



Read Online

# gair rhydd

Cardiff University's Student Paper | Established 1972

13 Mai 2024

13 May 2024

Rhifyn 1200  
Issue 1200

## Welcome to our Bumper Final Edition of the Year! Croeso i Rifyn Terfynol Bumper y Flwyddyn!

Source: Jay Huang (Via Flickr)

### Interview with Mark Drakeford

Thomas Wilson  
Politics Editor

#### How do you feel your time studying Latin at Kent influenced your politics?

Kent in those days was at the tail end of the 60s student militancy; much of my first year was spent with people sitting in etc. Debates in the student union were between the broad left, which certainly didn't include the labour party, and the International Marxist Group as to whether the working classes of Canterbury were about to rise. I used to sit there suggest we ought to go out and ask all five of them! Student politics didn't interest me at all given its remoteness and the reality of what was happening in the world.

#### How has Cardiff changed since 1979?

The city was still in recovery from the post war austerity and I think it has changed in so many ways. When I worked in Ely in 1979, it was very multicultural and had the largest council estate in Europe at the time. Men worked in the paper mill and women worked in the hospital. Those two employers dominated the working experience for people. People left school at 15, with schools having very little ambition, with the expectation being that these people would work in the same occupation as their parents. The city is more buyout and multicultural and attractive city. For the size of it, it has a thriving cultural, arts and sports. All the things people enjoy out of work are available in Cardiff which is quite the contrast from 1979.

#### Are you concerned about the clampdowns on university freedoms?

It is an ambiguously politically driven set of arrangements by a conservative government appealing to people on its own right wing. They are keen on freedom of speech so long as it's the freedom to express the things they believe in. These are people who want to control what you read, control what you see, control what you get up to in

your bedroom think de-platforming people is something you should do in very rare circumstances. I can vividly remember going to hear Mary Whitehouse speak at Kent and she was howled down and unable to speak. All this resulted in was an enormous public relations triumph for her with all the coverage not focusing on critiques but the idea of her being victim to an unruly mob.

#### What do you feel the key issues are with the NHS?

My view is that its money. Up until 2010 we spent the same proportion of national income as say Germany and France which saw unprecedented public satisfaction. Ever since then, the gap between what we spend domestically compared to nations abroad has widened and is wider than it has been in this whole century. The NHS has been running on empty because the government will not invest in it and that lack of investment means we have exhausted staff who are being asked to double their efforts to deal with the backlog from the pandemic. The number of the people on the waiting list fell last month and the total number of people on the waiting list had risen by 0.4% last year compared to 5.9% in England. We need capital investment to offer people the service they need, modern buildings and , modern equipment.

#### How would you say cooperation was between Number 10 and the devolved governments?

I would describe it as frustratingly variable. There were points when co-operation was good such as when CO-BRA meetings were regularly held but then there would be acres of time with no contact at all. Why the UK government was never prepared to institutionalise a bedrock of regular contact is very hard to understand; although in the inquiry we are starting to see some clues.

To read the rest of Thomas' interview, turn to page 11



Celebrating in Style: The Gair Rhydd team at the Student Media Awards

### An Interview with Tomáš Hanus

Belle Lee  
Head of Spotlight

#### Can you provide an overview of your role as an opera music director?

This is a complicated answer! Being a music director is essential an artistic job, but it includes interaction with people. First of all, the most important thing within every artistic institution

is the outcome, what we offer to the public. One of the main things about being a music director is to prepare the orchestra, is to prepare the singers and then conduct them well during the performance! This means to inspire and create an exceptional evening every time!

#### How do you approach the selection of repertoire for each opera production?

In an ideal world, I would choose the repertoire that is the best for the company, the audience, and the circumstances we live in. However, we do not live in the ideal world. the artistic vision of the institution.

To read the rest of Belle's piece, turn to page 6

6 →

### Oedd Elvis yn Gymro?

Jack Thomas  
Golygydd Taf-od

**Y**dych chi byth wedi gwranddo ar ganeuon Elvis Presley? Ganwyd yr eicon cerddorol yn Mississippi yn 1935, a thrwy gydol ei oes gwerthodd dros bil-iwn o recordiau ledled y Byd, yn trawsnewid cerddoriaeth am byth.

Awgrymodd yr academydd Terry Breverton bod gwreiddiau Elvis yn ardal y Preseli yng ngorllewin Cymru.

I ddarllen gweddill erthygl Jack, trowch i dudalen 15

### The Kendrick Lamar and Drake Drama

Tamsin Fraser  
Head of Review

**A**t the time of writing, we are currently in the midst of a ceasefire between Canadian megastar Drake and Compton-born rap legend Kendrick Lamar. The collaborators-turned-enemies sent their hatred for each other into the mainstream after over a decade of simmering animosity, with a slew of diss tracks released by the pair over the past week.

To read Tamsin's comments, go to page 24

### Budget cuts threaten National Museum Cardiff

Adam Dunstan  
Politics Editor

**I**n recent weeks, a row has broken out between the Welsh Government and Amgueddfa Cymru (Museum Wales), as new First Minister Vaughan Gething announced budget cuts to the organisation. In response Gething defended the cuts in a speech on 15th April, as National Museum Cardiff's chief executive, Jane Richardson, said the budget cuts could result in 90 job losses and even the closure of the branch.

To read Adam's article, turn to page 17

17 →

11 →

15 →

24 →

Gair Rhydd 2023/24

Editor-in-Chief  
Edward SuttonDeputy Editors  
Lauren Tutchell  
Efa Ceiri  
Daniel Raybould

## News

Megan Huws  
Dilichi Dieobi  
David Leah  
Taf-od  
Jack Thomas  
Millie Stacey  
Beca Dalis Williams  
Ffion Jones  
Llyr Eirug  
Efa Ceiri

## Politics

Adam Dunstan  
Laila Dawelbeit  
Thomas Wilson  
Lauren Tutchell  
Cerys Upstone

## Opinion

Grace Robson  
Ella Lane  
Meg Jenkins  
Chlöe Milne  
Ishani Patwal  
Simran Pate  
Nye Davies

## Review

Daniel Raybould  
Amelia DiCuffa  
Tamsin Fraser  
Emily Jo Cottle

## Science and Technology

Aditi Kallanagoudar  
Caitlin Rider

## Sport

Grace Dsouza  
Aimee Szulczewski  
Freddie Sheppard  
Honor Mitchell-Brock

## Spotlight

Nancy Cook  
Annabelle Lee

## Finance

Lucy Treloar

Coordinator  
Elaine MorganWrite to the Editor  
editor@gairrhydd.comA note from the Editor  
Nodyn gan y Golygydd

## Farewell, Gair Rhydd

## Ffarwel, Gair Rhydd



It has been a wild ride Gair Rhydd and I've loved every minute.

Mae wedi bod yn reid wyllt Gair Rhydd a dwi wedi caru pob munud.

Edward Sutton  
Editor-in-Chief | Prif Olygydd

I feel like I've blinked and I'm at the end of my tenure as the Editor in Chief of Gair Rhydd. With my graduation looming ever closer, I thought I would take a moment to reflect on my time with the newspaper which has been one of the pillars of my University experience. I have been a part of Gair Rhydd for three years, two of which I have been a part of the editorial team and before I became Editor in Chief, I was Head of Science which surprised people when I said I was a politics student. Personally, I didn't want to write about the same thing for my essays and my newspaper articles so that led me down the science road. I loved writing about my passion for video games and technology with one of my articles about AI getting nominated for article of the year in 2023. I had to delve back into the archives to find out what the first thing I wrote about was when I was a lowly contributor all the way back in 2021. Turns out it was an article in Issue 1175 called "Facebook rebrands its name to Meta". It graced the front page which was many a sign I was destined for the high life of the editorial team. It was all a lot

simpler back then, only having to churn out an article if I wanted to and not being constantly tied to the media office and InDesign. It's this kind of trajectory that should inspire others in the newspaper and even you who's reading this that you can reach the top of the newspaper, even if you're not committed from day one. There are a lot of ways to leave an impact at University but I feel running a media group like Gair Rhydd leaves a lasting and tangible impact that you'll be able to look back on and be a part of a long line of students who came before you. It's weird to think that this used to be a sabbatical position that was elected by the student body - I'm thankful it's not like that now so I can just focus on the job and not on running a campaign.

The newspapers has given me so many opportunities whilst I've been at Cardiff University. From interviewing experts, organising exchanges, learning editorial design and creating a strong team for the future, it's been an absolute privilege to serve as Editor in Chief this year. If you look to your right, you'll see

that we've made a timeline of all the things we've done this year. For me, it's been an absolute rollercoaster of a year, with all the ups and downs that come with a job like this. When you're in your third year like I am, it's so important to make sure that your university work comes first. However, it has been a struggle, especially when you've got two deadlines - your school deadlines and the print deadlines. I tried to make sure this didn't take up all my time - which I don't think it has but it's definitely been a balancing act. As you could imagine, 24-32 pages of a newspaper takes a while to create, so for most of the year I've been working in the media office trying to format all the great journalism we receive from editors and contributors. I don't want to sound ungrateful for this opportunity because it's been great but it's almost like I've had a full time job on the side of my studies, so I have the utmost respect for students who've had to hold down a job over the last three years.

My proudest achievement has been winning the Best Publication in Wales award from the Student Pub-

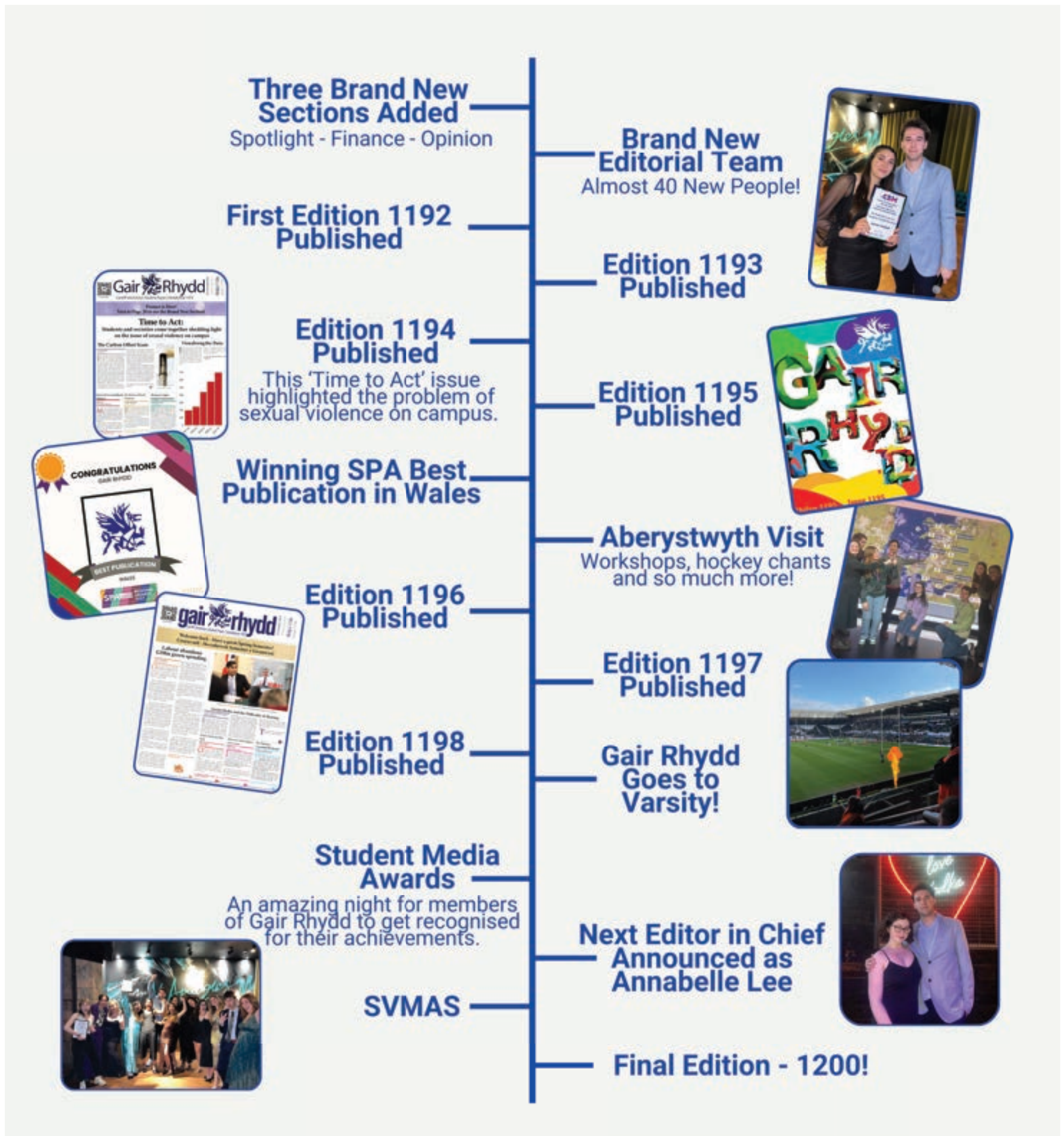
lication Association. It was such a joyous moment and a great reflection of all the hard work that has been put into the newspaper over the last year. The Media Awards hosted last week was another one of those proud moments. Standing on stage and giving out awards to all the hard working editors that I have had the privilege of leading was a moment I'll never forget (even if I had a few drinks in me). It was a challenge over the summer to create an editorial team from scratch but the people I have with me now have been such an asset to the paper and make us more of a community. Finally,

I would like to congratulate my successor, Annabelle, on becoming the next Editor in Chief. Since joining the editorial team, she has thrown herself into her work, leading the new Spotlight section and will make a formidable Editor in Chief. Gair Rhydd, I will miss you terribly and will look back fondly on the three years we have spent together. Di-olch.

At Gair Rhydd we take seriously our responsibility to maintain the highest possible standards. We may occasionally make mistakes, however if you believe we have fallen below the standards we seek to uphold, please email [gairrhyddeic@gmail.com](mailto:gairrhyddeic@gmail.com). You can view our Ethical Policy Statement and Complaints Procedure at [cardiffstudentmedia.co.uk/complaints](http://cardiffstudentmedia.co.uk/complaints). Opinions expressed in editorials and opinion pieces are not reflective of Cardiff Student Media, who act as the publisher of Gair Rhydd in legal terms, and should not be considered official communications or the organisation's stance. Gair Rhydd is a Post Office registered newspaper.

# A Lookback at the Year

Here's a little timeline of everything we've gotten up to this year at Gair Rhydd!



## SPOTLIGHT



Belle Lee



Nancy Cook

## The Best and Worst Wetherspoons Toilets in Cardiff

Ever wondered where the best and worst Wetherspoons toilet? Look no further...

Rhianne Talling & Luke Tonkinson - **Contributors**

It is undeniable that Wetherspoons is a staple of British culture. Cheap booze, piss on the toilet floor, and a range of patrons from students to creepy old men. What more could you possibly need? It is not unknown that Wetherspoons like their toilets better designed than their actual seating areas. We may not be the Loo of the Year Awards, but we have visited every Wetherspoons in Cardiff to tell you which five have the best toilets, with an honourable mention for the worst toilet.

Our (dis)honourable mention for the worst Wetherspoons toilets in all of Cardiff has to go to The Ivor Davies. The Canton-based restrooms replicate the energy of a service station toilet, but are less spacious and more unpleasant on the nostrils. Once you ascend the flight of stairs, you are greeted with suspiciously wet floors, and the beautiful stench of urine. By the time you reach the toilets, you will probably conclude that the nearby carpark is a more sanitary location.



(Toby Charlton-Taylor via Flickr)

The Great Western takes the bronze, featuring a stunning image of a steam train in the men's toilets, making for a truly inspiring environment. Being spacious and welcoming, the one downfall of the women's toilets is the bizarre image of a pair of blue eyes that watch you as you walk to the stalls. Whilst disturbing, the eyes do not take too much away from the otherwise beautiful interior of the women's toilets. For that reason, the Great Western is the third best Wetherspoons toilets in Cardiff.

After much debate, we gave the consolation prize to the Mount Stuart. Featuring beautiful stone sinks in both toilets, the Mount Stuart arguably demonstrates the most toilet gender equality through the segregated urinals, which really makes the most of the male space. The black and white contrast in the male toilet's creates a nice, modern design. With a beautiful wooden blue design, the combination of the stall doors and sinks makes this one of the prettiest women's wetherspoons toilets in Cardiff.

Coming as no surprise to the women readers, Ernest Willows takes the lead with the incredibly spacious women's toilets, featuring sofas and a water fountain. From the moment you enter, it is obvious that for women, the Ernest Willows toilets deserve to be on top. The men's are less glamorous, but the space is still very pleasant, feeling more like a health spa, something that numerous men could definitely benefit from, than a Wetherspoons toilet.

Something that the male writer of this article noticed on our adventure is the clear divide between the male and female Wetherspoons toilet offerings. Oftentimes, the men's toilets are quite barebones, offering nothing but the basics. The women's meanwhile are usually decorated better and offer stools, sofas and, in the Ernest Willows, a fountain. This is an injustice that must be rectified. Sir Tim Martin do better.

We hope you, as students, take all of this into consideration when choosing which Wetherspoons to go to next.



(Stefoul via Flickr)

## We Went to the New Global Buffet in Cardiff City Centre...

Emily Clegg & Henry Moxon  
**Contributors**

The new JRC Global buffet just launched in Central Square serving a cacophony of cuisines, ranging from pizza to poppadom's. We went for the lunchtime buffet priced at just £15pp – though the cheaper price was reflected in the choices available to us. They do offer a wider variety in their standard dinner time buffet priced at £25pp.

We headed over on a Monday lunchtime to fuel ourselves in the lead-up to all our essay deadlines. The restaurant itself boasted tropical lush theming with colourful décor, which was fun, though just about bordered on tacky. There were plenty of tables in a separate dining room with a bar and the buffet itself was in the adjoining room, a short walk away.

Both floor and bar staff were very hospitable, and you never had to wait for them to take away your plates. The music was perhaps deducted from the atmosphere because of its high volume and 2016-era radio pop (which was simultaneously nostalgic and jarring).

Now onto the main event - the food. In terms of cuisine, they offered many from all around the world with plenty of dishes to choose from. There was a fresh dim-sum station and a personalized ramen bar, but our social anxiety meant we were too scared to talk to the ramen chef.

The selection of East Asian food was impressive with at least 24 different dishes to choose from. Our personal highlights were the salt and pepper chicken and the sweet and sour

chicken. The Indian section had a great range of classic curries with both meat and vegetarian options available as well as unlimited poppadoms and naan bread. It was a shame the sushi bar was closed as we're both sushi lovers however the cheap price we paid made this less frustrating.

The American-style pizza and side selection, think chips and onion rings, were simple but enjoyable. The variety in the dessert selection was much appreciated, offering ice cream/lollies, pick 'n' mix, cakes, and fruit but we were devastated the chocolate fountain wasn't on! Maybe this was a blessing in disguise as we'd already unbuttoned our jeans by this point.

On reflection, we enjoyed our visit to JRC Global Buffet. The food was good quality and offered a decent selection

of different dishes and cuisines. The dessert section was definitely our favourite part because the food was simple yet still delicious. It is worth noting that lunchtime offers less variety, but this is stipulated on their website. Some of the food was a tad on the colder side which was obviously unfortunate.

We would visit again in the future though maybe on a busier day when the full buffet was available.

Overall, we rate JRC Global Buffet a 6.25/10 – a combined average of our ratings.

## The Only Band to Tackle Influenza in their Lyrics

Hamza Allen  
**Contributor**

The Cheeky Habibis – for fans of Nick Cave, Echo and the Bunnymen, Slint and Honeyglaze.

Formed in Cardiff only a year and a half ago, The Cheeky Habibis are on an upward path to success. Having often been compared to bands like Pavement and Slint, their sound comes from a mixture of inspirations ranging from the influential Minutemen to the

“The Cheeky Habibis consider themselves both Habibis to each other and the world.”

grooves of Bossa Nova.

The band's name includes the Arabic word 'Habibi' due to the drummer Hadi Checri's Lebanese nationality. Habibi means 'my love' but is used in the context of calling someone 'my friend'.

The Cheeky Habibis consider themselves both Habibis to each other and the world. They recently played the renowned venue Porters at their brand-new location in Cardiff and opened for Bristol Synth Duo Mass House, a show which Bass Player Les Davies said he will “treasure in his heart forever.”

The band have been known for the only song ever to tackle the influenza

virus in Cardiff called I've Got A Fever; it deals with themes of estrangement and the singer Gabriel Lester's hate for birthday parties. To any potential fans and persons interested, The Cheeky Habibis have two shows at The Moon in Cardiff on the 2nd and 31st of May and are playing in London on the 14th of June at The Cavendish Arms.

They have also personally asked me to ask you to keep the 14th of June in your diaries for other reasons as it is the official release date for their debut single: Far Away, So Close. A song for any lovers of post-punk, post-disco, or German cinema.

Instagram: @thecheekyhabibis



Photo by Ruby Gwen

# End of an Era

## Boxing Social Secretary Nancy Cook tells Gair Rhydd About her Time in the Sports Club

**Nancy Cook**  
Spotlight Editor

Leaving uni I am a seasoned socialite.

On paper I am now a qualified socialite. I have been the Cardiff Uni Boxing social secretary since my second year here and somehow took the role right through to the end. If you're gonna do a job do it properly, I suppose. It honestly took me until now to really appreciate what being a social sec has done for me. In my first year I was a silly fresher, part of a new club, car crashing through new friendships, nights out and trying to work out how the hell you defrost an entire fridge freezer when it breaks because that's the balance of uni life (turns out a hairdryer is a surprisingly efficient way of going about it but what you do about the eminent flooding I still do not know).

I went for the role of social sec kind of on a whim that some well-meaning friends suggested I run for Social Secretary, envisioning, I can only assume, that a notable line on my CV would neatly counterbalance my student

tial ineptitude. That being said I have somehow managed to pursue a degree with something approaching focus and success. Lesson number 1 of university: managing a social life whilst simultaneously keeping one's academic affairs in some semblance of order (Thursday mornings don't count take the day in bed you're doing great).

Anyway, end of that first summer I got added to a million Facebook chats for 'committee handover' and realised that this was actually a thing that had to occur and it was me that had to occur it. I was a very different person entering my second year to my first, a normal shift I think, I was more settled in personality and literally in Cardiff, I knew the streets you see. No but it was different, I had a new house with people I loved (which I'm not ready to say goodbye to!!!), there were socials to be soc'd and apparently the degree starts mattering at this point or so rumour has it.

On Wednesday we wear Pink! And superhero costumes, and penguin onesies and chicken suits... the list on my notes of theme ideas is publishable at this point but that first year of socials saw some really immaculate nights out if I do say so myself. We had a house

we could commandeer every week for house parties and a regular troupe of... victims? social comers? to treat to an evening's worth of drinking games and other such civilities. (Thank you Brem you truly sacrificed your kitchen..and garden... for our cause).

But it wasn't just drinking (bear with me), we created such a community over that year. In the summer we had a barbeque for if there is one arena, besides the boxing ring itself where our motley crew fancy themselves the masters, its their Tesco's own premade hot dog culinary skills. We braved Ninja Warrior which if you haven't tried. Try. I was absolutely terrible on both occasions that I went, ending up on the floor in every undignified way you can picture. We even braved the Brecon's and a cold (I'm lying to you cold doesn't come close it was heart stopping I can only assume the briefest of immersions was intended for the 5ft 5 frame that is myself) waterfall swim. I got to run varsity and the infamous Cardiff fight night with an even more infamous after party two years running and this year I have selected some fresh faces to supersede me when I go to continue the unplumbed philosophy of "work hard, play harder."

I have learnt how to events manage to the nth degree and I genuinely will take on the most valuable and transferrable skills. Namely how to funnel a pint, No but seriously it has been so special and the amount of people I have met on the way doing this is insane. I genuinely think immersing yourself in a society and honestly any extracurricular is invaluable not to sound like every mother ever.

I've gone from nothing to all and it's a role I'm so proud to have undertaken. I am now at the end of my third year of being part of Cardiff (HEART-BREAKING) and Cardiff's boxing club. The second year of being a social sec and i'm gonna miss it so so much.

Love and Lash!

## Cardiff University British Sign Language Society

**Toby Curtis**  
Contributor

British Sign Language (BSL) has often fallen to the side lines when conversations about languages and communication are brought up. Despite sign languages themselves having a deep history stretching back beyond the mediaeval period, and with an estimated 87,000 deaf sign language users in the UK alone, BSL remains an often-undisclosed form of communication.

“We teach bi-weekly BSL lessons to our members, allowing them to learn and paractive vocabulary.”

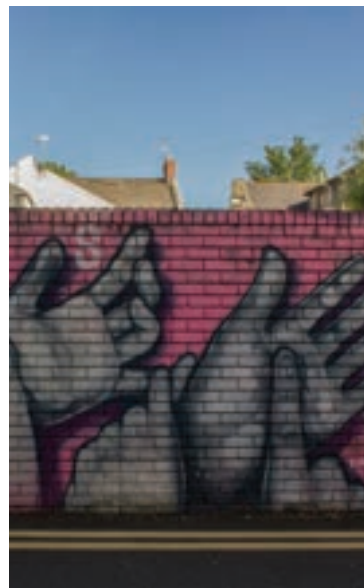
BSL itself was only recognised in the UK as an official language in 2003, despite its frequent use by deaf communities in the years before this.

This is why we at the Cardiff University BSL Society believe that it is more important than ever to raise awareness surrounding deaf and hard-of-hearing communities and strive to protect and preserve BSL as the official language it is recognised as. Our society works to preserve this language and culture in a myriad of ways – we teach bi-monthly BSL lessons to our members, allowing them to learn and practice vocabulary, while also guiding them toward BSL resources. We also keep our members up to date on the latest BSL-related projects and news, as well as teach about the deep history of BSL as a language.

For anyone interested in learning more about BSL, we encourage people to come and see us in the Cardiff Students Union over the next couple of weeks to raise money for charities and causes that directly help deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

Also, keep a lookout on our socials for our upcoming pub quiz announcement! We are going to be hosting a raffle alongside the quiz to raise even more money for deaf charities, while also ending the academic year with a bang!

(Jeremy Segrott via flickr)



## Chance and Counters Review

**Olivia Everleigh**  
Contributor

Whether you're looking for a nice place to eat, drink, or just hang out, Chance and Counters is the perfect fit. A board game cafe bar, boasting over 650 games, Chance and Counters, is truly one of Cardiff's hidden gems.

It lies nestled between Pennyroyal and Prego Wine Bar (High Street) and is especially easy to miss although once you have tracked it down you won't be forgetting it in a hurry! With some of the loveliest staff team and a seemingly infinite number of games at your disposal, it's easy to lose an entire day to this place. Kick off the afternoon fun

with a relaxing cup of coffee, and if you simply do not want to leave you can turn that quick coffee into a delicious meal and after-dinner drinks.

The menu offers everything from ice cream floats, to craft beers and cocktails, burgers and loaded fries. With a charge of only £2 per person per hour for access to the games, it's an easy and affordable afternoon outing, perfect for all occasions. Though the game selection may at first seem overwhelming, the staff are knowledgeable and eager to help in find the one for you.

Their matchmaking abilities take the stress out of decision-making,

although you're likely to need a second trip, even if just to tackle the menu!

Chance and Counters' fun, friendly atmosphere provides the perfect spot for some much-needed quality time with friends and loved ones. Make sure to check it out! Heads up... they have four more locations across the UK and two of them are only in Bristol!



Source: Allan Sharp via Flickr)

## SPOTLIGHT

### A Year in Spotlight

When I first joined Gair Rhydd in the summer of 2023, there was no Spotlight Section. I pitched a 'Student Section' in my application that would showcase societies, student-focused activities and overall, cover something I believed the newspaper was missing. Thus, Spotlight was born.

Because of this section, I have had a wealth of incredible opportunities. I have had the privilege to interview and talk to people who otherwise I wouldn't have spoken to. I have interviewed the Concert Director for the Welsh National Opera, the Head of Student Development and the Cinema Programme Manager for Chapter Arts Centre, to name a few. I got to attend Winter Wonderland for free to cover the numerous activities available for students. I got to go backstage at the Welsh National Opera to watch a dress rehearsal before the evening performance. Spotlight has allowed me to go places I would have never gone, allowed me to talk to people I would have never spoken to and for that, I could not be more grateful.

However, this section could not have been possible without all of you - the students! Your articles have always been to such a high quality and without you, this section would exist. As I climb the Gair Rhydd ladder to Editor-in-Chief next year, I will be leaving Spotlight in the very capable hands of Henry Moxon. I am so excited to see the future of this section and get to see all the opportunities that will happen next year. I will miss this section but it has truly been the best.

**Belle Lee - Head of Spotlight**

# AN EVENING AT THE

## An Interview with Tomáš Hanus – Opera Music Director

*Can you provide an overview of your role as an opera music director?*

This is a complicated answer! Being a music director is essential an artistic job, but it includes interaction with people. First of all, the most important thing within every artistic institution is the outcome, what we offer to the public. One of the main things about being a music director is to prepare the orchestra, is to prepare the singers and then conduct them well during the performance! This means to inspire and create an exceptional evening every time! I am also part of the planning for an artistic vision for the institution – a very complex job.

*How do you approach the selection of repertoire for each opera production?*

In an ideal world, I would choose the repertoire that is the best for the company, the audience, and the circumstances we live in. However, we do not live in the ideal world. This decision has to be connected to the economic state of the institution. We also sometimes have requests from the venues we go to. It is a combination of the reality of our world but also, the artistic vision of the institution.

*Can you share any memorable experiences or highlights from your time working as an opera music director?*

There are two types of highlights – the ones we achieve in Cardiff and the ones we achieve inter-

nationally. In Cardiff, for example, the opening nights and the production of operas that really special to me. However, internationally, as we opened, the Prague Spring Festival, one of the great international Opera festivals. There was hardly any orchestra invited to that event and the fact we were invited, was definitely one of my personal highlights.

*What would be the best way for students to learn about the opera and to get more involved?*

The institution should make the tickets accessible to students and there are lots of ways to achieve this. However, the artistic part of the answer is that I believe opera is misunderstood as entertainment. For students of every possible discipline, the opera should be a place to go to reflect on their circumstances and their life ex-

periences. Loads of operas make an entertaining evening but loads of operas are reflective of our world, dramatic and beautiful. For students, the opera should be a place to exchange intellectual ideas.

*Finally, what do you hope audiences take away from your opera performances, both artistically and emotionally?*

If you see certain pieces of opera, it can be a life-changing experience. It can also release some tensions, difficulties, and pain of life. Opera is there to embrace. This art form embraces people into the beautiful. After some of the operas, it is difficult to go home and continue to hate somebody because the story is so deep and so connected to love. It is a life-changing experience, and that is what I want people to take away from opera.



(Photo via Belle Lee)

(Photo via Richard Hubert)



(Photo via Prazske Jaro)

## PEACE AND PASSION CONCERT

Opera can be intimidating. Many people hear 'opera' and they think 'long' and 'boring' and 'inaccessible'. The Welsh National Opera has heard these thoughts, and they are here to prove you wrong.

Their Spring Concert Series is the perfect way to dip your toe into the wide world of opera. This series is typically held in St Davids, but since the hall's closure for maintenance, the WNO has found a new home at the Wales Millennium Center. The blends of exposed wood coming together in the Donald Gordon Theatre create a perfect atmosphere for this incredible performance.

It brings together all the daunting elements of opera; it shows you the bones of a production. Unlike a traditional opera, the phenomenal orchestra is on stage for everybody to see. In the second half of this performance, they demonstrated complete mastery over

a lesser-heard Schumann composition.

His 4th symphony is a fevered nest of nimble strings and booming beats on the timpani that the orchestra navigates effortlessly. But if you've never heard of Schumann, never fear, the first half of this concert featured Mozart's Requiem. This iconic piece of music was Mozart's last written before his death; the chorus wields all this epic weight, conducted by Tomáš Hanus.

Their Peace and Passion concert was just one of many concerts they do over the year, often combining popular pieces with something more unique, allowing their audience to explore a range of music with them. It's an experience nobody should miss out on. Whether you're an opera lover or just trying something new, come dip your toe in the WNO.

Special thanks to the Welsh National Opera for the opportunity to see this performance.

Sabine Wilson-Patrick  
Contributor



(Photo via Belle Lee)

# WELSH NATIONAL OPERA



(Photos via Johan Persson)



(Photo via Richard Hubert Smith)



## An Interview with Catherine Porteus – Orchestra Concert Manager

### *What exactly is your role within the Welsh National Opera?*

My role is Orchestra Concerts and Projects Manager. I look after all the Company's main concert remit. Primarily covering orchestral touring around Wales and England, as well as our regular concert appearances at Cardiff St David's Hall and Dora Stoutzker Hall. I also oversee all international concert work the Company does internationally, most recently in May 2023 when WNO Orchestra opened the Prague Spring Festival with Music Director, Tomáš Hanus, at Prague's Smetana Hall. Additionally, I am part of a small but busy Orchestra Management team supporting the full-time orchestra ensemble that accompanies the wider Opera Company.

### *In your opinion, what is the biggest misconception surrounding opera?*

That the world of opera is an elitist art form or the idea that "Opera is not for me." Opera is not one thing and certainly does not appeal to just one type of person. I've been reduced to tears of pride, sadness, laughter, and everything in between whilst watching our productions since starting at the Company. In the seven years I have been at WNO, the Company has produced Opera of the highest international artistic standards. Notable productions include Puccini's beautiful *Madama Butterfly* (2021),

Janacek's *Makropulous Affair* (2022) and our current production of Britten's *Death in Venice* (2024). These pieces have been thought-provoking, devastating, challenging but, most importantly, magnificent to behold.

However, the art form can also be joyful. Not every leading lady must die! I think of WNO's recent new productions of Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* (2019) set in a burger van outside the Cardiff City Stadium, and David Hackbridge Johnson's *Blaze of Glory* (2023) telling the story of South Wales mining communities and Male Voice Choirs. Opera does, and should, appeal to everyone. There is always a storyline or musical motif that means something to everyone.

### *How do you engage with the local community to battle these misconceptions?*

WNO's Programmes and Engagements team are prolific in reaching all aspects of our community. Whilst WNO is resident in Cardiff, we have an extensive presence in several towns and cities across the UK and are proud to be able to deliver workshops, outreach work, schools, and family concerts across the country. Our Producers deliver work in the following settings: hospitals; caring settings; refugee centres; primary; secondary; SEN schools, as well as running regular Community Choirs and Youth Opera productions across North and South Wales.

### *Can you discuss any initiatives or programs aimed at fostering talent development and nurturing emerging artists?*

In the Orchestra Department at WNO, we are proud to nurture the next generation of musicians in the UK. We have a particularly special relationship with the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama whereby we work in partnership with the students on the Orchestral Pathway MA Course. This scheme provides young, talented orchestral musicians the opportunity to observe and participate in our sessions across their academic year. This involves classes, auditions, and performance opportunities. Much of these sessions are extended to the RWCMD MMus Conducting Students, and we also take on a 3-month placement with an Arts Management Masters to help provide industry experience to those wanting to pursue a career in Orchestra Management. The Company also accepts work experience placements in Stage Management and Technical roles too.

Additionally, we are delighted to extend our Side-by-Side work across the UK, working annually with Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, and Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. In the last few months, we have also started engaging the generation below, having held a Side-by-Side experience with Cardiff County and Vale Youth Orchestra in December, and observation opportunities with Hafren

Youth Strings (based in Mid-Wales) in January. WNO is also proud to be able to support emerging soloists through our Associate Artist Scheme. We engage young singers on contract for a year in which they are given roles and covers in the main opera programmes as well as an extensive concert soloist opportunity with WNO Orchestra throughout their year with the Company.

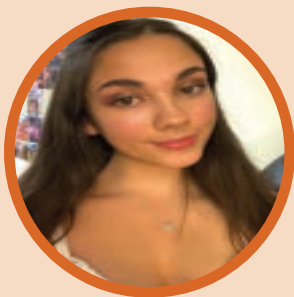
### *What are some developments in the opera industry that you find particularly interesting or exciting?*

As my role is predominately focused on the musical aspects of opera, I never cease to be amazed at the magnificent work and creativity of Directors, Designers and Production Managers in the creation of the aesthetic of opera productions. One of the most exciting and innovative developments in opera is the advancement of digital interaction on stage. At WNO most recently, we toured a production of Bernstein's *Candide* (2023) in which the action on stage was woven around interaction with video and animation. This is a wonderful way of appealing to new audiences and using contemporary technology to enhance our art form.



(Shawn Carpenter via Flickr)

## POLITICS



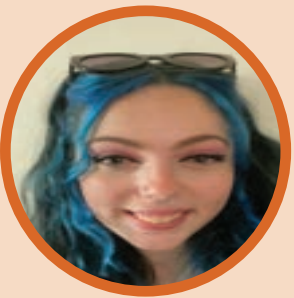
Lauren Tutchell



Laila Dawelbeit



Adam Dunstan



Cerys Upstone



Thomas Wilson

ELSEWHERE  
IN POLITICS

**Tory MP Nathalie Elphicke defects to Labour**

**Israel bans Al Jazeera news organisation, captures Rafah border crossing**

**Ukraine hit with massive attack on its energy grid by Russian forces**



politics@gairhydd.com

## UK Rejects EU Free Movement Offer for 18–30-Year-Olds

The scheme would make it easier for young people to study and work abroad

Lauren Tutchell  
Head of Politics

Whilst Leave voters celebrated the supposed victorious return of 'border control' when they voted for Brexit in 2016, many young people on both sides of the Channel were devastated to hear that the EU's free movement rules would be put to an end.

These rules permit any EU citizen the freedom to live and work in another EU country—a luxury that many Brits, especially students and young people, regularly made use of. This opportunity was subsequently crushed by Brexit, but after 8 long years, the EU has now approached the government with a new proposal that could see partial restoration of freedom.

The 'youth mobility scheme' that has been proposed by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is aimed at 18–30 year olds in the UK. It would see the abolishment of restrictions for British citizens who wish to work, study, train, or volunteer in any EU country. However, it is not a complete return of the freedom of movement, as it will require some bureaucratic regulations, such as visas and insurance, as well as being capped at a four-year time limit, but there will be no limit on the total number of individuals that could use the scheme.

However, it is important to note that this is not a one-way deal, and the same freedom to come and work or study here will apply to the citizens of the 27 EU countries. The proposal is also requesting some easing of re-



President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen  
Source: Dati Bendo (via Wikimedia Commons)

strictions on the other side, such as the lowering of tuition fees for EU citizens from the extortionate £22,000 a year they currently pay to the £9,250 that UK residents are charged. Additionally, it is asking that EU citizens aged 18–30 should not be required to pay the annual NHS levy which costs £776 for students and £1,035 for workers. The European Commission has championed this proposal as a way of opening up opportunities for young people to "experience life on the other side of the Channel" and receive the benefits of "youth, cultural, educational, research and training exchanges".

Discussing the new proposal, Ursula von der Leyen said: "The topic of youth mobility is in both our interests, because the more we have youth mobility on both sides of the Channel, the more we increase the probability we will be on good terms because the next generation knows each other well."

However, the offer has been rejected by Rishi Sunak. Instead, Downing Street said it would prefer to create its own agreement on a country-by-country basis.

Anand Menon, a professor at King's College London, explained that the EU are afraid that member states may follow suit and start creating their own "bilateral deals" which threatens the existence of the EU, especially in the context of rising Euroscepticism in countries such as Italy and Hungary. The EU argues that this risks "differential treatment" of EU citizens and instead there should be a bloc-wide deal to ensure everyone is "treated equally".

When asked if a Labour government would be interested in accepting the proposal, a spokesperson commented that there were "no plans for a youth mobility scheme".

The Liberal Democrat's leader, Ed Davies, condemned the two main parties' decline of this new deal, say-

ing: "It would be a much needed boost to our economy, especially hospitality and tourism; it would offer great new opportunities to young British people to work abroad; and it would be a crucial step towards fixing our broken relationship with Europe."

Unsurprisingly, statistics show that the number of students and temporary workers from the EU has drastically fallen since Brexit, and this reduction has left many restaurants and businesses short of the steady stream of workers they once heavily relied on.

Many pro-EU groups have also spoken out on the issue, with campaign group 'Stay European' stating: "Rishi Sunak should realise that his government is hated by young people and the EU is offering him a lifeline. Labour should not dismiss this scheme because they will need both the support of young people to win the election and the hard work of young Europeans to implement their economic programme in office."

The UK already has a two-year youth mobility scheme visa in place, but this is not accessible to EU residents and currently only allows applicants from 10 countries, including Australia and Canada. It is well known that the British government are interested in opening this opportunity up for citizens in France, as well as a few other EU member states, but clearly there is no appetite from the government or the opposition to open this up to everyone. As evident with the Brexit negotiations, it appears that the British government just want to cherry-pick the nationalities they deem acceptable enough to come over here.

## RAF Fighter Jets Shot Down Iran Drones, Says PM

Laila Dawelbeit  
Politics Editor

British fighter jets shot down "a number of drones" fired at Israel from Iran, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said.

This makes the UK one of the several countries which helped shoot down "nearly all" of Iran's drones and missiles, according to President Joe Biden; that helped counter Iran's attack.

Mr Sunak condemned Iran's "reckless attack", joining the G7 leaders in issuing a statement which expressed "full solidarity and support to Israel" and accused Iran of furthering the "destabilisation of the region" and risking "provoking an uncontrollable regional escalation".

UK Foreign Secretary Lord Cameron was one of the first non-Israeli politicians to admit that a military response is inevitable, stating that it is clear Israel is "making a decision to act", but hoped that Israel would do it in a way "that does as little to escalate this as possible".

Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer also condemned Iran's "decision to subject Israelis to these unacceptable attacks", claiming that "yet again, Iran has chosen a different, dangerous path".

Iran directly targeted Is-



PM Rishi Sunak Shaking Hands with Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu  
Source: Simon Walker / No. 10 Downing Street (via Flickr)

raeli soil for the first time by firing hundreds of drones and missiles; making it the single largest drone attack ever carried out by any country. The attack was in response to the April 1 Israeli strike on the Iranian consulate in Damascus that killed seven members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), a multi-service primary branch of the Iranian Armed Forces.

According to United Nations (UN) experts, Israel's initial attack on April 1 violated the prohibition on the use of armed force against both Iran and Syria under Article 2(4) of the UN Charter. These experts also noted

that Israel did not seem to be exercising self-defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter, despite depending heavily on it since it started its military response to the October 7 Hamas attack, because it presented no evidence that Iran was directly committing an "armed attack" on Israel or sending non-state armed groups to attack it.

Similarly, despite seemingly having a more plausible Article 51 argument at the UN Security Council, the experts noted that Iran had no right of self-defence on April 13 because Israel's initial attack concluded on April 1 and self-defence is only lawful

where it is necessary to stop a continuing armed attack. "These retaliatory strikes violate state sovereignty and represent a dangerous escalation of conflict in a region already on a knife-edge", the experts warned.

The unprecedented Iranian attacks may have briefly shifted the world's attention from the deaths of over 34,000 people in the Gaza strip. Israel's ongoing military offensive on Gaza since the October 7 Hamas attack has now lasted over six months and has seen Gaza haunted by mass graves, debilitated hospitals, near total destruction of infrastructure, and hampered aid agencies.

Since Israel's war on Gaza, 62% of all houses in the besieged territory have been damaged or destroyed according to the UN Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). In a report published on March 18 by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), the world's hunger watchdog, 1.1 million people are living through catastrophic food insecurity.

With student demonstrations being held worldwide in support of Gaza, and four UN Security Council resolutions calling for a ceasefire being vetoed, many are left wondering whether there will ever be an end to Israel's relentless attack on the Gaza strip.

# Liz Truss' *Ten Years to Save the West* Shifts Just 2,228 Copies in the First Week of Sales

Adam Dunstan  
Politics Editor

Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Liz Truss, launched her latest book last month titled *Ten Years to Save the West*.

The book is a reflection on her short time in office, which lasted only 49 days, as well as an appeal to revive “the Conservative movement across the West [that] has been faltering for almost a generation”.

From the first three pages, you gather that Ms Truss was a woman in a hurry. She describes that she was frustrated at delays getting from Balmoral Castle to London, following her appointment by Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and that she was keen to act quickly due to the “hiatus of government” that occurred in the summer of 2022 following Boris Johnson’s resignation. She reflects that the Queen advised her to “pace herself”, which Truss admits she should have taken.

A key takeaway from the book is that she was frustrated with the number of bureaucrats and technocrats in Whitehall, like the Bank of England Governor, Andrew Bailey. She places some blame on him for



Source: Picture by Andrew Parsons / No 10 Downing Street (via Flickr)

her time as Prime Minister ending. Furthermore, she believes the independent Office for Budget Responsibility, which forecasts the state of the economy and public finances and was ignored by Truss during her time in office, should be abolished.

Conversely, she argues too many civil servants act to serve their own beliefs rather than the government’s, leading to “activists as civil servants which can present real problems”.

Finally, in a press interview with The Telegraph, she describes the people who claim she crushed the economy as “either very stupid or very malevolent” and that she “doesn’t care about what ignoramuses at the BBC say”.

Some people have questioned who the intended audience for the book is. In the first week of the book’s release, it came 70th on the bestseller list with 2,228 copies sold. In comparison, David Cameron’s memoir

sold 21,000 in its first week and Tony Blair’s sold 92,000. Unless you’re a political nerd like me, the book isn’t likely to be a domestic success.

Some have argued Truss is appealing to the Trumpite right in the US, with her endorsing the former President in 2024.

Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer is likely enjoying the fallout from the book, as he reminded the House that her time in office resulted in a spike in mortgage rates, during *Prime Minister’s Questions*.

Labour spiked in the opinion polls when she was Prime Minister, which Starmer would be keen to capitalise on in the run-up to the election. Truss’ successor, Rishi Sunak, said that he repeatedly warned in the summer of 2022 of the dangers of Truss’ economic plans, suggesting that his economic policies work.

The publication has been followed by a lengthy press tour by Truss, in which we have learnt more about her and her time in office. In an interview with GB News, she expressed regret at previously describing herself as an LGBT+ ally in 2021.

On *Have I Got News for You*, it was discussed that Truss ordered furniture for Downing Street, but her short time as Prime Minister meant that it did not arrive in time.

## Squirrel Nutkin

Tom Quickfall  
Contributor

When you think of political fiction, authors that spring to mind might include George Orwell (*Animal Farm*, 1984), or maybe John Steinbeck (*The Grapes of Wrath*); or perhaps those 19th Century pioneers of social realism, Charles Dickens or Emile Zola, whose work condemned poverty and social injustice. Alternatively, feminists among us might cite Angela Carter or Fay Weldon’s eviscerations of patriarchy, or Zadie Smith’s exploration of the shifting landscape of modern multi-cultural London. But I’m guessing that Beatrix Potter would not be at the top of anyone’s list. Take her *Tale of Squirrel Nutkin* (1903). The plot is pretty simple. Nutkin is one of a band of red squirrels who regularly visit an island on a lake to forage for nuts. The island is home to an owl named Old Brown, to whom the squirrels bring dead mice and honey. Old Brown receives their tributes in aloof silence and the squirrels are duly deferential, with the exception of Nutkin, who bobs around hyperactively, chanting riddles. Old Brown ignores him, but this merely emboldens Nutkin to step up his impertinence, tickling the owl with a nettle and continuing to bombard him with his infuriating riddles. Eventually, Nutkin crosses a line by jumping onto Old Brown’s head, whereupon the owl grabs the squirrel by his tail and holds him upside down intending to skin him, a fate Nutkin only eludes by pulling free, snapping his tail in two in the process. “And to this day,” concludes the story, “if you meet Nutkin up a tree and ask him a riddle, he will throw sticks at you, and stamp his feet and scold, and shout Cuck-cuck-cuck-cur-r-r-cuck-k-k.” Like many stories written for small children this one contains a moral: respect your elders and betters, or else... But it can also be read as a political allegory, a kind of miniature *Animal Farm*. Old Brown becomes the feudal overlord demanding submission and tribute from the squirrels, whose gifts are a form of tithe. Old Brown does nothing to earn these gifts, and brutally punishes transgressors, like a feathered and taloned mafia boss. Nutkin is the rebel spirit who rejects the meek subservience of his brother squirrels, ending up mutilated and embittered. But even leaving aside allegorical readings, it is not hard to see political dynamics at work in the story, and the listening child will absorb their unspoken message: know your place and behave yourself! Of course, the real power lies not with Old Brown but with Beatrix Potter. The author of any story dictates the narrative and how the story is told. The author can manipulate the reader’s sympathies, withhold information, and play on our emotions. The very word ‘author,’ with its roots in authority, denotes power. To write is to exercise power; therefore, to write is a political act. Marxist critics argue persuasively that all literature is political, from the mildest nursery rhyme to the angriest dystopian novel. All literature reflects the assumptions and opinions of the author’s particular worldview: in the case of the Western canon, an overwhelmingly white, male, Judeo-Christian worldview. It reflects the socio-political climate from which it is born. Class hierarchy, social rules and power systems are baked into stories, whether we notice or not. There are no neutral stories or storytellers. Even squirrels are political when they are given fictional identities and quasi-human nature.

# Angela Rayner: “I’ll Stand Down if I’ve Broken the Law”

Lauren Tutchell  
Head of Politics

Labour Party’s shining jewel, Angela Rayner, has been glistening on top of their crown for some time now, making a name for herself as a confident and outspoken working-class woman whose blunt and honest approach to politics has proved rather popular with voters.

While this has undoubtedly made her an attractive asset to Sir Keir Starmer, the past few weeks have demonstrated that it also makes her an excellent target.

It all started when billionaire Tory peer Lord Ashcroft, who is famously known for his massive tax evasion scandal in 2010, wrote and published an unauthorised biography on Ms Rayner last month where he raised questions regarding the sale of her council house in 2015 that he believes she avoided paying tax on.

It appears he has a thing for publishing unwanted words about women, having previously published a book about Boris Johnson’s wife, whom he blamed for having a “negative influence” on her husband.

But it was actually Conservative Party deputy chair, James Daly, who prompted the police investigation against Ms Rayner when he complained to Greater Manchester Police that they were not doing enough when they initially refused to entertain the allegations.

Following the complaint, police are now investigating whether she may have incurred capital gains tax that she did not pay when she sold the property for a £48,500 profit. Ms Rayner believed she was exempt



Angela Rayner photographed in 2021

Source: 70023venus2009 (via Flickr)

from the tax as rules stipulate that you do not have to pay if you only own one home and it is your main residence. However, concerns have been raised that this house was not her main residence, as neighbours claim she was “never there” and she spent most of her time with her husband who lived in a separate property at the time. Under tax rules, married couples can only count one property as their main home, which is at the heart of this row.

In a statement released by the Labour Party, Ms Rayner said: “If I committed a criminal offence, I would of course do the right thing and step down. The British public deserves politicians who know the rules apply to them.”

She added: “The questions raised relate to a time before I was an MP and I have set out my family’s circum-

stances and taken expert tax and legal advice.”

She also condemned Lord Ashcroft’s “unhealthy interest” in her family life, accusing the former Tory deputy chair of wanting to “kick down at people like me who graft hard in tough circumstances to get on in life”.

If she is to be found guilty, tax experts estimate she may owe up to about £3,500 in the worst case scenario. This seems barely worth mentioning by Lord Ashcroft when compared to the £3.4 million that he avoided paying in inheritance tax. What is even more ironic is that because the allegations relate to pre-2015, it is highly unlikely that she can even be prosecuted if she is actually found guilty.

The tax system is extremely complicated, and lots of people accidentally pay the wrong amount. This is

not a crime. Ignorance is a legitimate defence because ‘tax evasion’ means intentionally being dishonest, not being careless or negligent.

This is quite clearly a desperate attempt from the Tories to do some political point-scoring by discrediting one of Labour’s most popular politicians right before a general election. But will it even work?

One Labour insider suggests “the reason this is particularly damaging for her is that she looks like a hypocrite—being a woman of the people who has come from nowhere was so valuable to her political brand—now she can’t be the attack dog on ethics and standards”.

Yet Ms Rayner said she would “make no apologies for having held Conservative ministers to account in the past” and added “we have seen the Tory Party use this playbook before—reporting political opponents to the police during election campaigns to distract from their record”.

Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer has given his backing to his deputy, saying he is “fully confident” she has not broken any rules. He also accused Rishi Sunak of “smearing a working-class woman”.

“Ms. Rayner believed she was exempt from the tax as rules stipulate that you do not have to pay if you own one home and it is your main residence.”

## The Dangerous Rise of Misinformation

Thomas Wilson  
Politics Editor

On the 14th April, under extraordinary pressure from the widescale ballistic missile assault launched by the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel's Iron Dome defence system became overwhelmed, resulting in the deaths of countless civilians and the destruction of Israeli infrastructure. Only it didn't.

Yet this is the reality many were led to be believed was truly unfolding; courtesy of misinformation.

In the six months since the devastating 7th October massacre by Hamas, there appear to have been two wars running simultaneously: the war on the ground and the war online.

Whilst misinformation during times of war is nothing out of the ordinary, from the anti-Tsarist fallacies spread amongst Russian troops in 1917, to the Goebbelsian efforts to manipulate the German home front as the war began to turn, the sheer deluge of misinformation being able to be spread unchecked, through social media, is unprecedented.

During the Israel-Hamas War, one of the most prolific accounts which epitomises the problem is Jackson Hinkle; a far-right commentator based in the United States.

At twenty past midnight on the 14th of April, hours after the launch of Iranian missiles, Hinkle posted footage of what he claimed to be Israel being struck by a multitude of missiles on X, with the post being viewed by 1.4 million people and gathering over 15 thousand likes.

Responses to the post ranged from remarks such as "evil only listens to force" and "what beautiful footage".

With Hinkle having over 2.6 million followers on X, it is only rational to be fearful of what the effects of such an account can have given the millions of people liable to be misinformed through their following of such an account.

Given that an Ofcom study found that one in four five- to seven-year-olds owned a smartphone, in light of such facts it would appear the issue of online misinformation ought to be one of priority.

It is no secret misinformation is playing a more prevalent role in our politics, be it the Labour candidate in the Rochdale by-election Azhar Ali who baselessly claimed Israel deliberately allowed the October 7th atrocity to occur; the return of George Galloway as an MP, who claimed the 2020 Presidential Election was rigged by the "Deep State"; or Andrew Bridgen MP—who gathered notoriety for equating the COVID-19 vaccine rollout to the Holocaust.

What is evident is that greater measures are required to act as a bulwark to online misinformation; yet what those measures are will be the prerogative for policymakers who face a monumental task of regulating the seemingly-unregulatable world of the internet.

## Charities Plan Legal Action Against Rwanda Bill

Angelie Marwaha  
Contributor

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Rwanda Deportation Bill has contentiously passed, after a plethora of parliamentary ping-pong between the two houses.

After gaining royal assent on Tuesday, the bill is expected to be passed into law imminently, and the Home Office have already whittled their list of deportees to 350, who have been determined to present a weak legal threat of successfully combatting the government's plans to deport them.

An increasingly confident Downing Street is aiming to send over 300 people off to Rwanda by the end of spring, an ambitious target when considering it has yet to deport just one, thanks to judicial barriers and charities stopping flights setting off.

Care4Calais, a charity that has been integral in blocking the government's plans to launch flights going to Rwanda previously, will now recommence their legal challenges and offer support to immigrants being deported, as the government start to notify those they will forcibly remove from the country.

This charity is not the only organi-



Source: Alisdare Hickson (via Flickr)

sation seeking to help, with individual lawyers speaking out against this policy and have promised to help isolated individuals, challenging the government's claim to deportation and tackling this on a case-by-case approach.

Stating "Human rights still apply", lawyers are illustrating their willingness to present legal obstacles to halt this governmental scheme. This would mean such individuals would be taken off the flight list and permitted to stay, without threat of being sent to the East African country.

The Rwanda Scheme, first pro-

posed by Boris Johnson in April 2022, has faced legal opposition and stagnation since its proposition. There have been legal challenges with the highest court in the land, the UK Supreme Court also being involved, declaring the bill unlawful and thus not permissible in November 2023.

However, the government have stuck by this initiative, advocating Rwanda's safety, despite human rights advocates and serious concerns over real security of Rwanda. The scheme is also exorbitantly priced, with it costing £1.8 million for just one of the

300 people being deported, according to the National Audit Office.

A core reason the Conservatives are pushing this agenda is to demonstrate their tough stance on immigration and crack down on the influx of small boats crossing the channel, for the imminent and upcoming general election that will likely be later this year. Yet a plane is still to actually set flight.

It is currently unclear if Sunak and his government will be able to launch a flight to Rwanda just yet, what with charities planning strong legal battles, drawing upon judicial back up to solidify their threat.

The bill continues to bring contention, and will likely continue to do so when this gets passed into law, with a consistent battle between charities, lawyers and the Conservative government.

Care4Calais, a charity that has been integral to blocking the government's plans to launch flights going to Rwanda [...] will recommence their legal challenges and offer support to immigrants...

## The Westminster 'Honey-Trap' Sexting Scandal

Eve Yates  
Contributor

On September 23rd, the first 2 MPs were messaged by Charlie, or M-xl on Grindr.

From then on, the honey trapper has expanded, with MPs across multiple parties being asked for information surrounding political scandals.

Despite 6 months passing, there is still no developments as to who the honey trapper is, why they are targeting MPs, and what their motive is. But with sexually explicit content being brought into the picture, the desire to solve this web of mysteries becomes more concerning.

September 23rd: The Liberal Democrats annual conference in Bournemouth. This was where the first known appearance of M-xl appeared.

Two male conference attendees both received messages on the gay dating app Grindr, which works off a proximity-based function, meaning you can message people in your close proximity.

The username M-xl stated they were a 28-year-old man interested in 'chats, friends and hook-ups'. After several messages had been exchanged, one stating that an 'orgy' had been carried out at the conference, one attendee discovered others had received the same messages.

All messages from M-xl related to wanting to find out gossip about MPs and if anyone would want to sleep with them.

At first, the MPs were under a general impression that the honey trap was merely a journalist seeking information, which lead to messages being warnings being sent to others of the trap.

However, with more coming forward about the messages they had received and questions that were asked, more details were being unravelled.

It was discovered that the online entity was not at the conference, but that they had altered the settings on Grindr.

They were in fact in North London.

This same storyline was breaking out at multiple political events, such as the Labour conference in Liverpool, the evening of the by-elections and the day Rishi Sunak was meeting with the executive committee of conservative backbenchers.

In all instances, the same profile, name, and image of a blonde man in his 20s was used except a diversion on the night of the by-elections. One Labour MP received a message from 'Abi', who stated that she knew him from a previous political campaign.

From February onwards, it was clear that politicians and political journalists were receiving unwanted messages.

However, more of the mystery unfolded when during a heated exchange of messages, Abi appeared to reveal that she was the same online presence as Charlie, tying all separate messaging branches into one big knot.

This has now escalated to William Wragg resigning from his post due to fear of this honey trapper, stating "I was scared", after being asked to tell the online presence (M-xl) other colleagues phone numbers.

The mystery is still unfolding as to what the presence of Charlie (or Abi) wants with such information. Some fear it is a hostile state, such as China or Russia, trying to seek material, but this theory has been discredited.

There has been no sense of blackmail surrounding sexually explicit images that have been shared, so what is it that they want? Is there a sexual motive?

This mystery is continuing to unravel, with more and more people coming forward saying they have been messaged by M-xl. The only question is, how long will this go on for and how far has it already spread?

## Count Binface is Running for London Mayor

Keely Cutter  
Contributor

Count Binface is, once again, running for London mayor.

The character, famously recognised by his silver bin for a head, fantasy space-style suit of armour, and long cape, first appeared as a political figure in the 2019 General Election as a candidate for Uxbridge and South Ruislip. He made his first run for London Mayor in the 2021 London Mayoral Election.

The existence of Count Binface proves the comical state of affairs of UK politics at the moment. There has been a rise in the prominence and importance of personality within politics in the UK.

What springs to mind is Boris Johnson's ability to be viewed as an amusing character, despite the magnitude of his role as former London Mayor and former Prime Minister of the UK; The Monster Raving Loony Party is yet another political group built on a comical and sardonic impression of the political world.

Count Binface has, as of yet, not occupied a major political role, and we can be somewhat certain that he will not win this 2024 London Mayoral campaign. But, while he is simply a satirical, comedic caricature of UK politicians, as a figure, he is not wholly unpopular.

Following Boris Johnson's resignation as an MP in 2023, Binface ran again for Johnson's former constituency of Uxbridge and South Ruislip, coming eighth out of seventeen candidates—quite a win for someone who is not supposed to be considered a serious candidate.

As well as this, in the 2021 London Mayoral campaign he managed to gain almost 25,000 votes in the results. Clearly, something must be resonating with the electorate that

they would vote for someone with a bin on their head.

Looking at his 2024 London Mayor manifesto, we can see that while some of the ideas are clearly poking fun at the establishment and British popular culture, some of the ideas do hold some honest political value.

In the midst of all the silliness, such as making Claudia Winkleman's fringe "grade 1 listed" and renaming London Bridge after Phoebe Waller, Count manages to stand for policies that reach out to those who have felt shunned by the political establishment, those who are at more of a disadvantage in our society.

Two of his manifesto promises stood out to me: the first being a new electric car for all Londoners who cannot afford a ULEZ-compliant vehicle, and for it to be "paid for by windfall tax on oil companies." This policy is undeniably reflected in socialist ideas that we have seen in politicians such as Jeremy Corbyn and Bernie Sanders, and in this policy Count Binface is making it known that he wants to support everyday people, especially the most economically disadvantaged, by utilising the wealthiest.

The other manifesto promise, "getting rid of Voter ID legislation," paints Count Binface as someone who wants to make politics and the establishment more inclusive, allowing those who do not have 'Voter ID' to have a say in politics that will inevitably affect them and the country they choose to reside in.

Although it is unlikely that Count Binface will become the next mayor of London, it will be interesting to see if his popularity has grown significantly since his last campaign. It makes us wonder what he, and other individuals he may inspire, have in store for the future of UK politics.

Thomas Wilson  
Politics Editor

# Interview with Mark Drakeford

## How do you feel your time studying Latin at Kent influenced your politics?

Kent in those days was at the tail end of the 60s student militancy; much of my first year was spent with people sitting in etc. Debates in the student union were between the broad left, which certainly didn't include the labour party, and the International Marxist Group as to whether the working classes of Canterbury were about to rise. I used to sit there suggest we ought to go out and ask all five of them! Student politics didn't interest me at all given its remoteness and the reality of what was happening in the world.

## How has Cardiff changed since 1979?

The city was still in recovery from the post war austerity and I think it has changed in so many ways. When I worked in Ely in 1979, it was very multicultural and had the largest council estate in Europe at the time. Men worked in the paper mill and women worked in the hospital. Those two employers dominated the working experience for people. People left school at 15, with schools having very little ambition, with the expectation being that these people would work in the same occupation as their parents. The city is more buyout and multicultural and attractive city. For the size of it, it has a thriving cultural, arts and sports. All the things people enjoy out of work are available in Cardiff which is quite the contrast from 1979.

## Are you concerned about the clampdowns on university freedoms?

It is an ambiguously politically driven set of arrangements by a conservative government appealing to people on its own right wing. They

are keen on freedom of speech so long as it's the freedom to express the things they believe in. These are people who want to control what you read, control what you see, control what you get up to in your bedroom think de-platforming people is something you should do in very rare circumstances. I can vividly remember going to hear Mary Whitehouse speak at Kent and she was howled down and unable to speak. All this resulted in was an enormous public relations triumph for her with all the coverage not focusing on critiques but the idea of her being victim to an unruly mob.

## What do you feel the key issues are with the NHS?

My view is that its money. Up until 2010 we spent the same proportion of national income as say Germany and France which saw unprecedented public satisfaction. Ever since then, the gap between what we spend domestically compared to nations abroad has widened and is wider than it has been in this whole century. The NHS has been running on empty because the government will not invest in it and that lack of investment means we have exhausted staff who are being asked to double their efforts to deal with the backlog from the pandemic. The number of the people on the waiting list fell last month and the total number of people on the waiting list had risen by 0.4% last year compared to 5.9% in England. We need capital investment to offer people the service they need, modern buildings and, modern equipment.

## How would you say cooperation was between Number 10 and the devolved governments?

I would describe it as frustratingly variable.

There were points when cooperation was good such as when COBRA meetings were regularly held but then there would be acres of time with no contact at all. Why the UK government was never prepared to institutionalise a bed-rock of regular contact is very hard to understand; although in the inquiry we are starting to see some clues. I wrote to the PM early on that there ought to be regular meetings once a month where we would share information and I never had a reply. I initially felt it was due to the chaotic nature that came as a result of people working flat out and that the letter was buried under a pile of horse and hound magazines or whatever they were reading at No 10. It turned out there was a whole meeting about this letter in which they positively decided not to agree as that would have given the impression the PM was on a par with other leaders of Britain. For status driven reasons that was unfathomable to me, they decided not to have a pattern of engagement that would have helped us all.

## What were the key factors for devolution in 1997?

One of my predecessors Rhodri Morgan said many times in this office that Mrs Thatcher was the greatest recruiting sergeant of devolution. During debates on devolution, if you said at the end you'll never see Mrs Thatcher back ruling Wales they were all for it. In some ways it is a remarkable turnaround. It is the experience of all those years of Conservative rule despite Wales never giving them a mandate yet the nation receives the full unmitigated impact of policy which have not been endorsed by people in Wales. The first priority of a Labour government ought to be to entrench the devolution settlement in a way that makes it less vulnerable than

it has been shown to be over the past five years where we have seen money and power taken away from Wales. I'm in favour of devolution of criminal justice to Wales which I understand is a long term process and cannot happen overnight. I'm very keen we embark on that journey. The Gordon Brown report recommends job centres should be run by the Welsh government. We would run job centres very differently – we would have them be places where people felt they were supported, helped and invested in if they need training.

## Do you have any more faith in our economic systems to withstand repeats of 2008?

I'm a socialist and have been throughout my political life. If you're a socialist you believe that markets are good servants but bad masters and what we have allowed is markets to become the master. I don't believe that and I think there is a large space for markets to work but they have to be regulated in the public interest because they don't naturally work in the public interest do they? Their natural tendency is to monopoly and to be a conspiracy against the public. That's why the job of government is to regulate markets in a way that makes the public interest a powerful player in the way that markets operate which we have stood back from ever since Mrs Thatcher. Look at the scandal of water in England and the private companies monopolising something people cannot live without into a debt ridden brink of crisis service where all the money is ciphered off to the continental governments. When you allow markets to be in charge, you get outcomes that are not in the public interest. With government regulation, markets will do their job and deliver some beneficial outcomes.

# Delving into the Archive

As it's Issue 1200, let's take a trip down memory lane and see what stories were dominating the headlines over 10 years ago in Issue 1000!

## Housing to be withheld from migrants

As our borders are about to be opened to migrants from Bulgaria and Romania, the government is looking for ways to limit the associated costs. Matt Harding reports



As reported in gain ahead of a number of months ago, the current administration in London is looking to limit the costs of housing to be withheld from migrants from Bulgaria and Romania, the government is looking for ways to limit the associated costs. Matt Harding reports

With the issue of EU immigration into quite dominating British politics, government action regarding the future of migration of Eastern and Western European countries is a highly debated topic. The particular aspect of this topic which the current political climate seems to be focusing on is how to ensure the 'cost' of Eastern European migrants who, as the House of Commons have been identified in recent weeks by some 'Very MPs' as making more than 'benefit' to the country.



In early January legislation was put in place to restrict the number of immigrants from the newly added nations of the EU. In December 2004, these temporary controls were put in place to restrict the number of immigrants from the newly added nations of the EU. In December 2004, these temporary controls were put in place to restrict the number of immigrants from the newly added nations of the EU. In December 2004, these temporary controls were put in place to restrict the number of immigrants from the newly added nations of the EU.

## 'Israel/Palestine: how can there be peace?' A Jewish academic speaks out

Armina Khan  
Political Writer

John Rose, a Jewish academic, writer and author of the book 'The Jews of London', recently came to Cardiff University to give a talk, entitled 'Israel/Palestine: how can there be peace?'

The aim of the talk was to provide more solidarity, support, and to look at the role of the Jewish community in the region.

Rose explained that he has been an active supporter of the Jewish community for over 20 years, and that he has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Secondly, Rose said that he was not a Zionist, and that he was not a supporter of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Thirdly, Rose said that he was not a Zionist, and that he was not a supporter of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Fourthly, Rose said that he was not a Zionist, and that he was not a supporter of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Fifthly, Rose said that he was not a Zionist, and that he was not a supporter of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Sixthly, Rose said that he was not a Zionist, and that he was not a supporter of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Seventhly, Rose said that he was not a Zionist, and that he was not a supporter of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Eighthly, Rose said that he was not a Zionist, and that he was not a supporter of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Ninthly, Rose said that he was not a Zionist, and that he was not a supporter of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Tenthly, Rose said that he was not a Zionist, and that he was not a supporter of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.

Rose also spoke about the role of the Jewish community in the region, and how it has been involved in many of the Jewish community's activities.



## A look back at our year in Politics

Lauren Tutchell  
Head of Politics

What a year it's been for politics!

Our lovely editorial team have worked so hard this year and produced some incredible political pieces, including Laila's thought-provoking commentary on the conflict in Gaza, Cerys' reporting of the Conservative's autumn conference and Adam's fantastic coverage of the chaotic by-elections.

Thomas has also been busy harnessing his journalistic skills and has conducted some brilliant interviews with the likes of Andrew RT Davies, Mick Antoniw and Mark Drakeford who have all provided us with some insightful and reflective commentary about Welsh politics, both past and present.

Initially, I was worried that we'd struggle to find other crazy people who actually enjoy writing about politics to contribute to the newspaper, but I'm pleased to say the uptake has been super successful, so thank you to everyone who has written something for us! We wouldn't be able to function without the amazing students who contribute each edition, so they truly deserve the credit.

If you are reading this and thinking about potentially writing for us in the future, I couldn't recommend it more! Writing for the paper has been one of the best things I've done with my time at university so far.

Many may say print journalism is a dying trade, but I disagree. There's nothing more rewarding than seeing your hard work displayed in physical format, and that's something of a novelty nowadays where our words and thoughts are stored in cyberspace and rarely written down. Getting to bring home an actual newspaper with my name on it for my parents to read is such a rewarding feeling, and I couldn't recommend it more to those who may be considering joining the Gair Rhydd team.

I have absolutely loved being Head of Politics this year, and I am so pleased to see that the politics section has grown to be the biggest in the paper! Getting students engaged with what's going on in the political sphere of the UK and the wider world is so important to me, and I really hope that our articles have helped educate and inform the lovely people who pick up our paper and read it.

It's so important that students take an interest in politics. Our voices shouldn't be silenced by fear of looking weird for caring about what our Government is doing. It matters!

I can't wait to come back next year, where we'll be covering the UK general election, the US presidential election and much, much more!

## Humza Yousaf: A Troubled Tenure

Thomas Wilson  
Politics Editor

As the Green Party co-leaders Patrick Harvie and Lorna Slater departed Bute House on the morning of the 25th April, the Green Party-SNP coalition had reached its conclusion; with the split precipitating a brutal war of words against Humza Yousaf; with Slater accusing Yousaf of "selling out future generations", over the SNP's announcement to scrap the now unreachable target of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 75% by 2030.

Attacks on Yousaf were not perpetrated exclusively by the Green Party when news broke of the split, with Douglas Ross of the Scottish Conservatives lodging a vote of no confidence and Anas Sarwar, Scottish Labour leader, accusing Yousaf of presiding over "failure and incompetency", in his government. As the political assaults continue, the question must be asked; what caused the decline and fall of Humza Yousaf? Since taking the reins of First Minister, Yousaf and the SNP have been marred in controversy; be it the arrests of Nicola Sturgeon and her husband over the disappearing act of £666,955 of party funds that have led



Source: Scottish Government (via Flickr)

to accusations of fraud and embezzlement, to the errors in judgment of Humza Yousaf himself.

A recent example of this would be Yousaf's meeting with Turkish President Recep Erdogan at the COP28 summit in December 2023. The meeting raised issues for two reasons, the first being Erdogan's categorisation of Hamas as a "group of freedom" and "warriors", a mere 18 days after the October 7th atrocities; the second being that the meeting took place without any UK official

present—a clear breach of ministerial protocol. A month after the incident, Yousaf appeared to take aim at his own party, speaking of how he had "always been uncomfortable with the fact we had national in our name".

It would not be a bold assertion to make that that a Scottish nationalist fearful of nationalism is not someone of much, if any, ideological coherence. Not content with challenging the very premise of the party he leads, Yousaf has since overseen the introduction of Hate Crime Act,

criminalising the "intention to stir up hatred." Whilst attempting to clamp down on hate is admirable, given the 1,200% increase in antisemitism recorded in October 2023 from the previous year and the surge in Islamophobia seen in the past few months, the Act has faced significant backlash from lawyers.

Two outspoken critics have been Lorcan Price, an Irish barrister fearful of the "draconian" effects on freedom of speech the Act may have, and Helen Kendy KC, who has taken issue with the Act excluding women as a protected group. The logistics of the Act have proved challenging, with the SNP's effort to develop the required infrastructure admirable, if ever-so satirical; with hate-crime call centres set up in locations such as a Glaswegian sex shop.

Given Yousaf's ability to aggrieve feminists, lawyers, diplomats, nationalists, and environmentalists, it is of little surprise his tenure as First Minister has proven so troublesome.

## Politics of story-telling: Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*

Tom Quickfall  
Contributor

William Shakespeare cut his teeth writing history plays that delved deep into the intricacies of statecraft and kingship. Shakespeare also explored political violence through tragedies such as *Macbeth* and *Julius Caesar*. But even the crowd-pleasing romantic comedies he was knocking out in the 1590s were deeply political works despite their light and laughter.

Take *Twelfth Night*, one of Shakespeare's latest and greatest comedies, written and staged shortly before the death of Elizabeth I in 1603 against a febrile backdrop of courtiers jostling for power, Catholic plots and brewing social unrest. Shakespeare by this time was a court favourite but he had to tread carefully in his work to avoid official censure and even imprisonment. This is one reason why his plays tend to have far-away settings, either in time or geography, even though the issues they explore are topical and indeed timeless.

*Twelfth Night* is set in Illyria, an obscure Mediterranean state that acts as a proxy for Elizabethan England. Its ruler is the Count Orsino, who at the play's start is seeking to marry the wealthy and beautiful Countess Olivia. Had Shakespeare's story followed the conventions of his time, the union would have taken place as the natural and proper way of things: wealth marries wealth, power is extended, an heir is produced to continue the ruling dynasty. This would have been expected, and accepted, even if the couple involved were not in love, especially among the social elite. But this would have made a very short play. As it is, there's a snag... Olivia refuses not only to marry, but even to meet Orsino. She is in mourning for her recently deceased brother and has shut herself away for seven years. Orsino, hamstrung by unrequited love, and not a little irked that his romantic overtures are being flatly de-

nied, falls into a state of melancholy, incapable of doing anything but flop about listening to soppy songs ("If music be the food of love, play on...").

With the country's two most powerful figures temporarily out of action, rival parties jockey for power. In Olivia's household, the ambitious steward Malvolio plans to marry his mistress, defying social convention, and leapfrog into the aristocracy, while her drunken uncle, Sir Toby Belch, plots Malvolio's downfall and the marriage of his wealthy friend Sir Andrew to his niece. Meanwhile in Orsino's court, the androgynous figure of Viola, who is masquerading as a boy, secretly longs to marry Orsino whilst paying court to Olivia on his behalf. Feste, Olivia's Fool, offers sardonic commentary throughout, like a kind of Renaissance *Squirrel Nutkin*, channelling anarchic energy and the spirit of misrule into the drama.

A complex plot develops involving many comic misunderstandings, role-reversal and gender-bending, before finally resolving into a conventional happy ending that marries off the lovers but leaves behind a host of questions about the role of money, social ranks, gender, sexuality and—oh, yes—love, in human relationships. It is not difficult to read Shakespeare's history plays politically since their subject is politics. But in fact, all of Shakespeare's work invites political readings since all his work poses fundamental questions about human nature and the social order. And while his plays generally end on a conservative note, with the status quo of social power structures restored, the journeys to that politically safe resolution explore genuinely radical alternatives.

Alternatives that in *Twelfth Night* reflect a startling number of society's most urgent concerns: gender instability, LGBT and identity politics, class barriers, and feminism.

## New Brexit border charges are coming

Lauren Tutchell  
Head of Politics

The Government has finally revealed the charges that businesses will be facing from the 30th April due to new Brexit border controls. The report—conducted by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)—revealed that imports and transits of animal products, plants, and plant products through the Port of Dover and Eurotunnel will now be subject to a Brexit tariff. The fee, referred to as the 'common user charge', will apply to small imports of food products such as cheese, fish, sausage, salami, and yoghurt.

About a quarter of the UK's food imports pass through these two locations, so these new rules are likely to cause significant disruption. The border controls were initially set to come into force in March 2021, but the UK government has delayed implementing them over five times. The government claim this is because they wanted to give businesses more time to prepare for the disruption that they will cause, allowing them to adapt to the new rules.

However, critics speculate that the real reason for the delay is because the Tories are concerned that the introduction of these controls will disrupt supply chains and add to the already high inflationary pressure, something they do not really want to do directly before an election. The government estimates that these new rules will cost businesses around £330m per year.

As a result, food industry bodies have predicted that businesses and traders will pass these extra costs onto consumers, causing food prices to rise.

Others also fear that many EU businesses will reduce or stop their exports to the UK altogether due to the increased time, effort and cost from the new paperwork that is now required to trade with us.

In particular, trade associations express concerns for the British meat industry (as it imports around half of its pork from the EU) and for the lack of vets within the EU (who are needed to sign the new paperwork), which could significantly reduce supplies. The new controls are also likely to be especially challenging for small businesses who lack the money and resources to complete the necessary paperwork, which could lead to their products disappearing from our shelves.

William Bain—the head of trade policy at the British Chambers of Commerce—said: "The level of import charges shows scant regard to the interests of both businesses and consumers. A flat rate fee for bringing most animal and plant products into the UK is a hammer blow for small and medium-sized importers. It's also deeply concerning for retailers, cafes and restaurants."

Labour have said that British businesses and shoppers were "rightly worried about prices being driven up again" and that it had warned about the "potential for chaos" from these new Brexit border checks. When questioned on what a Labour government would do to help mitigate these issues, Shadow Minister Nick Thomas-Symonds said: "Labour has a plan to reduce costly bureaucracy, through seeking to negotiate a veterinary agreement with the EU to massively reduce the need for checks, helping make food cheaper and our businesses more competitive."



LOVE CARDIFF  
CARU CAERDYDD

# gradu at io

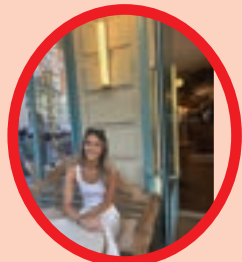
**Order by 7th  
June for FREE  
personalisation**

**order your  
grad hoody now**

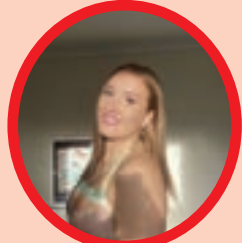


pre-order your graduation  
hoody by 7th June 2024 at  
**[shop.cardiffstudents.com](https://shop.cardiffstudents.com)**

## TAF-OD



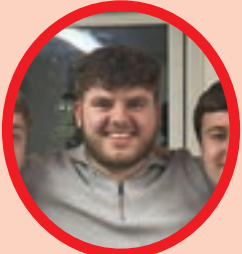
Efa Ceiri



Beca Dalis



Ffion Wyn Jones



Jack Thomas



Llyr Eirug



Millie Stacey

# Diddymu'r cwrs TAR ym Mhrifysgol Aberystwyth yn ddi-rhybudd.

Ffion Wyn Jones  
Golygydd Tafod

Cyhoeddwyd gan Brifysgol Aberystwyth ar ddydd Gwener yr 19eg fod y cwrs TAR (Tystysgrif Addysg i Raddedigion) yn stopio rhedeg.

Mae'r newyddion wedi dod fel sioc at fyfyrwyr Prifysgol Aberystwyth wrth i'r cwrs TAR ddod i ben fel opsiwn ôl-radd. Cafodd y newyddion i'w dorri i fyfyrwyr trwy e-bost annisgwyl.

Y brif rheswn dros ddileu'r cwrs TAR yw bod 'Athrawon ddim yn gwneud cynnydd digonol' yn ôl adroddiad Es-

tyn 2023. Datganai Estyn 5 o argymhellion yn dilyn yr adolygiad a fydd yn cael i'w ail adolygu ymhen rhyw flwyddyn ar ddechrau 2024.

Dyweddodd Prifysgol Aberystwyth mewn datganiad, "Ni fydd cyrsiau TAR yn cael eu cynnal y flwyddyn nesaf. O ganlyniad i benderfyniad Cyn-gor y Gweithlu Addysg i beidio ail-achredu rhaglen TAR... ni fydd cynnig cyrsiau TAR o ddiwedd y flwyddyn academaidd hon ymlaen."

Mae'r effeithiau'n amrywio ar garfanau eang o'r gymuned. Gwel nifer o fyfyrwyr annhegwch wrth iddynt orfod nawr trosi at gyrsiau TAR mewn lleoliadau newydd. Mae'r cyrsiau dal i redeg yn golegau ar draws Gymru

megis Prifysgol MET Caerdydd, Prifysgol De Cymru, Prifysgol Bangor, Y Brifysgol Agored, Prifysgol y Drindod a Phrifysgol Abertawe.

Dyweddodd fyfyrwraig ail flwyddyn (Mirain Jenkins) oedd yn gobeithio astudio'r cwrs TAR ymhen ddwy flynedd fod hi'n "dorcalonnus i glywed fod y cwrs wedi dod ar ben." Yn wreiddiol o Aberteifi, byddai Mirain yn gobeithio cwblhau'r cwrs TAR wrth fyw o adref. Dywedai hi ei fod yn "siom fod rhaid i mi ail-leoli er mwyn cwblhau fy mhrofiad yn y Brifysgol."

Tarddiad: Reading Tom (via Flickr)



## Galw am ymchwiliad annibynnol i rhoddion ymgyrch Gething.

Llyr Eirug  
Golygydd Taf-od

Yn ystod ras arweinyddiaeth y blaid Lafur derbyniodd Vaughan Gething £200,000 ar gyfer ei ymgyrch gan gwmni sy'n cael ei redeg gan ddydd a gafwyd yn euog am droseddau amgylcheddol. Yn ôl adroddiadau mae penderfyniad Vaughan Gething i dderbyn y rhoddion wedi achosi gwrthdaro yn y Senedd. Dywedodd Beth Winter AS Llafur mewn cyfweiliad gyda rhaglen Y Byd yn ei Le ar S4C y dyle Gething 'wedi rhoi'r arian syth yn ôl. Ychwanegodd ei bod ddim yn bwriadu amddiffyn Vaughan Gething ac yn galw am ymchwiliad annibynnol i fewn i'r mater; 'Fe dderbyniwyd yr arian gan

rywun sydd n euog o droseddau amgylcheddol, ac mae pob math o gwestiynau difrifol angen eu hateb. Ni angen ymchwiliad annibynnol' meddai. Yn ogystal, mae Plaid Cymru a'r Ceidwadwyr Cymreig wedi galw am adolygiadau annibynnol. Dywedodd y Ceidwadwyr ei bod hi'n debygol bod Vaughan Gething wedi torri cod y gweinidogion. Gofynnodd Rhun ap Iorwerth i Mr Gething yn ystod Cwestiynau i'r prif weinidog, a oedd wedi cwestiynu o ble y daeth yr arian; 'A ofynnodd y prif weinidog o bwy'r oedd, a gafodd wybod am orffennol troseddol y rhoddwr a dweud nad oes ots - fe gymeraf yr arian beth bynnag' Er y gwrthdaro amlwg ac nifer yn galw am ymchwiliad mae'r

Prif Weinidog yn amddiffyn ei benderfyniad ac wedi gwrthod ymchwiliad annibynnol i'w benderfyniad i dderbyn £200,000. Nododd y Prif Weinidog mewn llythyr at Andrew RT Davies 'Ni fyddaf yn comisiynu unrhyw gyngor pellach nac ymchwiliad annibynnol.'

Tarddiad: Senedd Cymru (via Flickr)



## Caerdydd yn yr haul

Beca Dalis  
Golygydd Taf-od

O'r diwedd mae'r haul wedi dar-fod i'r brifddinas, mae dyddiau hir yr haf ar droed. Mae pawb yn cymryd ar y cyfle i fod allan yn yr haul er bod yr asesiadau a'r arholiadau hefyd yn galw am ein hamser. Mae'n hynod o bwysig fod cydbwysedd gwaith a chymdeithasu yn iach ac felly dyma rhai syniadau ar sut i dreulio'ch seibiant o'r gwaith neu bethau i edrych ymlaen at ym Mehefin.

Un o'r pethau gorau am Gaerdydd ydy Parc Biwt, ewch am bicnic, chwarae pêl-droed a bola heulo ar y gwair.

Yn ogystal, mae Parc y Rhath â llyn yn y canol ac mae modd llogi cwch padlo ar y dŵr.

Ym mis Gorffennaf mae rhai o artistiaid mw-yaf y sin gerddoriaeth Cymraeg i gyd yn dod i Barc Biwt ar y 13-14eg. Rhai o'r bandiau sy'n chwarae ar y brif lwyfan ydy Eden, Fleur de Lys, Gwilym ac Yws Gwynedd.

Mae llawer o gigs cerddoriaeth yn dod i gastell Caerdydd hefyd, bandiau megis Catfish and the Bottlemen ac Idles. Os nad oes modd ichi ddod o hyd i docyn, byddwch yn gallu clywed y bandiau o Barc Biwt neu ar stryd Heol Egl-wys Fair!

Gallwch hefyd fentro i'r bae a mynd ar gwch cyflym ar hyd y dŵr neu wneud cwrs ar y dŵr sy'n agor ym mis Mehefin, neu gwrs rafftiau. Beth am feicio draw i Benarth ar hyd morglawdd Bae Caerdydd?

Mae modd dal y trê'n i draethau de Cymru, fel Ynys y Barri, Gŵyr a Rhossili. Cofiwch hefyd fod Bryste ddim yn bell o gwbl!

Rydyn ni hefyd yn lwcus fod llawer o 'beer gardens' yn ein pentref myfyrwyr yn Cathays, felly mae modd torri syched, cymdeithasu a dal lliw'r haul.

(Tarddiad: Wikimedia Commons) Gobeithio bod y gweithgareddau yma

wedi eich ysbrydoli i wneud y mwyaf o'ch amser yng Nghaerdydd a hefyd i fwrw ati gyda'ch gwaith er mwyn gwneud amryw o bethau!

Tarddiad: Riaz Kanani (via Flickr)



# Cerddoriaeth Caerdydd

## Efa yn son am y gerddoriaeth yn dod i Gaerdydd

Efa Ceiri  
Pennaeth Taf-Od

**O**s ydych chi'n bwriadu troedio strydoedd Caerdydd yn y misoedd nesaf, mae gan y brifddinas ddigon i'w gynnig i'ch difyrru drwy'r haf o ran y sector cerddoriaeth.

Gyda Bruce Springsteen newydd berfformio yn Stadiwm y Principality, mae digon o wynebaw cyfarwydd eto i ddod yn y brifddinas yr haf yma.

Taylor Swift

Mae cryn siarad wedi bod am ymweliad Taylor Swift i Gaerdydd wedi bod yn ddiweddar ac os ydych chi'n ddigon ffodus o wedi llwyddo i gael gafael ar y tocynnau prin, yna mae am fod yn fis Mehefin i'w gofio. 18fed o Fehefin yw'r dyddiad dan sylw ble fydd Stadiwm y Principality yn llawn glitters ac esgidiau cowbois. Mae Pre Concert Party ar gael hefyd yn y Botanist rhwng 14:00 a 18:00 yh i'r rhai sy'n awyddus.

Catfish and The Bottlemen

Mae'r band llwyddiannus o Landudno, Catfish and The Bottlemen hefyd yn ymweld â Chaerdydd yn ystod yr haf. Ar ôl seibiant o ddwy flynedd, bydd modd gweld y band yn eu gogoniant unwaith eto ar yr 20fed o Orffennaf yng nghastell Caerdydd.

Tafwyl

I'r rhai ohonoch sy'n mwynhau cerddoriaeth Gymraeg mae Tafwyl yn ôl am flwyddyn arall eleni! Rhwng y 12fed a 14eg o Orffennaf eleni, bydd cyfle i chi fwynhau ystod eang o ddoniau Cymraeg gan gynnwys Yws Gwynedd, Gwilym, Eden, Al Lewis, Meinir Gwilym a Pys Melyn.

Mae'r wyl sydd wedi'i wthrefnu gan Menter Caerdydd yn dychwelyd yn nôl i Barc Bute ac yn dathlu ei phenblwydd yn 18. Bydd Tafwener yn cael ei gynnal nos Wener y 12fed, gyda Carabela, Connie Orff, Mel Owen a Carwyn Blayney yn perfformio. Bydd Dragwyl yn cael ei gynnal ar yr 11eg o Orffennaf yng Nghanolfan y Mileniwm. I hawlio'ch tocynnau, ewch i [www.mentercaerdydd.cymru](http://www.mentercaerdydd.cymru).

Wrth gyhoeddi'r artistiaid, dywedodd Tafwyl ar eu cyfrif Instagram, 'Gyda chefnogaeth Llywodraeth Cymru fydd sawl elfen newydd cyffrous yn Tafwyl eleni, dilynwyd i gadw fyny gyda'r newyddion!

Tarddiad: Senedd Cymru, Eva Rinaldi, Drew de Fawkes (via Flickr)



# Can't Help Falling in Love with Cymru: Oedd Elvis yn Gymro?

Jack Thomas  
Golygydd Taf-Od

**Y**dych chi byth wedi gwrandao ar ganeuon Elvis Presley? Ganwyd yr eicon cerddorol yn Mississippi yn 1935, a thrwy gydol ei oes gwerthodd dros biliwn o recordiau ledled y Byd, yn trawsnewid cerddoriaeth am byth.

Awgrymodd yr academydd Terry Breverton bod gwreiddiau Elvis yn ardal y Preseli yng ngorllewin Cymru. Awgrymodd fod gysylltiad rhwng y canwr ac ardal Sant Elvis ym mynyddoedd y Preseli yn Sir Benfro.

Gellid clywed y tebygrwydd a sut gall yr ystyriaeth ei wneud – Elvis Presley o Sant Elvis, Preseli.

Mae'n bosib felly, bod Brenin Roc a Roll yn dod yn wreiddiol o Gymru, ond oes cysylltiadau arall?

Mae sawl academydd wedi ymchwilio i gysylltiad Elvis gyda Hen Wlad ein Tadau, a bu rhai'n uwchleuo'r cysylltiadau rhwng y teulu Presley ac enwau Cymraeg. Yn gyntaf, mae enw canol Elvis 'Aron' wedi'u sillafu heb yr ail 'A', a bu enw canol ei efell bu farw ar enedigaeith 'Garon' yn ychwanegu at yr honiadau o Gymreictod yn y teulu.

Mae enw eu Mam, Gladys, hefyd yn gyswllt i Gymru. Awgrymai Breverton ei bod yn bosib i Fam-gu Elvis, Doll Mansell, perthyn

i'r teulu Mansel enwog o Oxwich yn ardal Gwyr, Abertawe.

Bu farw Elvis yn 1977, ond mae ei ddylanwad yn dal i gael ei theimlo ledled y Byd, gan gynnwys yng Nghymru. Mae'r wyl flynyddol i Elvis ym Mhorthcawl yn denu dros 40,000 o gefnogwyr i ddathlu bywyd, cerddoriaeth, a dawnsio'r eicon.

Mae'r wyl yn cynnwys cystadleuaeth lle mae cystadleuwyr yn gwisgo, dawnsio, a chanu fel Mr. Presley, ond mae amryw o stondinau a pherfformiadau arall yn creu penwythnos o roc a roll.

Bydd yr wyl yn dechrau ar y 27ain o Fedi eleni, a gellid darganfod mwy o wybodaeth ar eu gwefan.

Mae nifer o wledydd yn honni fod eicon mwyaf cerddoriaeth yn ôl nifer, Elvis Presley, yn dod o'u gwlad. Yn rhan o'r gwledydd yma mae Cymru, sy'n honni fod cysylltiadau rhwng y Brenin Roc a Roll ac ardal hardd yng ngorllewin y wlad.

Er i Elvis byth ymweld â'r wlad yn ei oes, mae'n bosib bod ganddo gysylltiad agos ati.

Tarddiad: Bud Care (via Flickr)



## NEWS

**Stormy Daniels clashes with Trump lawyers over sex claim and cash**

**Eurovision Final is this Saturday with the contest being held in Malmo, Sweden**

**Boeing whistleblower says plane parts had serious defects**

**Diners left £180 of restaurant bill unpaid in Wiltshire**

**Thousands of drivers caught breaking 20mph limit**

news@gairrhydd.com

## ‘Hardest Geezer’ runs the length of Africa

Dilichi Dieobi  
Head of News

16 countries, 352 days and 16,400 kilometres later, Russ Cook truly earned his title as the Hardest Geezer on the 7th of April. The 27-year-old from Worthing in West Sussex said he wanted to make a difference and therefore decided to complete 360 marathons in 240 days. However, due to a lack of an Algerian visa, he was halted. Cook raised a total of £700,000 for charity once he had completed his run, and was greeted by crowds chanting “geezer” in Ras Angela, Tunisia. After crossing the finish line, Cook told reporters that he was “pretty tired” and proudly stated to his followers “Mission completed.”

After completing South Africa and Namibia in 50 days, Cook was faced with a serious setback. He and his support team had

many valuables including their passports and visas, despite this the ultrarunner still continued his epic journey.

Cook also faced health complications, as running more than a marathon a day began to have a serious effect on his body. What started out simply as tummy aches, became more problematic health issues as doctors found blood and protein in his urine. He also suffered recurring back pain which was his biggest concern. On day 200, a doctor in Nigeria advised Cook to reduce his daily mileage and intensity, and even missed running completely on 205 and 206. However, in true Hardest Geezer fashion of course, this did not stop him. He said that due to their being no bone damage, he had to “stop mincing about like a little weasel, get the strongest painkillers available and zombie stomp road again.”

Cook faced yet another set-

back as he waited to cross the boarder from Mauritania into Algeria. At the time he said “if we don’t get the visas, then it is game over”. His video caught the attention of 11 million people on X, including Elon Musk and the UK Home Office. This huge amount of attention helped Cooked greatly, as the UK’s Algerian embassy provided him with a courtesy visa immediately.

After these multiple setbacks, the final task Cook had to complete was the Sahara Desert. With no more tarmac roads or signs of civilisation, Cook set foot in the Sahara and the final length of his ultrarun, the finish date planned to be the 7th of April. In order to avoid daytime heat and possible sandstorms, he decided to run through the night and up his mileage to catch up on lost time.

Finally, on the last marathon of his incredible run, Cook prepared to run to Tunisia’s most

northernly point. He was joined by many supporters from all over the world and once he crossed the finish line was greeted with one hell of a party with a performance from the British punk band Soft Play at a hotel in Bizerte.

## Expression Dance Charity Events 2023/24

Holly Fairweather  
Contributor

It has been another great year for Expression Dance, a contemporary dance society at Cardiff University that have raised over £300 for charity. Over the course of the year, not only have we been performing across the UK in a number of competitions, but held many events to raise money for charity.

At the start of the year in October, we held a coffee morning to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Open to all, the coffee morning welcomed new and old members to the society and simultaneously raised money for charity. We recommended everyone to donate directly to the website and served coffee and cakes to all who came and was a great success.

Also in October, we held a week of pink-themed classes to help raise awareness for Breast Cancer Awareness Month in partnership with the Cardiff Uni Boob Team Society representing Coppa Feel. The classes held awareness to check ourselves, look out for signs, and encourage others to do the same.

With Christmas on the way, in December Expression did a joint charity event with the Cardiff Rowing Society to raise money for Crisis at Christmas to provide support for homeless people in Cardiff. We charged £2 for tickets and asked everyone to bring some tinned food for our food bank collection. We split the event in half with the first hour teaching our rowers alongside the dancers some dance routines. Impressed with their skills we then encouraged

the rowers, with help from our dancers, to create some choreography of their own to perform in a competition at the end. After whipping out some incredible dance moves, the rowers then taught our dancers to row. After practicing on the rowing machines for 45 minutes, we were ready to go for another friendly (and not at all competitive...) competition. The event was incredibly successful, making new friends and raising over £75 for charity with plans to do more charity collaborations in the future.

Our biggest charity event of the year was our annual Dance-a-thon. Dance-a-thon is a 12-hour dance event, starting at 9 am and finishing at 9 pm. Dance-a-thon raised money for Dance Aid which is a charity that raises money for orphaned, poor, and disabled children across the UK, Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe. Dance Aid also provides emergency relief for children in disaster zones and earthquake territories such as Turkey and Syria. Every hour a new class starts with a different style of dance, inviting other dance societies such as Bollywood, Aerial Fitness, and Korean Choreography to teach. Charging £1 for classes, members and non-members could drop in and out of it throughout the day, make friends, and have fun. By the end of the day, there were lots of smiley, sweaty faces but very pleased that we’d raised over £230 for charity and it became our biggest success of the year.

With even bigger plans for more charity events for next year keep an eye out for Expression charity socials on our Instagram @expressiondancecu for more. Just below are links to the charities for more information and donation pages.



## Three Years at University

Megan Huws  
News Editor

It feels like a cliché to say that my university experience has flown by, but it truly has. I can hardly believe that it has been nearly three whole years.

Almost two years ago I wrote an article for Gair Rhydd called ‘A respective account of the fresher’s experience’. I wanted to share the mistakes I made and the lessons that I learnt with

the next lot of freshers. Looking back on this article a lot has changed. Most of the clubs I mentioned have since closed, we no longer have to wear masks to go to lectures and I am no longer checking Google Maps every five minutes to work out where I am. However, the biggest change is my overall priorities. I have swapped late nights out for early morning seminars, cook myself healthy meals and have even started running again. I have joined new societies and find myself going to the trainings more than the socials. I have gone from writing the very occasional article to a News Editor for Gair Rhydd, with plans

to do a News Journalism Masters next year. This isn’t to say I have completely changed; I still love a pub trip and can’t wait to drunkenly celebrate the end of exams.

Although I had a mostly wonderful time in first year, I would not want to go back. I did make some of my closest friends, learnt valuable lessons about moving out for the first time and experienced massive personal growth. However, I have come to value not living in first-year accommodation, being constantly hungover and confused about how everything works.

I probably wouldn’t change anything that I

wrote in that article, maybe just update some details. My advice to freshers is still to push yourself and meet a variety of people, go to a variety of events and societies, and spend most of the year hungover.

Not every aspect of my three years at university has been perfect, but I am incredibly grateful for the experiences, opportunities, and personal growth it has allowed me.

# Apple's €1.8bn fine from the EU Commission: a glorified parking ticket

Justin Ng  
Contributor

On the 4th of March, Apple was reportedly handed a fine for anti-competitive practices of about 1.84 billion euros (£1.57 billion) by the European Commission, the EU's executive arm. This fine was said to be the build-up of long-running antitrust investigation triggered by Spotify's complaint back in 2019. The European Commission initiated an anti-trust probe in response to Spotify's allegations, investigating concerns that Apple was actively obstructing apps within its App Store. The investigation focused on the accusation that Apple hindered these apps from adequately informing iOS users about alternative and more cost-effective music subscription services available outside the app ecosystem. The anti-steering provision enforced by Apple on these apps was considered by itself to be enough evidence for a violation and breach of Article 102(a) of the TFEU. The imposed fine was originally reported to be 500 million euros (£426 million), now a near

four times of what it was supposed to be. The itemised breakdown? A basic element of 40 million euros - described as a "parking ticket" for the now multi-trillion dollar company by Margarethe Vestager, European Competition Commissioner - plus an additional 1.8 billion euro penalty served in the name of "deterrence", amounting to about 0.5% of Apple's global turnover as reported in their financial report of 2022. According to analyst Ryan Reith at International Data Corporation (IDC), although a hefty fine on the surface, Apple will likely be able to handle it without any immediate cash impact. Apple shares were subsequently down 3.2% on Monday Afternoon (4th March), following the press release of the EU Commission's fine. However as a regular consumer of the technology and services, you might be curious as to how this may affect you. After all if you had intended to subscribe to Spotify's music streaming service, you still would have paid for the same price regardless of which platform, app or web, you did it through right? You'd be wrong. Apple charges a 30 per cent fee for all sales made through the App Store, a cost that the commission has identified to be likely passed on to

consumers to bear the burden in the form of higher subscription charges. Certain subscription companies such as Spotify, have been able to circumvent this surcharge, but at the cost of degraded user-experiences as iOS users are required to actively seek out relevant offers outside the app, potentially leading to unsuccessful attempts at securing subscriptions from would be consumers due to the inability of finding the right one independently. The EU Commission, following Vestager's order, will be enforcing Apple's removal of the App Store restriction. Which means we will likely see lower prices for third party iOS services and subscriptions, that or at the very least, a higher profit margin for app developers.

Source: Sabin Paul Croce (via Flickr)



# Budget cuts threaten the existence of National Museum Cardiff

Adam Dunstan  
Politics Editor

In recent weeks, a row has broken out between the Welsh Government and Amgueddfa Cymru (Museum Wales), as new First Minister Vaughan Gething announced budget cuts to the organisation. In response Gething defended the cuts in a speech on 15th April, as National Museum Cardiff's chief executive, Jane Richardson, said the budget cuts could result in 90 job losses and even the closure of the branch.

The organisation run seven museums in Wales. These include St Fagan's National Museum of History and the Big Pit National Coal Museum near Abergavenny. The museum in Cardiff is the largest and the most in need of repairs.

In a comment to Gair Rhydd, a spokesperson for Amgueddfa Cymru said the organisation "currently has no plans to close National Museum Cardiff", however, extra funding is needed to fix "the deterioration of the roof of the museum". Regarding redundancies, the organisation has "not made any at present" but is undertaking "a voluntary severance scheme due to cuts to our funding". She concluded, "Items on display at National Museum Cardiff are part of the national collection of Wales – they belong to the people of Wales, and Amgueddfa Cymru is the caretaker of these items; we take this responsibility very seriously".

Gair Rhydd also contacted the Welsh Government for comment. A spokesperson replied, "Wales' culture, art and sports institutions are an integral part of our society and well-being, enriching our communities

and inspiring future generations" and repeated Amgueddfa Cymru's assurance that there are no plans to close the museum. She added that "extremely difficult decisions" have had to be made because "our budget for 2024/25 is worth up to £700 million less in real terms than when it was set out in 2021".

The news that the museum is not closing is likely to be a relief to students at Cardiff University, some of whom volunteer at the museum and have previously visited. Currently, the museum is exhibiting Van Gough's famous self-portrait in an exhibition titled "The Art of the Selfie". The portrait will be on display until 26th January 2025. Other events include a dinosaur-themed museum sleepover on the 4th of May and a silent disco on the 8th of June, which you can find tickets for online at museum.wales.

In a survey conducted by Gair Rhydd, 18 out of 31 participants said they had visited the museum, with another 23 out of 37 saying they would be upset if the museum closed. Lots of respondents said they "love" the museum for various reasons. Some said because "it's free", "reminds me of Doctor Who" as they filmed some episodes there and "has beautiful architecture". One noted that she felt "that people don't know it's there", which was backed up by another comment that a trip to the museum isn't "a priority when I'm wondering what to do". Considering the museum is only a five-minute walk from the Students Union building and has some awesome upcoming events, I'd recommend everyone visit in the run-up to leaving Cardiff for the summer holidays.

# Delving into the Archive

As it's Issue 1200, let's take a trip down memory lane and see what stories were dominating the headlines over 10 years ago in Issue 1000!

## Students' Union accused of encouraging binge drinking

**VIP DRINK THE BAR DRY**



**Student's thoughts**

Julia, 20

"The name of the event was 'one people drinking responsibly, they're not a bit of fun. We're students we'll drink regardless of the name.'"

**Students' unions**

Kathryn Lewis  
News Editor

Cardiff University's Students' Union is to be investigated over concerns that the names of certain nights at Selva promote irresponsible drinking among students. 'The Last' and 'Think the Bar Dry' have been criticised by campaigners from Alcohol Concern.

However, the Students' Union has defended its brand names. Commenting on the matter, a spokesperson from the Union said: "The event is focused around entertainment more than drinks." Furthermore, the Union firmly believe they deliver the safest environment that they can for their students. "We consistently aim to ensure that we do not be addressed, it should also be applied to the branded event nights in Cardiff's nightclubs, for example, the names of Glastonbury on a Monday evening and a night at Selva which is known as 'Vodka Revolution', promote drinking as much as the Union's branded events do."

## For & Against

### Are the Student Elections too much of a gimmick?

Opinion writers Kirstie Smith and Philippa Ako consider whether the Student Union Elections are not taken seriously enough



**For**

**Against**

It's Student Elections, have shortened, with voting day.

It's time, just like, with students, is not always a bad.

# Cardiff Student Media Awards 2024



## A Brilliant Night Celebrating Gair Rhydd and Everyone Else in Student Media

Editor-in-Chief Edward reflects on the night!

For the first time in ages, Student Media has held their own awards evening—and what a night it was! The combined power of the entirety of Cardiff Student Media (CSM) made for a great night surrounded by friends and colleagues, showing how far CSM has come in deepening the collaborations between us all. COVID had a massive impact on all areas of CSM, as it limited our ability to collaborate amongst our groups and as a collective. It's taken a few years to get back to a busy

media office and a more interconnected media environment. I am very proud to be a part of this year's media leadership team and the Media Awards this year was a great example of how far we've come. Myself, Tomos, Ben, and Alanya hosted this year's awards with over 50 up for grabs. For Gair Rhydd, we had 8 in total and a range of nominations from across the newspaper. From Opinion to Sport, Politics to Taf Od, the breadth of skills possessed by members of Gair Rhydd was put on full display. You

can see the full list of winners below in the infographic! I have to give a big shout-out to Nancy, who organised the whole night and kept the music playing and the PowerPoint rolling. Without her, the night wouldn't have been possible! I dusted off my hosting skills and announced all the winners for Gair Rhydd and also tried to be the CSM hype man to mixed reception. The drink vouchers were flowing just like the certificates. Celebrating the best that CSM had to offer made for a very memorable night and

hopefully this continues with the next generation of leaders. To top it all off, the after party at Heidi's made some memorable moments for student media, with Tomos joining the staff of Heidi's for their classic rendition of *Hey! Baby*. My highlight of the night was the announcement of the next Editor-in-Chief, Belle, with Tomos announcing the next Station Manager, Adam, at the same time! Can't wait to see everyone again at the SVMAs on Friday 10th May!

Over 50  
Awards

From all  
across Stu-  
dent Media

Fantastic  
Night



# The Night in Pictures



Thank you to everyone who attended, we hope to see you next year!

# Opinion



## Don't Fall for the 'E-Fuel' Scam—EVs are the Way

Daniel Raybould  
Deputy Editor

In 2023, a European Union proposal to ban the sale of combustion engine cars from 2035 was delayed by Germany, whose last-minute campaign insisted on an exemption for synthetic fuels, also termed “e-fuels”, much to the chagrin of the other member states. Given the country’s huge auto-manufacturing sector, and its petrol-head populace, this was hardly surprising. Nor was it particularly a shock when the EU mostly buckled to Germany’s demands and allowed the exemption.

Many commentators have suggested that synthetic fuels—made by combining carbon dioxide with hydrogen, which can be synthesised with minimal CO2 emissions if so-called ‘green hydrogen’ is used—could displace electric vehicles (EVs) as the dominant mode by which automotive transportation is to be decarbonised. This technology has been hailed as a superior alternative to EVs, as it can be used in most existing combustion engine vehicles, meaning that the sizeable embedded emissions of the production process of electric vehicles, as well as much of the environmentally and socially destructive effects of its requisite mineral mining, could be avoided entirely. Though others, whose views I find far more persuasive, have argued that this has primarily been a ploy by fossil fuel interests to prolong the manufacture of combustion engine vehicles, and thereby the use of fossil fuels for transportation.

To give them some credit, the EU did seem to have shared this perspective with me, as they ultimately did partially challenge Germany’s goals by stipulating that the exemption apply only to “such vehicles [with] technology that would prevent them from driving if other fuels are used”, which if enacted properly would avoid the worst-case

scenario of Germany’s campaign— the prolonging of the sale of cars powered by fossil fuels at a time in which the decarbonisation of the transport sector (currently responsible for 20% of global emissions) is more pivotal than ever. This does mean, though, that those purported benefits of synthetic fuels, the possibility of their use in existing vehicles, are now entirely moot.

So, what’s the problem with this? If the EU has made sure that there is still a ban on new fossil fuel-powered vehicles by 2035, with only low-carbon vehicles allowed to be sold, then what am I complaining about? This is the part where I argue that the exemption for synthetic fuels is a colossal failure in climate action, and that Germany has once again proven itself a nuisance for achieving the EU’s climate goals by challenging the initial proposal. Synthetic fuels suck. They are terrible. This is not just because of the not-so-unlikely possibility that many jurisdictions will simply produce these fuels without the necessary ‘green hydrogen’ needed to make the process more sustainable, but also because even in a paradisiacal world where all electricity and hydrogen is produced from low- or zero-carbon sources, they are vastly worse than electric vehicles.

Even if we assume 100% clean energy and hydrogen, according to the European Federation for Transport and Environment AISBL, the sheer inefficiency of the combustion engine leads to an overall system efficiency from wind turbines to the car’s wheels of 17–20%, compared to 77% for entirely electric vehicles. Even factoring in their production, synthetic fuels emit more CO2 than EVs (55% more according to the Transport & Environment NGO). On top of that, even if entirely ‘green’, they are extraordinarily inefficient to produce, requiring absolutely insane amounts of energy compared to EVs. According to Carbon Brief, running all of the UK’s cars on ‘e-fuels’ would require five

times more electricity than if they were EVs. All these cars alone would require more electricity than the UK uses in total right now. What a genius climate policy!

Even if you deny climate change altogether this would be an astronomically stupid proposal based on the sheer expensiveness of synthetic fuels alone. According to the IPCC, they are up to three times more expensive than even conventional fossil fuels. Furthermore, synthetic fuels do next to nothing to reduce air pollution, as they do not reduce pollutants such as NOx, carbon monoxide, and fine particulates, all of which are hazardous to health and the environment. There is probably no place for synthetic fuels in transportation, no matter what fuel companies and car manufacturers like Porsche may say. All their implementation will do is drastically increase the demand for renewable energy for transportation, which would avoidably complicate the already challenging transition to a more sustainable electricity grid.

Thankfully, in the United Kingdom, the lobbying efforts of fossil fuel interests to eschew EVs for synthetic fuels, have been largely ignored. The government rejected these fuels on the basis that they were “expensive”, “not proven”, and because of their failure to sufficiently reduce air pollution. Let us hope that this remains the case going into the future, so we can live in a world where cars don’t kill us quite as much as today. Because while electric vehicles are very far from a silver bullet solution to our emissions problem, they remain a necessary component in the decarbonisation of the transport sector, particularly in countries whose existing car-centric infrastructure makes the transition to the even more sustainable ideal of as few cars as possible far less likely.

The climate transition is going to be a rocky one, and some sectors and individuals are going to feel vilified for their inaction,

and while it is important to remember that we all have a shared responsibility to change our unsustainable Western ways, it is important to keep things in perspective. No one is going to take away your right to drive a car anytime soon. All that is being asked is a shift from a stinky, inefficient, polluting, and world-heating hunk of metal to one that isn’t quite as damaging to the planet we live on. Doesn’t seem like such a major imposition to me, given the scale of the climate crisis. Avoid action now, and the impositions on our lives are only ever going to get worse. Let’s all avoid a temperature rise scenario where things get so bad that nobody is allowed to drive at all by saying goodbye to the combustion engine today. Its time is done. Thank you old friend. Let’s get electric.

Source: US Department for Energy (via Pexels)



## Rediscovering the Magic: Childhood Activities for Adult Joy

Ella Lane  
Opinion Editor

With university deadlines, jobs and rent to pay, I’m sure most of you agree that life can sometimes feel overwhelming. Sometimes, I wish I could go back to being a child, when all that mattered was acing my spelling tests and the happiness of my nintendogs. Despite the responsibilities of adulthood, there value in reconnecting with the simple pleasures and creativity of childhood activities.

Nostalgia is a powerful feeling that can come from many aspects of life. Whether it be a scent that reminds you of your freshly washed school uniform or a film you’d forgotten was your favorite when you were young, reminders of the past stir feelings of comfort. Revisiting childhood activities such as drawing, playing games or building lego can serve as a gateway to tapping into nostalgic feelings. Children possess a creativity, which often fades away as we get older. Studies suggest that this is because as adults, we stick with what ‘works’ to further our success, whether this be studying or working harder for longer hours. This leads us to stifle our natural creativity.

The concept of ‘play’ is a foreign one to many adults in the 21st century. Typically viewed as childish or counterproductive, many ignore the positive implications that come with ‘play’ during your downtime. For children, play is vital in their emotional development, building their cognitive and motor skills alongside teaching them emotional regulation. For adults, play can be an opportunity to add some childhood joy back into life. While taking some time off your regular hobbies or studies, some nostalgic downtime could be what you need to enhance your productivity.

Revisiting nostalgic activities is important because they offer a mindfulness that ‘adult’ hobbies such as reading or exercising do not. Childhood activities offer a sense of presence and immersion, where you can easily forget the stress of everyday life. Engaging in activities like spending time outside or dancing to music can bring this lost sense of mindfulness back into your life. So, search in the loft for your old DS, raid the garage for the forgotten Wii, or stick on a Barbie movie and forget what it’s like to be an adult for a while.

## The Unoriginality of Modern Day Hollywood

Khaanam Mohammed  
Contributor

In the modern media landscape, it has become clear that there is a lack of creativity specifically surrounding different forms of entertainment. We can observe this through music and how new artists sample different sounds that have been used in previous songs not written by themselves. An example of this is seen with an original song called ‘Boadicea’ by Enya made in 1987, which was then sampled in 2004 by Mario Winans with his song ‘I don’t wanna know’, and more recently by the Weeknd with the song ‘Creepin’ released in 2022. This suggests that there is a lot of recycling in the music industry which has led to a lack of originality amongst artists.

This is also a common issue in show business, where we constantly see remakes and sequels of the same films rather than unique ideas, this has been a frequent problem over the years with movie franchises such as Ghostbusters. The original Ghostbusters was released in 1984 and since then there have been multiple sequels and remakes with similar storylines including the 2024

film Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire which was heavily criticised and faced low ratings, further proving Hollywood’s insufficiency of new ideas. I believe that the absence of artistic risks in the entertainment sector has dramatically impacted viewers enjoyment in films, music and television and the only way to peak their interest is to produce fresh content completely different to the past. In my opinion the current era of film and television is diluted by remakes, sequels and genres such as romcom films where they have the same storylines but just different characters, this shortage of ideas in the industry not only affects us in the present but also erases iconic moments of history such as with the gossip girl remake changing key plot points from the original series.

On the other hand, new releases such as ‘Saltburn’ and ‘The Whale’ that project an individual idea have been significantly more successful, this conveys that distinctive ideas are much more valuable to the film industry, and film makers should aim to produce more authentic art to keep up with an evolving audience.

## James reflects on his time as a fresher

Is university worth it? It's a common question asked nowadays in public discourse. There are innumerable self-help gurus, entrepreneur types, dim witted politicians and ex-students who will give their take. "Don't go!" they say. "Make your own way in the world" (often by following whatever scam they are selling). Whilst this kind of rugged individualism may appeal to some, and has some genuine merits, I instead would suggest that going to university is an enriching and worthwhile thing to do. To make this point I want to reflect on my first year.

The first fits of freedom are often beguiling. Days pass in alcoholic haze, kitchens dirty, work left undone and the body is nourished only by pot noodles and kebabs. When I look back to the first 3-4 weeks of life in Talybont I have trouble placing things in chronology. Events (and unfortunately certain people) are inevitably condensed into the freshers' whole. But having departed that time I have, for the first time in my life, had to look after myself from day to day. This perhaps more than even the academic things I have learned, has been the most fulfilling aspect of the year. When I came here, buying and cooking a reasonably healthy rota of meals was a challenge, one I have almost overcome. As I was also looking

after my health, having a mum who works as a nurse meant I never really needed to self-diagnose, I learnt the hard way not to put every symptom down to a cold. In both learning to cook and stay alive I can name two obvious ways in which moving to Cardiff has taught me a great deal. This is however, not the 1960s, and home is but a phone call away whenever advice may be sought. Nonetheless I can't imagine that I would have become as independent had I stayed at home.

Of course, for most of us caught in the dominion of the alcohol aisle, Cardiff life inevitably results in more than a few wobbly mornings, and perhaps an equal number of slightly embarrassing nights. Some might dislike this student “decadence” but who cares? For most people University is three years of fun to be looked back on favourably.

Speaking of his student years St Augustine wrote “all around me hissed a cauldron of illicit loves”. It is easy to draw comparisons to Cardiff today, one only has to Misfits to see that. But Cardiff is more than it's Corinthian aspects, and the experience of getting to know the city has been enriching. From Sunday strolls through Bute or Roath parks, or a wonder through the Edwardian arcades, this city has some real charm. (It is to those places, steering well clear of Cathays, that I bring people who visit me). As so many people go to university now, and

thus generally move away, it is easy to overlook the significance of making a home in another place. Learning to find your own place in the world, not one given by inheritance or the decisions of others, provides the first opportunity for most of us to live an independent life. It is in that state of independence that I have for the first time taken real responsibility for my life.

It is a common criticism of university, normally from those who haven't been, that going to one is like following the herd. Yet, the reality of the experience is far more individualistic. This is not Hogwarts, things do not appear as if by magic, one must do things for one's self, no one else can.

That said I (and I hope the reader) have not been alone in finding my place in this city. I have made many friends here who I would otherwise have never encountered. When we meet people from outside our area of the country or whose background is very different to our own, we grow in understanding and outlook. Something perhaps less achievable by staying in our own shire. Some friendships fade away but others endure, and may prove for me one of the longer lasting legacies of university, but only time will tell.

I have yet to mention academia, which is strange since that is the only reason we are here, I hope. Perhaps my attention to the social

side of university life reflects what the first year is like, at least for those of us who only have to pass. Yet I have gained a great deal from my studies. I have been made to see my subjects (English and History) in ways I would not have otherwise. I have been led into new fields of study and made to critically think far beyond the ways I did before coming here. Would I have thought to read *Orientalism* or *The Canons of the fourth Lateran council*? Probably not.

The arguments about the merits of academic versus practical education are beyond the scope of this article. However, I would argue that there are genuine merits to a university education in terms of teaching critical thinking and how to articulate an argument, skills which have an extremely wide application.

Those skills, along with the induction to independent life which accompanies university life, must show that moving to university is an entirely valid thing to do. A choice which propels you into adulthood and has given me at least, far more opportunities than could ever have found in my small Devon hometown.

# Delving into the Archive

As it's issue 1200, let's take a trip down memory lane and see what opinions were forming in the student body 10 years ago in Issue 1000!

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

# Singapore and the new media

Kirsten Han looks at the impact that social networking has had upon the political climate of her home country of Singapore

I'd never, as Singaporean, previously been likely to check up on an average of six hours online per week, or on a news website report card. Personally, I think that outside like an underbelly, I have more fellow Singaporeans who stay silent, or even drop in from every waking hour.

Many are likely to go by the name Candy Crush Saga or peering through their frenzied re-iterations, but new media - Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc. - have also opened up opportunities for Singaporeans looking to become more active citizens.

On February 16th, about seven people gathered in Hong Kong's Victoria Park - the only place where Singaporeans are allowed to gather without a permit - to sign their opposition to the government's Deposition White Paper, which laid out policies and predictions up to 2020. The turnout wasn't huge compared to other demonstrations around the world, but was significant for Singapore, a conservative country that has only seen once major strikes in 20 years.

The protest was largely organized and publicized via Facebook, but the largest that new media has had on Singapore stretches much further and deeper into the nation's political landscape and history.

Through various legislation, policies and regulations, the authoritarian media in Singapore is often perceived as present-moment locked or indifferent. There are strict times when such social sites are banned right; headlines carefully needed to reflect well upon the establishment; Internet servers censored to silence criticism.

It's difficult to imagine the government's reaction, so self-censorship is common among writers, transcribing the government's narrative.

Previously, people would have had no choice but to accept the mainstream narrative. The Internet changed things. Unlike with print and broadcast, one did not have to observe a hierarchy from the government to start a blog or website. In recent years, we've seen a rise in citizen journalism, or political websites like The Online Citizen and 17 Empire have gained prominence in the country, with thousands of Singaporeans constantly referring to them for news and commentary. Others have also begun to establish their own blogs, some of which have a sizable number of followers. And of course, commentators (and bloggers) have sprung up all over Facebook and Twitter as issues have immigration to education to democracy.

The result is an erosion in the climate of fear that has long reigned over the country. But an erosion, too. At its core, while many Singaporeans may still feel some things leading really contentious or political topics it is no longer taken to openly support, or even less, supported and feared.

In the new general elections, social networks allowed people to share photographs, videos and stories from rallies, and almost everyone ended had something to say about politics and what to do next. When the results were announced, the ruling People's Action Party (PAP) - who have held in power since 1959 with very little opposition - received about two-thirds fewer votes than they lost in history.

For the government, it's a watershed of sorts, whether it's a victory or a defeat. Although pollsters can tell by looking through Parliament on the back of their majority into sight having only four of the seats the PAP has for most of its years in Parliament, their actions and decisions are now scrutinized and often loudly criticized, with alternative views and arguments spreading like wildfire through social networks. The February 2011 election was just the most recent example.

To respond, they too have taken to the Internet, setting up Facebook pages for their members of Parliament and kicking off a virtual conversation with voters posted on YouTube and a Twitter hashtag. It's a clever ploy to maintain effect, one that may yet pay off. But Facebook's Ban Box has been ignored, and many Singaporeans have found their voices. For better or worse, it's unlikely that they'll give it up now without a fight.

A wide-angle, low-angle shot of the Singapore skyline at night. Several tall buildings are lit up with warm yellow lights, contrasting with the deep blue twilight sky. The buildings vary in architectural style, with some having distinctive top sections. The foreground shows the lower parts of the buildings and some street-level lighting, creating a sense of depth and scale.

## REVIEW

## Back to Black: A Biopic of Amy Winehouse

Emily Jo Cottle  
Review Editor

Whenever I hear about the release of a new music biopic I watch them with caution and I was especially wary when it came to a portrayal of enigmatic, Camden born, Amy Winehouse. Amy was completely unique in her style, music and stage presence. When she died in 2011 the world was rocked by the tragic conclusion of her battle with addiction in her death at just 27. Amy, though, is immortalised through her music in 'Frank' and 'Back to Black' her wildly popular studio albums. Sam Taylor-Johnson's 'Back to Black' follows Amy from 19, when she was starting out in the industry, until just before she passed. The film focuses on the success of her two albums, her family, her tempestuous relationship with Blake Fielder-Civil and her struggle with addiction.

Upon the release of the trailer of 'Back to Black' there was a social media frenzy about the casting of Amy. Influencers were clipping parts of the trailer and suggesting that Marisa Abela was not the right fit for the role in both appearance and voice. There were comments that singers Lady Gaga or Raye would have better fitted the role. I wanted to go into the film hopeful and not too influenced by the public's perception based on a trailer, however I do understand that people are passionate about preserving Amy's memory and doing justice to her as an artist.

I think often the issue with unsuccessful

music biopics is that the actor, in trying to become the artist, fails to understand that you can never fully replicate someone else. The actors who are aware of their limitations but want to emulate the spirit or understand the person behind the fame are the ones who speak to people. I think Marisa was an incredible Amy because she captured her humanity. Marisa spoke about wanting to make sure she was the best person for the role and in an interview with This Morning she said "I wanted to find Amy, the girl, the person, you can't really play an icon, you have to play a human being". This for me exemplified why I loved the film. It captured Amy's Camden spirit, her humour and her playful side though the film explored her addiction it didn't define her completely. I think what was the most heartbreaking aspect of the film was Amy's capacity for love.

Amy's biggest addiction was love. Amy fell wholeheartedly, and the film explores her relationship and heartbreak with Blake and how this translated into her music. Marisa in the same interview describes "her capacity to turn those experiences and her relationships[...] into the art that we now all get to enjoy." There is a quote in the film that says "I write songs because I've got to make something good out of something bad." The film works in my opinion because it is driven by the music, and it is the soundtrack to the events in her life. For those viewers who are unfamiliar with Amy's work, the film explains how Amy lived her music and made poetry from the darkest parts of her life.

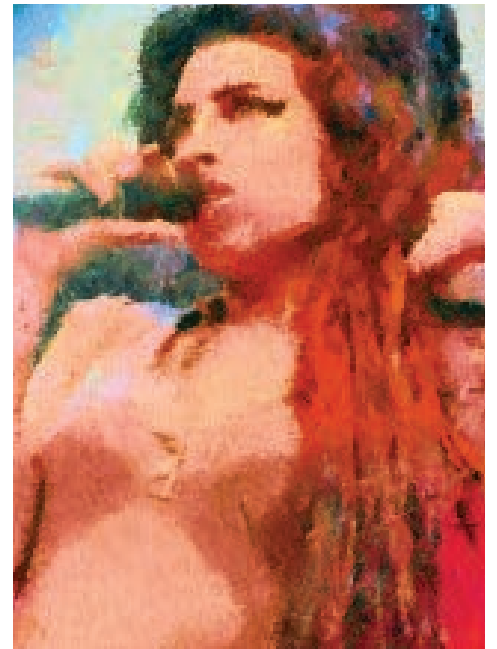
The film shows a real humanity in every sin-

gle character which plays even more into the tragedy of Amy's death. Often in discussions about Amy people like to place blame whether that be on her father Mitch or Blake but the film shows the real villain is addiction. The film shows the audience that Amy's love was the music, but she couldn't handle the fame and what came with it. The film's most tragic part is that Amy wanted an authentic relationship and she believed she could have that with Blake and most of all that she wanted to be a mother.

If I had to criticise one aspect of the film it would be that on one occasion I thought that Amy's actual voice would have been preferable. Marisa was incredible in her North London accent, her movement and her likeness to Amy's singing voice was great. However, in the instance of singing the entirety of Rehab, as there is audio footage of her at the Grammys, Amy's voice could have elevated the magnetism of that famous performance. Sam Taylor-Johnson, in an interview, does defend her decision to have Marisa sing throughout the film suggesting that this allows her to "emotionally tell the story through her songs". This meant that she could perform with anger, attitude or sadness to emphasise her emotional state at the time of the music's release. This helped to take the audience on a journey of her progression as an artist. I do understand this, as I loved how the music is never separate from Amy's life because she did write so candidly about everything she felt.

Taylor-Johnson also says that she didn't want an impersonation of Amy "I was looking for

someone who could embody and summon the soul of Amy". I believe Marisa did just that, capturing the essence of Amy from the outspoken 19 year old who signed her first record deal with a song like 'Stronger than me' to the broken woman who wrote 'Love is a Losing Game'. This film did something incredibly special in capturing Amy's unique spirit and respectfully presenting the devastating effects of addiction.



Source: Steve Taylor (Via Flickr)

## Slowdive's Spellbinding Performance Unites Fans in Awe

Catrin Stephens  
Contributor



Source: DeepSkyObject (Via Flickr)

After the release of their latest album everything is alive, Slowdive, initially formed 1989, draw a cross-generational audience at Cardiff University Student Union with an enchanting performance.

The Shoegaze genre emerged in the 1980s, pioneered by bands like My Bloody Valentine and Cocteau Twins, was known for its dreamy sound with layered, whimsical vocals and its drone-like guitars. To avoid the cliché of re-telling the origins of the genres name (hit up Google or have it mansplained to you at a party), we'll quickly move on to Slowdive. Their come up was followed quickly by the huge wave that was Britpop relegating the Shoegaze genre to the shadows. Slowdive initially had mixed reviews, famously for their sophomore album, Souvlaki, which is now regarded as an essential classic by critics and indie-heads alike. Despite this they maintained a dedicated following until their disbandment after their third album; leading to various projects by the band members.

Nowadays, the much-discussed 'revival of Shoegaze' is often lazily characterized as a TikTok phenomenon, despite its existence since the 2010s. Slowdive themselves reformed back in 2014 and have existed longer reformed than they did when they initially were formed.

The excitement brought on by openers

Whiteland's serve as a reminder not to treat the revival as a fleeting trend. The quartet instantly had the crowd swaying with approval. The song Setting Sun stood out as instantaneously gratifying. They created a soaring sound that was backed by jangly rhythm somewhere deep in the guitars and grooving bass and drums. This contrasted with lead guitarist and vocalist Etienne's elegantly soft and hazy voice and wistful lyrics expressing the confusion and disappointment in those around him, yearning not to be let down further in a politically turbulent Britain rife with racial injustice. Their sound almost let you choose how to enjoy the music, serving a meditative purpose as well as having plenty of rhythm and textures to stimulate you. Slowdive's set was fittingly interposed between recordings of Brian Eno's Deep Blue Day and An Ending (Ascent), a nice lead in and out fade into Slowdive's impressive wall of sound as well as a nod to his work on Souvlaki.

Despite the amount of layers, distortion and pure volume coming from the stage the sound wasn't at all muddy or blurry. Creating such a sound live can sometimes create a lack of distinction in the anatomy of sounds. Slowdive on the other hand sounded crisp and fresh but this didn't take away the visceral feeling the band are known for generating.

The band began with the swelling song that is shanty, producing a sense of release when they transitioned into Star

Roving, the increase in tempo feeling and crunchy guitar strums in the opening riff in live form gave the feeling of ascending. Then there was the setlists first older song was Catch the Breeze, the outro was simply heavenly. Intentional or not it was a nice touch how one of their more Brian Eno sounding tracks, Crazy for You found itself in the middle of the setlist, connecting the intro and outro.

The song Souvlaki Space Station was a sonically transcending highlight, but also showed off the beauty of Slowdive's classic vocals with Rachel Goswell and Neil Halsted voices weaving in and out of each other forming a cosmic experience. Shoegazer bands aren't known for their stage presence (I won't say why), but Goswell was celestial not only in her singing but also in her infectious genuineness while waving her arms drooped with these cape-like silky sleeves that were like wings as she extended them. This along with the stunning sometimes strobe visuals and lights enhanced the overall experience and added even more weight to every crescendo.

Goswell shined again with Kisses, and the atmosphere of the classics Alison, When the Sun Hits and 40 Days were celebratory, both among the band and the audience. The encore was perfect, during the simply devastating song, Dagger, the way in which Neil Halstead's voice has matured over the years enhances the rustic and raw feel of the song even more. They ended

with their ethereal cover of Syd Barretts Golden Hair.

Many of the lights flashed directly at the audience during the performance, most of which were either swaying or in trance (or both). There has been much discourse lately about lack of concert etiquette by young people, especially at concerts of bands popular on TikTok. The patronising branding of younger Shoegaze fans as if they're only posing for a trend at these gigs proved to be a tired one as the concert went on.

Many of the younger crowd were as engaged as the older generation with those desperate to video the hits popular on social media such as Alison and When the Sun Hits were mostly a minority towards the front. The audience enjoyed a mostly screenless concert, and the mix of ages just proved Slowdive's timeless appeal and that the Shoegaze comeback is here to stay, at least for a while.

# Scoop: Netflix's Latest Scandalous Film

Molly James  
Contributor

**S**coop, a new series released on Netflix at the start of April, follows the attempt and lead up to securing the notorious interview between Prince Andrew and the BBC Newsnight journalist Emily Maitlis. The all-star cast featuring Rufus Sewell, Gillian Anderson, Billie Piper and Keeley Hawes lets you experience the differing perspectives of those involved, however, it misses out those in the general public. It is based on the book written by Sam McAlister, a Newsnight producer played by Billie Piper, who became responsible for securing the interview with Prince Andrew (Rufus Sewell), confirming his relationship with the convicted sex offender Jeffery Epstein.

McAlister is a single mum, relying on her mother for child care and under pressure from her bosses to obtain a bombshell interviewee, something she exceeded with. She de-

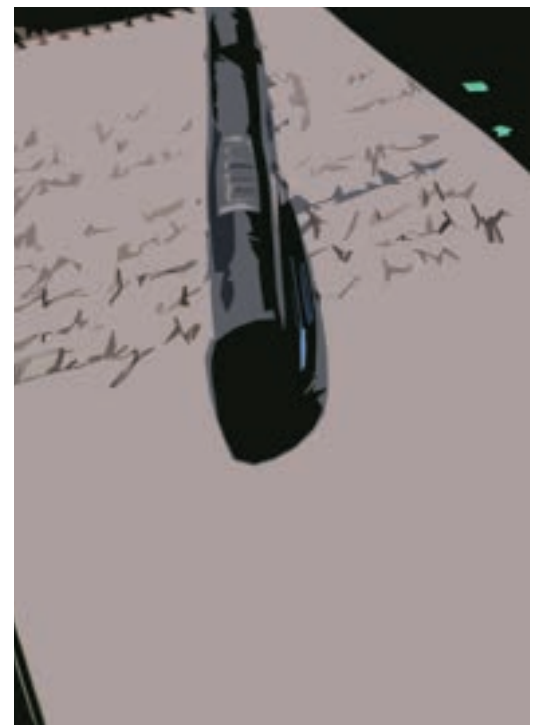
velops a rapport with Prince Andrew's private secretary Amanda Thirsk, played by Keeley Hawes. The film follows McAlister's tough negotiations with Thirsk, who is desperately wanting to let Prince Andrew save face.

Despite the outcome of the interview being known to the audience, it is thrilling to watch how the Newsnight team prepares and carries out this interview, making the audience feel a sense of relief when the intense, ardent Maitlis (Gillian Anderson) concludes her interview. It gives a feeling of reassurance that Prince Andrew is rightly going to continue to be publicly shamed, and days later lose his titles over his sordid relationship with Epstein. Scoop put the spotlight onto how competitive the media landscape is, opening with a statement from the BBC announcing job cuts.

It was imperative that Newsnight was able to score a good interview and prove the BBC's journalistic integrity and value. The drama also gives a brief insight into the power of the media, and also focuses on a different aspect

of journalism - photo journalism. Jae Donnelly, played by Connor Swindells is a photographer based in New York who took the iconic photo of Prince Andrew and Epstein walking together through Central Park. Years later his photographs were still relevant and able to aid McAlister in her research in the run up to the interview.

The characterisation of the BBC team and Prince Andrew was spot on, with Anderson and Sewell having the luxury of the real interview at their disposal to fuel their inspiration and ability to morph into their characters and recreate the right body language and tone. However, as a viewer, it makes you wonder how much actually happened, for example the comments Prince Andrew made in the pre-interview meeting: "I knew Jimmy Saville so much better" and moments before the interview: "trousers" - referring to Maitlis' option for trousers over a dress or skirt. It leaves the viewer wondering how much of it was fictionalised to make him look worse and the Scoop appear more sensational.



Source: Fredik Walloe (Via Flickr)

# A Review of Twenty One Pilots Latest Album - Overcompensate.

Emily Clegg  
Contributor

**T**wenty One Pilots was the soundtrack to my early teenagehood. Their music got me 'through high school' or at least 13-year-old me thought so. It was not uncommon for me to be blaring their rap-rock hybrid tunes through the wired headphones of my smashed iPhone 5C truly believing it to be some kind of tortured poetry that only me and a few select others could ever understand. Their 2015 album 'Blurryface' is undoubtedly a cornerstone of 2010s Tumblr emo culture and although a tad dated nowadays, I think it still holds some weight. I also thoroughly enjoyed their 2018 album 'Trench' still finding this to be their best and most mature.

However, I did not enjoy their 2021 release 'Scaled and Icy', finding it to be a huge and disappointing change in sound for the Grammy winning band. I can then say I 'grew out' of the band and hadn't really listened to them in years. I only really thought about them to reminisce on my high school 'emo era' and laugh at the pictures of me wrapped in yellow tape at their Trench tour, of course at the time I found myself very edgy and cool. I could say my Twenty One Pilots era was over but still look back fondly at the band and what their music meant to me at the time.

Last week however I was scrolling through Twitter and stumbled across a video they had posted, slightly surprised that I still followed the band, out of curiosity I gave the video a watch. The four-minute video explained all the 'lore' that the band has created throughout their career such as the characters from concept albums and the imaginary lands featured in music videos. All things I was a little too invested in a few years back. The band then announced a new album 'Clancy' coming out in mid-May realising the new lead single Overcompensate. I can't pretend that the video didn't make me overcome

with nostalgia remembering all the hours I'd spent theorising over the world that the band had created. I felt that I owed it to 13-year-old me to give their new single a listen and see if it was possible for me to reconnect with what once had been my favourite band.

Overcompensate is without a doubt a call back to Twenty One Pilots' older sound. The single brings an energy and vibe I had come to expect from a Twenty One Pilots song showcasing the bands signature genre-blending creating a hybrid of rock, hip-hop and electronic sound. The songs introduction feels inspired by 90s alternative electronic music almost sounding like something The Prodigy would've released. The lyrics of Overcompensate are classical Twenty One Pilots alluding to a greater theme of the character of 'Clancy' which I'm sure will be explored further in the new album. The chorus is catchy and hard hitting having a bit of a poppier feel but still feeling like a celebration of the bands sound and history.

I wouldn't state that the song is some crazy amazing track, but it is definitely solid having been stuck in my head for a few days now. Overcompensate marks a new era for the band, one which I think has a lot of potential. Whilst a slightly 'middle of the road' tracks the single has got my attention back on the band again and I am excited to see what they do with their new album later in the year. I would recommend giving the single a listen even if is just to temporarily transport yourself back to your high-school emo era. Overcompensate - 6/10.



Source: Drew De F Fawkes-Via Flickr)



Source: Digboston Via Flickr)

## REVIEW

## The Kendrick Lamar and Drake Drama

Tasmin Fraser  
Head of Review

At the time of writing, we are currently in the midst of a ceasefire between Canadian megastar Drake and Compton-born rap legend Kendrick Lamar. The collaborators-turned-enemies sent their hatred for each other into the mainstream after over a decade of simmering animosity, with a slew of diss tracks released by the pair over the past week.

Aubrey Drake Graham made his start acting on the teen drama *Degrassi: The Next Generation* before reaching commercial success as a rapper. He has since become one of the best-selling music artists in the world, with a joint record for the most Number 1 singles on the *Billboard* Hot 100 - tying with Michael Jackson. Drake is no stranger to drama, with physical altercations with Chris Brown and P. Diddy, a feud with Pusha T that led to the leaking of his secret child, 6-year-old Adonis Graham, and beef with long-time collaborator Kanye West to his name.

Compare this with the introverted Kendrick Lamar Duckworth. Frequently named the greatest rapper of all time, he shot to fame with the release of his second album, *Good Kid, M.A.A.D City* (2011), which spent over a decade in the *Billboard* 200. Raised in poverty and exposed first hand to gang crime from a young age, Lamar is praised for his witty and structurally complex lyrics, winning the first Pulitzer Prize for Music in a genre outside of classical and jazz. Until recently, the rapper had maintained a low-drama, private life, raising his two children with childhood sweetheart Whitney Alford in Los Angeles. The now infamous rift between the two rappers was spurred on by thinly veiled jabs dating as far back as 2013, in which Lamar name-checked Drake on his feature in

Big Sean's "Control" (2013): "I'm usually home-boys with the same n\*\*\*\*s I'm rhymin' with / But this is hip-hop, and them n\*\*\*\*s should know what time it is / And that goes for Jermaine Cole, Big K.R.I.T., Wale / Pusha T, Meek Millz, A\$AP Rocky, Drake". While many of the rappers mentioned in this verse, including A\$AP Rocky, seemed pleased to be mentioned on the verse, Drake did not appear to take the bar kindly, rapping in his 2013 song "The Language": "F\*\*\* any n\*\*\*a that's talking that s\*\*\* just to get a reaction".

Fast-forward to 2023, the pair's beef was brought to the forefront by fellow rapper J-Cole, who performed a verse on Drake's 2023 track "First

Person Shooter" that, in hindsight, should have probably stayed in his notes: "Love when they argue the hardest MC / Is it K-Dot [Kendrick Lamar]? Is it Aubrey [Drake]? Or me? / We the big three," Lamar snapped back on a feature in Future & Metro Boomin's track "Like That" (2024): "Motherf\*\*\* the big three, n\*\*\*a, it's just big me". Several weeks later, Drake spontaneously released the first of his Kendrick-centric diss tracks, "Push Ups", in which he takes a stab at Lamar's "big three" remark: "You ain't in no Big Three, SZA got you wiped down, Travis [Scott] got you wiped down, [21] Savage got you wiped down", as well as hitting the rapper with more personal attacks, such as the fact he wears a Size US 7 men's shoe (since debunked by sneaker boutique RIF LA, who confirmed Lamar wears a size US 8.5-9), and his features on songs by more conventional pop artists, such as Taylor Swift's "Bad Blood" (2014) and Maroon 5's "Don't Wanna Know" (2017). Drake refused to wait for a response from Kendrick, instead releasing a second diss track six days later entitled "Taylor Made Freestyle" - another attack on Lamar's collaboration with Swift. In the now-deleted song, Drake uses AI to imitate the voices of Tupac and Snoop Dogg to insult Lamar about his height and lack of releases, whilst also implying that the Compton native exaggerated his childhood experiences of gang violence: "Never shot nobody, never stabbed nobody / Never did nothing violent to no one, it's the homies that empower you". Surprisingly, Kendrick remained silent throughout the release of "Push Ups" and "Taylor Made Freestyle", leaving Drake to become embroiled with even more drama - this time from the Tupac estate, who quickly fired off a cease and desist for the use of Shakur's voice without their consent. Drake countered that Lamar's silence was due to him not wanting to compete with Swift's *The Tortured Poets Department's* current domination of the *Billboard* charts: "Now we gotta wait a f\*\*\*ing week 'cause Taylor Swift is your new top". And in Drake's defence, he was right: Kendrick released his response 11 days later, changing the game entirely.

The 6-minute epic "Euphoria" was the first of four responses. It is made clear from the get-go that Lamar is not taking this feud seriously, as he dons a variety of voices from an almost hyperventilating whine to a devastating mockery of the Toronto accent. Compared to Drake's playground insults, Lamar goes straight for the jugular, best summed up with the bar "I hate the way that you walk, the way that you talk, I hate the way that you dress". No stone is left unturned as Lamar picks apart Drake's parenting, rumoured plastic

surgery, appropriation of black culture and general rapping ability with a barrage of memorable insults. "Don't tell no lie about me and I won't tell truths 'bout you", Lamar warns, signalling the beginning of a serious war between the two. Three days later, "6:16 in LA" was unexpectedly released to the delight of fans everywhere. Lamar continues his tirade against Drake, this time with allegations of corruption within his record label, OVO Records: "A hundred n\*\*\*\*s that you got on salary / And twenty of 'em want you as a casualty". Drake responded the same day with the 8-minute "Family Matters", in which he accuses Lamar of domestic abuse and infidelity against his fiancée, whilst also suggesting that his children were fathered by his manager Dave Free. "When you put your hands on your girl, is it self-defence 'cause she's bigger than you?", muses Drake. It seems that the inclusion of family into the mix sparked a frenzy within Lamar, who released his third diss track "Meet the Grahams" within hours of Drake's response. In the song, Lamar speaks directly to Drake's son, Adonis, apologising that Drake is his father, before turning his attention to an alleged hidden daughter: "[Drake] Should be teachin' you time tables or watchin' Frozen with you / Or at your eleventh birthday singin' poems with you". This allegation spread like wildfire on social media, with the consensus being that Lamar was telling the truth - after all, Drake had hidden a child from public view before. Other allegations included Drake's addiction to sex, drugs, and weight-loss aid Ozempic.

Lamar's most damning track came hours after the former. "Not Like Us" features brutal accusations against Drake behind a club-worthy beat. It is the first time Lamar comments on Drake's controversial relationships with underage women, with the now infamous bar "Tryna strike a chord and it's probably A-Minor". He also alleges child abuse within OVO Records, referring to the team as "Certified Lover Boy, certified pedophiles", a reference to Drake's 2021 album *Certified Lover Boy*. From there, it was almost impossible for Drake to save face - but not for lack of trying. The rapper released his final diss track "The Heart Part 6" the next day, but instead of being an attack against Lamar, felt more like self-defence. Drake brushes off Lamar's remarks about his alleged pedophilia, quipping "I'm way too famous for this s\*\*\* you just suggested". He also implies Lamar was molested as a child, citing his track "Mother I Sober" as evidence. The track, however, explicitly states that Lamar was not molested, and fans quickly turned against Drake due to his attempted weaponisation of a

traumatic event. He closes off with an unnecessary bar about actress Millie Bobby Brown, who was known to have a questionable relationship with Drake from the age of 14 in which he gave her "advice about boys", despite Lamar never even mentioning the controversy. In short, this track has done considerably more harm than good in the hopes of preserving Drake's once-golden reputation.

It seems that the battle has died down now between the two megastars, with Lamar seemingly ignoring Drake's latest track. In many ways, Lamar's silence is arguably the most damning retort he could give, as it has allowed for Drake's ill-timed response to become the subject of intense online scrutiny. By continuing to push back against Lamar, Drake has appeared to damage his own career in the process. Only time can tell as to whether this has been the final nail in the coffin for Aubrey Drake Graham.



Source: Kenny Sun (via Flickr)

## David Byrne Does Hard Times/Burning Down The House

Catrin Stephens  
Contributor

Living in Cardiff, you feel incredibly lucky to be able to casually rock up to the oldest record store in the world for RSD (Record Store Day). Many were not so casual though, with queues for the occasion already forming at 1:30am. The Paramore fans being particularly enthusiastic. According to very friendly and accommodating staff all things Paramore sold out half an hour after the shop opening that morning. This included the highly sought-after RSD exclusive 12-inch split featuring Paramore's cover of Talking Heads' "Burning Down the House" and David

Byrne's rendition of Paramore's "Hard Times," playfully but aptly named "David Byrne Does Hard Times". I settled with getting a Talking Heads: Live On Tour RSD instead but it was certainly an incredible collector's item for those willing to go that extra mile.

It has been seven years since Paramore staggered fans with the release of *Hard Times*, a single full of funk and flair with Hayley Williams' charismatic, quirky vocals, Zac Farro's all around the kit groove and Taylor York's vibrant guitar phrases. This led to *After Laughter*, which became the band's most critically acclaimed album to date, despite being a turn from their usual rock and pop punk sound, though some emo-ness lingered in the lyrics. Paramore always

wear their influences on their sleeve referring to countless 80s bands and artists as inspiration for the record, but Talking Heads stood out as one of the most obvious and most explicitly on Williams' *Hard Times* vocals. Their influence can still be heard on their most recent album *This Is Why* with the lyrical themes of anxiety in an increasingly mediated world being in parallel with many Talking Heads songs.

*Burning Down the House* initially released in 1983 by Talking Heads certainly fits these themes. Paramore released their take on the song as a part of a A24 collaboration project of various artists, *Everyone's Getting Involved: A Tribute to Talking Heads' Stop Making Sense*, that is featured on

one half of the split. I would say confidently but controversially that this is one of those renditions that outshines the original. It is faithful to the bare bones of the original song encapsulating the rippling drums, pulsing synths, and groovy guitar but both more polished up sounding and with a bit more bite, especially in the vocals. William's infectiousness lets loose on the song, almost growling at times adding gritty riffs and shouts at the all the right moments making me wish I did wait all night to be able hear it on vinyl on demand. The cover could serve as a blueprint on how to do a tasteful cover with the attention to detail taken from the old version in combination with its fresh sound.

David Byrne Does Hard Times un-

fortunately was a little disappointing. Though I certainly enjoyed the track, outside of its endearing context and it being an exciting full circle moment of two of my favourite artists, it doesn't stand out as one of Byrne's best performances, with his vocals sitting uncomfortably on the instrumental. The instrumental is great, I especially love the horns leading into the chorus and the peak of the song lies in the bridge and the outro of the song where the overall arrangement really stands out and Byrne is sounding less awkward. *Everyone's Getting Involved: A Tribute To Talking Heads' Stop Making Sense* will be released on the 17th of May and Paramore returning to Cardiff to support Taylor Swift the upcoming *Era's Tour* show on the 18th of June.

## FINANCE

# UK Facing Concerns Regarding Food Security After Extreme Weather Conditions this Spring

Lucy Treloar  
Head of Finance

The UK is facing food shortages following record amounts of rainfall this year. Farmers all across the country have been unable to plant many essential crops, particularly potatoes and wheat, due to the poor ground conditions. Despite the UK being generally very well accustomed to rainfall, the Met Office reported that the last 18 months have seen an astonishing volume of 1,695 mm rainfall—which is the highest volume to ever be recorded since the organisation began recording data in 1836. There have also been extremely poor weather conditions in nearby countries, where very similar wet conditions have affected the agricultural sector in much of Europe.

This subsequently means there's also less food available to import, leading to a reduced supply in supermarkets. Economists are concerned that this will drive the prices of food up all over the country, making it unaffordable for many families to buy basic food necessities. The effects of this are already being recorded, with a major retailer reporting that the wholesale price of potatoes was up 60%.

The National Farmers' Union (NFU) also warned that the combination of increased rainfall and low temperatures has been affecting the livestock market as well. The muddy conditions mean farmers are having to provide supplementary feed in order to compensate for the lack of grazing opportunities, and the price of meat is also being driven up by the poor climate conditions.

As the consequences of climate change continue to amplify, this raises concerns around the future of the agricultural sector in the UK and Europe. It is important that the economy is able to adjust and adapt to these changes, creating new solutions to help build a more resilient food system and ensure food security for future generations.

“As the consequences of climate change continue to amplify, this raises concerns around the future of the agricultural sector in the UK and Europe.”



Source: rawpixel

## A Guide to Finance Summer Internships

Natalie Kenny  
Finance Editor

With the finance summer internship season fast approaching, here is a guide on securing an internship for the future, doing well during your internship, and the benefits of doing one.

Whether you come from a finance or non-finance background, securing a finance summer internship is highly valuable if you are considering a career in the industry. Internships not only offer practical experience that can help you decide whether you'll enjoy a specific area of finance, but also increase your chances of being offered a graduate job. Many companies hire graduates from their internship schemes who have excelled, and other companies see it as advantageous when hiring, as they have demonstrated knowledge and interest in the industry.

Securing an internship can be very competitive and one way to boost your chances of obtaining one can be by doing a Spring Week in the Easter during your first year at university. Companies can hire students

who have completed Spring Weeks for their summer internship schemes in the second year and it also adds benefit to CVs for applying to other companies. If you haven't secured one of these, getting hired onto an internship is still very achievable by demonstrating a strong interest and knowledge of finance. According to Milkround, many internship deadlines happen in December or January, and some companies have a rolling deadline, so getting applications submitted early can be beneficial. In addition, having strong knowledge about the company to which you are applying, why you want the role, and why you want to work for the company is hugely important.

For those who have an internship lined up for this summer, or who are interested in doing one in the future, making a meaningful impact during your time is important for future employment prospects. Arriving at the internship promptly, working without distractions, networking, efficiency, and attentiveness are important to consider once you've started. Furthermore, do plenty of background research on the role and the expectations before you start to ensure that you appear confident.

Getting a summer internship can be very helpful for getting a graduate role but for

those who have missed the opportunity, there is still plenty of opportunity to succeed without one. Although it can be difficult to stay on top of application deadlines, it is most important to find a balance to ensure that your studies are not negatively impacted.

“In addition, having strong knowledge about the company to which you are applying, why you want the role, and why you want to work for the company is hugely important.”



Source: RDNE Stock Project (via Pexels)

## Superdry reveals 'rescue plan' in last attempt to save the company

Lucy Treloar  
Head of Finance

The well-known British fashion retailer, Superdry, has revealed final plans in hoping to save the business after hitting a record-low market value of only 5.19p per share.

Superdry had previously been an exceptionally popular clothing store, hitting its peak in 2018/19 with over

£800,000,000 being generated through sales and share prices reaching an all-time high at £20 per share. However, since this, the brand has seen a continued decline in demand, particularly having struggled with advertising their products to appeal to younger shoppers.

The rescue plan states that Superdry aims to privatise the company by delisting from the London Stock Exchange, as well as closing 39 of its most underperforming stores across the UK. This will

result in the restructuring of the company, from it currently being a Public Limited Company to a Private Limited Company. The aim is that through these steps, as well as increased fundraising, they will be able to recover the business and avoid insolvency proceedings.

The plan for Superdry is very uncertain at the moment. However, it is clear that improving the product range and marketing strategies will also be crucial for securing the future of this brand.



Source: MAIU kcs w nsi (via Wikimedia Commons)



# Meet some of your Sabatical Officers

## In one sentence, what does this role mean to you?



**Michaela Panes**

Vice-President Postgraduate Student

"It means the world that students re-elected me to keep fighting the good fight for Postgrads – it's a privilege!"



**Catrin Edith Parry**

VP Cymraeg

"I am honoured to be able to represent the Welsh community and bring the Welsh language and culture to new audiences!"



**Faaiza Bashir**

Anti-Racism Officer

"Students from ethnic minorities should know they matter, their experiences matter and their studies matter."



**Ana Nagiel Escobar**

International Students VP

"It's an opportunity to make some positive change."

## What are three things you enjoy to do in your spare time?



**Michaela Panes**

Vice-President Postgraduate Student

"Visit new places, read, and binge Netflix."



**Catrin Edith Parry**

VP Cymraeg

"Singing with the Aelwyd y Waun Ddyfal Choir, Go out with my friends, Watch Football."



**Faaiza Bashir**

Anti-Racism Officer

"Political campaigning, hiking, drinking coffee."



**Ana Nagiel Escobar**

International Students VP

"Cook, bake volunteer and read."

## What is one word you would use to describe yourself?



**Michaela Panes**

Vice-President Postgraduate Student

"Driven."



**Catrin Edith Parry**

VP Cymraeg

"Chatty."



**Faaiza Bashir**

Anti-Racism Officer

"Compassionate."



**Ana Nagiel Escobar**

International Students VP

"Optimistic."

Delving into the Archives - Issues 1100, 1000, 900 and 800



**FREE** ***gair rhydd*** **GUARDIAN STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR** ISSUE 888 NOVEMBER 21 2008 CARDIFF'S STUDENT WEEKLY free word - EST. 1972

Editorial & Opinion look back into their archive to see what has been troubling the minds of students in the last 35 years of *gair rhydd*

A Cult Classics football special takes you back to the Subbuteo pitch inside your Guardian student magazine of the year

PAGES 10 & 11

**“He used to threaten me and say he would kill me” Sex-worker’s horror in Cardiff**

**SEX TRAFFIC**

**Gathays ‘massage parlour’ focal point of national sex-slave outrage**

**FREE** ***gair rhydd*** **CARDIFF'S STUDENT WEEKLY** free word - EST. 1972 ISSUE 900 JUNE 08 2009

THE 900TH EDITION OF CARDIFF UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

inside: **eden** our first ethical living supplement

**PLUS QUENCH GOES GLOSSY** WITH FRIENDLY FIRES, KILLA KELLA & MORE

**40 THIEVES Sent to Purgatory**

Huge police operation leads to arrest of dozens of crooks who target student properties

***gair rhydd*** Monday March 08th 2010 (free word) Est. 1972 (Issue 1000)

**Every vote counted**

**In Depth: Colombian Peace Deal** p.16

**Who represents you in the Students' Union?** p.24

**Meningitis: What you need to know!** p.26

***gair rhydd*** Cardiff Uni's student paper | est. 1972

**Cardiff makes top 100 Universities in the World!** page 4

**In Depth: Colombian Peace Deal** p.16

**Who represents you in the Students' Union?** p.24

**Meningitis: What you need to know!** p.26

## SCIENCE

Aditi Kallanagoudar  
Girish

Caitlin Rider

ELSEWHERE  
IN SCIENCE

**Boeing crewed space launch postponed for safety checks.**

**Oceans suffer from record-breaking year of heat.**



Source: Kabsik Park (via Flickr)

science@gairrhydd.com

## Get Your Umbrellas? It's Raining Gold...

Hannah Han  
Contributor

Mount Erebus is the highest active volcano in Antarctica, and the southernmost active volcano on Earth. Its activity is characterised as strombolian eruptions meaning that it regularly emits plumes of gas and steam, and occasionally molten lava bombs burst from the lava lakes. Recently, it's been reported that the amount of crystallised gold that the volcano spews is of around 80 grams of gold a day – valued at around \$6,000.

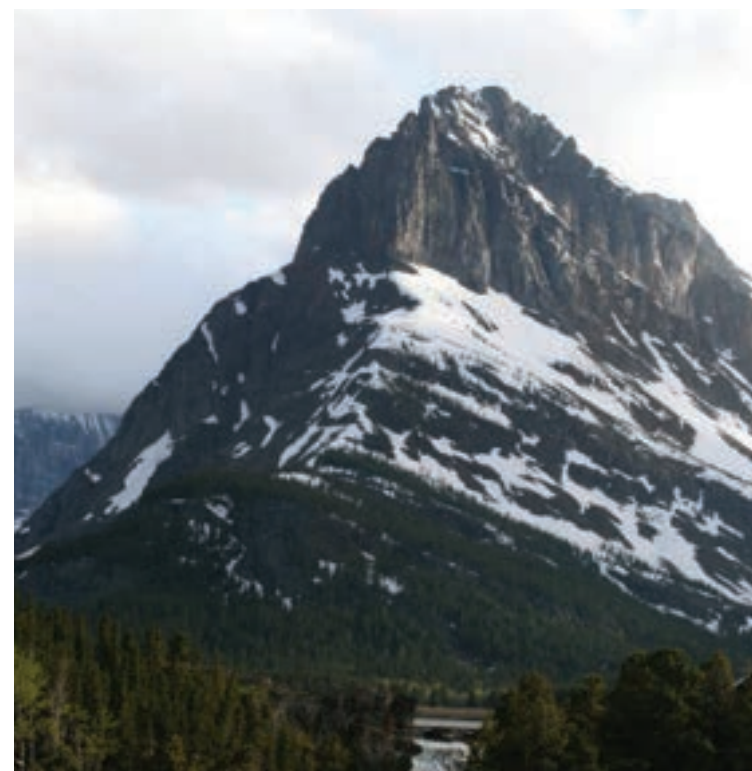
However, this doesn't mean you should run with a bucket to Mount Erebus – getting a hold of it isn't as easy as it may seem. Due to its unusual type of lava, the volcanic rock that forms from the magma has a specific type of chemistry. Volcanologist Tamsin Mather, professor of Earth Sciences at the University of Oxford, explains: "Within the gasses are particles and metals, including gold."

It's the bursts of gases that the volcanic bombs emit that cause the spread of tiny crystals of metallic gold and other precious minerals

like copper. The golden eruptions aren't a new finding as it is a known fact since the early 1990s – what is impressive is the fact that the sum of eruptions leads to around \$110,000,000 worth of gold starting from its last known eruption in 1972 to the present day. Harnessing microparticles would be extremely expensive, not to mention, the presence of gold isn't restricted to as single area as it has been detected as far as 1000km from the volcano.

Mather explains that the main problem with this is that not only is it hard to get a hold of the gas being released, but if it were to be pumped out, it would be extremely diluted. She suggests that in order to get a hold of these metals they could try extracting them from the volcanic brines.

"That might be the way to get useful metals for batteries so we can get to Net Zero target," she adds. Mather remains hopeful news about Mount Erebus might lead the public to gain awareness on the need for critical metals to drive greener, more environmentally friendly approach to technology.



(A. Dombroski via Flickr)

## Parts of America Plunged into Darkness due to total solar eclipse.

Caitlin Rider  
Science Editor

On Monday the 8th of April, areas of North America were treated to the once in a lifetime experience of witnessing a total solar eclipse. This phenomenon only occurs when the sun, moon and earth are in a specific alignment that means the moon completely covers the sun – this is referred to as 'totality'. Countries along the path experienced a brief moment of darkness (the length of time changes for each eclipse but in this case, it lasted around 4.5 minutes) with only the corona of the sun being seen. The corona is the outer atmosphere of the sun that can only be seen during a total solar eclipse; this makes the phenomenon a vital time for scientists to research the sun and its corona.

Despite the event as a whole only lasting two hours, this was the first total solar eclipse this century to be seen in

all three North American countries: Canada, the United States of America and Mexico. Total solar eclipses occur every 18 months however they tend to be visible in places not inhabited by humans such as over the oceans; they also change locations. For this reason, in one area, a total eclipse can only be seen once every 400 years.

With events being organised far in advance, many people in North America gathered round together to immerse themselves in this experience with many being brought to tears by the overwhelming emotion of the total solar eclipse.

In the UK, the last total solar eclipse was seen in 1999 with the only place to witness it being Cornwall. It is predicted that the next total solar eclipse to be visible in the UK will be in September 2090 however other countries will experience them before then with the closest location being Northern Spain in 2026.



(Joey Gannon via Flickr)

## Study Warns of Heatwaves as Humans Confront Lower Thermal Limits

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.

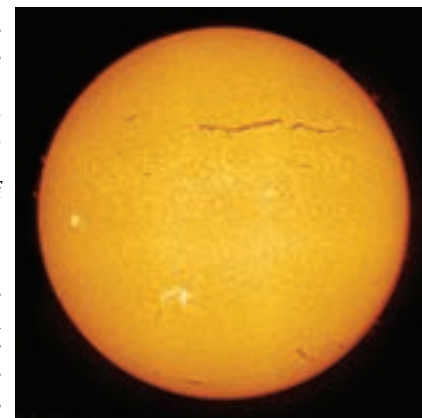
The study revealed some concerning facts about our vulnerability to moist heat stress, which is more severe than previously thought due to lowered thermal limits. Even a slight increase in temperature of 1.5°C could result in brief exceedances of the critical environmental limit in areas like the Middle 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 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.



(Paul Stewart via Flickr)



### June/Mehefin

**Billy Talent**

17/06/2024

**SOLD OUT / WEDI  
GWERTHU ALLAN**

### October/Hydref

**Apocalyptica Plays  
Metallica**

05/10/2024 | £35.00

**The Libertines**

07/10/2024 | £37.50

**Kamasi  
Washington**

17/10/2024 | £30.00

**Public Service  
Broadcasting**

28/10/2024

**SOLD OUT / WEDI  
GWERTHU ALLAN**

### November/Tachwedd

**Punk Rock Factory**

02/11/2024 | £26.95

**The Skids**

08/11/2024 | £27.50

**Marcus King**

10/11/2024 | £30.00

**Shed Seven**

15/11/2024 | £37.50

**Yellowcard**

16/11/2024

**SOLD OUT / WEDI  
GWERTHU ALLAN**

### December/Rhagfyr

**Myles Kennedy**

02/12/2024 | £42.50



**BOOK HERE  
ARCHEBWCH YMA**

# Cardiff City Crumble Against Michael Carrick's Middlesbrough Side!

Grace D'Souza  
Sport Editor

On Saturday 27th April Cardiff City played against Middlesbrough for the last home match of the season at Ninian Park and lost 1-4.

Cardiff City started off strong in the 3rd minute. Middlesbrough's goalkeeper was at full stretch with a save. A minute later, Cardiff City had a corner and was just about to go in as Cardiff City's number 4 Goutas jumps up for a header. Unfortunately, it got deflected by a Middlesbrough defender. Cardiff pressed hard up the field with strong attacking play and in the 8th minute there was a penalty appeal as Number 14 Bowler for Cardiff City was shoved and pulled down in the penalty box. But the referee was having none of it at all. In the 25th minute of the match, it looked like Cardiff City were going to get the crucial opening goal, but Cardiff's number 14 Bowler had a shot on



target and it was a great save for Middlesbrough's goal keeper once again.

Things looked as if they were going to be all square up to half time until Middlesbrough's number 5 Matthew Clarke scored the opening goal on the stroke of half time giving Michael Carrick's side the all important opening goal giving them a 1-0 lead. As the second half kicked off, Cardiff City looked fierce on the ball. Goutas scored a goal but

Source: Lily Zeeuw

it was ruled offside in the 46th minute. The number 4 looked devastated. Middlesbrough counter attacked and number 20 Finn Isaac Azaz scored the second goal. Cardiff City's defence looked poor.

There was such a young team playing and they were so far out of their depth. Middlesbrough were pressing hard up the pitch

and made their attacking presence known and Middlesbrough's number 9 was fast on the ball resulting with a 56th minute goal scored by Emmanuel Latte Lath. Cardiff were now 3-0 down. Fans were starting to leave Ninian Park and Middlesbrough fans singing "Cheerio Cheerio Cheerio" echoed round the stadium.

To make matters worse, Middlesbrough were on the attack

again and number 14 Alex Gilbert scored Middlesbrough's 4th goal.

Despite Cardiff City being down 4-0, the loyal blue die-hard fans were still behind the boys, singing Bob Marley's *Three Little Birds* to boost morale and keep spirits high. It looked like it was going to be a clean sheet for Middlesbrough's goalkeeper but Cardiff City's number 14 Josh Bowler caught him by surprise, scoring one goal back for the blues in the 90+1 minute.

This weekend's championship fixtures for the last matches of the season are:

Stoke v Bristol  
Sunderland v Sheffield  
Swansea v Millwall  
Coventry v QPR  
Ipswich v Huddersfield  
Leicester v Blackburn  
Plymouth v Hull  
Birmingham v Norwich  
West Brom v Preston  
Middlesbrough v Watford  
Leeds v Southampton  
Rotherham v Cardiff

## What Does Cardiff Student Media Mean to Me?

Grace D'Souza  
Sport Editor

Writing for Gair Rhydd has been one of the highlights of my second year at Cardiff University. I have loved being a Sports Editor for the paper, and meeting new people from the other media groups has been so inspiring. I have a lot of love for XPress, CUTV and Quench Tomos and Ben from CUTV and Xpress have really shown me how much media means to me from CUTV socials to C-Plan premieres, I have done it all. Above everything Gair Rhydd has really given me the opportunity to write about my love for sports in particular football.

The student media office has been such a big part of getting to talk to people about their passions, opinions, and beliefs which I have found so insightful. Aberystwyth University visited us in late January and it was so interesting to learn about their paper Mouth of the Ystwyth and to talk to them about balancing writing for the paper alongside their degrees. In particular Ella, Hope, and Narayan gave me some great advice which I took on board when taking the photographs for our last edition. As a Media and Comms student I will always value the people at JOMEC so much. I have made some friends for life and seeing the people I love succeed makes me so happy. I have enjoyed putting everything theory-based that I have



Source: Grace D'Souza

gained from my degree into practice at the newspaper, which has really made me believe that my career is going in the right direction. Getting the chance to have this experience was so important because I want to use my position in the paper to talk

more about mental health in the sports industry. Now that I am the new Mental Health Officer at Cardiff University I want to meet with Sports Societies' well-being officers and talk to them about everything I know about mental health and

gain an insight into their roles. My favourite thing about the paper has definitely been Welsh Varsity. I had the time of my life with the Canon DSLR camera, taking photos the whole day and writing about the Cardiff University football team. I would like to say a huge thank you to Giles Basson, the captain of the team, for the interview. It has given great sports comms knowledge for the future. With this position at Gair Rhydd I was given the opportunity to get work experience in the press gantry at Cardiff City football Club which has been a dream come true and by far an experience of a lifetime and I would like to say a huge thank you to the Head of Communications Mark Denham for all the support.

## A Night at the Athletic Union Awards

From the Boxing Committee's Perspective

Edward Sutton  
Editor in Chief

The best of the AU gathered on Wednesday night to celebrate all the achievements of Team Cardiff. Georgia Spry, President of the Athletic Union was the evening's host, taking us through all the silverware and club honours. Teams across the AU have done an incredible job raising money for Charity this year, with a special mention to the Men's Rugby Club for the incredible sums of money they raised. However, it was the Ladies Cricket team that took home the Charity Event of the Year. The most improved

club this year was Barbell, with a surge in membership. Triathlon and Biathlon won big with Sportsman of the Year, Dan Galloway and Team of the Year being Biathlon. Now for the biggest award of the night, Club of the Year. Out of over 70 affiliated clubs, it was the Ladies Football and Football that took home the trophy and capped off a great evening with a very heartwarming speech about their team. Boxing was glad to be there to support all the other clubs and although we didn't walk away with any silverware we did have a cracking night that was topped off with an extra special Yolo.



Source: Edward Sutton



Delving into the Archive

As it's Issue 1200, lets take a trip down memory lane and see how Team Cardiff was doing in BUCS over 10 years ago in Issue 1000!



Breaking Waves and Shattering Stereotypes

Women's Dominance at BUCS Rowing Regatta

Aimee Szulczewski  
Head of Sport

Over a lovely bank holiday weekend at Holme Pierrepont, the sounds of oars slicing through the water were heard over the loud shouts of university athletes cheering on their squads. In the Nottinghamshire rowing lake, collegiate rowers from across the UK converged for a spectacle of athleticism and camaraderie, defying expectations and redefining the narrative of women in sport.

At the forefront of this transformative event was the Cardiff Senior Women's Rowing Squad, whose resolute determination, following the success at the Welsh Boat Race, propelled them to success.

Reflecting on their determination captain, Ellie Needham, quoted: "As captain of a women's squad that has consistently outperformed the men over the last few years, this has highlighted the importance of female par-

ticipation in sport as it shows to me and all other members of our club, how capable of sporting excellence women are. My identity as an athlete is not lessened by the fact that I am a woman, but rather is enhanced by our achievements which, next to the men's squad, are comparatively incredible."

Indeed, the accomplishments of the women's rowing squad stand as a testament to the power of perseverance and the limitless potential of female athletes. Against the backdrop of a historically male-dominated sport, they have shattered stereotypes and forged a path of their own.

“ From the moment the starting horn sounded, it was clear that this race would be close.

Throughout the regatta, there were many amazing races to watch be-

tween strong female squads of all levels and experiences. One thrilling race was dominated by two forces: Surrey University vs Oxford Brookes University in the Women's Beginner Coxed Four A Final.

With Surrey hailed as the class of beginner rowing for a number of years, their reputation precedes them, however, the challenger of Oxford Brookes loomed as a threat. From the moment the starting horn sounded, it was clear that this race would be close. Stroke by stroke, the crews surged forward, their synchronised movements a testament to countless hours of training and dedication. In the end, it was a battle of inches, showing the fierce competitiveness of both crews.

As they crossed the finish line it was Surrey who emerged victorious, although the 'wildcard' Oxford Brookes received a happy second place.

Throughout the weekend, the female athletes' successes were not merely measured in medals and accolades; it was a triumph of spirit. The fierce

competition between each squad embodied the true essence of sport, breaking down barriers and bringing people together.

Moreover, the BUCS Rowing Regatta served as a microcosm of a broader movement towards gender equality in sport. Upcoming soon in July, Henley Royal Regatta will further showcase the perseverance and the unyielding pursuit of excellence that women's representation gives in a major sporting event.

Source: Lorna Mitchell and Kanu (via Flickr)



SPORT

Meet the Team!



Aimee Szulczewski



Grace D'Souza



Freddie Sheppard



Honor Mitchell Brock

ELSEWHERE IN SPORT

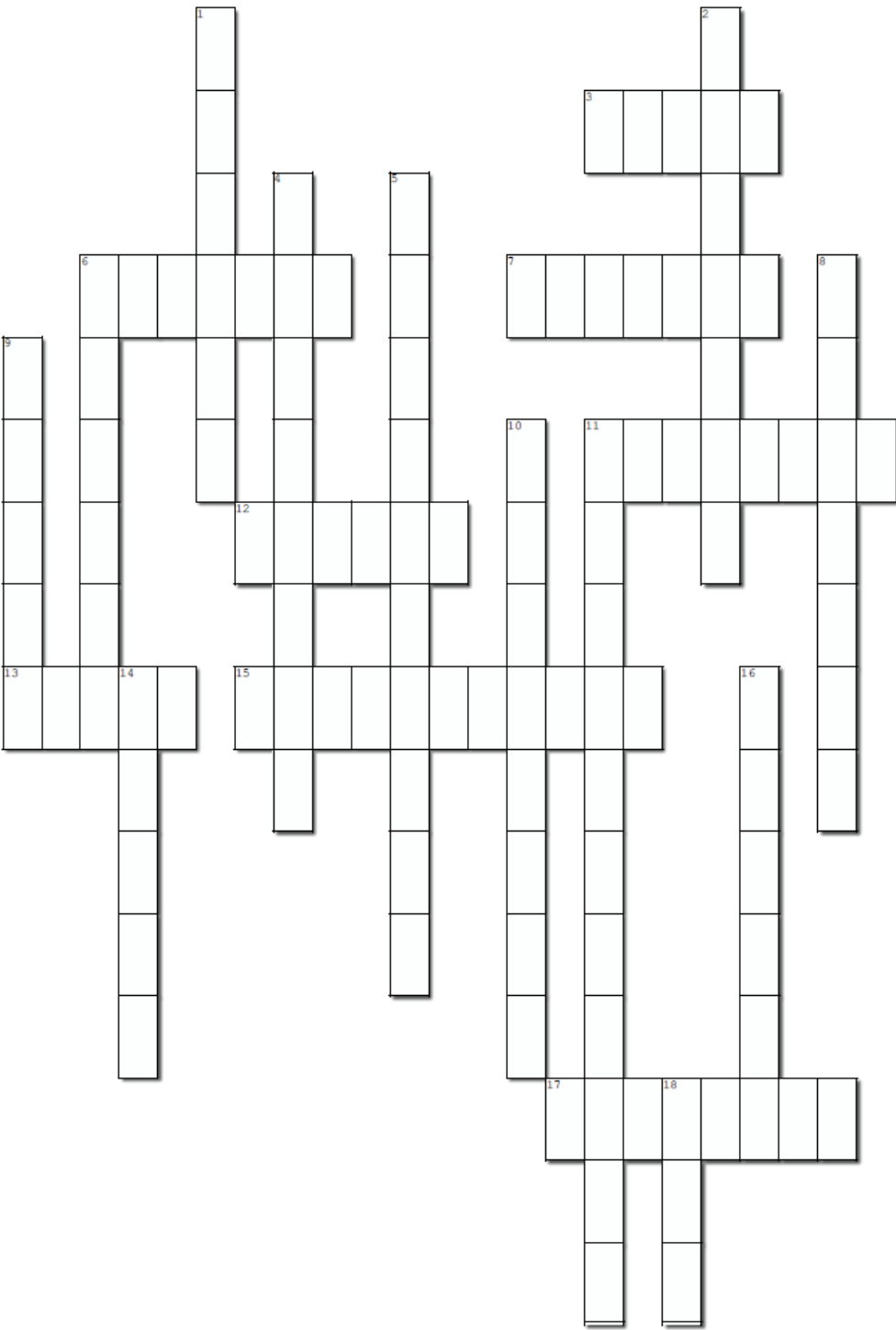
The Summer Olympics are just round the corner with the Olympic Flame arriving in Marseille

Plans for Lords to have a £61.8m redevelopment have been approved

Women's FA Cup final is on Sunday with Manchester United facing Tottenham

Crossword | Croesair
Nancy Cook





Across

3. Cardiff students' \_\_, often disrupted by the teachers \_\_ (5)
6. The update after a night out (7)
7. Caretaker of collections (7)
11. He was \_ the Cardiff colours in support (8)
12. Tool for a duel, or a hand in trouble (6)
13. The last, concluding thing, the submission I

- have yet to hand in for example is my \_\_ thing (5)
15. Radiant in appearance, shining brighter than the rest, the SU disco ball for example is quite \_\_ (11)
17. \_\_ Cardiff you will be missed (8)

Find the Answers on our Instagram: @gairrhydd

Down

1. Elixir lifting the soul and haunting you the day after (6)
2. First, second or third class (7)
4. Not a trace of doubt in my mind (8)
5. Foolish mischief making, such antics and simply an excellent word (10)
6. Our mascot, flag and favourite soop (6)
8. For those who lack substantial pockets, Mary Poppins accessory (7)
9. Editor in (5)
10. With 12, in order to make an \_\_ comeback I need to be an... (8)
11. Silly or high-spirited behaviour; further mischief.(11)
14. Rude awakening (5)
16. One of the coolest accessories, apt for ball season (6)
18. Taylor Swift has many of them, we are coming to the end of one (3)