

# YORK STUDENTS SAID NO.

## WHY DIDN'T YORK SU?

BY FREYA HUGHES AND MORGAN GROVE

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## "WE ARE YOU BUT FLUFFIER..."



### INTERVIEW WITH YORK FURRIES!

SPOTLIGHT 6-7

IMAGE: YORK FURS

## EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH REFORM SOCIETY'S PRESIDENT

BY GAVIN SOUTHWAY

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## YORK RESPONDS TO IMMIGRATION RAIDS

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**YORK  
Vision**

Thank you for picking up the newest copy of *York Vision*!

The winter months have quickly crept up on us, as has the brutal cold that accompanies them. But our amazing team of writers and section editors has braved the elements, making endless treacherous journeys to the Vision HQ (and the conveniently located Charles XII pub right outside) with the sole purpose of providing you a breadth of many fantastic articles and a showcase of student journalism at its finest.

It's been great to have new and old faces join the team. Whether you're wanting to unveil the dark truth behind Circuit Laundry, or contemplate the silver living of silverfish, this edition has a little something for everyone. And if you want to get involved, we hold our weekly meeting on Mondays in SLB/201 at 6.30pm and would love to welcome you to our society.

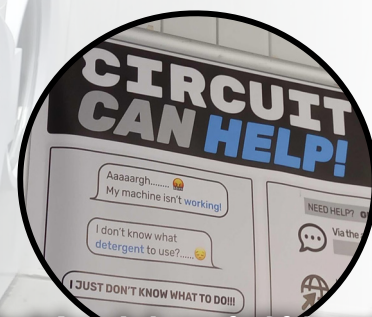
Enjoy the issue!

# HUNG OUT TO DRY

## The Vicious (Laundry) Cycle

When you're in the laundry room, your clothes aren't the only thing getting rinsed

IMAGES: SHAHAMA ANVER



Circuit Laundry's ever-faithful promise to help students

BY SHAHAMA ANVER & REHYAN SAM

Who cares about graduation? I'm waiting for the day I can finally afford to wash my bedsheets.

The University Accommodation Services website helpfully advises students not to dry damp clothes in their rooms to prevent mould growth.

This sounds like sage advice. Unhelpful, however, is their implication that students should be setting aside a weekly £1.90 for drying costs. How can the University expect students to pay such eye-watering prices, especially since over 50% of York's students are already need (at least one) part-time job.

As you would expect, I'm rather attached to mould growing on my curtain. It sees my ups and downs as I undergo my progression (read: academic deterioration) across the year.

Although, in theory, the University's commitment to avoiding mould in damp ol' England is admirable, their policy is not very well thought out.

For one thing, various synthetic materials cannot be put into dryers. Nobody wants their favourite Arsenal jersey shrunk (for when they will inevitably win the Premier League this year).

Thus, most students admit to not following the guidance and commit the rebellious act of opening a drying rack in their uni accommodation. Outrageous, we know.

But ultimately, students should not have to foot a bill that can be avoided by the University. If bills are truly included in the hefty University accommodation price tag, the water and electricity needed

to power the washing machines and dryers should fall into this category.

Instead, students find themselves having to further the 'Big Laundry' agenda.

A University spokesperson said: "We know students are feeling the impact of the cost of living, and it is very important to us that the services we provide are high quality and competitively priced. Keeping prices low has been a key focus since 2019, the cost of a wash has only risen by 10p. This is significantly cheaper than the nearest local alternative and places York in the cheaper half of the 86 universities Circuit services."

But in comparison with other Circuit-using universities, it looks like York is still falling short. Durham charges £4.20 for a wash and drying is free (altogether £4.20) and Manchester students pay £3.20 for a wash and £1.70 for a dry (altogether £4.90). York students pay £3.20 for a standard wash and £1.90 for a dry (altogether £5.10).

So the question is, how many more times will I have to miss out on a portion of Mr Kipling's Angel Slices for the sake of personal hygiene?

**VISION POLL**  
46% OF FIRST YEARS ADMIT TO DRYING THEIR CLOTHES IN THEIR ROOM

## GET INVOLVED



**WHAT: Vision's Next Weekly Meeting**

**WHERE: SLB/201**

**WHEN: 8th December, 6.30pm**

# YORK Vision

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Got a story, or a passion for writing, editing,

reading, photography...? GET INVOLVED!



Charlotte and Layla

PATRIOTISM REACHES SHOCKING NEW HEIGHTS

YORK'S  
PEEPING  
TOMS



“Flagshaggers” captured mid-climb: when your love of flags outweighs your knowledge of privacy laws

BY FREYA HUGHES

A series of posters plastered around York are causing outrage in the community, after claiming that “Flagshaggers are up ladders outside your homes looking in your windows!”

The poster linked to a Facebook video where a group of men have live-streamed themselves putting up flags next to people’s homes.

“Can you see anybody in that

bedroom window? She got her clothes on or what?”, the man recording shouts as the flaggers laugh along.

In response to the video, the men involved said on social media that nobody was in the room. ‘Fly all the nations flags in York’ (note the lack of apostrophe) criticised this response, saying: “What that tells me is they are, in fact, up ladders looking in people’s houses.”

Although many have been torn down, the poster urges people to call 999 if they see “Flagshaggers” looking into their homes.

Flag Force UK has said on Facebook that they have no connection with the man who posted the video, Robin Allan, saying that he was following their members.

Allan has claimed on social media that “it was my ladders” the group was using.

‘Fly all the nations’ posted that: “They claim to be protecting women and children.

“We would politely tell them if they want to do that, then they should get off their ladders, stop looking through people’s windows and start calling out horrific, misogynistic comments like these among themselves.”

CAMPUS LAKE

ONE FRUSTRATING ATTEMPT TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF IT



IMAGE: YORK VISION

BY CHARLOTTE AMBROSE

There’s a long-standing rumour that the University of York refuses to clean its lake, due to fines from DEFRA - the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs - being cheaper than the cost to actually clean it.

And as any reliable journalist will tell you, every good news story starts with “there’s a long-standing rumour”. So I decided to dive head-first into exploring this speculation for myself.

But the excitement of (what I confidently predicted would be) a career-launching investigation was short-lived, and I was met with watery disappointment when the results of my long-awaited FOI request came back:

Is the University of York currently paying any fines from DEFRA?

No.

This mood-dampening syllable killed off my article faster than you could say “rapidly aggregating, water-resistant bacteria”.

And just like that, I watched my story, which was meant to blow this edition out of the water, drip down the drain.

But it isn’t all bad. Instead of a brutally insightful investigation into the University’s financial choices, you get to see how many water-related puns I can fit into a 200 word column.

IT CAN'T BE CASUAL NOW, CHAPPELL

BY CHARLOTTE AMBROSE & LAYLA ROBERTS

The more observant readers among you may have noticed that, over the summer, the University updated its HR policy on ‘personal relationships’ for the first time since January 2018.

Blah blah blah... just boring admin stuff, right? Wrong.

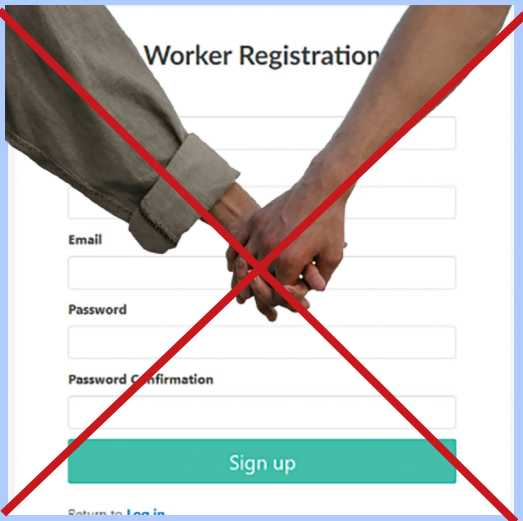
Point 5.1.1 under the ‘Personal Relationships’ section states that members of staff must not enter into an intimate relationship where the staff member has professional responsibilities to that student. Further in their policy, it is expressly highlighted that “this policy prohibits all intimate personal relationships between students and relevant staff.”

But an earlier point (3.1, for any of you number-loving fact-checkers out there) states that ‘staff’ can include ‘casual workers’.

So... does that mean student casual workers can’t sleep around with anyone they might have a ‘professional responsibility’ to, much like how university staff and student relationships are forbidden?

So if you fall in love with a prospective student whilst working on an offer-holder day, don’t try to find them in Salvos.

If you’re not careful, you might find yourself in HR meetings and battling paedophile accusations from your friends.







**YORK SU REBOUNDS FASTER THAN A SECOND-YEAR AFTER FINALLY DUMPING THEIR LONG-DISTANCE BOYFRIEND**

# THE MESSY YORK SU X FLARES BREAK UP

THE DANCE FLOOR WHERE LOVE DIED ...AND THE PLAT CARDS WITH IT

BY LAYLA ROBERTS

**Flares decided to back out of the Platinum Card contract this year, leaving York SU alone on the dance floor. Cue *Dancing on My Own*, by Calum Scott.**

Flares told *York Vision*: "Flares continues to honour all sponsorship agreements with student clubs and societies, and our support for York students remains unchanged. We're also still open on Thursday nights, which remain student-only, inclusive, with the same safety measures and welcoming atmosphere."

As further collateral from the split, the clubnight also featured

on the York Parties Platinum card. So those who have paid their weight in golden WKDs for for a plat card won't receive all the treasures associated with the card.

In an attempt to rectify this, those who were most deeply affected were eligible to purchase reduced house pints at The Courtyard, The Glasshouse and The Vanbrugh Arms on October 16th. However, this was only advertised via York SU's instagram... and who religiously checks that?

Standard protocol told us that a Revenge Era was

imminent for York SU.

Nor was this feud silent, as the SU took to Instagram reels to poke fun at the situation as many heartbroken souls do after a bad breakup, hoping to make their ex regret their decision.

This was achieved by showcasing how they were totally not devastated, but have in fact *flourished* since their public split.

Because now, there's a new man in the picture. York SU have started promoting a new LGBTQ+ night on campus and, like a vengeful ex harbouring bits and bobs post-breakup,

the SU stole Flares Thursday's iconic theme for themselves in their post.

After Flares 'dumped' them, it seems like some societies have been caught in the middle, like a mutual friend choosing to comfort post breakup. Societies are now stuck in a tricky situation: they signed sponsorship contracts with Flares, and the SU has told all those in contracts that they can no longer publicly associate with the club.

Does that mean that when we next see James College Football on the pitch their massive Flares logo is going to be blacked out

ominously, or are students going to have to pay for new kits?

Without Thursday Flares, people will have to migrate to Popworld for their white girl bangers, only to be horrifyingly met with old men on a revolving dance floor.

Will Glitter - York SU's new LGBTQ+ club night - be a long-term serious relationship, or just a silly rebound?

We'll have to wait and see. But in the meantime, we'll be sending thoughts and prayers that York SU's heart heals.

# SABBS IN SHORT FALLING SHORT



How many people actually read the 'Sabbs in Short' emails? The answer might surprise you



BY CHARLOTTE AMBROSE

**You can imagine my shock when I sat face-to-face with the Sabbs (read: the Kardashians of York) at a student media press conference and they tried to tell me 70% of students read the Sabbs in Short emails.**

I almost spat out my custard cream. I'm only joking. [They didn't give us biscuits]. But they did approximate that 70% of students read the Sabbs in Short emails.

Humans are roughly 70% water. You're telling me that there is the same proportion of water molecules in the human body as there are people who read the Sabbs in Short emails? Coming from someone who makes it her business to know a lot about the University of York and the Students' Union, I can't remember the last time I read one. So I asked other students if they read the Sabbs in Short emails.

"I feel like it's not relevant to me", said one student.

"I haven't got the time to read those," protested another.

As more and more people confessed to not reading the emails (a heinous crime, I know), my suspicions grew as to where this 70% estimated

readership was coming from.

Still, I remained hopeful that York SU's comms team would alleviate my concern.

They responded: "Typical unique open rate sits around 65%-70%. Last week's (Wednesday 12th November), for example, was sent to 24,046 students and was opened by 16,426 of them."

No doubt to make me feel even worse about not reading them, the comms team added: "16,426 is the unique open rate, where each person is only counted once, regardless of how many times they referred back to the email."

"The full open rate for last week's email, which includes multiple opens by the same person, is counted at 29,030."

So not only is there a large group of people who *read* the emails.

But, apparently, a sizeable demographic of students read them, and then, presumably some hours later, think to themselves "that Sabbs in Short email was so good, I simply *must* read it again."

What a way to make me feel uninformed. Thankfully, the comms team confessed, the click rate was much lower, with a meagre 182 people clicking on

the links featured in the email.

Yet the substantial discrepancy between the number of people allegedly 'reading' the emails and the number of people clicking on the links was still concerning to me.

In a way, the comms team's ability to push past my negativity was admirable, displaying all the forced enthusiasm as a lecturer trying to get people to keep turning up to their Week 10 seminars.

I almost didn't have the heart to tell them that some people open the emails just to clear their inbox.

Or that the 'mark all as read' function is used and abused by students on a daily basis.

As we all know, just because I open a book doesn't mean that I will read that book.

So, congrats on anyone who does sincerely read the Sabbs in Short emails. No matter what the comms team says, I think it's pretty clear to say that you're part of a dying breed.

And for the 29,030 people who are re-reading the Sabbs in Short emails, might I recommend looking for a new hobby?

I hear *York Vision* is always looking for new writers.



YORK SHOWS THAT IT MIGHT JUST  
CARE ABOUT THE PLANET AFTER ALL

# IS THE GREEN PARTY TURNING A NEW LEAF FOR BRITISH POLITICS?



IMAGE: YORK VISION



IMAGE: YORK GREEN PARTY, USED WITH PERMISSION  
FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, LARS KRAMM (YORK CENTRAL) AND MICHAEL KEARNEY (YORK OUTER)

BY OLIVER ASHBY

**The Green Party, once a niche protest vote, has grown to become an expanding force within British politics.**

Whilst environmental concerns seemed to underscore the Party's standing, much of its recent momentum is due to their new leader, Zack Polanski.

Polanski has not only invigorated new memberships, but manoeuvred the Green's image into one that posits itself as genuine and hopeful.

Polanski's leadership represents a strategic break from the Green's prior public image. While previous leaders, like Denyer and Ramsay, were more often focused on policy and being grounded in academics,

Polanski's compelling voice - rooted in the arts, activism, and community work - means the Greens have garnered support

on a scale not previously seen.

Recent opinion polls demonstrate this as they hold the second highest percentage of people that would "definitely consider voting for them", after Reform UK.

The Green Party membership also currently stands at over 170,000, putting it ahead of the Conservative Party and making it the third most successful party in the UK, behind Reform UK and Labour.

It seems that the Greens have been mirroring the Reform UK from the opposite end of the spectrum.

Both parties have almost tangentially focused more on social media content and speaking to young voters. The employment of a charismatic leader has also been fundamental to both of the parties' success with this.

Polanski said in his leader's speech: "If Reform can rocket through the polls with a politics of despair, then it's time for the Green Party to do the same thing with a politics of hope."

Both Farage and Polanski have a large social media platform, and both speak in a way that captivates voters.

It appears that voters have now become disillusioned by the traditional political parties and have looked to the fringes to find new favourites.

The Green's specific success also comes from an almost intuitive understanding of how to spread a political narrative.

It is not just the speeches and manifestos, but Polanski's tone and story that captivated voters with his message, that Polanski is hopeful for the future.

Polanski's framing offers an

antidote to the people of Britain: an idea that political change is not just a necessary change, but an achievable one.

Crucially, this tone reframes the Greens not as a party warning of catastrophe, but a party that offers a route out of it.

The Green Party is also hunting for success within the way the first past the post system works. As Chris Williams, the Green Party's head of elections said: "By-elections are being won with just 27% of the vote. The swings we need are smaller - instead of climbing Everest, we're having to climb Snowdon now in order to win a constituency."

The rise of smaller parties, such as the Greens and Reform, in turn make it easier for these parties to gain the largest portion of the vote.

Within York, the Green Party is not totally without a chance. Being the third largest party (notably a mere 200 votes behind the Conservatives) there is every chance that the Party can grow in the York Central constituency.

In the 2024 General Election, the Green Party won 12% of the vote, a share change of 7.8% from the previous election.

Reform followed a similar trend, gaining 8.5% of the vote, and coming in fourth, but it currently seems like there is little to tackle Labour's stronghold with over half of the vote.

The rise of fringe parties such as the Greens demonstrate that it is imperative to ensure you are signed up to vote, as there is now more chance that a party you actively support can get in power, whether that is an old stronghold or a new riser.



# SIGN NOW OR SLEEP WITH THE RATS

BY AOIFE WOOD

**The housing panic in York does not happen by accident.**

If you find yourself scrambling for a house this December, get ready to lower your standards and double your budget, because that desperation is profitable.

In my first year, I signed the contract for my second-year accommodation in mid-December, settling for a house with the classic student-home features: a roof that was caving in, windows that wouldn't fully close, and general disrepair aplenty.

Our first taste of landlord greed came when we arrived and discovered the four double bedrooms advertised were actually four singles.

And then there were the rats. As far as we know, they never

entered the property, though we definitely heard the noises - the scratching in the walls and rustling at night.

Despite growing up in a big city, I had never seen so many rats as I did living in that house, and eventually I started dreaming about them too.

My current house is actually nice, but only by a miracle of the moon.

In early November, after hours of scrolling through every student housing website, I found that everything had already gone.

On my walk home from work, I looked up at the full moon and genuinely wished, "Please let me find a nice house for next year." The next morning, I did. Sort of.

What I really found was a listing with a handful of photos,

no video tour, no floor plan, and no option for a viewing. Off to a great start.

But, by the grace of the moon, it was within budget, near the University, and available, so I took a chance on it.

Now, I'm lucky enough to live somewhere decent, but every time I hear a creak I pause, listening closely for the noise I came to expect in my second year.

The rats still visit me in my nightmares.

The truth is the rats are only a symptom of something far worse.

The landlords and letting agencies are the real infestation, gnawing away at tenants and profiting from our panic. They are in every wall, every clause, and every annual rent increase.



IMAGE: PIXABAY

“...the rats are only a symptom of something far worse. The landlords and letting agencies are the real infestation...”

IMAGE: UNSPLASH

## HOW NEOLIBERALISM HAS IMPACTED OUR WELLBEING

**From gut healing green juices to the perfect workout set that will change your gym routine, everything about the wellness community seems to have become commodified.**

The origins of wellness culture as a social movement have been displaced by a focus on individual action, which has become inaccessible for the masses.

When scrolling through social media, I find myself increasingly bombarded with aesthetic videos of wellness influencers promoting a magical green juice (that must be bought for a soul-extracting price) in order to heal your gut, and balance hormones, or new workout clothes which will be needed to make me confident and productive during my next gym session. However, as I scroll to yet another post about what it is I must buy in order to aid my self-betterment, I am increasingly at a loss as to whether buying these items is helping my wellbeing.

Historically, wellness culture was understood as a political act, one that worked against a discriminatory medical establishment that did not provide the correct care or acknowledge the needs of marginalised groups. Wellness was attributed to activism and aimed to give autonomy to those who felt unrepresented.

Yet, with the rise of neoliberalism, there has been a shift from a focus on community action and broader social wellbeing to a heightened focus on the self. Wellness spaces now promote the idea that fixing our health and wellbeing is

solely within our control and not a product of our socio-economic contexts. Not only has this approach abandoned all aims of the origins of wellness culture as a social movement but it also fails to recognise the structural barriers that many face to achieving this.

The growth of social media has fundamentally transformed how we have come to understand wellness and self-care. On social media, wellness influencers further perpetuate the idea of 'the perfect self' by 'aestheticising' every aspect of their lives and preaching the importance of eating all meals from scratch, while often having no financial or time constraints.

This individualistic approach places the blame on the consumer to find the time to 'eat clean' and the financial resources to buy the latest health product. Platforms such as TikTok have only intensified wellness consumerism, with influencers 'reviewing' wellness products through paid promotion, as well as encouraging their viewers to purchase items through TikTok shop.

This transformation of wellness from a transformative, revolutionary force into a commodified and self-driven culture is making wellness all the more unattainable for the masses and equates wellbeing with purchasing power. The ever-changing nature of the wellness industry ensures that there is always a new product to buy. By rejecting the constant consumerism of the wellness industry, your wellbeing (and your pockets!) will thank you.

# PUTTING THE SELF IN SELF-CARE

BY AMALIE CLEVELAND



“The ever-changing nature of the wellness industry ensures that there is always a new product to buy.”

IMAGE: UNSPLASH



**"Reform Society's invitation to Anderton is only the latest incident in a growing chain of scandals..."**

# YORK STUDENTS SAID NO. WHY DIDN'T YORK SU?

BY FREYA HUGHES & MORGAN GROVE

**"...students should not have to fight this battle alone."**

**"We are the students, and we will not stop until we are heard", York Student Action Network (YSAN) triumphantly declared on Instagram after their protest against Reform Society's event speaker, Jack Anderton, drew over 400 students, dwarfing the meagre 30 attendees who came to hear Anderton speak.**

The protest was a bold stand against the far-right's presence on campus. Speakers emphasised solidarity, community, and protecting the marginalised groups who are targeted by extremist scapegoating. It wasn't just a protest; it was a collective refusal to allow hate on campus.

## Anderton's views

Anderton called the protestors "deeply troubled people".

Although he has directly refuted YSAN labelling him a "fascist" (claiming the "radical left of York are lying and smearing me"), it's undeniable that his blog spouts dangerous far-right rhetoric which flirts with imperialism and authoritarianism.

He has targeted British students at Palestine demonstrations, describing them as "indoctrinated", and blaming rising campus activism on the "importation of foreign students" who "bring their grievances" to the UK.

This rhetoric echoes classic far-right narratives portraying international students as threats. Perhaps British citizens empathising with and fighting against global horrors is a foreign concept to him.

His 'Britain' is a hollow, nostalgic fantasy: a whitewashed empire with an all-powerful state crushing dissent.

On his blog, he lusts after the possibility of regaining former colonies, fantasises about immigration dropping to zero, and hails an omnipotent state as the ultimate solution, advocating El Salvador-style mass imprisonment.

Frankly, it smacks of fragility.

It reads less like a political vision and more like a make-believe empire crafted by a man flustered by the fact that modern Britain is diverse, dynamic, and nothing like the world he imagines.

## A Contradiction of Values

Anderton's visit undermined the safety and wellbeing of students targeted by his rhetoric. Campus isn't just a place for lectures; it's a home, and the presence of someone with such unnerving views is a direct attack on their welfare.

For many in our community, the society's decision to bring Anderton to the University (something they did not do with Richard Tice's visit last year) carries a symbolic weight that can be perceived as intimidating. When someone whose politics explicitly target minority groups is given a microphone on campus, it gives the impression that the well-being of minority groups is secondary.

York SU selected Refugee Action to be their charity partner in Semester 1, a highly significant move in the wake of the 'Operation Raise the Flags' campaign that had made its way to the areas surrounding campus. But the impact of this is wholly compromised by the Union allowing this event.

The charity's aim is to "challenge myths and misconceptions about refugees and asylum seekers," ironically the exact misconceptions that Anderton consistently exacerbates through his claim that "immigration is stealing the future of the British youth."

It is clear the SU has put great effort into making students at the University feel safe in a period of deep uncertainty, but is this really the point where their hands are tied?

We feel it's reasonable to question how safe sanctuary seekers at York feel in the pres-

ence of a society aligned with political figures like Farage and Anderton, whose messaging is, in our opinion, often experienced as intimidating and hostile to the diversity upon which Britain thrives.

## Reform Society's Track Record: A Pattern of Harm

Reform Society's invitation to Anderton is only the latest incident in a growing chain of scandals stretching back to the society's inception.

Their vile transphobic views reared their head following the Supreme Court's ruling that the legal definition of a woman was based on biological sex. Reform Society intentionally exploited a moment when trans students were at their most vulnerable, feeling alienated and scared, to declare a "victory for common sense and a devastating blow to the ludicrous falsehood that a man can become a woman (or vice versa)."

The vitriol of their statement can not be sugarcoated. They continued: "radical gender ideology continues to poison our institutions and indoctrinate our children. We must keep up the fight."

Reform Society publicly spouted transphobic rhetoric and declared they will continue to "fight" against trans people - not as a call to physical violence, but as an aggressive rallying cry for the far-right's hostile campaign that further endangers this marginalised community.

York SU said that, after receiving multiple complaints, they ran a full investigation and "took appropriate disciplinary action."

But clearly, Reform's behaviour won't change. The Party is built on divisive populism that scapegoats ethnic minorities and the LGBT+ community.

## This Isn't About Free Speech. It's about Safety

The far-right has mastered the art of using "free speech" as a shield in order to spit their hate. They demand unlimited freedom to attack minorities, then cry oppression when challenged.

Of course, universities should host varied political views.

But York SU's duty to protect campus's safe, welcoming culture must outweigh fear of being accused of censorship.

York SU said: "Our options to cancel or amend this event as a students' union are limited by the law. The Freedom of Speech Act means that the University has a legal duty to promote free expression... [the law] reduced the ability of SUs to take the political stances that many students want to see."

Despite considerable backlash from the student community, York SU allowed the event to go ahead. In the planning stages, Reform Society disclosed their intention to discuss their party, young people, and the broader political world. Recognising that these topics are difficult, the University and York SU's event safety group put a control officer at the event to "ensure it didn't cross a line from free speech to hate speech."

Although this kind of monitoring is standard for flagged events, that doesn't make the implications any less stark.

We believe it indicates how close Reform UK's rhetoric veers towards hate speech. If an event requires active monitoring to prevent it from crossing into bigotry, we argue the issue is not the supervision - it is the decision to platform views that make such mitigation necessary in the first place.

Anderton's brand is inseparable from the exclusionary far-right narratives he amplifies. Hoping his ideological content can be neatly bracketed off is, in our opinion, like inviting Andrew Tate to talk about "current affairs" and hoping no misogyny spills out.

Accommodating Anderton legitimises his persona and the foul

politics that made him relevant in the first place.

We believe York SU cannot plausibly believe that placing a control officer in the room neutralises this reality. The issue is not the supervision; it is the decision to platform someone whose views make such supervision necessary in the first place.

## What Comes Next?

The overwhelming student turnout against Anderton proves that York's community is stronger than the division Reform's ideology attempts to sow in society. But students should not have to fight this battle alone.

A society is a powerful platform and York SU must ensure that this power isn't used to spread toxicity online or make campus unsafe for minorities. At a minimum, students who are known to hold prejudiced views should not be able to form or lead any society.

However, York SU says that provided a society is not breaking the law, they can not stop students organising one even if the members hold offensive views. We hope the individuals responsible for the troubling post were removed from the society's leadership - and if that leaves no one to run Reform Society, that speaks for itself.

Political diversity enriches campus and creates important conversations; however, prejudice and scapegoating is baked into the core of the Reform Party. It's hard to imagine students ever feeling safe or welcome while Reform Society continues to operate, and the SU will never be able to change their views. It will be an endless balancing act - waiting for the next scandal to drop.

Reform Society is a fringe group desperate for legitimacy they could not earn without SU approval. Students have shown where they stand - now, York SU must decide whether they stand with them.



# Letting Students Shape (and Skew) the Story

# UoY CONFESSION CULTURE

BY DAYLEN HEIDT

**What would you do if one moment of your life was broadcasted online? When anonymity drives the story, who decides what's true?**

"Uni of York Confessions" (@uoy.confessions) is an unofficial confessions page hosted on Instagram where students can anonymously submit, and admit, anything.

And I mean *anything*: an argument with a flatmate, an embarrassing moment in a lecture, becoming someone's course crush, or a rumor about a serial masturbator on campus. Nothing is too much or too little for the page.

Most posts mix cynicism, humour, and oversharing, turning the page into a venting outlet that averages a few posts and hundreds of likes a day.

The majority of confessions published are about campus crushes, flatmate drama, or random alleged incidents such as the "Spring Lane wanker" or the "Alcuin gooner".

The form to submit a confession is simple and accessible: an anonymous Google Form with a single tagline that reads 'SUBMIT HERE'.

Uni of York Confessions is one fish in a pond of anonymous confessions pages.

Confessions pages of varying levels of activity and demographics exist, including a page for each of the University of York colleges. The confessions across different pages show a theme of cynicism, tongue-in-cheek comedy, and a yearning for community.

The Uni might have over 200 student run and led societies, but an unofficial, unassociated confessions page seems to bring students together in a way no society taster session could (except a *York Vision* one, that is).

In March, multiple incidents of student spikings experiences were published online, prompting student-run pages to become forums for outrage and concern.

Students reacted by

organising boycotts and sharing their own experiences. Some confessions pages, such as @overheardatuoy, which follows a model of posting conversations overheard on campus, (similar to the online community of r/overheard on Reddit) took a stance to not post anything related to the allegations.

In their pinned statement on their Instagram, @overheardatuoy stated: "We want to raise awareness, this isn't the place for it...i can't do anything from an insta page other than cause more panic. stay safe out there x."

This model was not followed by every page. It seems all content is entirely admin-dependent.

Uni of York Confessions seems to post almost anything that comes through and have been known to name and shame specific venues.

When dangerous incidents are alleged by students, the first place they may look is relevant student-run social pages.

And whilst confessions pages have less responsibility to verify information, their reach gives them moral weight, leaving students to decide what or whom to believe.

When faced with potential danger, do confessions pages have a moral responsibility to post about criminal activity if it's in the public interest to warn students?

The suspected 'moral compass' of each confessions pages vastly differs across accounts.

Some confessions are undoubtedly mean-spirited or hateful in nature. Some posts are funny; others cruel.

Anonymity allows honesty but erases accountability, creating a space where venting and vilifying coexist. Confessions and social pages can ultimately become a tool for social manipulation, or a beacon of hope for students who want their concerns to be heard by the general populous. The existence of anonymous gossip or confessions pages originated long before Instagram, and will continue to exist in different formats. Deuxmoi (@deuxmoi), a popular celebrity gossip page that has been featured in *Cosmopolitan*, *Vanity Fair*, and *The New York Times* is an example of this.

Honestly, it's never really been about any specific confessions or gossip page, but rather the power given to anonymity, and who can make a confession sound the most convincing.

If one confession names an unsafe club or boycott, another confession can counter, and both can be held to the same level of truth.

Ultimately, it places the confessions, and the students, into the court of public opinion, and it's unclear if a fair trial will be given to any society named, any student identified, or any club shamed in a confession.

Despite it all, students are brought together for better, or worse, through these unofficial student pages, uniting on issues from student spiking, building opposition to Reform Society, a shared hatred of stinky flatmates, and a love of Long Boi.

IMAGE: UNSPLASH

**MEME OR MEGAPHONE?**



**Do you have a burning idea you need to write about? Do you dream of seeing your name in print? Have you got a MASSIVE gap in your CV you desperately need to fill?**

**You should come join *Vision*! We meet in SLB/201 every Monday at 6.30pm. All the cool kids will be there. And even the uncool ones, but they're chill so we let them sit with us.**



IMAGE: CHARLOTTE AMBROSE

**CAMPUS RANTS:**  
A satirical section for all hot  
takes on York and Uni life.  
Write in at [vision@yorksu.org](mailto:vision@yorksu.org) or  
come to our weekly meetings

# LET IT DIE LET IT DIE...

## A LORAXIAN CRITICISM OF THE UNIVERSITY'S CONSTRUCTION OBSESSION

BY SAMPHIRE UBSDELL

**My father told me that things were a lot better at York in 1983.**

He said that back then, campus was like *The Breakfast Club*, except no one had identity glow-ups and everyone stayed uncool because it was the 80s... and it was also the University of York.

But the way he talks about it back then makes me wonder: what exactly is different now? Everyone still leaves Derwent with progressive lung conditions, Heslington Hall still looks like Strangeways, and the 1980s campus ducks have the same behavioural problems as the Long Boi generation ducks. Besides the deep-fried Mars bars available at the Goodricke canteen, which was then on Campus West, everything seems the same.

It was then that I looked at an old photograph of our campus and realised how similar our Vice-Chancellor is to the Once-ler from *The Lorax* in their profit-drunk leadership. Where the Dr Seuss magnate favoured the capital to be derived from the deforestation of trees that look like candy floss, our Vice-Chancellor is a capitalist of brick and mortar, clear-cutting historic buildings at our University once they reach a certain age, like they're DiCaprio's late Gen Z girlfriends.

I recall the Once-ler's political ballad *How Bad Can I Be?* and the capitalist rhetoric: "All the money's multiplying, and the PR people are lying, and the lawyers are denying, who cares if a few original University of York buildings are dying?"

I feel, in this moment, connected to the little orange steward and his rallying cries to respect the environmental history to which I belong, and to which I owe have a duty of care. I look around me, and I see the ruins of a scholastic empire I was never a part of.

Whole collages, ripped apart, their remains scattered in a nearby field to be renamed Campus East; only a cement pillar mocks their legacy. I see old canteens bulldozed, accommodations annihilated, taking with them the residual archive of the days of YUSU (you know them as York SU).

As I paid attention, as I dared to ask questions, to ask alumni, to ask the man-made wind on Campus East about its own dark history, to visit these places, like the disused Alcuin Vedge cafe that survived (though forgotten behind the library), I came to learn that our University, as we know it, is built on erasure.

So, when you next see the signs on the construction site outside the library saying "Please bear with us while we tidy this area" that have been there for three years (and probably three more after you), remember what had to fall to build your Student Centre - an entire ancestry that we lost.

Know that we could have had a whole campus full of brutalist architecture that, in the words of Debbie Ryan, would feel like a punishment every day.



IMAGE: UNSPLASH



IMAGE: CHARLOTTE AMBROSE

**CAUTION: Work NOT  
in progress**



ILLUSTRATION BY SAMPHIRE UBSDELL



# **YORK Vision**

**YORK'S AWARD WINNING TABLOID NEWSPAPER**

**INTERESTED IN WRITING  
FOR US?**

**VISION@YORKSU.ORG**

**Website**



**Instagram**



**Membership**







### On 15th October, North Yorkshire Police launched Operation Super Tornado.

This was one of the county's largest enforcement days to date, targeting organised crime, retail theft, and immigration fraud.

The following day, a new group called York Anti-Raids (@york\_antiraid) made its first Instagram post.

While new to York, the group joins an existing wider grassroots movement. The Anti-Raids Network first emerged in London in 2012, set up by other London-based groups. It has since grown into a loose network of local groups across the UK, aiming to spread practical advice, legal information, and stories of resistance.

In North Yorkshire, immigration enforcement has become increasingly visible. Police described Operation Super Tornado as being part of a wider crackdown on organised crime and immigration-related crime, and said that enforcement activity targeting illegal working had risen 56% in recent months.

Within these operations, Immigration Compliance and Enforcement (ICE) teams, part of the operational arm of the Home Office, carry out immigration-related checks and arrests.

York Anti-Raids called attention to the operation, posting "Spotted: ICE on the Shambles" on Instagram, with details on the number of visits, arrests, and Civil Penalty Referral Notices issued to businesses.

The group also reported a raid they spotted on Saturday 25th October on Rougier Street at 10pm. On Instagram, they wrote that their "comrade arrived on the scene to spot 3-4 immigration enforcement officers inside a restaurant". While waiting for "backup", the group member spoke with another restaurant owner, who said immigration officers targeted businesses in the area every few months.

The post claimed that after ICE departed, the group said the owner of the raided restau-

rant told them that the officers had no warrants, only "hand-written pieces of paper" used to justify detaining workers for "further questioning", including several student part-time employees.

On 19th September, Onyinye Grace Enyi, a York St John University international student, took to Instagram to share her experience with immigration enforcement, explaining that she was facing deportation for overworking on her student visa.

In the video, Grace showed screenshots of an email from the Home Office which listed her working hours each week ranging from five hours to 50.

She has been forced to withdraw from her degree and since been instructed to vacate the UK.

She explained: "I have to work even when I'm sick, I have to work even when I'm depressed" to fund her studies, especially after her father's death.

These raids and deportations reflect a wider national trend.

The Labour government says that the new laws are designed to close loopholes "so there will be no hiding place for illegal workers who flout the rules in the gig, casual, subcontracted, and temporary worker economy."

York Anti-Raids places its work within this national picture. In an Instagram post announcing their first training session on 11th November, the group said the event would explore Labour's approach to immigration and offer advice on how to respond to raids.

Led by organisers from Hull Anti-Raids, the session focused on "Know Your Rights" guidance.

The post was made in collaboration with ACORN York, York Palestine Encampment, and York Student Action Network.

Other posts from York Anti-Raids have been made in collaboration with other local activist groups, including Extinction Rebellion York and York Migrant Solidarity. Within the first month of the account's launch, York

Anti-Raids gained more than 400 followers, with their first post receiving 244 likes and 12 reposts.

This level of support from York's community and activist networks points to a growing grassroots resistance to the rising presence of immigration raids in the city.

# YORK FIGHTS BACK

## IMMIGRATION RAIDS IN YORK PROMPT COMMUNITY RESPONSE

*After her father's death, an international student was found overworking her student's visa and has been forced to withdraw from her degree, and instructed to vacate the UK.*

BY AOIFE WOOD AND ZAREENA PUNDOLÉ





# EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH F

## "These people are **LITERALLY**"

## "They

BY GAVIN SOUTHWAY

### 1. IMMIGRATION, IMMIGRATION, IMMIGRATION...

Ostracised by other parties and stirring up protests by inviting controversial guests, York's Reform Society has been a regular controversy magnet. *York Vision* spoke to its President to gauge its response to the negativity, and get a sense of where it's going from here.

**The University of York's Reform Society was set up this time last year under controversial circumstances.**

President Dylan Cassap, a third-year Social & Political Sciences student, suggested he had found a gap in the market.

"A lot of us were based in the University of York's Conservative Society; that's where I met a lot of like-minded individuals," he told me.

"For various personality reasons, but also mostly political [he hastily added] we found

there was a space on campus for a genuinely right-wing society, that represented the values we believed in.

"Naturally, a society like ours would never be the biggest in a university.

"So we simply seek to create a space for people who hold patriotic and anti-establishment sentiment."

Anti-establishment? Given Nigel Farage comes from a well-off background, that struck me as rather bizarre. So I pulled him up on this.

Cassap said: "I trust Farage because he's the only man who's been saying these issues that have now become mainstream.

"Mass immigration and the community-level problems of mass immigration, the economic issues of mass immigration..."

It didn't take a detective to uncover a running theme here.

"He has been going on about it for a number of years now, and it's only recently that everyone else seems to be getting on the bandwagon."

IMAGE: FREYA HUGHES



### 2. SPEECHES DRAW CROWDS

**We moved to the society's hosting of former Reform leader Richard Tice earlier this year and the resulting protests.**

"They [the protesters] always baffled me because they protested a lot when Richard Tice wasn't there, but the moment he turned up, they all left.

"So I don't really understand what they were protesting at that point. But they were very good entertainment while we waited."

His style seemed triumphant, if not a tad cocky. Clearly, as he sees it, there is no such thing as bad publicity.

### 3. JUST ANOTHER BUNCH OF TORIES?

**One large question hanging over Reform nationally is whether they're simply an incubator for former Tories.**

Having originally been suspended from, and later spawned from, Tory Society, representing a party Cassap called "completely irrelevant" and which "nobody cares about", I wondered if Cassap had ever considered that his society was merely a fire exit from the Tories' apparent poll implosion.

"When we first split off, there was definitely a core: we were all members because, at the time, the Conservatives were

the only 'right-wing' society on campus," with the air quotes suggesting a touch of sarcasm.

"It's not going to be an easy task to get more members to recruit. And we have to wait, I think, for younger people, ages 15, 16, 17, to grow up a bit more.

"When they start coming to university, I think we'll start growing. So I think, give it a couple of years and it'll be a lot bigger." His words were spoken with such optimism they almost didn't sound threatening.

*Vision* asked the York Tories what they thought of being called "completely

irrelevant." Noting that Reform had fewer members than the Tories, they said: "We wish Reform all the best in contributing to a healthy political environment at the University.

"If choosing not to make people feel intimidated or scared is what makes us 'irrelevant', then we're quite comfortable with that.

"Our aim is to represent our views constructively and respectfully, and we think that speaks for itself."

A lesson for Reform perhaps: as a new society, if you want to dish it out, you have to be prepared to take it.

**Tory Society fires back**



Dylan Cassap (left) holding the Uni





# REFORM SOCIETY PRESIDENT "KILLING US" "all NEED TO GO!"



IMAGE: REFORM SOCIETY INSTAGRAM



...ted Kingdom flag with Jack Anderon (right).

## 4. THE AMERICAN T-BOMB

**I held onto the ticking T-Bomb before it detonated at the end of the interview.**

"Just one more thing... what do you think of Trump?", I asked.

He paused for a moment. For a seasoned political enthusiast, his thoughts seemed strangely mixed, almost rationalising as he went along, or careful about what to say.

For a party whose leader is known to be a friend of the President, Cassap's tone hinted at slightly less enthusiasm.

"I would say the right-wing movement owes a lot to Donald Trump since 2016.

"It was basically dead until he smashed open the doors again for populist, radical - whatever word you want to use - for the right to become now a

mainstream force. That was largely due to him.

"In America, the cultural and political force that he did in 2016 was phenomenal and, again, I like what he's doing with mass deportations."



## 5. A MAN OF MANY SOURCES PLUS THE OCCASIONAL SCROLL

**I asked him after a brief moment: "Out of curiosity... where do you get your news?"**

He took a while to think. "In the morning, I'll normally either put on the telly or read some BBC articles. ITV's on in the evening sometimes. I always try to watch all the *Question Time* stuff when that comes on. Not necessarily news, but topical.

"I do, actually, just to understand what the left

are saying, like to watch Politics Joe whenever they do anything." Cassap seemed rather hesitant to admit this: it came across like an embarrassment; a guilty pleasure.

"I don't agree with them at all, but it's good to know what they're talking about at the end of the day. I get a lot of it on social media: Twitter, X, whatever is where I get a lot of it from."

## 6. THE FUTURE OF THE PARTY

**By now, the interview was much more relaxed. It had become a conversation between two news and politics buffs in the middle of The Courtyard.**

Given it looks likely, I then asked Cassap what he would want from Reform UK in government.

From his response, I would have given good odds that he had his personal manifesto documented and committed to rote memory.

"I want to stop mass immigration to our country, first and foremost. And after that, I want to see mass deportations of, essentially, all illegal immigrants from this country. I want them to restore the constitutional

order."

He called local government an "incredibly inefficient bloated machine, which attracts the most low-calibre people".

He looked at me neutrally when saying it, but his tone betrayed his dismissiveness, as though rattling off a list approved by the party's national press office.

"I want it to restore a high-trust society. It's such a criminal society we live in now: drugs, graffiti, burglaries, murder on the street," he said, referring to a well-publicised murder in Walsall by an asylum seeker in October 2024.

"These people are literally killing us, so they all need to go, and our own criminals,

they need to be sorted out too."

We ended the interview after 30 minutes. As we shook hands and parted ways, one thought stayed echoing in my head.

He kept discussing "them and us" – the right versus the left.

For a politics student, Cassap's idea of the political spectrum seemed surprisingly binary, if not tribal and antagonistic.

Reform's poll rating nationally in the under-30s age bracket is merely a fifth of voters, with the Greens and Labour (somehow) forming a majority.

So if the party wants to attract more cross-party support in our cohort, it certainly has its work cut out.



"D ENTERTAINMENT" Reform about the campus rallies at their events



# HEX AND THE CITY

## Inside the Rise of Digital Spells

BY KATE KOLES

**From turning men into pigs in Ancient Greece to buying love spells online for the price of a latte, spirituality and the occult have woven themselves into women's lives for centuries.**

Now, with crystals, tarot cards, and digital spellcasting available at the tap of a screen, a new form of online spirituality has emerged.

But why is this generation turning so sharply toward spellwork, manifestations, and the digital occult?

It isn't exactly groundbreaking to say that Generation Z is anxious.

We are constantly confronted with a relentless stream of warnings: irreversible climate change, an unattainable housing market, unstable politics, and the suggestion that our degrees may already be

outdated.

These reminders follow us everywhere: Our lectures are full of rants about AI. Adverts about melting ice caps interrupt even the smallest attempts to relax.

And beneath all that, loneliness lingers. It's not new, nor is it caused solely by technology, despite older generations blaming "that stupid phone".

Loneliness first appeared as a word in the 16th century. The feeling is timeless: a quiet ache for connection, belonging, and community. Even now, while messaging someone is instantaneous, many interactions feel fleeting.

Busy commutes, long shifts, brain-numbing study sessions, and half-hearted dating app conversations leave many yearning for something that feels more meaningful.

For some, spirituality fills that space. Rituals, jar spells, moon baths, and tarot spreads offer a small but significant sense of structure and care.

They become moments of intention in a chaotic world, a way to believe that circumstances can shift, even slightly.

This modern spiritual movement has also grown as younger generations move away from traditional, often male-dominated religious institutions.

In their place, online witchcraft has become a community of autonomy and self-expression.

Influencers endorse it too; Bronte King even claimed she hired an Etsy witch to

ensure sunshine on her storm-threatened wedding day.

But as digital spellcasting becomes increasingly commercialised, questions arise.

Is this really an empowering space for women seeking comfort and guidance, or a capitalised industry selling hope to people at their most vulnerable?

Search "spells" on Etsy and you're met with a marketplace competing for your curiosity: descriptions promising that you will be "successful forever", or able to get "karmic revenge", paired with glittery graphics and mystical language. It's persuasive by design.

Even my sceptical mind paused over a listing for a spell "to make him cry, scream, and beg for you," complete with a glowing review declaring: "He said his brain wouldn't allow him to be mad at me." Very tempting, indeed.

These promises raise questions about ethics and exploitation. Is it right to sell something so deeply desired in moments of uncertainty?

Yet for many buyers, the intention behind purchasing a spell isn't blind belief. It's hope. A way to claim agency in a world that often denies it.

As journalist Eilidh Dorgan wrote after her own experience, the effects weren't magical, but the mindset shift was meaningful: "While there's so much doom and gloom out there in the world... it's fun to live in a world of witches and spells."



IMAGE: PIXABAY

*READ THIS to find the love of your love of your life for only £4.55!*



IMAGE: UNSPLASH

## MY CHRISTMAS FLIGHT HOME!

(Kindly Sponsored by Delusion)

BY DAYLEN HEIDT

**When you're an international student, sometimes the holidays just feel like more days away from your family.**

If this is your first winter away, you're going to be okay. The dreaded seven words: "Are you going home for the holidays?" are a nightmare to hear. And they often become worse as the conversation drags on.

The conversation dies as I give my honest reply: "No, because I cannot afford it."

What would other international students in my position say? Maybe they've been at university longer than I have, so they've nailed the art of dodging that question. I haven't learned yet, and I don't want to lie. But maybe I *should* start lying.

Becoming an international student was an easy choice but a difficult journey.

I didn't anticipate how much I would miss home, especially as someone in a position who cannot afford to return. This shocks a lot of people. My favourite reaction was a student gasping out: "So you won't see your family for three years?!"

Yes, Hannah - that's exactly what that means.

The reality of it only sank in as the leaves turned more damp and orange.

I hear the excited chatter amongst

my peers everyday now. I'm happy for them, but among the sea of wealthy students who can afford to go home every consolidation week, I imagine there are plenty who are in a similar situation to me.

Unable to go home, spending their first winter thousands of miles away, realising that Christmas becomes another day when you haven't built a community quite yet—then suddenly it's 3.30pm and pitch black outside.

If no one has told you yet, deciding to study abroad is a very tough decision, and you should be proud that you've made it.

There will be days of doubt, but you have made it. Whether you're just here for your course or for the foreseeable future, you can find the life you want for yourself while at university.

Joining a society (I hear *York Vision* is always looking for writers?), going on pub trips, attending free events... these can all boost your mood and allow to discover yourself and connect with others.

As an international student, you're not always going to feel overjoyed. Life is not perfect, but this winter does not have to be one of loneliness. Enjoy a hot toddy, browse the overpriced Christmas market, and make an effort to show up for yourself, just like you did when you decided to study abroad.



IMAGE: UNSPLASH



# IS FEMINISM FORGETTING ITSELF?

## THE PROBLEM WITH VOGUE'S 'BOYFRIEND EMBARRASSMENT'

BY LUCI O'DONNELL

When *Vogue* dropped Chanté Joseph's provocatively titled piece "Is Having a Boyfriend Embarrassing Now?", the internet did what it does best: turned it into a personality test.

Suddenly, people were confessing to boyfriend shame across social media, half-joking about hiding their partners like they're smuggling contraband into brunch.

The tone (ironic, self-aware, and drenched in Gen Z detachment) made it easy to laugh along. But underneath the memeable surface, there was something a little uneasy going on.

Because sure, it's all fun and games until we start seriously defining women by the man in their life. That's when the joke starts sounding like a throwback. Not edgy or progressive, just repackaged patriarchy in a different outfit. Regressive, weird, and maybe even anti-feminist.

In all honesty, I only read this article because it was trending and at first glance, it had all the makings of classic internet 'rage bait'. The bulk of Joseph's article reads more like a summary of TikTok chatter than a considered opinion piece, tracing how dating content creators and girls with boyfriends have supposedly made public displays of heterosexual affection feel gauche. Despite the 'opinion' tag, Joseph never really commits to a position. It's only in the final paragraphs that she gestures towards one, suggesting that "the script is shifting" - that

it's now more socially powerful, even aspirational, to declare yourself single.

But the analysis never deepens beyond that surface observation.

Joseph briefly name-drops ideas like the politicisation of identity, heteronormativity, and heterosexuality (all crucial frameworks) but doesn't unpack them. They hang there, underdeveloped, as if referencing theory alone might lend the piece intellectual weight.

And perhaps that's what feels so off. For a platform like *Vogue*, whose audience is overwhelmingly women, this kind of framing lands awkwardly. The title, combined with the tone, reads less like cultural critique and more like an invitation to sneer at women who happen to be in relationships with men.

**"In trying to sound progressive, it edges into something that feels uncomfortably close to internalised misogyny or, at the very least, girl-on-girl judgement."**

This kind of performative feminism simply redraws the same old boundaries: it trades beauty standards for ideological ones, where 'cool' and 'empowered' become new measures of acceptability.

In the end, that's the real irony. A piece that claims to question how women define themselves through men ends up doing exactly that. It's effectively centring men all over again.

Let's be honest: there's a real conversation to be had about women in heterosexual relationships and the way identity can quietly erode under the weight of coupledness. It's not new, and it's not trivial.

Women have long been socialised to make space emotionally, mentally, and domestically for their partners. The issue isn't the boyfriend. It's the way society still rewards women for disappearing a little once they have one.

But *Vogue's* framing that being someone's girlfriend might now be embarrassing doesn't interrogate that dynamic so much as skim over it. It turns a deep sociocultural problem into a micro-trend, another ironic label to try on.

It's half-baked feminism dressed up as cultural commentary. You can be politically aware and still post a soft-launch. You can love a man and not lose yourself.

What's actually embarrassing isn't having a boyfriend, it's pretending that women must choose between independence and intimacy, as if emotional connection is incompatible with selfhood.



IMAGES: UNSPLASH

## CAMPUS CRUSH

BY EMMA MALIN

York Vision presents *Campus Crush*. Have you been looking fly in the library lately, or mysterious in the Roger Kirk Centre cafe? You could be someone's campus crush. Whether it's the possibility of finding the one, or just for a little bit of gossip, take a look at these rose-tinted tip-offs.

### Amateur Wildlife Photographer

To the boy with the backpack taking pictures of the ducks and geese on Campus West last week, HMU. I also love the campus wildlife, especially the ducks! We could have a photography first date, and you could show me the ropes?

- Halifax Girl

### Headphones Girl

To the cute girl who was sitting by the window in Morrell, I admire how locked in you are. I need someone like that in my life to be a good influence on me. BTW, I could hear your music through your headphones. I'm worried about your eardrums.

- Goodricke Girl

### Runway Ready

If you were the boy in the button-up shirt watching the Astra Collective fashion show the other night, you are bang on my type. I tried to catch your eye, but you were too focused on the show (totally valid).

- Kato Girl

### Hot Potato ;)

To the girl having the jacket potato at the weekly college meal, who put potato salad on top of your beans, despite your criminal meal choice, that still didn't put me off. I think you're gorgeous, but perhaps I could take the reins for dinner on the first date.

- Constantine Boy



Email your campus crushes to: [Relationships@yorkvision.co.uk](mailto:Relationships@yorkvision.co.uk) for the chance to find true love.





# THE SILVER LINING OF SILVERFISH



Can silverfish help us meet green energy goals?

BY SHAHAMA ANVER

It's a cold morning, and you walk into your uni accommodation's bathroom, barely awake. You turn on the tap, the water freezing cold. Suddenly, a silver flash zooms across the floor.

It's a tale as old as time. Quite literally, as our pesky little friends have been around for over 400 million years!

But in the most iconic redemption arc in history, our creepy crawlies might actually be the key to a greener

future.

A team at the University of York was investigating the digestive system of firebrats, which are very close relatives of silverfish.

Despite the researchers buying the first generation of their test subjects on eBay, they found groundbreaking results.

The insects are known to feed on cardboard and paper, which are made out of a polymer called cellulose.

The firebrats do this by using a class of enzymes called lytic

polysaccharide monooxygenases (LPMOs). These break down polysaccharides (chains of carbohydrates) into single units of sugar.

Previously, LPMOs were only known to be in fungi, bacteria, and viruses, but this study has shown that it was widespread among invertebrates — including our very own silverfish!

Biochemically, LPMOs are unusual in that they break down polysaccharides using a process called oxidative cleavage, where electrons are used to break

bonds.

Normally, water is used to break the bonds instead, in a process called hydrolysis. Oxidative cleavage's higher yields, coupled with LPMOs' ability to increase the rate of cellulose digestion, has the potential to revolutionise the production of biofuel.

Biofuel is produced by fermenting those sugars broken down from cellulose.

If we can implement these enzymes into industrial

processes, we can improve the efficiency of biofuel production.

This is promising news, considering that use of biofuels is set to grow by 0.9% annually over the next decade.

*So next time you see a flash of silver on your bathroom floor, remember not all heroes wear capes...some eat them.*



IMAGE: YORK VISION

IMAGE: CHARLOTTE AMBROSE

BY GEORGE HOWARTH

The University of York is building a facility to study air quality inside homes, which will be known as the Interdisciplinary Facility for Indoor Air Quality and Health Research (INTERIORS).

Located on Campus East between Goodricke and Anne Lister colleges, the project consists of two seemingly identical houses.

One will be built with techniques similar to those in the 1990s, and the other will use the modern Passivhaus gold-standard.

The first of its kind in the UK, it will comprise two visually identical semi-detached houses with a lab in between.

This lab will monitor air quality during everyday activities, like cooking and

cleaning, to explore the impact of ventilation and air-tightness.

The University hopes interdisciplinary research conducted in the INTERIORS lab will improve understanding of how building design affects air quality for millions of people.

Work started in November 2024 and will be completed this summer.

## DR SCHRODING-HER VISION'S SCIENTIST AGONY/AUNT



IMAGE: PIXABAY

“HOW DO PLANES ACTUALLY WORK?”

“Why doesn't a plane need an engine strapped to the bottom to keep it up in the air?”

If there was an engine strapped to the bottom, the plane would be propelled into the sky like a rocket!

A plane uses lift to get off the ground and to stay in flight in the sky. The wings are designed to allow air to move faster over the top, and slower underneath, with the faster air creating a lower pressure and the slower air creating a higher pressure.

The difference between these pressures allows the wings to generate the force known as lift. Lift counteracts gravity, meaning that it must be greater than or equal to the weight of the plane to keep it in the air. Imagine the faster air pulling the plane up like a puppet with a string and the slower air pushing it up like a hand.

Do you have questions for our resident scientist? Submit them via our Instagram!



IMAGE: PIXABAY

# YOUR LONG SHOWERS ARE DRAINING THE PLANET

## THE TRUTH BEHIND YOUR HABIT

BY CARRIE PARKER

**You might not think twice about this daily habit, but those extra few minutes in the shower are doing more harm to the environment than you realise.**

Approximately 71% of the Earth's surface is covered in water. While this may seem like a lot, less than 1% of it is available for human consumption; the rest is either saltwater, locked in polar ice caps, or simply inaccessible to extract.



This means it is crucial that we're careful about the amount of water we use.

Overusing this vital resource can place immense stress on local supplies, leading to water shortages. Excessive water usage also puts stress on the planet's natural ecosystems by lowering river levels and drying out wetlands, harming the wildlife that depend on such habitats.

While generally considered to use less water than baths, long showers still consume a surprising amount of up to 300 litres every 20 minutes.

Every extra minute adds up quickly, especially when multiplied across populations.

Significant water shortages are already an issue for

many parts of the world, and this situation is likely to get worse. The United Nations has predicted that within just five years, the global demand for freshwater will exceed supply by 40%.

While reducing the time you spend in the shower may seem like a small act, collective action can make a real difference, saving billions of litres each year.

But it's not just water that's being wasted - long showers also consume large amounts of energy as they require more water to be heated.

The longer you stay in the shower, the more energy is needed. This contributes to carbon emissions, driving climate

change by trapping heat in the atmosphere.

Cutting shower time or even just turning down your water temperature slightly can help to lower your personal carbon footprint.

But the environmental impact of long showers doesn't end there. Every time you wash with products such as shampoo, conditioner, or bodywash, a small amount of chemicals and microplastics goes down the drain.

Many wastewater systems cannot fully remove these substances, meaning they often end up in lakes and rivers, disrupting aquatic ecosystems.

An ideal time for a shower is



around 5-10 minutes. However the 'four minute shower challenge' is championed by some water and energy companies.

Why not use a timer and try it for yourself? Yorkshire Water even has a four minute shower songs playlist you can listen to on Spotify.

The truth is, although your long showers may feel like a small indulgence, they add up to a global crisis of wasted water, rising emissions, and threats to biodiversity.

Your choices matter, and this is one crucial area where you can make a real, positive impact on the planet just by making a few small changes.

## 2 COOL FOR CO2

## BILLIE EILISH IS MAKING THE MUSIC INDUSTRY GREENER

BY CARRIE PARKER

**Global pop superstar and fierce climate advocate Billie Eilish is setting the standard for sustainability in the music industry.**

Billie Eilish's most recent tour, *Hit Me Hard and Soft*, partnered with venues, vendors, fans, and communities to become more sustainable.

Considering that over 70% of a concert's carbon footprint comes from the fans, Billie and her team worked with non-profit organisations to make every show as eco-conscious as possible.

Billie's team also worked with Support + Feed, founded by Billie's mother, Maggie Baird, which tackles food insecurity and climate change by providing plant based meals to people in need.

These partnerships designed a tour programme that matches Billie's environmental standards, while empowering

all fans with the necessary knowledge, resources, and inspiration to build a greener future.

Through a partnership with Google Maps, concert attendees were able to find the most sustainable logistical options, with easy access to bike sharing and public transport.

Through selected venues, such as the Co-op Live arena in Manchester, a bold switch was made to a fully plant-based food menu. This reduced food-related carbon emissions by 47%.

And the eco wins didn't end there. Extra efforts were made to ensure the reduction of single-use plastics through free water refill stations, the use of paper straws only, no plastic bags for concessions or merch, reusable or compostable serviceware, and a ban on single-use plastic items backstage.

All merchandise clothing was made from sustainable materials, including 100% recycled cotton, organic cotton, or recycled polyester.

All vinyl was made using recyclable or recycled compounds and all packaging made using recycled paper and plant-based inks.

Alongside her sustainable touring efforts, Billie Eilish has launched an upcycled merchandise initiative, Bravado. They plan to create around 280,000 new shirts using materials that would otherwise end up in landfill or shipped overseas.

Billie Eilish is reshaping the music industry, using her platform to make sustainability a core value, inspiring her followers and fellow artists alike to take responsibility and follow her lead towards a greener future.



IMAGES: PIXABAY



# BETTING ON THE GAME

SHOULD SPORTS GAMBLING BE BANNED FOR ATHLETES?

“In this game, betting against yourself isn't just bad strategy, it's the quickest way to lose”

BY LUCI O'DONNELL

**It's the kind of headline that makes even casual fans do a double take: NBA players and coaches tangled up in a gambling scandal worthy of a Martin Scorsese film.**

The league that prides itself on fair play and sportsmanship is now grappling with whispers of inside bets, suspicious substitutions, and the uncomfortable question: what happens when the people on the court start playing both sides of the scoreboard?

The flashpoint came earlier this year with the lifetime ban of Jontay Porter, formerly of the Toronto Raptors.

The NBA found that Porter had disclosed confidential team information to gamblers, placed bets on NBA games (including ones he participated in) and, in at least one instance, deliberately exited a game early to help others cash in.

That was not just a breach of the rules - it's a direct hit to the credibility of professional sport.

And when fans start to wonder whether a missed shot was intentional, the magic of the game evaporates faster than a playoff lead in the fourth quarter.

Just when the league thought it had learnt its lesson, more names started surfacing.

Allegations against Portland Trail Blazers coach Chauncey Billups and Miami Heat guard Terry Rozier sent fresh shockwaves through the NBA community. What began as an isolated incident has started to look alarmingly like a pattern; the NBA's integrity office must feel like it's playing whack-a-mole with subpoenas.

The argument for a ban is simple enough: protect the sanctity of competition. Athletes have access to information that the public doesn't, from last minute injury updates to locker

room dynamics. Allowing them to gamble on sports, even tangential to their own performance, blurs the line between sport and speculation. And once that line is crossed, it's nearly impossible to redraw.

Of course the counterargument is as old as Vegas itself: regulation, not prohibition.

After all, if gambling is legal and transparent, why should athletes be treated like children? Banning them completely, some argue, only drives the behaviour underground, where risks multiply and accountability vanishes.

Perhaps a middle ground could exist, allowing players to bet on other sports or noncompetitive games under supervision.

Still, it's difficult to ignore the optics.

A league that partners with betting companies while punishing players for betting creates an uneasy paradox. It's as though the NBA is saying “gamble all you want, just not if you actually understand the game.”

Ultimately, the case for banning athletes from gambling isn't about moral superiority; it's about trust. Fans need to believe that when the ball leaves the players hand, the only thing at stake is pride, not a parlay.

Until that faith is restored, every missed shot and early substitution will invite suspicion.

The NBA may recover from this scandal, but its message should be clear - when it comes to gambling, athletes can't play for both sides.

Because in this game, betting against yourself isn't just bad strategy, it's the quickest way to lose everything.



IMAGE: PIXABAY

## THE REALITY OF BEING A STUDENT ATHLETE

BY LUCI O'DONNELL

**For many university students, joining a sports society isn't just about fitness. It's a way to find community and manage stress alongside demanding coursework.**

Being part of a team can make campus life richer and more enjoyable, but balancing sport with academic commitments often proves to be a demanding task.

Between training schedules, matches, and coursework, student athletes frequently find themselves stretched thin. For some, this tug-of-war can feel

relentless. It can sometimes feel like you're giving 50% to both instead of 100% to one.

The highs of university sport are undeniable. Regular training offers a break from the library, improves physical and mental wellbeing, and fosters a strong sense of community

**“Balancing Law and Netball definitely isn't always easy, especially in third year when the workload really picks up. There are times when it feels impossible to fit**

**everything in between training, matches, and deadlines, but being part of the club has genuinely kept me SANE! I always know I've got that support network around me. It can be difficult to juggle everything, but it's so important to carve out time for a break from the plain black and white of university life. Having that outlet, and those people, makes all the difference - JOIN THAT TEAM!”**

**- Tahmida, third-year law student, Goodricke Netball**

However, these benefits come with their fair share of struggles.

Time management becomes a critical skill. Exhaustion, both physical and mental, can set in when schedules clash or workloads peak.

Injuries can disrupt not only athletic performance but also academic progress.

For the majority of students involved in sports clubs, the challenge of balancing books and balls remains a personal journey that demands dedication and adaptability. It's about learning to excel in both worlds and finding balance.

IMAGE: PIXABAY



# "The X-ray Technician Audibly Said Yikes!"

## Behind the Brutal Scenes of Cheerleading

BY KATE KOLES

**For decades the stereotypical cheerleader has been imprinted in our brains: the gorgeous popular girl who waves her pom-poms and struts about at the American football game covered in bows and glitter.**

We were shown Megan Fox in *Jennifer's Body* flirtatiously dancing in her iconic cheer uniform; Quinn Fabray strutting in the hallways with her pom-poms in *Glee*; and a series of movies of *Bring It On* where the school gymnasium becomes a glitter covered battleground for Kirsten Dunst.

This comically feminine portrayal in pop culture has led many to undermine and patronise the sport; often we are led to believe that all cheerleading entails is looking pretty in skirts and leotards. The physical intensity and demand of the sport is often overlooked in favour of the glitz and glamour.

That stereotype has stuck so stubbornly that even in the professional world, cheerleaders have historically been shockingly underpaid. The Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders, arguably the most famous squad on the planet, were making below the minimum wage until a recent Netflix documentary, *America's Sweethearts: Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders*, finally pushed the franchise to give them a (long overdue) raise.

I spoke to Hollie Manly and Holly

Foster, who have been part of the University of York's Hornets for three years.

"Our athletes train SO hard, first thing in the morning and last thing at night", they said.

"The sport demands so much physical strength and stamina. We train two or three times a week for about four to five hours every week."

Along with the intense training, the mental demand of the sport plays a huge impact on the cheerleaders.

"Cheer is such a demanding sport and can be very tough sometimes, both mentally and physically," Hollie stated, talking about the pressures she faced as captain during competition season.

"I felt very responsible for the wellbeing of the whole team and really did not want to let anyone down. It was very easy to put too much pressure on myself over this period and I saw this translate both inside of cheer and into day to day life."

For some, the pressures and stress of cheer take a tangible physical toll. The threat of injury constantly looms over every cheerleader; one wrong jump or a mistimed stunt can lead to serious consequences.

In October 2024, this became reality when Holly broke her collarbone.

"I fell backwards onto my shoulder on the floor. I had fallen from stunts many times before so

immediately just tried to get straight up.... when I tried to get up, I couldn't and then realised how much pain I was in," she explained.

She was driven to A&E, spending the entire night at the hospital. Hoping she had only

pulled a muscle or dislocated her shoulder, Holly soon discovered the injury was far more severe - her x-ray "showed a collarbone broken in four places," shocking even the doctors.

Throughout the ordeal, the unwavering support of her team became a lifeline. "Hornets members were so supportive and were always checking in on me, dropping round flowers, cards, and chocolates, which was so lovely," Holly said.

What could have been a lonely and isolating experience became one of reassurance and encouragement.

Now, one year on, Holly has returned fully to cheer. But her collarbone still bears a permanent mark.

"Fortunately, I found that people did take my injury seriously, but I think it made them realise how dangerous and demanding cheer can be, and made them see it as a 'serious' and 'proper' sport."

Holly's journey highlights not only the physical risks cheerleaders face but also the resilience, dedication, and strength that define the sport - a reality far removed from the glittery stereotypes portrayed on screen.

But despite the blood, sweat, and tears left behind on the training mat, not everything is so brutal when it comes to the sport.

Having met her best friends through Hornets, Hollie described the role cheer has played in helping her settle into university life.

"As a Fresher, I was really struggling to settle into university life and was quite unhappy at times. The Hornets was such a great place to be able to meet older girls at the Uni who could give me advice and act as big sisters throughout my whole university experience - these are still girls I speak to all the time now!"

Reflecting back on her three tumultuous but incredibly rewarding years at Hornets (which included a collarbone broken in four places, eight weeks of rehab exercises, and four months of healing) Holly insisted that even all these challenges never out-

weighed her passion for the sport.

"I think if anything, my injury made me love cheerleading more," Holly Foster admitted.

"The support I received from the Hornets during my injury and recovery made me realise how special of a sport cheerleading is. I did hesitate to return, and wasn't sure if the risk of being injured again was worth it, but I love cheer so much and couldn't imagine my uni experience without it."

The Hornets might not have the stadium lights, 90,000 people watching and cheering, or a highly rated Netflix show, but their commitment, their injuries, and their dedication tell the same story: cheerleading is a serious sport with serious athletes.



**For a sport people still call "cute", it sure sends a lot of athletes to A&E.**

IMAGE: YORK HORNETS



IMAGE: TAHMIDA MAHFAZ



## STAGE.

### Deck the Halls with Blood & Bodies

*A review of DramaSoc's production of The Hothouse*

By AMELIA DSOUZA

## MUSIC.

### An Ode to the Buskers of York

*York wouldn't be the same without them!*

By ZAREENA PUNDOLE

## ART.

### The Radical Roots of Grandma Hobbies

*A tradition reborn in Gen Z's hands.*

By IZZY READ

## LITERATURE.

### The Colleges as Books...

*Which popular book are you based on your college?*

By GRACE MARTIN

### ILLUSTRATION BY SAMPHIRE UBSDELL

Recipients  
Union workhouses

Dear Colleagues and students,  
If they would rather die, they had  
better do it, and decrease the  
Surplus population.

With Humbug,  
Charlie

Send



OUR INSTAGRAM:



OUR WEBSITE:



ILLUSTRATION BY SAMPHIRE UBSDELL



# SCENE.

## **STAGE.**

**Deck the Halls with  
Blood & Bodies**  
*by Amelia Dsouza*

## ***MUSIC.***

**An Ode to the  
Buskers of York**  
*by Zareena Pundole*

## **SCREEN.**

**Buffy is Back**  
*by Devin Whelligan  
Woodworth*



# SCENE.



## THE SCENE TEAM

### OUR SECTIONS AND THEIR EDITORS

#### COVER: S.1

@halartydesigns (Instagram)

#### EDITOR'S NOTE: S.2

Editor: Freya Hughes (She/Her)

#### SCREEN: S.3

Editor: Amelia Dsouza (She/Her)

#### STAGE: S.4

Editor: Amelia Dsouza (She/Her)

#### MUSIC: S.5

Editor: Zareena Pundole (She/Her)

#### SPOTLIGHT: S.6-7

Writer: Sam Richardson (He/Him)

#### ART: S.8

Editor: Izzy Read (She/Her)

#### LITERATURE: S.9

Editor: Grace Martin (She/Her)

#### FOOD: S.10

Editor: Vacancy

#### GAMES: S.11

Editor: Luke Plant (He/Him)

#### WRITERS

Layla Roberts

Rowan Thorpe

Devin Whelligan-Woodworth

## Editor's Note:

**H**appy Holidays! Somehow we've survived Semester One and it's already time to settle down and read the latest edition of SCENE!

This edition has got it all - from an exclusive interview with York's furry community to an exploration of the radical roots of arts and crafts.

I'm so grateful to all of our amazing Section Editors for taking the time to visit the Vision office and lay-up their sections. Although the computers like to make our life

difficult, I'm so proud of how this edition has come together.

It's also been so lovely to meet all of our new writers this year at our meetings. If you have an idea for an article, want to meet new people, or maybe just have a gap on your CV - I can only urge you to join *York Vision* today!

We welcome all writers, regardless of experience, *Vision* is a safe space to learn and grow. There's always space in one of our sections for any article idea - giving you the flexibility to explore many writing

styles and find where you are most comfortable. And most importantly, we run weekly meetings every Monday, which always ends with us heading over to The Courtyard for a pint.

Come along to our next meeting to get involved!

Finally, with all the Christmas Market in full swing, the city centre is at its most chaotic but I've found some local events that might just make braving the crowds worth it (find them below!)

*Freya Hughes (SCENE Editor)*

### Amelia Dsouza Screen Editor

Hi! I'm Amelia and I'm the new Screen Editor for this year. I cannot wait to keep you up to date with all the latest things in Screen: the good, the bad, and the controversial.

### Zareena Pundole Music Editor

Hi everyone, I'm Zareena and I'm the new Music Editor for *Vision*! I've loved putting together the section for this issue, stay tuned on our website for future music-related interviews, reviews, and more!

### Grace Martin Literature Editor

Hi, I'm Grace and I'm your Literature Editor this year! I'm so excited for another year of talking about everything to do with books, reading, and culture - if you want to get involved don't hesitate to get in touch with me!

## Festive Events

Here are just a few of the upcoming events in York. Find more on our Instagram where we post regularly and remember to support your local music venues!

#### 4th of December

- Jesca Hoop at the National Centre for Early Music
- Pak40 at The Fulford Arms
- Norman Rea Gallery Christmas Pop Up Fair at Spring Lane Building
- Displacement: Changing Frames at the Norman Rea Gallery (running until the 12th of December)

#### 5th of December

- Blackbeard's Tea Party at The Crescent Community Venue
- York SU Christmas Market at The Courtyard

#### 6th of December

- Carols with the Hedgerow

Singers at Holy Trinity Goodramgate

- The Fight Before Christmas at Central Hall
- The Nutcracker at York Minster
- Christmas Craft Fair at Belfrey Hall

#### 7th of December

- Hebden Bridge Open Studios
- Robin Hood's Bay Victorian Weekend

#### 8th of December

- Chantelle McGregor at The Fulford Arms

#### 9th of December

- Believe in Nothing at The Fulford Arms

#### 10th of December

- Macmillan Cancer Support Carol Service at York Minster

#### 11th of December

- The Hyde Family Jam Festive Fiesta at The Crescent Community Venue

### Our Instagram:



### Our Website:





## SCREEN.

# Buffy is Back!

What to expect now that it's confirmed that the hit 90s show is returning?

BY DEVIN WHELLIGAN-WOODWORTH

**B**uffy *The Vampire Slayer* changed the face of teenage television forever, airing from 1997 to 2003. Buffy Summers (portrayed by Sarah Michelle Gellar) became a household name - her face adorning many a wall in the rooms of teenage boys and girls.

The show was a trailblazer - popularising the concept of the 'sexy vampire' and even inventing the iconic 'musical episode' which has been reused in many popular teen dramas. Without *BTVS*, entertainment like *Twilight*, *The Vampire Diaries*, and *Supernatural* may never have existed. Notably, it featured an inspiring and multilayered female lead - excitingly - according to Sarah Michelle Gellar herself, this kick-ass slayer will be making a return to our screens in the years to come.

Gellar confirmed the rumours in an Instagram post about talks of a *BTVS* revival, saying that she has met with Chloe Zhao (director) to discuss the future of 'Buffy'. This announcement shocked fans, as Gellar has been known to frequently reject opportunities for a revival.



IMAGE: FLICKR, PIXABAY, UNSPLASH

The show itself spans seven seasons which became increasingly dark as the programme went on. Originally light-hearted in the first seasons, viewers could indulge in the terror whilst knowing that all would be okay in the end; good guys were good, and bad guys were bad, and Buffy would always be there to

save the day. As the show progressed, the lines became much more blurred. The characters faced loss, heartbreak, good and evil stopped being so easy to discern, and sometimes there was no space for hope in the 50 minute time span of an episode. The show itself went on a journey with the viewers. The journey seemed complete, which is why so many fans were surprised at this announcement.

After years of disappointing and repetitive remakes (I'm looking at you, *Sex and The City*), it's no wonder that fans are sceptical. But Sarah Michelle Gellar has assured fans that she is working hard to maintain the integrity of the show. Saying that she wouldn't agree to rebooting the show unless she felt that someone had found a perfect way to pick back up in the town of Sunnydale.

It's hard to say what we can expect from this remake. With the show's finale leaving some fan-favourites dead, we're left to ask how they will maintain the original standards of the show. But if we know anything about the Buffyverse, it is that a dead character often doesn't stay dead for too long. We can hope for the familiar camp special effects, cheesy one liners, and a whole lot of tight outfits that can in no way be efficient for demon fighting.

## The Frankenstein Dispute

**G**uillermo del Toro has led a revival of Gothic cinema in 2025, offering a contemporary interpretation of Frankenstein for modern audiences. Praised by both critics and general audiences, it holds an 85% critic score on Rotten Tomatoes and a 95% audience score. However, the reviews aren't all positive. Some argue that the credit for the film's brilliance is derived from its true creator: Mary Shelley. Is this a case of misplaced credit, or true cinematic brilliance?

### The Cinematic Perspective:

Koby Betts, a second-year film student, awarded Frankenstein a flattering review, stating that "Guillermo del Toro was the right director for the job for one simple reason. He understands monsters and, more importantly, who the true monsters are." Koby supports the notion that this manifestation of Frankenstein's monster is unique to the film, crediting the excellent depiction of Frankenstein's monster solely with the director.

He adds that "Guillermo del Toro returns the name to the true monster of the story - Victor Frankenstein - constructing a horrific yet emotional story backed up with

cinematography by Del Toro regular Dan Laustsen that reminds you just how beautiful cinema can be." Guillermo del Toro reignites moral conversations that were lost in previous adaptations, aligning the core of his film with its core material, Shelley's 1818 Frankenstein. Therefore, is this praise deserved? As the film's positive reviews are derived from Guillermo del Toro's decision to address the true moral meaning of this gothic cult classic.

Regardless, it is impossible to discuss this film without mentioning "Jacob Elordi's standout performance as the Creature." Guillermo del Toro and Elordi came together to deliver the most accurate representation of Frankenstein's monster that we have ever seen. The previous depictions that were cheapened and hyperbolic have now been entirely blown out of the water. This relatable, humanistic, and emotional creature is something that exists within us all.

However, first-year literature and linguistics student Lucy Driver felt that the visuals were "overedited to the point where the scenes filmed in-person have a slightly uncanny CGI-esque sheen." Following the increasingly heated debate regarding CGI usage in modern cinema, Guillermo del Toro's heavy reliance on the effect makes it feel lacklustre.

### The Literary Perspective:

A myriad of opinions have arisen from the literary community, but any consensus leaves a lot to be desired. The main critique focuses on a lack of loyalty to the original work.

Second-year English student Emma Hutchins described the narrative flow as "dismissive," but acknowledges that "we expect a certain level of change with an adaptation." However, the ethical points the film raises regarding feminism, reproductive rights, and modern technology are already raised in the original narrative. These drastic changes feel like unnecessary narrative meddling, as if it were "an insult to Mary Shelley's artistry." Finally, Jenna Gadhier, another second-year English student, summarises the literary perspective. Describing it as "a great film with great visuals and great castings. But it's such a bad adaptation." She points out that this trueness to the original is what a knowledgeable audience wants.

Overall, *Frankenstein* (2025) is a stunning film. Standing as the most faithful adaptation of Mary Shelley's original that we have today. It confronts many of the conversations that solidified Shelley's narrative genius in the original novel. However, is it fair to name Guillermo del Toro as the sole creator and father of this masterpiece? Does this render Frankenstein's original mother, Mary Shelley, redundant?

BY JESSICA-JANE HAYES

## Coming to York this winter!

This December, watch festive rom-com classic, *The Holiday*, starring Kate Winslet and Jude Law, accompanied by a live orchestra at the York Barbican.

Wednesday 10th December at 7.30pm



# MUSIC.

## Radiohead's 2025 Tour

*The band's latest live shows prove they are showing no signs of fading into the past*

BY LAYLA ROBERTS

**S**ince the British rock band *Radiohead* formed in 1985, they have remained one of the most innovative and influential bands of the century. After seven years of waiting, the anticipation for their tour was astounding.

I managed to survive another Ticketmaster battle, even though I was only able to get nosebleed seats; it still meant that I managed to experience Night One of Radiohead's London shows.

Although doors opened at 6pm, the concert started two hours later, giving me plenty of time to explore the O2 and grab some food before ticking off a bucket list item. Merch stalls were scattered around the arena, with t-shirts priced at £45 and official tour hoodies at £80, an essential purchase considering how cold the weather was.

Despite it being 10 years since Radiohead released any new material,

fans from many different generations came together to sing their hearts out and bang their heads to the band's diverse discography. The concert had banger after banger from Radiohead's many albums. The band opened with the song 'Planet Telex' from the album *The Bends*, and the concert wound through all the fan favourites until the main set ended with 'There, There' from *Hail to the Thief*.

Radiohead's resurgence is a testimony to their unrelenting popularity. A new generation of fans was born from the viral fame of their hit song 'Let Down' on TikTok, and it was amazing to see them play it during their encore performance.

Seeing Thom Yorke run from the mic, to the piano, to the acoustic guitar, left the fans clapping and chanting in awe. It was clear to see that the band was touched by the admiration.

It's safe to say the price of the ticket was well and truly worth it, after enjoying two hours of Thom Yorke's iconic wiggle dancing and many pricey drinks.



IMAGE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

## An Ode to the Buskers of York

*It's impossible to go into the city without hearing live music and York wouldn't be the same without it!*

BY ZAREENA PUNDOLE

**A**s Christmas draws near, navigating Parliament square and the Shambles is the ultimate way to get overwhelmed as quickly as possible. But amongst the thousands of tourists, you'll also hear some familiar voices that can be heard singing in York year-round - the buskers!

Sometimes they may add to the chaos of weekends in town, but they're a staple part of a trip to the city centre, and York wouldn't be nearly as colourful without them.

Most of my time in town is spent at my retail job on Coney Street, where many buskers set up camp. Though I often don't get to see them while on shift, their distinctive voices make them instantly recognisable.

There's regularly a man singing 'Hallelujah' or 'When The Saints Go Marching In', in his monotonous yet comfortingly familiar voice. And when I go on my break, sitting in the square outside Betty's, there'll be a busker almost every time, mic stand and all, singing the likes of Sam Smith ballads as well as Chappell Roan hits.

On Saturday evenings, there's often a woman singing karaoke hits from

the square, and the best part of that is the passersby drunkenly laughing and singing along together, as they make their way to the station. Yes, sometimes it can be overstimulating, but the way that these well-loved tunes bring strangers together will always be wholesome.

I also admire buskers' commitment to the craft. When it's not quite so busy at other times of the year, I often feel bad when I join the vast majority of people with places to be, who will just walk straight on by, not showing the musicians the appreciation they deserve. I suppose they readily anticipate it though, persevering and honing their skills for the public,

making it especially meaningful when people do stop to watch.

At the moment there's seasonal acts in town - I frequently find myself walking past a Santa-dressed crooner, singing old-timey Christmas tunes. Backdropped by the twinkle of the tinsel-decked window fronts of Goodramgate, it does feel like I've stepped into a little snippet of a Christmas movie as I walk home.

However you feel about them, it's hard not to agree that buskers create a sense of togetherness and add a lot of energy to York's city centre.



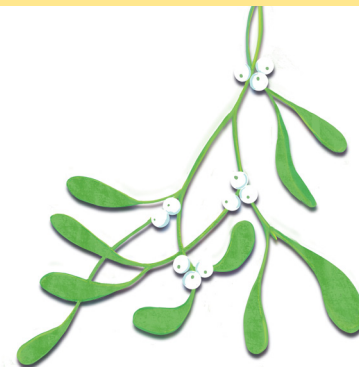
# STAGE.



## Deck the Halls with Blood & Bodies



A review of DramaSoc's production of 'The Hothouse'



BY AMELIA DSOUZA

**S**et at Christmas time, *Hothouse* follows the story of an intensely bureaucratic and unethical mental hospital that steadily begins to eat its own tail.

The main premise is that Patient 6459 gave birth on Christmas morning and this unprecedented event results in the murder of nearly the entire staff. Opening with a tense exchange between Gibbs and his boss, Root, the themes are obvious from the get-go, bringing together every overblown instance of bureaucracy together into a single, cohesive storyline. The comedy of each of these instances serves to make the horror of the play even sharper, as the very same people being laughed at are also habitually torturing and experimenting on human beings.

Arthur Frost played Root, the head of the organisation. He claimed his depiction was intentionally slightly Trumpian, an attitude clearly evident in his refusal to accept his own mistakes and his need to put



down others to make himself feel important. After, the first half of the play creates sympathy for Gibbs, the mild-mannered secretary who faces Root's volatile moods, the audience is left in startling horror as Gibbs dons a lab coat and steps behind the controls. His cold clinical demeanour while torturing Lamb was bone-chilling.

Jack Henderson's subtle shift between being in control and acquiescing to Root was key to the two-faced nature of his character and forces the audience to examine their own complicity. Gibbs' costuming also changes by the end of the

production where he wears a coat rather than just a vest. Likewise, Arthur's steady removal of layers of clothing in Act 2 shows his loss of power.

For the Director, Edison Juniper, one of the most important characters is Lamb who as his name suggests is a lamb to the slaughter. He is used by Gibbs as a scapegoat for who impregnated Patient 6459. Only seen in Act One and briefly as a silhouette at the end, Lamb is the best example of a victim of institutional harm. He longs to be useful and inadvertently volunteers for his own torture and death. Lighting makes this scene

truly immersive, the green walls becoming a clinical grey under the red lighting. Even in death Lamb is used as a scapegoat as Gibbs blames him for the prisoners' escape at the end of the play.

By far one of the most absurd scenes comes near the end of the production with Gibbs, Root and Lush all pulling knives on each other. This backstabbing goes to show the volatile nature of being in power.

Despite the alarming nature of all these instances, Christmas music regularly plays in the background, reminding the

audience that it is actually meant to be the most joyous time of the year.

One of the stand-out characters for me was Lush, played by Lydia Hughes. Sharply contrasting Gibbs' quietness and Root's pompousness with her errating energy.

Flipping between a range of inflections and voices, Hughes plays with gender. She uses a deeper, masculine voice to be assertive or direct and weaponises her femininity when the situation requires it. She serves as a contrast to Ms Cutts' overly feminine and overtly sexual presentation. Both of these characters show how women can be complicit in upholding corrupt and misogynistic institutions.

For a play that was rehearsed in just three weeks, their chemistry on stage was brilliant. The production team also went truly above and beyond with using a real cake for all three nights, cutting a hole to place a microwave in and pre-slicing the piece of cake that Root cuts on stage. Overall, the production left audiences with feelings of unease and horror as parts of it can be clearly found in everyday life.

## What's on in York?

**Animal Farm**  
DramaSoc  
Week 10

**Bake a Leg**  
DramaSoc  
Week 10

**Magic of Motown**  
York Barbican  
18/12/2025

**Carols by Candlelight**  
York Minster  
19/12/2025

**Bowie**  
Grand Opera House York  
11/01/2026



# ‘We are you, but fluffier’

*A walk on the wild side with members of YorkFursUK*

**W**hilst walking around York’s city centre, you might have come across a brightly coloured group of furies taking pictures outside Clifford’s Tower or meeting at SPARK York.

These eye-catching gatherings occur once a month and are organised by the York Furs community. After spotting them around town and seeing numerous videos online about this group, I decided to go and talk to them. After all, I’d heard so much about them, but never anything from them. And so, in early September, I simply walked into SPARK York and asked if anyone was interested in doing an interview. To my surprise, and without any hesitation, I was welcomed and was able to talk to several of York Furs’ lead staff members: Draks, Seadragom, and later Arco the Fox.

Furries, the term used to refer to members of the furry fandom, “are a diverse community of artists, writers, musicians, gamers and role-players with an interest in creating anthropomorphic animal identities” (Mock et al., 112). This fandom often manifests through art-work, literature, and famously the wearing of fursuits: full-body suits that commonly resemble the wearer’s fursona (one of potentially multiple of the wearer’s chosen anthropomorphic characters). Draks, York Furs’ social media manager, told me that York Furs

was established around 2006 as a way to set up “a local gathering, just a sort of out of the blue sporadic thing of ‘maybe once every six months we should meet up,’” allowing a primarily online community to begin building face-to-face connections. Now, almost 20 years later, their monthly meets average around 50 participants of all backgrounds and have become an established part of York life.

Whilst such tours might be more on brand with the history of the city, it is hard to deny the striking visual appearance of people in fursuits posing on the same haunted streets.

# SPOTLIGHT

BY SAM RICH

However, as mentioned before, this is all information easily gained by a quick Google search. What I wanted was to understand the way of life behind this ostracised community. To place myself in their shoes (or paws, if you forgive the bad pun). And so I began with asking Draks and Seadragom the incredibly broad question of what it means to be a part of York Furs and the wider furry fandom.

Draks began with how York Furs meets are a way for people to “go out, socialise, meet up with friends” who all share an interest. Moreover, “You don’t need a fursuit to attend [...] there are not set rules for what you need to be a furry,” with Seadragom adding “there is no right or wrong way to be a furry [...] you just need an appreciation for anthropomorphics.” That being said, York Furs meets also include a fursuit walk, which is “a way for people to show off, get a few nice photos in town [...] York is a big tourist city [...] people in York are really accepting of it. They really like us.”

**“There is no right or wrong way to be a furry!”**

It is this link between York Furs and tourism, which I did not expect to be so prevalent, that Draks and Seadragom explained to me. When asked about their public reception, Draks mentioned that “It’s something weird and novel for [tourists] and they love it”, speaking of the colour and sense of wonder that the fursuit walks bring to York. And the city has embraced this, leaning into the novelty of brightly coloured anthropomorphics ambling along the cobbled streets of York. Seadragom told me that “the English Heritage people at Clifford Tower, they love us,” talking about how the staff at Clifford’s Tower provide water and assistance to the fursuit walks. Draks added that local businesses find it “adds a bit of colour, I think, to the streets. And as I said, people are welcome to interact and, look at me with this giant wolf, this giant fox. Isn’t this funny?”

It begs the question, what is the difference between the fursuit walks and the ghost tours York is renowned for, the ones led by people cosplaying as witches or other spooky characters?

And whilst it is true that the furry fandom is most known for their vibrant fursuits, I soon discovered that there is so much more to the fandom. Senior staff member, fursuit maker, and furry author Arco the Fox described to me the many facets of the community, including but not limited to furry literature and science. Seadragom even mentioned the recent rise of the “furry mahjong scene”.

**“Fursuits are not all that the community has to offer...”**

Arco explained that the furry community offers so much more than just wearing fursuits: it is a space to explore and create anthropomorphic centred fiction across multiple mediums. Arco himself confessed that he first stumbled across the furry fandom after being a part of the Redwall fandom, a series of children’s fantasy novels by Brian Jacques about anthropomorphic animals of the British countryside.





According to research conducted by furry-led research group Furscience, “the most conservative estimates suggest[ing] that, based on the obtained data, furries are at least 2.25 times more likely to have Asperger’s Syndrome than the general population” (“11.2 Psychological Conditions”).

Clearly, for at least some members of the fandom, the act of putting on a fursuit can be liberating - a means of facing the world in a way that fills them with the most confidence. When asked about the importance of fursonas, Arco added that “interestingly, with the rise of public awareness of the trans community, the people who are more that way with their fursonas quite often have come out as trans as well. [...] Because, I mean, we accept them as a purple badger we’re going to accept you as whatever you say you are.”

And it is this overall notion of acceptance that I experienced the most whilst interacting with members of York Furs. All three staff members each stressed to me the importance of creating a safe and welcoming environment. Whilst talking about accessibility, Draks spoke of the importance of “just having the ability to come somewhere and not be ostracised for some thing that’s beyond your control,” and I found this sentiment can be applied to the entire York Furs community. Such an effort has been made to create a space where people can just come and be themselves. Seadragom summarised it best by saying “we are you. That’s what we are. We are you, but fluffier.” People attend York Furs “for the same reason they join student societies”: to make friends with people who share their interests.

## “The fur suit itself is the shield.”

Following this vein, I asked the staff members if there were any common misconceptions about the furry fandom that they wanted to dispel and immediately they all brought up the stereotypes of deviancy often associated with furries. All three of them stressed to me that it is a complete fallacy that being a furry is centered around some sort of perverse sexual desire. Draks simply put it that “people being people. [...] It’s not like a defining trait of furries.”

This led him to explain that furry media is far more common than one would think, saying that “we kind of joke that everyone’s a little bit furry because everyone grew up liking Bugs Bunny.” He pointed out that anthropomorphic stories are far more common in society than most realise: citing Disney’s Robin Hood (1973) film and more recent example The Wild Robot (2024). He went on to say that the people who are most vocally against furries are the ones who “have been told, as an adult, you’re not allowed to be childish, you’re not allowed to like childish things,” whereas furries are simply “expressing themselves as they wish.”

That being said, whilst fursuits are not all that the community has to offer, Arco the Fox also described how fursuits can also be so much more than cosplay: “For some, the suit is purely an aesthetic choice. For others, it is as pivotal for them being themselves, as it is for me.” He went on to explain that:

“For me personally, the fur suit is quite pivotal. I’m diagnosed as a high-functioning aspergic. So I have Asperger’s [Autism], but because my brothers had it as well, I was determined not to drop out of school, to not fall to their level of it. So I fought the condition throughout school. And stayed in school, went through college. [...] I refuse to let it rule me, but so it meant that I really, really heavily built a mask. So that any time I’m out in public, it’s not really me out in public. It’s this false persona that I put on in order to survive in the world. Whereas the moment I put on the suit, I don’t need that shield. Because the fur suit itself is the shield. So once I’m in a fursuit, I am me, I am the me underneath that people don’t tend to get to see.”



Throughout all of the conversations I had, I kept coming back to the question of “well then what is it that makes furries such an ostracised group?”. When I posed this question to Arco the Fox, framing it as a comparison to other fandoms or cosplayers, he said, “it’s more the uniqueness, because we’re celebrating our own thing instead of celebrating someone else’s work. People don’t understand that.” As soon as I heard this, it felt like everything clicked into place. Because, in truth, what separates furries from those Star Trek fans who say their wedding vows in Klingon? Or football fans whose weekly mental health is dictated by the outcome of a match? It is this originality, so foreign to someone looking into the community from the outside, so unrelatable, that many people’s first instinct is to ostracise and criticise what they do not understand. But why?

My primary aim in this article has been to stress what Draks, Seadragom, and Arco kept telling me again and again: that they are just ordinary people. As an outsider, I was met with nothing but acceptance by a community doing no more than indulging in their harmless interests. So if you see York Furs about, remember underneath the suit they are still people so just smile, wave, or even go take a picture with one of them because I can tell you, up close, the craftsmanship of the fursuits is honestly very impressive.







# The Radical Roots of Grandma Hobbies

*A tradition reborn in Gen Z's hands.*

BY IZZY READ

**F**rom crochet, to embroidery, to pottery painting, it is becoming more and more common for Gen Z to take up some form of craft as a hobby.

This is a trend which has not gone unnoticed, with publications from The Guardian to Vogue speculating on why it is that young people seem to have adopted activities once thought to be the pastime of grandmas. Often, this is attributed to a need for connection and mindfulness; a respite from an increasingly alienating, digital world. At the same time, many seem to have taken up craft as a means of pushing back against fast fashion, consumerism, and its impact on the planet.

Textiles and other previously devalued forms of art are increasingly being shown in art galleries; this resurgence in crafting is often framed as reinventing the practice for a new, more politically aware generation.

However, the subversive and political character of craft is not necessarily something unique to this day and age.

For example, The Arts and Crafts movement, which emerged in Britain in the 1860s, was avidly anti-capitalist in its conception. William Morris and other prominent figures sought to make beautiful, hand-crafted objects more widely accessible to the public in response to the decline in “good design” brought about by industrialisation.

Throughout its history, craft has also been used as a tool of political assertion for women. Sewing circles, which offered women an opportunity to gather collectively, have often been a locus point for feminist discussion, despite being widely viewed as frivolous in nature. The Ladies Sewing Circle and Terrorist Society, founded in 1974, was a mock organisation which played on this very assumption. The joke relies on the perceived impotence of handicraft and the women who practice it.

While practices such as sewing and embroidery have undoubtedly been imposed upon women as a means of pacification in the past, they have also been sights of resistance. For example, many women made quilts to display their political beliefs in a time when they could not vote. In fact Patricia Mainardi playfully asserted that “there was more than one man of Tory persuasion who slept unknowingly under his wife’s Whig Rose quilt.”

This tradition of quilting as a mode of defiance has been continued by artists such as Faith Ringold, who since the 1960s has made confronting quilts which address the intersections of racism and sexism in America.

While craft and handiwork have largely been discredited throughout history, this recent resurgence honours those who understood its potential in the past. So next time you pick up your crochet hook or settle down for a craft night with your flatmates, remember the power of craft.

PUBLIC DOMAIN PICTURES

## Displacement: Changing Frames

*Running Until: 12th December*

Displacement: Changing Frames, the Norman Rea Gallery's final exhibition of Semester 1, shines a light on the stories of displaced communities. The gallery sensitively approaches many facets of the experience - from memoirs of migration to changing relationships with cultural identity. The exhibition comes at a poignant time, with the escalation of forced displacement being used in conflicts across the world. It offers visitors an alternative narrative of global crises, providing a space for perspectives rarely shown in mainstream media. The artwork on show tells stories and carries identity, it is rich and heartfelt; don't miss your chance to see it.



# LITERATURE.

## 2026's Most Anticipated Releases

This year has seen some excellent book releases, Taylor Jenkins Reid broke her three-year hiatus with *Atmosphere*, and *The Hunger Games* prequel, *Sunshine on the Reaping*, taking the world by storm. 2026 is shaping up to be just as great for readers! When browsing through the GoodReads 2026 release list, there are so many novels I can't wait to get my hands on.

BY GRACE MARTIN

### *Fever Dream* by Elsie Silver

**Release date: 19.05.26**

There is no one I love more than Elsie Silver. Every single one of her books has been a smash hit for me, and I can't wait to get back into her small-town, cowboy universe with *Fever Dream*. I love how all her series are linked, with each one being focused on a different town. It's finally Emerald Lake's turn, with *Fever Dream* being the first book of a brand new series. If you want a well-developed romance with interesting characters and lots of found-family, Silver's books are definitely ones to check out.

### *Half His Age* by Jenette McCurdy

**Release date: 20.01.26**

Jenette McCurdy starred in my favourite TV show growing up: *iCarly*. In 2023, I read her devastating, yet witty, memoir *I'm Glad My Mom Died*, which is highly deserving of its critical acclaim and is one I will never forget. The storytelling was fantastic, and this is why I am looking forward to McCurdy's debut fiction novel *Half His Age*, which is described as "startlingly perceptive, mordantly funny, and keenly poignant" by critics.

### *The Night We Met* by Abby Jimenez

**Release date: 31.03.26**

Abby Jimenez is quickly becoming one of my favourite romance authors, with *Say You'll Remember Me* being a firm five-star read for me in 2025. *The Night We Met* is the second in this series, and follows characters we met in the last novel. Jimenez writes heart-warming romances, always including deep, emotional personal issues within the characters that are always covered realistically, respectfully, and with depth. Although all the books in her series can be read as standalone novels, I highly recommend picking up *Say You'll Remember Me* whilst waiting for release day.

### *Meet the Newmans* by Jennifer Niven

**Release date: 6.01.26**

Another exciting release for January! I think I must've read *All the Bright Places* by Jennifer Niven at least three times as a teen, so I cannot wait for Niven's first adult novel, *Meet the Newmans*. This book appears to be a historical fiction about a fictional American TV family, and many early-access readers have given it high praise for its humour, realism, and character development.

## The Colleges as Books...

Which popular book are you based on your University of York college?

BY GRACE MARTIN

**L**ike they always say, the best college is the one you're in...

### Anne Lister

Anne Lister: My alma mater, the college where everybody dates everybody. For this reason, *Magnolia Parks* by Jessa Hastings seems the best fit, with its famous quote: 'How many loves do you get in a lifetime?'.

### David Kato

Let's be honest, everyone is jealous of Kato's excellent value for money with its Band 2 rooms - it's the college everyone applied for and only the luckiest got. *Happy Place* by Emily Henry suits Kato well, as its comfort is coupled with a very happy wallet (based on 2023 prices, of course).

### Halifax

No hate to Halifax - I spent most of my first year here, but I felt like I was

competing in *The Hunger Games*, by Suzanne Collins, every time I tried to walk there in the dead of winter (so much mud!), and I'm sure the members of the 20-bed flat also feel like this.

### James

*Pucking Around* by Emily Wrath is the first thing I thought of - an ice hockey romance with a very apt title. I don't think I need to expand on this one.

### Alcuin

In my three years of attending this University, I genuinely think I have met two people from Alcuin, and for this reason, I am allocating this college *A Quiet Life* by Ethan Joella (purely based on the title).

### Derwent

Think Hinge warriors, empty vodka bottles on display, Salvos until lights-on: Derwent members sure do know

how to have fun. Although parties may not be as extravagant as those in *The Great Gatsby*, they are definitely lavish in their own way.

### Constantine

The wealth, the most expensive accommodation, and the high proportion of SurfSoc members make *Malibu Rising* by Taylor Jenkins Reid seem like a non-fiction book about Constantine. I don't know much about this college, except that it's pricey and an awkward distance away from Campus West.

### Goodricke

Goodricke spans across what seems like the entirety of Campus East. You can't live in Goodricke without a student peering through your kitchen window on their way to Campus West, so *1984* by George Orwell sums up their experience quite well.

### Langwith

With Langwith's hub being Glasshouse, members of this college are just looking for the uni experience and appear to always be having a good time. A fun romance seems to be best-matched with Langwith's easygoing personality, with *The True Love Experiment* by Christina Lauren as the first to spring to mind.

### Wentworth

The Masters students in Wentworth don't have time for anything except their *Oxford English Dictionary*.

### Vanbrugh

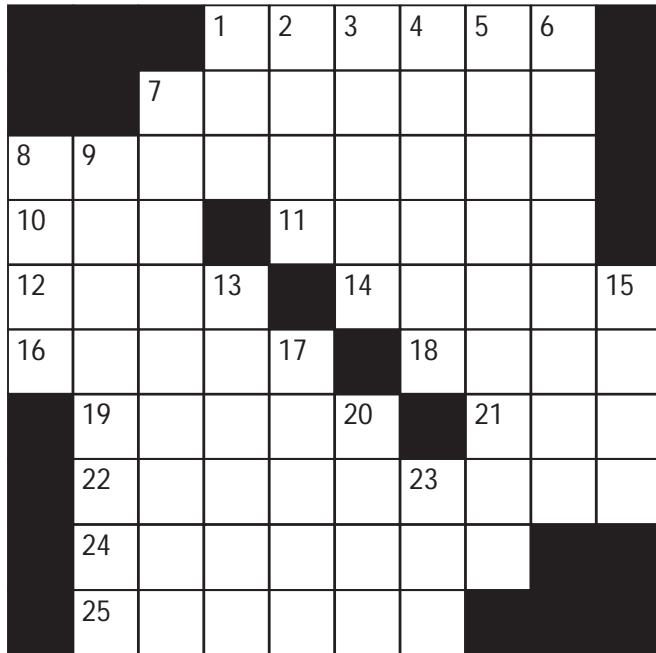
Vanbrugh is artsy and cool, with V-Bar jazz nights being their favourite pastime. I wouldn't be surprised to enter the Vanbrugh Nucleus and see 15 people reading *Atomic Habits* by James Clear, all claiming it to be life-altering, deep, and never-been-done-before.





# GAMES.

## The Crossword

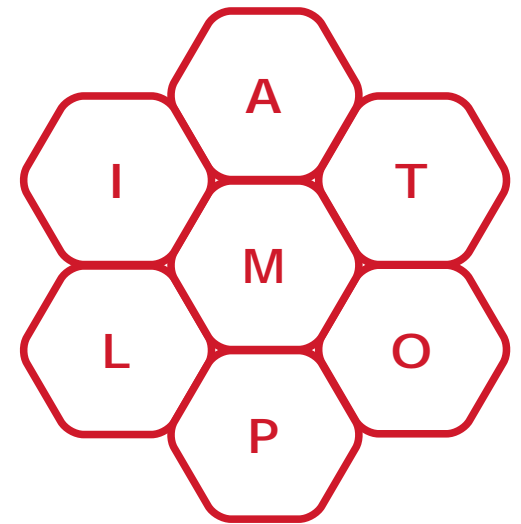


### DOWN

- 1) \_\_\_\_ LOSS (2,1)
- 2) AFFLUENT (4)
- 3) QUEUE AFTER Q (5)
- 4) UNACCENTED (6)
- 5) NORTH \_\_\_\_, COUNTY (9)
- 6) SUSHI DIP (8)
- 7) LINE IN A ROMANCE NOVEL, PERHAPS (1,4,4)
- 8) POEMS OF PRAISE (4)
- 9) APPRECIATE GREATLY (4,1,3)
- 13) SHAKER SHAKER (6)
- 15) PETER PAN PIRATE (4)
- 17) PART OF UN JOUR (5)
- 20) SOUND OF A LEAK (4)
- 23) BREWED BEVERAGE (3)

## WORD FLOWER

FIND AS MANY WORDS AS POSSIBLE, LETTERS CAN BE USED MULTIPLE TIMES. THE CENTRE LETTER MUST BE USED AT LEAST ONCE IN EACH WORD.



### ACROSS

- 1) ORDERLY ARRANGEMENTS (6)
- 7) PLAYGROUND COMEBACK (2,2,3)
- 8) KIND OF NERVE (9)
- 10) PERISH (3)
- 11) BEEFCAKES (5)
- 12) SQUEEZES OUT (4)
- 14) TRAVEL DOCUMENTS (5)
- 16) PSALM ENDER (5)
- 18) PAL (4)
- 19) EVERYTHING, IN AUSTRIA (5)
- 21) ROCKS, AT A BAR (3)
- 22) SOURCE OF A SLEEP-INDUCING PLANT IN THE "ODYSSEY" (5,4)
- 24) SUPERVISE (7)
- 25) MOTHER \_\_\_\_ (6)

SHOWER

WORT

SED

TOILET

SINK

ROB

BATH

HURT

FLIRT

SLACK

PERT

BOBBIE

BOB

BASIN

BERT

SOLD

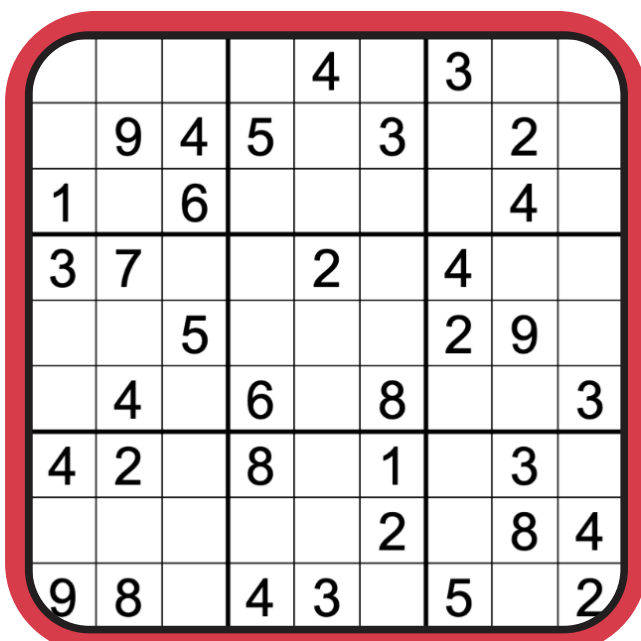
THE 16 WORDS BELOW CAN BE SORTED INTO 4 GROUPS OF 4 WORDS, CAN YOU SORT THEM CORRECTLY?

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR ANSWERS OR MORE GAMES, EMAIL: [GAMES@YORKVISION.CO.UK](mailto:GAMES@YORKVISION.CO.UK)

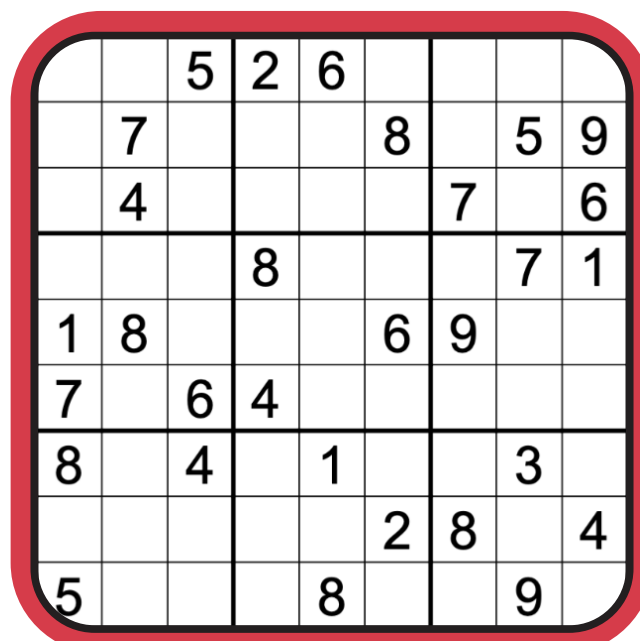
GAMES PAGE BY: LUKE PLANT

## SUDOKU

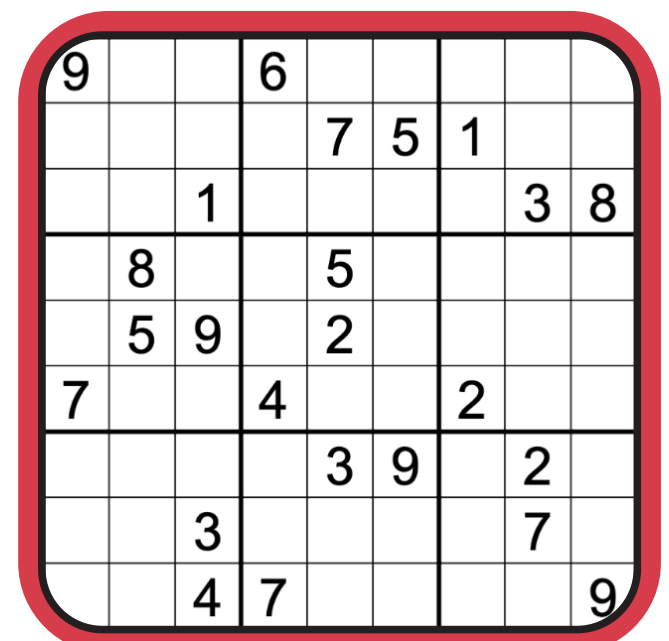
### EASY



### MEDIUM



### HARD





## FOOD.

# Sandwich Theory

*Combatting the crisis of terrible sandwiches*

BY ROWAN THORPE

**T**here are many controversial issues in today's modern world, such as child slavery, climate change, and conflict. However one that has existed for thousands of years and still persists today, is what makes a sandwich good?

Why are some sandwiches delicious, while other sandwiches are terrible? This question is the reason for the existence of this reading, to give you insight as to what makes a sandwich good or bad, and perhaps, this controversial issue can be put to rest.

What makes a sandwich good, of course, varies from person to person. Everyone has their own tastes and preferences. For the sake of simplicity, we will ignore the discussion of which specific ingredients are good.

However, the old question still arises: what makes a good sandwich? It could be argued that a good sandwich is one that tastes amazing - it has the perfect mix of ingredients, and they all work well together. But this leaves out a crucial element... cost.

## The Cost Factor

With your salary you have two choices: to either spend or save it. If you choose to spend it, you have so many options to spend it on. The question is what gives you the greatest utility; it is all about maximising the benefit you get per pound spent.

A 'good' sandwich would be a sandwich that maximises the benefit you receive per pound spent. You could purchase a £30 steak, or you could get bacon for far less. Which is better? A steak would be amazing, but expensive, whereas bacon would also be amazing, but would cost far less. It is all about making these choices and choosing what to prioritise spending your money on.

## The Time Factor

However, money isn't the only thing you need to keep in mind; another thing you spend is time. There are an unlimited number of ways you could spend your time, so once again, you need to think about how much benefit you will receive if you choose to spend your time making a sandwich. This includes the time needed to purchase the ingredients, the time needed to prepare the ingredients in advance, and finally the actual creation of the sandwich.

## The Secret Recipe

With all these factors in mind, what makes a good or great sandwich? Personally, I find 'stone baked white rolls' from Lidl are exceptional as bread for a sandwich, but they are more expensive in comparison to just buying a loaf of bread. For me good bread is essential, so this forces me to spend less on the filling as compensation. I usually buy a pack of massive onions, a couple of tomatoes, and sausage.

Sauces are important too but vary on what's in the cupboard already. I grill all the onions, tomatoes, and sausages in advance. Whilst I am grilling them, I am getting work done. When it's time to make the sandwich, I simply take out what was already prepared, saving time during the actual assembly of the sandwich.

Now that you have gained insight into this controversial issue, perhaps now we can put this debate to rest. Good luck, and enjoy making sandwiches.



IMAGES: UNSPLASH

## SCENE Recommends...

*Treat yourself this Festive Season, York's food scene has so much to offer!*

### Coto

#### Must Try Dish: Ca Kho To

A small authentic Vietnamese restaurant in the heart of York. It's affordable, homely, and delicious!



### Blue Barbakan

#### Must Try Dish: Borscht

Nestled next to the River Foss, Blue Barbakan serves traditional warming Polish dishes and delicious cakes.



### Tasca Frango

#### Must Try Dish: Patatas Bravas

Try a range of bold flavours with Tasca Frango's tapas menu. They have all the Portuguese classics!









# On the Corner


*by Charlie Ballaro*





On the corner, I sit and wait. Having sat for a large majority of my life, and having waited for the entirety of it, I assume I have the experience suited for the role of sitting and waiting on the corner.



It is always the corner; this corner and no other; the corner and nothing but the corner. A few shuffles to the right and I'm heading down Grobund's Lane, a few shuffles to the left and I'm hiking up Apollo Street. No, no, this would be no good. No moving for me. I sit on the corner and I wait on the corner, that is it and that is all.




Waiting is the only reasoning that can be explained solely through the explication of the future; it is born from it and is never within it, waiting is the act of deferring the present. Perhaps I only started believing I was waiting for something because I anticipated the eventual need for a logical reason for my sitting on the corner. But when did I start waiting? When did I sit down? What was I doing before I sat down? Is anybody waiting for me? Sometimes it seems that all I do and have done is sit and wait on the corner.



Out of the shivering gleams of the waning sun, a rider dressed in black emerges. I sit and wait on the corner, brushing off eyelashes from the places on my cheeks where they have fallen.

The rider stamps through the slush of the leaves. I feel the beast's fright writhing in the cacophony of each hoof slam. A cool breeze encircles the light that emerges from its eyes, playing with the horse's hair a rough 12-bar blues rhythm, as the imperious rider draws ever closer. I sit and watch as he barrels by me, down from Apollo Street and heading right into the heart of Grobund's lane. He leaves me on the corner, still sitting and still waiting - I think...



**(Read the full story on our website!)**

