how sexual assault survivors are failed

Emily Cottle
Review Editor

If you have not already heard the name Suzie Miller, then take note of it now. Miller is the playwright of *Prima Facie*; a provocative, challenging and emotive play about injustice within sexual assault law.

The one-woman production centres Tessa, a fierce new criminal law barrister who loves the so-called ‘game’ of law and manipulates it to her advantage. Tessa recounts the story of growing up working class and advancing despite all odds, achieving her dream of reaching the courtroom. Her ruthless approach to law makes her successful in the game until she is cruelly exposed to the systemically patriarchal ideals that form the criminal justice system and silence the victims of sexual assault.

Miller studied as a human rights and criminal defence lawyer before becoming a playwright, saying that “years of practising [...] increased my feminist questioning and interrogation of the legal system, because while I firmly believe that ‘innocent until proven guilty’ is the bedrock of human rights, it always felt that its application in sexual assault cases served to undermine

rather than to uphold any real fairness”.

Having watched this play, Miller and a stellar performance by Jodie Comer expose the reality of victims of sexual assault not only denied justice, but disbelieved entirely and broken down by the system.

I had not previously seen a one-woman production, and admittedly believed that it would perhaps feel very much like a seemingly never-ending lecture. How wrong could I have been in regard to this production, where Jodie Comer's theatre debut was nothing short of perfection. Her ability to command attention from beginning to end is astounding, much less her stamina for the endurance of a play like this one, which has the emotive range of a Shakespearean tragedy. Comer was the only person on stage but by no means the only character: her ability to transform her body and voice to play out each character in her story is remarkable. Her acting utilises the carefully crafted words of Miller and has the audience questioning systems of law that lead to the silencing of victims of sexual assault.

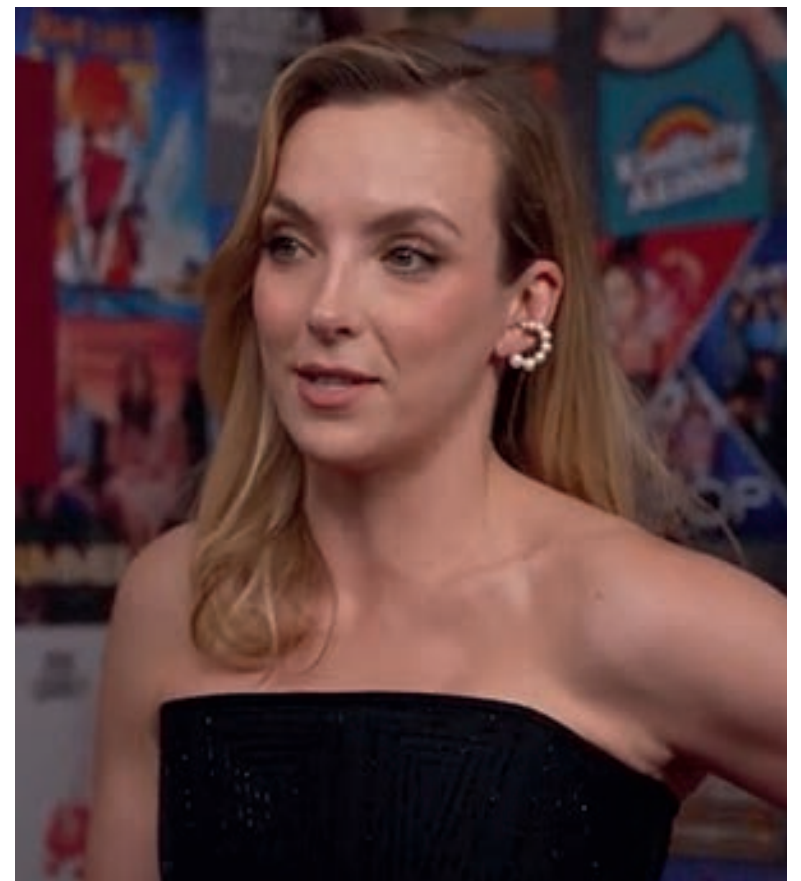
‘Prima Facie’ itself is a Latin legal term, translating to ‘on the face of it’. Throughout the play, Miller

highlights how — on the face of it — the legal system has long been veiled by the facade of fairness whilst also exposing the truth of the unspoken, unbelieving victims of assault. Miller found the confidence to produce this work in the wake of the #MeToo movement, where the courageous voices of sexual assault victims in mainstream media came forward, producing an influx of stories and harsh realities of power dynamics within the industry. This allowed Miller and other dramatists and artists to include this movement in their work, and unveil the harsh truth of systemic orders that perpetuate abuse.

Whilst I would recommend this play for its seamless acting and beautiful writing, it cannot come without a warning. This play portrays the unfiltered raw reality of a victim of sexual assault and the distressing way the law reframes their experience under the guise of justice — it is by no means an

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[...] Jodie Comer's theatre debut was nothing short of perfection. Her ability to command attention from beginning to end is astounding, much less her stamina for the endurance

Jodie Comer at the 76th Tony Awards in June 2023
Source: The Tony Awards (via Wikimedia Commons)

Barbie – A Hilarious and Emotional Exploration of Girlhood

Lydia examines how Greta Gerwig's new film mocks patriarchal society

Lydia Barnes
Contributor

This summer was the summer of *Barbenheimer*. A strange competition between two highly anticipated movies with entirely different plots: Greta Gerwig's *Barbie* and Christopher Nolan's *Oppenheimer*. One is based on the adventures of Barbie dolls in the real world, and the other on the origin of nuclear weapons. In the end, the ultimate winner of the fight for the movie of the summer was *Barbie*, which grossed over \$155 (£120) million during its opening week-end alone — almost doubling *Oppenheimer*'s opening box office total of \$93.7 (£72) million.

So why did *Barbie* win?

A major selling point for both rival films were the promise of all-star casts, which was also a hugely influential factor in *Barbie*'s victory. Greta Gerwig was able to bring together an incredibly iconic cast, featuring the likes

of Margot Robbie as the movie's focal point and Ryan Gosling as her counterpart. Both were perfect choices for the roles of Stereotypical Barbie and Beach Ken, embodying the characteristics of the two famous blondes and looking amazing whilst doing so. It is easy to tell that Ryan Gosling was perfect for the role of Ken from the film's bloopers, and he seemingly has the most fun with his comedic lines and melodramatic musical number *I'm Just Ken*.

Gerwig cleverly uses *Barbie* to explore gender concepts and the process of girlhood and motherhood. Barbie's adventure begins with her childlike naivety as indicated through the style of dialogue, as if children are playing with and voicing the conversations between the dolls. She quickly loses this innocence as she navigates through "the human world", encountering patriarchy, objectification, and catcalling that forces her to rapidly mature in this strange environment. The references made to patriarchy and the Kens' take-over of Barbie Land present the difference between

the male and female experience in society, a perfect example being Ken's focus on horses compared to Barbie's continuous struggle with her newly found human emotions.

To top the movie off, Billie Eilish's song *What Was I Made For?* drives home the message of growing up as a woman, accompanied by a montage of moments between young girls and their mothers that really made me appreciate my own mum. This was followed by Barbie's realisation that she can't return to her original life, as she is no longer blinded by her naivety. Did I cry during this scene? Yes. I cried during most of the film in all honesty.

To summarise, the *Barbie* movie is a perfect reflection of what it's like to grow up as a girl

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[Barbie] quickly loses this innocence as she navigates through "the human world", encountering patriarchy, objectification, and catcalling that forces her to rapidly mature in this strange environment.”

in today's society and the pressures women face as a collective, uniting them through the universal experience of men who want to mansplain *The Godfather* and serenade us via an acoustic guitar.



Greta Gerwig at *Barbie* movie reception
Source: British Embassy, Washington, D.C. (via Flickr)

GUTS by Olivia Rodrigo – Album Review

Is her sophomore album as explosive as her debut?

Hana Khan
Contributor

Rodrigo's debut album *Sour* was widely recognised as one of the hottest records of 2021, earning her a cult following and dozens of awards at just 19 years old. Her highly anticipated sophomore album *GUTS* is another absolute knockout, earning her five weeks in the Official Albums Chart, with all three singles appearing in the Official Singles Chart.

The record reflects on the messy and sometimes painful experience of being a young woman today, tapping into topics like mental health, self comparison, and breakups through a brutally honest, confessional lens. A perfect example of this is in the single *bad idea right?* in which Rodrigo sings "I only see him as a friend [...] I just tripped and fell into his bed". The lead single, and most popular track on the album, *vampire*, is used as a metaphor for a mystery ex who sucks the life out of her — shown by the clever rhyming of 'bloodsucker' and 'fame-fucker'.

Rodrigo has often been known to take influence and inspiration from the artists

around her, with Paramore and Taylor Swift named as influences on *Sour*. The album's opening track *all-american bitch* refers to Joan Didion's song of the same name, whilst also utilising a scream reminiscent of Phoebe Bridger's ballad *I Know The End* — another artist with a similar, Gen-Z-based following.

Her songwriting is often akin to a diary entry, with exaggerated lines almost uncontrollably spilling out of her; for example, in *ballad of a homeschooled girl*, she sings "Everything I do is tragic, every guy I like is gay." This is a testament to her songwriting ability — something which has significantly improved throughout her career. In an interview with WIRED, she details how she took a poetry class where she wrote *lacy*; a soft and reflective acoustic guitar ballad, contrasting the pop-punk, Riot grrrl vibe of the rest of the record. "My stomach's all in knots / you got the one thing that I want" draws on the common shared experience of young women, the feelings of comparison and not feeling good enough. She juxtaposes this feeling later in the album with *making the bed*: "I got the things I wanted / it's just not what I imagined" — perhaps an allusion to her almost overnight fame following her debut single *drivers license*. Following this, in the album's closing

track *teenage dream*, a slow piano ballad reflecting on growing older, Rodrigo cynically apologises that she "couldn't always be your [her audience's] teenage dream".

GUTS feels like a developmental album: it marks the end of Rodrigo's teenagehood and signifies the start of a new era for her as an adult. In a statement about the record, she said she had grown "10 years between the ages of 18 and 20 — it was such an intense period of awkwardness and change. I think that's all just a natural part of growth, and hopefully, the album reflects that."

To me, it definitely does, and this is what makes it an excellent album!

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The record reflects on the messy and sometimes painful experience of being a young woman today, tapping into topics like mental health, self comparison, and breakups.”



Olivia Rodrigo at a Disney fan event in 2019
Source: Walt Disney Television (via Flickr)



Olivia Rodrigo visits Joe Biden in the White House in 2021
Source: Adam Schultz of the Executive Office of the United States (via Picryl)

American Horror Story: Coven – The Tenth Anniversary

How has the campy, witchy season held up in time for Halloween?

Amelia Di Cuffa
Review Editor

Ten years after its initial air date, *American Horror Story's* third season, *Coven*, remains Ryan Murphy and Brad Falchuk's best season of the show to date. It is a dark comedy centring on the lives of a house of modern witches. The story follows Zoe, played by Taissa Farmiga, as she discovers that she is a witch and is sent to Miss Robichaux's Academy to be taught control over her powers by Cordelia Foxx (Sarah Paulson). *AHS* regular Jessica Lange portrays Fiona Goode, Cordelia's mother, and Supreme Witch, who endeavours to keep herself young as her powers begin to fade.

Angela Bassett and Kathy Bates made their *American Horror Story* debuts as Marie Laveau, the voodoo queen and enemy-turned-frenemy to Lange's Fiona Goode — for which Bassett was nominated for a Primetime Emmy — and Madame Delphine LaLaurie, a

wealthy socialite from 1830s New Orleans who tortured and killed 62 of her black slaves and used their blood to keep herself young, respectively. Both characters are based on actual historical figures, and to see such powerhouse actresses as Bates, Bassett, and Lange cross paths was thrilling.

Though no *AHS* story would be complete without its fair share of blood and gore, this season had a lighter tone than its gory predecessors. This is evident in the iconic witch burning scene in which Frances Conroy's Myrtle Snow cries out 'Balenciaga' as she is burnt, or when Goode introduces Stevie Nicks as a white witch, cementing the high-camp status of this season.

However, at times, certain aspects of this season's levity were overkill, such as the overuse of resurrection and Madame LaLaurie being reduced to a severed head forced to watch episodes of *Roots*. Though, they did serve a wider purpose. There is a sense of irony in Fiona Goode's mission to prolong her life

being fruitless whilst the witches surrounding her all frequently return from the dead stronger than before, and LaLaurie's tumultuous relationship with Queenie ultimately does not negate her violent sins and racist beliefs, as she is sentenced to hell upon her death. Although LaLaurie's character development may be seen as a faux redemption arc, it is difficult to believe that someone who could commit such grotesque acts could be capable of changing her spots. Kathy Bates' performance as LaLaurie depicts her as a narcissistic psychopath who genuinely believes herself to have done nothing wrong.

American Horror Story: Coven utilises some of Murphy's most tried-and-true horror methods, only with an extra level of camp to it. Murphy addresses topics such as sexuality, racism, and power, set against a background

“*American Horror Story's* third season, *Coven*, remains Ryan Murphy and Brad Falchuk's best season of the show to date.”

of slavery and witch trials. Truly though, it is the incredibly strong performances that enforce and represent these topics, that make this season one of the most iconic of the show ten years on.



Source: @liftarn (via Openclipart)

The Blair Witch Project – For the Love of Filmmaking

Daniel looks back at what the iconic horror film has to say about the medium

Daniel Raybould
Review Editor

Before *Paranormal Activity*, before *Cloverfield*, and before *Unfriended*, there was *The Blair Witch Project*. It released in 1999 to a warm critical reception and instant icon status. The film began as a collaboration between film students Daniel Myrick and Eduardo Sánchez, who, budgetarily restricted, decided to embrace the aesthetic of a rock-bottom production in full force. Its barebones plot is introduced in the opening titles, which purport that the film about to be watched is composed of entirely authentic footage discovered a year after a group of film students — who had ventured into the depths of the woods to make a documentary about the local legend of the Blair Witch — mysteriously disappeared without a trace.

The way in which the film was made and distributed is arguably more fascinating than the movie itself. The directors hired three unknown actors — Heather Donahue, Michael C. Williams, and Joshua Leonard, all playing fictionalised versions of themselves — into the woods, armed only with camping gear, sound recording equipment, and two cameras. All they knew was the plot synopsis given above and that they were expected to improvise a horror film and document their reactions. Little did these actors know what their conniving directors had in store for them. Instructed to move from location to location, they would receive notes with pointers on what to do and say in 35 mm film cans, and so genuinely did not know what would come next. One example of deception was the covert planting of actors among the otherwise authentic local townspeople who the cast were tasked with interviewing about the Blair Witch, meaning their surprised reactions to the kooky locals' stories about the eponymous evil are as close to genuine as can be. The same goes for their screams later into the film once the danger really kicks off.

This anarchic form of guerrilla filmmaking was paired with a brilliant mass marketing campaign, using things like missing person posters, messages on online forums, a website ostensibly made by the characters of the film,

and even a mini-documentary about the Blair Witch on the Sci-Fi Channel. All of which made the film's purported authenticity all the more believable. Reportedly, many audiences at the time truly believed that the film they had watched was entirely real — which is a testament to the quality of its filmmaking and marketing (as well as to the gullibility of '90s audiences whose exposure to the found footage genre was still minimal).

As the genre exploded in exposure in *The Blair Witch Project's* wake, so too did its disparagers. A critique commonly levied at the found footage subgenre is a problem somewhat intrinsic to the medium: namely, why does the person behind the camera not stop filming the nanosecond they start being chased by zombies, hungry cannibals, or 25-storey alien lizard creatures? The thing that separates *The Blair Witch Project* from much of the found footage horror schlock that succeeded it is that it takes this question and makes it central, adding a compelling psychological and metanarrative component that enhances the film's frights in a very satisfying way.

Another big criticism I have seen is directed towards the Heather 'character' — who, need I remind, is just an exaggeration of the real actress. Look at any discussion of the film to find everything about her criticised relentlessly, with no such vitriol directed at the other (male) characters, who, in my opinion, respond to the situation far more poorly than she ever does. This reaction has led to the real Heather Donahue (now named Rei Hance) struggling to find acting work. A crying shame, since — despite everyone else apparently thinking otherwise — I enjoyed her performance a lot. It is interesting that I haven't seen this kind of response to the deluge of other female horror leads, whose stupidity typically far transcends anything Heather is supposedly guilty of. Perhaps audiences just weren't ready for a female horror character who isn't quite as docile.

While watching, I shared in the filmmakers' evident joy in the insane way they embraced their low-budget limitations. Some have interpreted this film's narrative — about low-budget filmmakers failing to make the

film they want due to evil forces beyond their control — as some big metaphorical expression of the frustrations artists feel when their ability to make art is constrained by outside influence, be it studio meddling or budgetary hardships. While I enjoy this reading, I feel like the clear love for the creativity that arises from limitation shines through a bit too hard for me to agree this film is supposed to serve as a condemnation of external constraint. There's just too many charming little moments at the start where the characters show their creativity, like using a car to do dolly zoom or recursively filming each other's cameras like they're doing some experimental arthouse installation.

Despite the increasing apparentness that the Blair Witch may be more than a myth as the film progresses, Heather keeps filming. It is this element of the film's relationship with the camera that, in my view, makes *The Blair Witch Project* one of the most interesting films about filmmaking ever made. Instead of a condemnation of constraint, I interpret the film as an exaltation of commitment to one's craft despite all odds. Unlike the many later found footage operators, Heather doesn't prioritise documentation over self-preservation or empathy. Instead, we watch a woman director grapple with the script of her film being torn up in front of her while she attempts to adapt as best she can to her new role. She desperately tries to hold onto any modicum of control of the situation left. One notable moment occurs where the camera is turned on her: she is mocked for crying and insulted for the one remaining motivation she has left — to film. And still she remains steadfastly behind the camera until her final moments engulfed in terror, because “it's all I fucking have left”.

Heather, Rei, you deserved better.

“[...] why does the person behind the camera not stop filming [...]? The thing that separates *The Blair Witch Project* from much of the found footage horror schlock that succeeded it is that it takes this question and makes it central...”



Source: Rawpixel.com

Responding to the demands of the toughest league of women's uni rugby

Freddie Sheppard
Sport Editor

Cardiff University Ladies' Rugby 1XV team played their first three games in the Women's National League. After an undefeated season, Cardiff Uni secured a promotion last year. This makes it their first ever season in the WNL, the highest standard of university women's rugby in the UK. The league is composed of seven universities from England, Scotland and Wales.

After a demanding start to the season, the club were thrilled to be contacted by ex-England

“Really tough game for the girls, we really left everything out there on the pitch. We go again harder next week.”

professional's Emily Scarratt, Mo Hunt and Elma Smi's podcast 'The good, The Scaz and the Rugby'. The podcast has offered support to Cardiff, Edinburgh and Durham Universities - being the only three universities in the WNL who don't have support from a premier-ship team or the Welsh Rugby Union.

The other four Universities in the WNL (Exeter, Loughborough, Hartpury and Cardiff MET) currently have direct links to English premier-ship clubs or the Welsh Rugby Union. This provides them with an added advantage in succeeding in the most demanding league of Women's University rugby in the UK.

Cardiff Uni ladies were thrown in at the deep end facing rival Cardiff Metropolitan University in their WNL debut. Cardiff faced a confident MET

side - off to a promising start, MET scored in the first 5 minutes. Cardiff responded with a penalty kick from Wales U20 Ellie Tromans, narrowing the score to 7-3. Momentum continued in MET's favour as they went on to score a further two try's in the first half. The second half kicked off with both teams looking strong, however MET managed to take hold of the wheel once again, scoring another three try's in quick succession. With an impressive push, Cardiff's Izzy van de Sande scored a strong try. MET however, managed to finish the game with a further three try's, bringing the final score to 53-8.

Cardiff hosted Edinburgh University in their first home game of the season, kicking off with an early try by winger Niamh Roberts. Edinburgh, determined after a long road trip responded with two try's in the first half. The half time score

was a tight 7-10 to the away side. Edinburgh kept up their intent, scoring twice early into the second half. But it wasn't over for Cardiff! Eager to push back, Niamh Roberts scored her second try of the day bringing the scoreline to 12-22. Edinburgh finished the game off the game with two more try's,

bringing the final score to 12-34 to Edinburgh.

In a remarkable third game of the season, Cardiff came close to an away win in Durham, falling short on the final score by just two points. Durham won the game 24-22.



Source: Helene Brasseu (via Flickr)

Wins at Wembley and a well-deserved win for Wales

Grace D'Souza
Sport Editor

Three Lions thrill a sold-out stadium with a 1-0 win against the Aussie's. Wales wreck Croatian hearts in Cardiff with 2-1 victory. The England international friendly took place on a cold damp Friday night in North West London. With England's strong form in recent matches fans expected a thrilling thrash between the two sides. Gareth Southgate's squad decisions could be behind

the lack of goals scored. The likes of Harry Maguire, Calvin Phillips and Jordan Henderson. Since Jordan Henderson's move from Liverpool to Saudi Pro League club Al-Ettifaq it has left a bitter taste in a lot of football fans mouths. As reported in the independent Jordan Henderson "has used his status in the past to

“Boos echoed around Wembley when Henderson was subbed off.”

advocate for the LGBTQ+ community. That advocacy now looks like professional obligation rather than authentic sentiment after moving to a country which criminalises homosexuality". Boos echoed around Wembley when Henderson was subbed off it is clear to see that fans are not happy. The key players on the pitch were definitely Aston Villa's Ollie Watkins and West Ham's Jarrod Bowen. Both players made significant contributions with great runs and crosses as well as a wonderful strike from Watkins securing three thoroughly deserved points

for England.

Wales played at the Cardiff City Stadium on Sunday night. The fantastic Fulham forward Harry Wilson scored two sensational goals in the 47th and 60th minutes. Daniel James' assist for the second goal was timed perfectly and gave Wales the 2-0 lead. His experience playing at large football clubs like Swansea, Manchester United and Leeds definitely came in handy. Despite trailing from behind Croatia did not lose confidence as in the 75th minute Pasalic scored making the score

at full time.

Both England and Wales have strong form and of course both teams have high ambitions to qualify for Euros 2024, so the pressure is well and truly on.

“Croatia did not lose confidence.”

Merseyside Madness

Lily Zeeuw
Contributor

On Sunday, the women's Merseyside derby took place. Both Everton and Liverpool have made major signings with Everton Signing Italian and previous Serie A 3rd top scorer Martina Piemonte for an Undisclosed fee from AC Milan and Liverpool signing Norwegian Forward Sophia Roman-Haug for £100,000 from Roma. Both teams are looking to push up the table from Everton's 6th and Liverpool's 7th place in the previous season. Liverpool's season kicked off strongly, gaining 6 points from an opening day win at Arsenal and a win against Aston Villa last week, On the contrary Everton have had a slow start to the season losing their first 2 games.

Kicking off in front of a 23,088 crowd at Anfield, Everton are forced to make an early change in the 3rd minute after a rough tackle sees Scottish midfielder Lucy Hope having to leave the pitch in a Switch for Australian Clare Wheeler. With

Hope leaving the field literal hope for Everton seems also lost as Missy Bo Kearns finds the back of the net for Liverpool, however it is shortly called offside. A corner in the 32nd minute, sees Dane Katrine Veje whip in an excellent ball that finds Everton academy graduate and captain, Megan Finnigan in the box who heads it cleanly into the back of the net above Liverpool keeper Rachel Laws. After an evenly contested first half, the half time whistle is blown with Everton leading 1-0 going into the break. Everton Kicked off the second half. After an uneventful 10 minutes, Everton attempted to change the game tempo by subbing on Dutch Striker, Katja Snoeijis who returns from injury in the 56th minute. However, this attacking change seemed to benefit Liverpool as they find their way through on goal in the 59th minute with Missy Bo Kearns putting it just wide for the reds. With a rather stale 2nd half of football both teams make big changes with Liverpool making 4 Substitutions and the toffees making 3. In the 77th minute former Everton now

Liverpool player Taylor Hinds in booked for a foul on Dane, Karen Holmgard, shortly followed by a late attacking substitution for Liverpool which sees Austrian, Marie Höbinger replaced by Dane Sophia Lundgaard. In the early 80th minutes it seems Katja Snoeijis is destined to double Everton's lead for the game as she sees multiple of her shots saved and one coming off the crossbar, however nothing comes off of it. In the late stages of the game the blues seem to be leaving it all out there to get their first win of the season racking up multiple yellow cards for Belgian midfielder Justine Vanhaevermaet and Irish duo Heather Payne and Courtney Brosnan. This pays off for Everton as not long after Brosnans booking the final whistle is blown. The score being 1-0 to the away side. Resulting in Everton getting their first points of the season at Anfield and Liverpool taking their first loss.

“Both teams are looking to push up

Source: Scouse Smurf (via Flickr)



Freddie Flintoff agrees compensation for Top Gear crash

Honor Mitchell Brock
Sport Editor

Andrew “Freddie” Flintoff, former England cricketer and one of the hosts of popular BBC television show ‘Top Gear’, has reached an agreement regarding compensation for his dramatic crash during the filming of the show on 13 December 2022.

Flintoff received immediate medical care at the scene of the crash that happened at Top Gear’s test track at Dunsfold Park Aerodrome in Surrey. Where he was then sent to hospital to receive further treatment for the “life-altering significant” injuries he sustained from the incident.

It was agreed by the BBC and Flintoff’s legal team that a settlement of £9m would be sufficient compensation for the two years of work the ex-England cricketer missed as a result of his accident. A statement from the BBC read, “BBC studios has reached an agreement with Freddie that we believe supports his continued rehabilitation, return to work and future



Source: Gareth Williams (via Flickr)

plans...We have sincerely apologised to Freddie and will continue to support him with his recovery.”

BBC studios is a commercial arm of the broadcaster and so will not use BBC License Fee income for payment of the settlement.

With both internal and external investigations ongoing it is likely that there will be no return for the series and there are reports that the show will be axed following this detrimental health and safety issue.

Flintoff was pictured for the first time since the accident in September in Cardiff, where he led fielding drills for the England cricket side. Almost a year on from the incident his facial injuries were still visible in this rare public appearance.

In early October he was filmed awarding an England cap to bowler Tom Hartley in which he also spoke publicly about the incident, expressing it to be “the hardest” time of his life.

He joined BBC One’s show in 2019 alongside presenter Paddy McGuinness and motoring journalist Chris Harris. Their series captivated an audience of 4.5 million people on average.

SPORT

50 Cent Sponsor Small Cardiff Women’s Football Team?

Aimee Szulczewski
Head of Sport

Rapper 50 Cent has sponsored a local under-14s girls team, AFC Rumney after the father of one of the players worked on his team whilst he was on tour.

The brave dad put the question forward to the rapper, asking him if he would be interested in sponsoring his daughter’s team, and surprisingly he agreed. Now the team have ‘G Unit’ plastered on their kit, in homage to the American hip-hop group formed by 50 Cent, Tony Yayo, and Lloyd Banks.

Team manager, Richie Brown, shared the news of the girls receiving brand new, top-quality kit and club tracksuits for training.

Parents have said they are shocked and surprised by the addition to the team, stating that he is too big of a superstar to be sponsoring their children.

Overall, it is a great step for the local club, and hopefully 50 Cent himself may make an appearance at one of their upcoming matches.

BONUS STORY



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Sir Jim Ratcliffe to own stake in Manchester United

Adam Gaston
Contributor

Owner of British multinational chemicals company Ineos, Sir Jim Ratcliffe, looks set to acquire a 25% minority stake in Manchester United Football Club.

The Englishmen, who is said to be a lifelong fan of the club set will have to pay an eye-watering 1.3 billion pounds for the stake in a move that will potentially see significant investment in the sporting side of the football club.

This move comes after a lengthy bidding process which saw Qatari Businessman Sheik Jassim Bin Al Thani and Ratcliffe battle it out to the buy the club from Manchester United’s unpopular owners, The Glazer family.

The Family have owned the club since 2005 after their late father Malcolm acquired the bulk of the club’s shares through the investment firm Red Football LTD (Evening Standard, 2023).

The Glazers have been deeply unpopular with Manchester United’s supporters ever since where their tenure has saw the club amount unprecedented debt and the club fall behind their rivals in terms of success and footballing infrastructure. Protests have been ubiquitous throughout their time at United with fans urging the owners to sell the club.

Their wishes looked set to be granted in November 2022 where the Glazers confirmed they were open to sell the club as well as saying that “new investment” would be considered (Sky

Sports, 2023). The process ever since then has felt like a lifetime for Manchester United fans with frustrations from supporters and bidders alike growing as the American owners reviewed the bids they had received.

The two interested parties would go through three rounds of bidding with the Sheik Jassim going in with a fourth and then fifth bid which saw him offer over 5 billion pounds for the 100% of the club.

Despite this world record fee, it could not tempt the Glazers to sell the club and the Qatari Businessman withdrew himself from the bidding process on the 14 th of October, which left Jim Ratcliffe as the only bidder still in the race (Sky Sports, 2023).

Sir Jim’s proposal, with the deal

needing to be agreed at the United Board meeting this week,

will see him as a minority owner in the club with reports suggesting that he will look to take sporting control of the club by investing in the club’s facilities and their famous stadium Old Trafford as well as reportedly appointing a new sporting director. The deal is also reportedly part of a phased takeover as Ratcliffe looks to take majority of the club in the coming years.

Women in Motorsport: How Jessica Hawkins inspired women in the industry

Aimee Szulczewski
Head of Sport

Jessica Hawkins, former W Series and British karting champion, just became the first woman to test modern-day Formula 1 machinery in five years, driving for Aston Martin at the Hungaroring.

Prior to Hawkins’ opportunity, the last woman to test an F1 car was Tatiána Calderon for Alfa Romeo in Mexico, thus this achievement has ‘changed the race’ for women in motorsport.

Hawkins, already a driver ambassador for the team, tested the Aston Martin AMR21 at the Hungaroring, sharing the drive with reserve F1 driver, Felipe Drugovich. She drove 26 laps of Budapest’s track, following her

simulation training for the team previously.

Talking about this opportunity, Hawkins thanked the Aston Martin team for giving her the opportunity and said it gave her valuable insight into driving at such a high level.

Team principal, Mike Krack, said that the team were impressed by Jessica in her simulator testing and that it was an easy decision to put her on the track in the AMR21.

Speaking on the Sky Sports F1 Podcast, Jessica suggested that the reason for the lack of women in motor racing is that there is a lack of resources given to potential drivers as a whole, which is only reduced when it comes to being a female.

Budgeting and funding issues are major determiners when it comes to

the progression of racing, becoming increasingly difficult as the sport becomes more exclusive for drivers. This has been highlighted in recent years, regarding the difficulty to fund young racers dreaming of joining the Formula 1 grid.

Following the controversial removal of the W Series, with its replacement of F1 Academy being just as problematic, the acknowledgement of a female driver by such a successful team has changed the narrative for female drivers.

Female representation in such elitist sports is so important, and Jessica Hawkins has really highlighted this, starting a debate about the treatment and support of women in motorsport.

After Aston Martin released that Hawkins had been their test driver, a

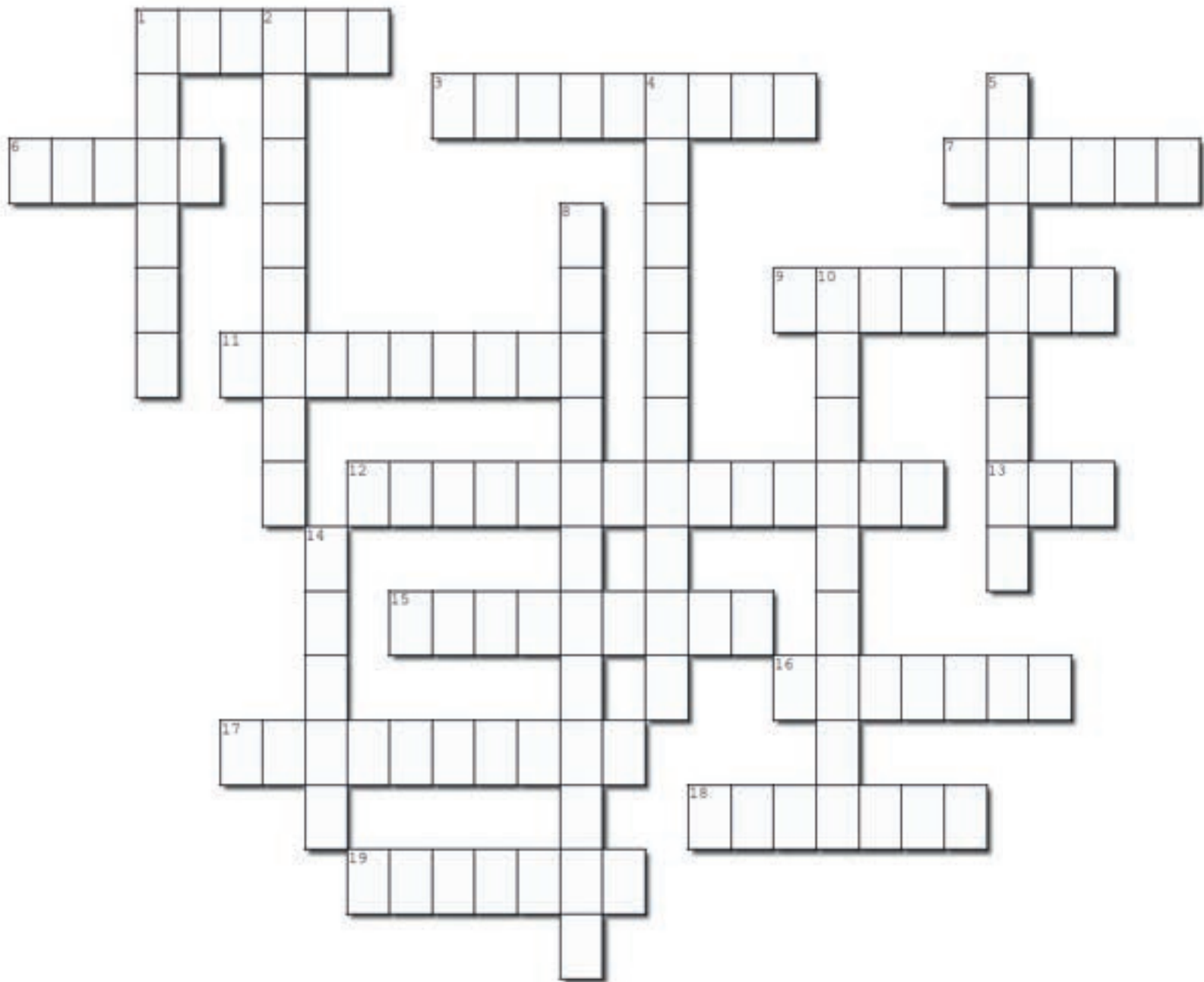
frenzy of online sexist comments were sent into their comments section, further highlighting the importance of female representation when it comes to a male-dominated arena, such as motorsport.

Hawkins stated to Sky News, “I’m proud to be driving female representation in motorsport forward... [to inspire] future female racers”.

As a female interested in motorsport, I can only hope that this opportunity will bring greater representation of females in the sector, and hope there is more to come for Jessica Hawkins and Aston Martin.

Crossword | Croesair

Nancy Cook



Across

1. It's been burning it at both ends lately 6

3. We should all be dressing as barbie for it this year 9

6. 'WHAT'S OCCURIN' 5

7. Would be best on drip, a bean that keeps you awake 6

9. An inclination, she has a --- to skip 9am's 8

11. Well known for all the wrong reasons 9

12. --- Skellington and la lamp with transparent casing 4, 1, 7

13. To throw something in a high arc, the desired technique for getting
- rid of a VK bottle in a crowd 3

15. A vintage hobby, rhymes with drifting 9

16. It's almost worth hand washing if this is the alternative 7

17. Bedroom jungle, can be watered or slaughtered 10

18. A fragrant material that is burned, a lit stick 7

19. Artful diplomacy, a charming and tactful way to get

out of a sticky situation 7

Down

1. Ideal post night out scran, sweet grain 6

2. What we have all contemplated at least 3 times already this semester 4, 3

4. Father of sport, or what a spider may call its sophisticated child 4, 5

5. The signature move of both the king of pop and you after one too many jagers 8
8. Food you're only getting on Clubcard points 5,6

10. Knowledge in a particular field 9

14. What you should be doing to pass the time in the SU queue, ideally in a blue shirt and chinos. 5

Find the Answers on our Instagram @gairrhydd