

# HEX

MAY 2025





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# A note on (re)building something new

I first had the idea to start HEX back in the summer of 2023. I had no clue that it had already existed, but I'd seen the success in other colleges and thought Trevs was the perfect setting for one. However, it wasn't for another year (distracted by a certain student newspaper) until I finally got round to putting HEX together. Whilst Frepping, I was approached by both Martin and Kunle in close succession asking me about the project – and now that I had more time on my hands and a dissertation to procrastinate, I thought it would be a fun task to take on.



## Since our launch in January, we uploaded an article every other day

Launching HEX confronted me with so many challenges an English Literature student shouldn't face – mainly, building the website – but I was lucky that so many people in Trevs were able to help out and advise me throughout the whole process. I'd like to especially thank Dan Wattis, Luke Taylor, and Andrew Hamilton for all your help. HEX definitely wouldn't have been launched without you!

Most importantly, I'd like to thank everyone who contributed to HEX both in our print edition and throughout the

website. Since our launch in January, we uploaded an article every other day in term time, covering topics from underwear poverty and wildfires to an incredible number of puzzles. I've watched the magazine go from strength to strength – our articles interviewing the JCR President candidates received more views than votes in the election – and it's been great to see so many different articles produced.

I never expected to be putting a print edition together when the idea popped into my head two years ago, and it would have been impossible if not for the solid engagement from the beginning of the magazine. It's undoubtable that there is something special about Trevs that means this could happen. From Live on the Hill to Jesus Christ Superstar, it's so clear that Trevs students will go above and beyond, selflessly working to create a brilliant experience for other people. I really hope that you consider HEX to be part of this magical niche.

The team have worked incredibly hard to put this edition together, enduring too many of my awkward Zoom meetings. Each page is full of uniquely interesting content, from an interview with Olympian and Trevs alumna, Sophie Hosking, to a brief return to HEX's satirical origins. I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to bring together all the people and things that make Trevs unique in this edition, and I hope you find some respite from revision whilst reading it.

**ELLIOT BURRIN**  
Editor-in-Chief



ILLUSTRATION: ANNIE COLLIER

## Principal's Welcome

It is a pleasure to write this welcome message for the print edition of HEX, a magazine that has long symbolised creativity and student expression at Trevelyan College.

Following the recent launch of the HEX online edition, I am thrilled to see how warmly our student community has embraced it. I have particularly enjoyed reading the articles crafted by our talented students, who continue to embody the spirit of "Exploring Without Limits." This theme captures

the courage to push beyond boundaries, embrace challenges, and create meaningful and impactful work. HEX is more than a magazine — it reflects our college's vibrant, diverse, and creative minds. It serves as a platform for students to share their stories, showcase their talents, and engage in meaningful conversations. It stands as a testament to the power of student leadership and the endless potential of young minds when given the freedom to dream, create, and

explore.

As you turn these pages, I hope you find inspiration to step outside your comfort zone, strive to be your best self, and, most importantly, enjoy your college journey.

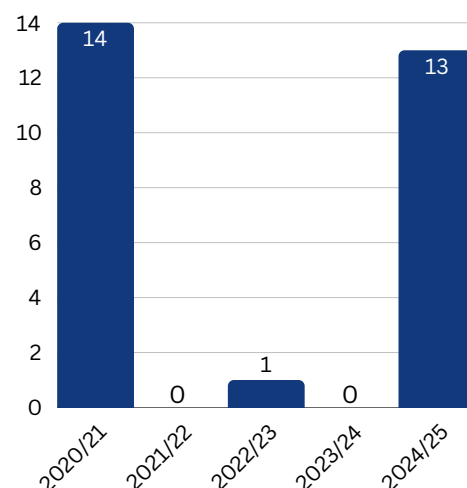
Congratulations to the editorial team, contributors, and everyone involved in bringing this printed edition of HEX to life. Your hard work and dedication have set a new standard for what can be achieved through creativity and collaboration.

**ADEKUNLE ADEYEYE**  
College Principal



IMAGE: MATTHEW HALL

Number of JCR motions voted on online each academic year



# What are the JCR Exec planning for next year?

In one of the closest elections possible, Harry Naylor was elected to serve as the Trevelyan JCR President in the academic year 2025-26. He won by a singular vote (75 to 74) after three rounds of counting under the Single Transferable Vote system.

The election saw a 19.5% turnout, the highest I have seen in my time at Trevs.

Speaking to HEX last term, Harry said: "I'm absolutely thrilled to be your next JCR President; thank you so much to everyone who voted in what was an incredible election."

Harry will preside over a new Executive Committee, which has been made smaller by the reorganisation of the roles of Services Officer and International Representative, and will commence his term as President in August later this year.

Harry will be joined on the new Executive Committee by his fellow electoral victors. Bex Smith has been elected to the role of Vice-President, Helena O'Neill and Isabelle Smith to the joint role of Welfare Officers, Sarah Margerison as Publicity Officer, Dan Wattis as Technical Manager, Livia Zuercher as Buttery Chair and finally, Andrew Hamilton as JCR Chair.

Treasurer, Social Chair, and Clubs and Societies Officer still remains unfilled for next year.

As bonding socials and training begins for the new JCR Exec, Harry told HEX that "Although I'm not sitting on the exec this term, I'm keen to build connections with as many people as possible to nurture working relationships within the JCR and college."

"I will have several meetings with James and college staff as part of the handover process in the coming term," Harry explained. Training for JCR President also includes a trip with all the other JCR Presidents and coordination with the University and SU.

“

**I'm absolutely thrilled to be your next JCR President**

The new Exec's main priorities are "plans for upcoming elections, campaigns, and post-exam events," Harry said.

HEX also spoke to the new JCR Chair and current HEX Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Andrew, about his plans for the role. Andrew's main priority is to

"revamp" JCR meetings, "including but not limited to changes to structure and length, theming JCR meetings [...], and a brand new incentive system for members and reviewing the type of refreshments that is provided."

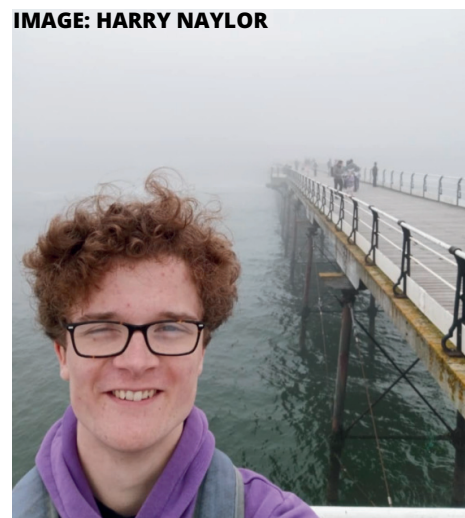
JCR engagement did drop this year, with very few meetings fulfilling quorum. Five JCR meetings held their voting online this academic year for motions due to a lack of attendance – prior to this, there was only one motion voted on online until the pandemic. The last motion to be voted on online was to remove the controversial candidate objections procedure in March 2023.

Andrew also plans to shift communication about election by "moving away from text-heavy emails to the use of short-form video content," he said, hoping that this will "bring energy back into democracy within the JCR." Logistically, he also plans to rewrite a lot of the JCR guidance documents and refresh the JCR handbook for Freshers.

Elections will reopen again this term for the remaining Tier One roles.

**JAMES GOWERS AND ELLIOT BURRIN**

IMAGE: HARRY NAYLOR





# How you can make the JCR Great Again?

**Former JCR Chair James Gowers discusses his time engaging with the JCR, and it's worth it for you**



ILLUSTRATION: ANNIE COLLIER

As another academic year comes towards its conclusion, and a new JCR Executive Committee takes over the reins of power, it is a pertinent time to ask why we, as your average Trevs student, should be getting involved with the JCR.

Students, and student participation, are the lifeblood of Trevs, and frankly what makes our college so special. However, the JCR is often left behind by swathes of the student participation.

## **SO, WHY SHOULD YOU CARE, WHY SHOULD YOU PARTICIPATE, AND HOW CAN YOU?**

Put simply, the JCR is the student life in Trevs. From overseeing all of Trevs' societies to running the vast majority of events, the JCR is involved with many more things than a lot of people would initially believe. Without the JCR, Trevs events simply wouldn't happen. There would be no Summer Ball, no Trevs Day, and the Summer calendar would be looking rather empty.

Without a broad scope of people in the JCR, it is difficult for everyone's voices in college to be heard, but it is a two-way street. Greater participation from Trevelyanites will equal a better JCR.

It is easy to think that the only way to get involved with the JCR is to run for an Exec position, but this is not at all the case. The JCR is by its very essence the Trevs student community, and anyone who plays any role in Trevs, be it in a society or merely through voting in an election, is making a positive contribution to the JCR.

The beauty of Durham is its collegiate system, and we are lucky to have a JCR. We each get the opportunity to do far more things through the JCR than we would if we attended any other university, from the sporting to the musical to the theatrical.

Getting involved with the JCR can be a really enriching experience. There is a huge number of things to get involved with, from being a voice for certain communities, representing sport and music in the college, or getting involved with the financial side of the JCR. On the Events side, you can have the power to make events what you want them to be, from deciding venues, to picking musical acts, to scouting out various inflatables and food vans. On the more administrative

side, being part of the JCR helps you to gain valuable skills in public speaking, conflict resolution and teamwork, all of which can be really useful for the future. Above all, the JCR should be fun, and it is at its most enjoyable when a variety of people are involved, each offering their ten cents and contributing to a thriving student atmosphere.

There is a financial benefit to getting involved as well. By getting involved with the JCR, you're getting to decide how everyone's £140 gets spent.

We've all paid our £140 for the JCR levy, and that is clearly a big investment. If you had invested £140 into the stock market, chances are that you would be tracking the FTSE to understand how your investment is going.



## **By getting involved with the JCR, you're getting to decide how everyone's £140 gets spent**

If you had put £140 on Man United to win the Europa League (have a word with yourself), then you'd probably be taking a keen interest in all of United's Europa League games. Getting the most out of the JCR works the same way. Your money keeps the JCR going, and it is by getting involved with the JCR, whether that be through running for positions and committees, voting, attending formals and being part of societies, that you get value for your money, and get to decide how the money gets spent.

Trevs will be a better place the more people that are involved, and more importantly, invested, in making a positive difference, and this is something we as a college community can clearly achieve. The best Trevs events are powered by the efforts of students, and the JCR will be at its best by people engaging with it, not leaving it.

The more people get involved on any level, the more representative the JCR will be of what the wider college wants, and the better it will be.

Put simply, that is how you can make the JCR great again.

**JAMES GOWERS**





## B, C, D Block renovation works on track

Anyone who lives in or has visited Trevs this year will undoubtedly have seen the construction work taking place. B, C, and D Blocks are currently being refurbished, stripped from the original 1960s furnishings and replaced with A Block's modern design.

The building work has caused some disruption for students, as there is no longer a path through the whole of college. A and K Block can only be accessed through the outside door, past the Mash Room. The Library is also only accessible from the outside.

More students have also been placed in Shoichi Hall as a result of the reduced capacity in Trevs' main building.

However, HEX has been assured that the project remains on schedule and is progressing well. 85 bedrooms will be

refurbished to the updated style, including 7 double bedrooms that have been de-twinned. The bathrooms, which were recently replaced across all three blocks, will be getting some light-touch updates.

The Mowlam Room, Welfare Room, and IT Suite

will also receive a makeover. Corridors connecting these blocks will see new ceilings, lighting, and carpeting to refresh the feeling of the blocks.

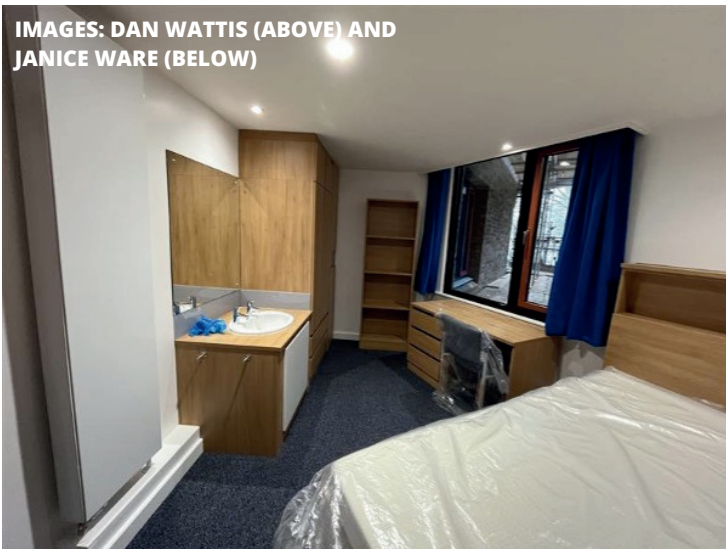
A lot of work has gone towards renewing the pipework and electrical systems, which is why it may look like there is a lot further to go from the outside.

Robertson Group have taken the lead on the project, with new windows and doors provided by local manufacturers Frostree Ltd. Durham University have used Robertson's services for several years, such as in refurbishing the Confluence Building.

The building works are still scheduled to be completed by the end of the summer vacation.

**ELLIOT BURRIN**

**IMAGES: DAN WATTIS (ABOVE) AND JANICE WARE (BELOW)**



## Vale, Dr. Hannah Martin

Trevelyan College's Assistant Principal, Dr. Hannah Martin, will be leaving Trevs at the start of the Easter Term to take up a new position within the university.

Hannah joined Trevs from the University's Library and Collections Department in October of 2021, and has overseen the prominent staff-led student support network present within the college for the last three and a half years. Hannah has been an integral part of the Trevs community throughout her tenure as Assistant Principal, and will be greatly missed by staff and students alike.

The College Principal, Dr. Adekunle Adeyeye, has confirmed plans to formally recognise Dr. Martin's contribution to the college in the first few weeks of Easter Term. Hannah has been a consistently helpful and supportive face around college for the best part of four years, and has truly done her best to enrich the Trevs students experience and HEX wishes her all the best for the future.

**JAMES GOWERS**



# Upcoming Events

## EUROVISION (17<sup>TH</sup> MAY)

As is tradition, the bar will be showing the final of God's own music competition, the Eurovision Song Contest, on 17<sup>th</sup> May. Come down to the bar for what is always a great atmosphere and an entertaining evening.

## STRESS LESS CAMPAIGN

The Welfare team led by Isabelle Smith and Helena O'Neill will be running the annual Stress Less campaign over the exam period, with various events and drop-ins scheduled. For further information, please see @trevswelfare on Instagram!

## SUMMER BALL (6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE)

The biggest event of the year, Trevs' Summer Ball will be held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June at Wynyard Hall. This is always a brilliant evening, with ENTs planned both at the venue, and back at college before the traditional sunrise photo and Survivors' Breakfast. Keep your eyes out for further information and ticket release via email and Trevs' Instagram channels!

## BASH ON THE BISH (11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE)

Trevelyan College Boat Club's annual boat party will be taking place on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June, once again aboard the Prince Bishop on the Wear. Keep an eye out for tickets on FIXR!

## FASHION SHOW (16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE)

TCFS is back again! After its triumphant return last year, and raising over £3000 for charity last year, the Fashion Show will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> June. Come along to see some of your favourite people in Trevs making slight fools of themselves on stage! @TCFS25 on Instagram has all the details.

## TREVS DAY (18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE)

Trevs Day is to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> June, with the traditional barbecue and afternoon of free entertainment on the back lawn! Further details to follow on @trevsjcr.

## TREVSTOCK (25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE)

Trevs' Annual Music Festival is back again, with an entire day of live music planned in the quad. Come along to sign off the year with a great day of Pimms, Pints and Proper music!

# Six new societies ratified

One of the beauties of collegiate lifestyle is that if you are passionate about something, you have the opportunity, via the JCR, to set up a society dedicated to it. This is particularly true of this year, as six new societies have been ratified, offering Trevs students the chance to participate in a variety of activities, from sport to debating to appreciation of local beverages.

So, as the summer term picks up in momentum, and you find yourself with time on your hands post exams, then why not find out a little bit about each newly ratified society?

## TREVS CLIMBING SOCIETY

Firstly, to the newly founded Trevs Climbing Society. The Climbing Society seeks to provide Trevs students with the opportunity to climb in a friendly environment on Saturdays at Durham Climbing Centre, no matter your previous experience level. Please reach out to Tamara Leach, the president of the society, if this sounds like something you would be interested in.

## HEX

HEX has also been brought back this year by our esteemed Editor-in-Chief, Elliot, and has thrived thus far, making a real difference in JCR elections and providing a variety of new insights into the college, many of which you will find in this edition. HEX's annual AGM will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> May, and I encourage everyone to attend if you're interested, and also anyone to get involved with writing articles via the contributors Facebook page, as it is really enjoyable.

## DEBATING SOCIETY

The Debating Society has also been set

up over the last year, and provides Trevs students with the chance to participate in regular debates both within and outside college. This society was the brainchild of Andrew Hamilton, so please get in touch with him if you'd like to know more!

## ART SOCIETY

Art Society has also been resurrected, and has held and plans to hold a variety of events to encourage participation in art within the college, as well as attending events held by other colleges, such as participating in studio time at Grey College. Feel free to reach out to Stephanie Watt, the President of the society, if you'd like to get involved, or check out @trevsartsoc on Instagram.

## MIXED NETBALL CLUB

To the world of Sport now, and the Mixed Netball Club. Set up by Bethany Meek, Mixed Netball competes in the Mixed Netball intercollegiate league, and is a really good opportunity for those who haven't played before to get involved, especially if you're quite a lanky bloke. Practices happen most Wednesdays on the Tennis Court on the Back Lawn!

## WANDERING ALE TAP SOCIETY

Finally, to the incredibly named Wandering Ale Tap Society. This society, spearheaded by the previous and current Bar Sabs, George and Sam, was set up for those who have an appreciate of local ales, and would enjoy wandering around Durham sampling some of these beverages. Somewhat unsurprisingly, you can find Sam and George in the bar if you want to get involved!

## JAMES GOWERS



IMAGE: MATTHEW HALL





1990s



2000s-2010s



## THE HEXCERPTS

### Hex Campaign: Keep the Colleges!

This year there are 203 freshers, 4 years ago there were 183. Currently 1<sup>st</sup> year students are having to live in houses designed for postgraduates, while flats used by postgraduate students are also being used as inappropriate fresher accommodation, meaning little or no space for MCR/SCR members of College. College is the key word. Trevs is a college, and is indeed admired by even the most grudging of rivals for its strong college spirit. Our quirky hexagons, our centrally located bar, our fishbowl rooms, our landings – these all make our college unique, so different from the bland, square travel-lodges on the hill, or the decrepit, cramped accommodation of the Bailey. We don't live in a castle, no, we live in 'a modern interpretation of the castle'.

All this, however, is under threat, by the principles of the current Government and the insistence of the University authorities to continue to accept the rise in student numbers. So large is the rise this year that finalists can no longer be guaranteed rooms in College – a decision that will shake the College to its very core. The very essence of college life, what separates it from being merely a hall of residence, is the potential interaction between years, the possibility to get involved in college life and have a say in the way it is run. This form of college system is unique to Durham (Oxbridge colleges run on very different lines), and is what attracts so many of us to Durham. While Durham's academic reputation continues to slide – the closure of the departments of East Asian and Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies being the latest case in point – the college system is increasingly all there is left to attract the top undergraduates to Durham. This college system cannot be allowed to be gradually eroded. Let's keep our colleges!

**Stop the annual rise in numbers and restore the right for all finalists to live in college.**

18

Please cut out the next page and attach it to your door.

Looking through our semi-consistent archive of previous HEX editions, it is rare to find a more serious piece like this one. HEX was mostly a satirical magazine, though it did include plenty of serious articles on reviews, features, and sport. Most of the content about college life, however, was jokey.

Seeing an article like this one, from Issue 31 (2003, possibly - most of the old copies are not dated!), stands out. The editors are calling for students to cut out this poster and put it on their bedroom doors, urging to '**Keep the Colleges**'. This came after Trevs could no longer guarantee college accommodation for finalists due to oversubscription.

As you're probably aware, this campaign was unsuccessful - who knows whether it reached college staff, let alone the University Executive Committee. Now, there are 272 first year rooms in college (out of 320 students living in college at a time), and the norm is for people to live out of college for both their second and third years.

Trevs has increased the number of returner bedrooms in light of the increased demand over the past few years. However, it's still faced the same issues of oversubscription that this article mentions. This year, freshers and returners are living in the houses around the back of college. With the University planning on turning the car park behind the JKH into postgraduate accommodation, it's unclear how the student distribution around Trevs will change.

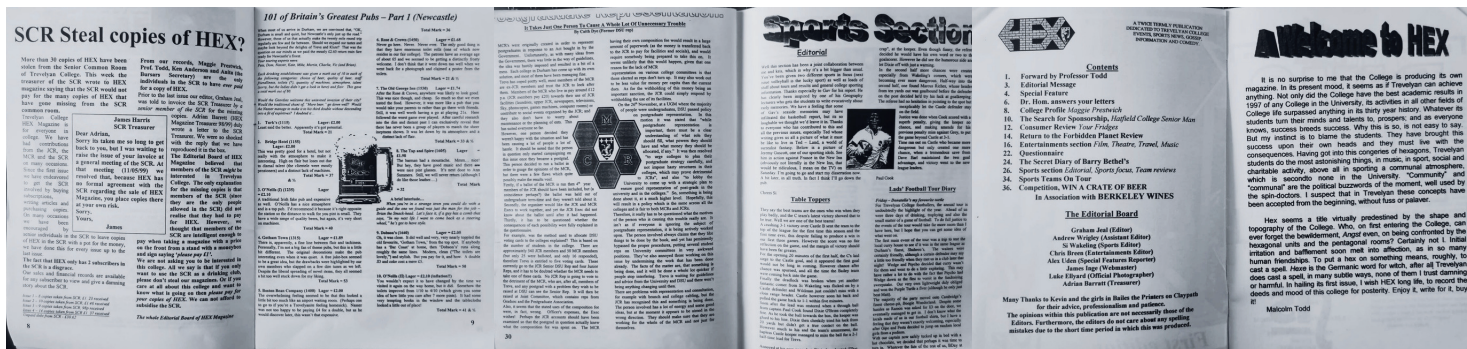
The college system undoubtedly remains strong. We're still a small college, but it's not quite the gossip-nest that past HEX editions seems to suggest. Living out does not stop "the possibility to get involved in college life", and rising costs makes catered college accommodation increasingly inaccessible each year, but Trevs still knows how to put on a good music event - so nothing much has changed.

ILLUSTRATION: ANNIE COLLIER

**Keep  
the  
Colleges**







# From bogsheets to banter: HEX's story

HEX's long and tumultuous history as a satirical magazine started in 1998 with two second years, Graham Jeal and Andrew Wrigley, who were tired of missing college gossip from their Claypath dig (which Graham claims cost £45 a week).

"We were living out and feeling a bit excluded here, myself and Andrew Wrigley, so we came up with this idea of a newspaper, a satirical magazine, a little bit Private Eye," Graham told me. The magazine was to be based off of the college bogsheet, sheets of A3 paper stuck up in college toilets that were full of gossip.

Bogsheets are a strange tradition within the UK's oldest universities, though most have stopped as university culture changes. With the rising popularity of the internet, most became newsletters organised by the JCR rather than anonymous posters. In fact, the bogsheet was one of the Publicity Officer's duties as late as 2016 at Trevis - but it had to be checked by Welfare Officers before publication.

"People living out never got to see any of those, and felt excluded," Graham explained, "And, obviously, you can only get a certain amount of information on those A3 sheets."

The natural next step for Graham was to build an Editorial Board and start printing. They produced 200 copies of their first edition in March 1998 in what would be a twice-termly publication. "We did sell them all, but I remember them being a little bit of a struggle," Graham admits. They got their name out further in the second edition, as the front cover was a behind-the-scenes of the Summer Ball survivors' photo, sneakily taken from a Trevis rooftop.

It wasn't until Issue 3 in Freshers' Week 1998 that the magazine really hit its stride. Living back in college as third years, Graham and Andrew were able to sell and deliver more subscriptions.

"We harvested up all the Freshers for a subscription, and the third years returning, and we were able to push those living out to subscribe, too. It was several hundred," Graham said.

In 1998-99, they produced 5 editions of HEX and subscriptions skyrocketed to 500. The Editorial Board were then able to secure sponsorships from local companies in town and stopped relying on a college grant from the then-Principal, the late Malcolm Todd, who Graham thinks "quietly enjoyed the tone of the satire."

**It was a great product of a very close-knit community**

Creating a magazine was very different in these early-internet days. "You'll be horrified by this, but it was a combination of word, printouts, and a lot of Pritt Sticks," Graham laughs. "When you're fighting with a Pritt Stick, bits are stuck everywhere, you're fighting with the page, thinking, have you even used the right font? So that's why it's all very limited!"

The team would put together a hard copy of the magazine by sticking all the sections together, which would then be photocopied by a printers in Claypath. Because of this, Graham remembers how "people used to throw photographs at me to try and get into HEX."

Graham still remembers seeing the first edition, "it was an enormous source of pride for me, when in the first or second issue, I remember going into the bar, and the bar was packed,

everyone with their heads in a HEX magazine. I remember looking around to my friend Andrew Wrigley and saying, 'gosh, what have we done?'"

When I ask him if there's anything he wants current Trevis students to know, he talks about how HEX landed him his grad job and brought great success in interviews. "Durham is a great university and Trevelyan is a great college at a great university, but the problem for undergraduates is, you're in the same position as hundreds of other people. [...] HEX allowed me to sit in an interview and talk about pulling a team together, and every interview I went to, they loved to talk about it."

One thing that's resoundingly clear is that, though Durham may have changed, Trevis is still the vibrant community that it once was. Twenty years later, Graham looks back at his time at Trevis knowing that reuniting with his university friends, "they might have a few more wrinkles, but it was just like yesterday that you were together in Durham."

**ELLIOT BURRIN**



IMAGES VIA GRAHAM JEAL





# CHRONICALLY ONLINE? CHRONICALLY ONLINE? CHRONICALLY ONLINE?

## Exploring the impact of social media trends on student behaviour

The term “chronically online” was once a niche internet insult, but is now a mainstream label for those whose views and opinions are deeply shaped by digital discourse. For students, particularity in university settings like Durham, it glowingly reflects how social media platforms have become more than just a distraction from boredom – they now shape identity, relationships, and in some cases, even moral frameworks. As social media seeps into every aspect of student life, the difference between virtual and real world grows harder to distinguish.

Social media trends now play a significant role in how students live their lives. From the latest fashion trends and hairstyles to speech and slang words, social media dictates the way that students present themselves to society. Platforms like Instagram and TikTok have become the main arenas for these ‘social rules’ to be formed and debated.

This linguistic shift, with terms like “gaslighting” and “trauma dumping” entering everyday conversation, can be seen as positive. It signals the growth in awareness and willingness to discuss mental wellbeing and toxic behaviours, making mental health more open and in a way seen as relatable.

However, the downside is that these terms are beginning to be misused or over-applied, reducing these serious issues into buzzwords that are just seen as trendy insults amongst

friends. In university environments where communication and critical thinking are essential, this flattening of language risks undermining genuine dialogue and understanding.



### Student-run social media pages offer space for expression and creativity

Increasingly, University life is being filtered through a digital lens, with students shaping a personality and identity that reflects the ‘ins and outs’ of social media. Take the ‘Romanticising your life’ trend as an example. This is a TikTok-inspired ethos encouraging people to view their day-to-day life, whether it be taking a walk or getting an overpriced latte, as cinematic and meaningful. While these trends promote a greater appreciation for life, it also feeds into a performative mindset, where people may focus on how the moment looks rather than the real joys of feeling and living in the moment. As a result, students may find themselves choosing aesthetics over personal fulfilment, choosing the more documentable moment over the one for

personal growth and enjoyment.

Yet, Durham students are far from the passive participants in this culture, they are also the commentators and creators of latest ideas. At Durham, student-run social media accounts, from confession pages and satirical TikToks to charitable awareness pages, student-run social media pages offer space for expression and creativity. Many students engage with internet culture through light-hearted irony and humour, enjoying and playfully criticising the trends that they follow. This self-awareness over the consumption of social media provides a subtle but meaningful form of resistance, allowing students to navigate the contradictions of being both online and authentic.

Still, the broader impact of being “chronically online” raises important questions. What risks do we face as a generation that is constantly glued to

our phones? At a time when identity is constructed through likes, stories and shared posts, students must balance being connected and disconnecting from real life.



LUCIE-MAY  
OLIVER



# Magazines and books: a chat with Tim Fowler

“

**It's not about how many you've got. It's what they are, and I think Trevs has always been a startlingly creative place, and a place where people feel free to express themselves in that way. It's remarkable. Someone once said to me, Trevs is an easy place to be different, and I loved that. It doesn't matter what that difference is.**

“Tim! Tim! Tim!” is a chant anyone who's made it to 'Country Roads' after a Trevs formal will be familiar with. The DJ in question, Tim Fowler, has been a familiar face around the college since 2003 (with some brief visits whilst he was a student at University College), as librarian, painter, DJ, and HEX contributor.

Joining the college as a librarian was “kind of accidental,” Tim told HEX. His daughter had just started nursery and, having stayed in the college system as a Mentor, Tim was looking for work after being a full-time Dad over the past few years. “I went to the interview and said, well, I know the colleges, and the library stuff I'm sure I can pick up,” he said.

Whilst he wasn't a student, Tim wanted to make sure his face was known around Trevs. “Writing for HEX was one of the ways that I wanted everyone to get to know who I am,” he said. It was a way of saying “hi, this is me, I can be funny, I can write interesting stuff, and I run the library.”

The idea was proposed “one night in the bar,” by the Editors, and Tim recalls his first article being about the Eden Project, “which I had been quite disappointed by, so I wrote a satirical article about it.”

Across the years, he contributed a huge range of pieces, from satire about the college being horrendously over-subscribed, to a funny list of all the things “the BBC tells you you should be afraid of.”

The HEX then was a lot different to the content we produce now. Whilst Tim admits there was “quite serious stuff,” he also added that “there was really silly stuff that probably wouldn't get published now. There was a bog sheet and things, who was snogging who.”

Whilst HEX takes a different form now – alongside a shift in social culture across universities – Tim thinks it still shares that unique creativity that comes from Trevs. Whilst it might be a small college, “it's not about how many you've got. It's what they are,” Tim says.

**ELLIOT BURRIN**

IMAGE: TIM FOWLER



# Ranking Durham's best and (worst) nights out

As a Fresher who has 100% embraced the motto of 'Silly Fresh', I believe that I am highly qualified to provide you with a rundown of Durham's best nights out. After much trial and error, I have mastered the perfect pre-club routine. Some warmup drinks at Trevs, followed by the dreaded stomp down to the Bailey, a Disco Water at Chad's to drown away the envy of their lovely bar followed by the crucial Spoons top up, to reach the perfect level before the club.

## 5. LOFT

Sadly, my first encounter with Loft during Freshers' Week ended with me staring in dismay at the empty dance floor after having made the treacherous drunk trek up the never-ending stairs. However, I do have to accept some responsibility for this as I had stepped foot inside before midnight. Rookie mistake! Although I have yet to grace Loft Monday with my presence, I have heard rave reviews about its classic 2000s tunes and good vibes. It tends to be only frequented by those hardcore revellers whilst the rest of us need a few days recovery time resulting from the weekend's hangover.

## 4. BABYLON

The £1.50 entry and £1.00 shots on Friday and Wednesday Cheapskates call out to us broke students. Could it get any better? Nonetheless, the enticing cheapness is not without cost. Be prepared to be relentlessly crushed on the dancefloor, until you can seek refuge in a corner. The DJ's repetitive playlist and inability to finish a banger can at times be aggravating. Sadly, my biggest achievement of Michaelmas term was making it to every Friday Cheapskates. However, the novelty of Babs can wear off very quickly.

## 3. KLUTE

Klute is notorious for being the worst night out in Europe (though it managed to reopen this year!). A shed, a sweet quaddie and 2000s throwbacks – a simple but fantastic combination. Arm-in-arm with strangers and friends, swaying to 'That's Amore' is a uniting and enjoyable experience. In its muggy, (but sometimes empty) dancefloor, thrives nostalgia and carefree vibes. For those desperate enough to go out on a Sunday night, Klute is the place to be.

Whilst it takes a rare stamina to persevere until closing, it is a trustworthy and cheap stop off on a night out. Maybe it isn't the worst night club in Europe after all!

## 2. JIMMY'S

As the last stop on Wednesday night sports socials, drunk students embrace the rebellious spirits of Victorian prisoners, making for a feral dance floor. There is a certain comfort in the familiarity of DJ Dave's playlist and the possibility of seeing half of Trevs in the smoking area. However, enter the dance floor at your own risk! I have ended up on Jimmy's floor looking up helplessly at the dancing rabble far too many times. If you survive until 2am, singing Robbie William's 'Angels' at the top of your lungs is surprisingly therapeutic. Whilst the awful state of the toilets and the long queue can be off putting, Jimmy Allen's is a classic Durham institution and makes for a fun night.

“Some warmup drinks at Trevs, followed by the dreaded stomp to the Bailey, a Disco Water at Chad's, then the crucial Spoons top-up

## 1. FABIO'S

Belting 'Pink Pony Club' with a Woohoo in my hand is honestly one of life's peaks. Thursday's 'Unhinged' have mastered the perfect balance of Charli XCX and Chappell Roan to create an inclusive, funky, and carefree atmosphere. Poles, comfy sofas, 3 for £5 jäger bombs – Fabs has it all. The rapid speed at which the tickets sell out suggests that a lot of students would agree with my ranking. Despite the long queue and endless sets of stairs, Fabs is the best place to dance all your problems away.



IMAGE: ELLIOT BURRIN

## HONOURABLE MENTIONS

### OSBOURNE'S

Although lacking in space, Ozzy's nostalgic music and cheap drinks certainly make up for it. Its prime location, between Klute and Jimmy's, makes it a perfect warmup for a free entry club crawl.

### DISCO SPOONS (LLOYD'S)

Whilst I still have not accepted the need to pay money to enter the Spoons establishment, Saturday night Disco Spoons is a perfect opportunity to boogie alongside young and old.

Take this as a pinch of salt – each to their own! Remember though, at the end of the day, practice makes perfect!

**ISABELLA HOLDEN**



# Showcasing Trevs' student bands

## HAYK

Slightly newer, but nonetheless well-cemented amongst the Trevs music scene, Hayk are a pop-punk covers band, the passion project of a burning desire to cover Sum 41's 'In Too Deep.' Named in tribute of the finest delicacy on offer in Trevs dining hall eight days a week, JCR President-elect Harry Naylor (vocals) is joined by Ben Wilkins (guitar), Sasha Marriage (guitar/vocals), Bex Smith (drums), and Emilia Harcourt (bass).

After forming in 2024, Hayk became regulars at Unplugged, performing setlists comprised of Blink-182, Green Day, Sum 41, and Paramore, amongst others. A recent performance in Trevs Bar after the Halfway Formal marked a highlight for the band this year after taking their performances elsewhere on the Hill music circuit.

As a student band focused on enjoying their craft, the highlight of their year - according to the band - was Harry starting a cover of Green Day's 'Boulevard of Broken Dreams' with a line from the middle of the second verse. As is the nature of live music (and Harry Naylor might I add.) Hayk allow their passion for pop-punk to outshine any such mishaps and look forward to another year on the Trevs music scene in 2025-2026.



HAYK. IMAGE: MIA STOCKTON

## GRASS FED SALMON

Veterans of the college music scene and now heading into their final term as a band (save the tears for now, there's plenty yet to come) Grass Fed Salmon have been a stalwart of the Trevs student music scene since forming in 2022. Trevs was woven into the DNA of Grass Fed Salmon, described as the 'brainchild' of Tom Bercovici (guitar and vocals), alongside fellow Trevelyanites James Gowers (vocals), Emma Baylay (vocals), and Woody Jeffay (bass), the current lineup completed by George Fitzgerald of Grey (guitar) and Matt Mitchell of Hatfield (drums).

After finding their feet in Trevs, debuting at Unplugged and later performing at Trevs Night, the self-proclaimed 'Britpop adjacent year six disco' six-piece would quickly become fan favourites amongst event goers across Durham. Their first year as a band was capped off by closing Trevstock in 2023 to a great reception in the Quad. Some covers that the band have adopted during their three years together include 'Last Nite' by The Strokes and 'Zombie' by The Cranberries. A final year on

the Durham stage has brought many highs,

a performance on the main stage at Hatfield's Lion in Winter, an appearance at Castle's Halfway Ball, victory in battle of the bands at Katy O'Brien's, as well as a performance at the Mind Charity Gala. Although the curtain is soon to come down on one of our very finest Trevs bands, an inevitable encore at Trevstock awaits, and with the promise of original music too.

## FLO AND CO

The defining feature which will make Flo and Co stand out not only from the other bands featured on this page, but most bands you might argue, is that you don't often see a jazz band featuring triplets. Flo Martinelli (Trevs) and her sisters Cecilia (Hild Bede) and Sofia (Aidan's) front the outfit as vocalists supported by Trevelyanites David Mossman-Smith (drums), Moog Clyde (saxophone), and Lizzie Beamish (trumpet), plus Oliver Wilman (keys) and Maya Kane (bass).

Founded in 2024, Flo and Co perform music by Tom Misch, Jordan Rakei, Ella Fitzgerald, Chet Baker, and more, most notably at their Identity Charity Fashion Show fundraising gig in Aidan's this year. Band favourite covers include 'La Voglia, La Pazzia' by Ornella Vanoni and 'One Note Samba' by Antônio Carlos Jobim.

Having yet to play in Trevs, Trevstock 2025 is within their sights for what will be a hotly anticipated performance, but also one which might prove to be the last outing for David, Moog, and Lizzie, who graduate this year. Though the future of the 'Co' may be uncertain, Flo also performs as a solo artist, having released her debut single 'Midnight Drive' on streaming platforms in January.

## LUKE TAYLOR



GRASS FED SALMON.  
IMAGE: JAMES GOWERS

HAYK. IMAGE: EMILIA  
HARCOURT



# My favourite performances in Durham so far this year



IMAGE: DAN WATTIS

Durham has a thriving performing arts scene, one of the best in the country. This term alone there has been well over 120 performances across the University from the 30+ theatre groups, 30+ university music groups, and 50+ college music groups. Here are some of my personal favourites from this academic year.

Starting in a typically unbiased fashion, one of my favourites from this year, and perhaps my entire time in Durham, was Jesus Christ Superstar, put on by our very own TCMS in the Dining Hall here in Trevs. Director Ben Cawood put on a true spectacle with his post-apocalyptic reimagining of Andrew Lloyd Webber's classic, with standout performances from the entire cast. One particular highlight from the cast was Seb Powell playing Judas in one of the most well-rounded performances I have ever seen in student theatre, let alone from a college theatre company. A really integral part of the show was the completely immersive lighting and sound excellently provided by Theo Nellis and Oli Matthews respectively. The technical feat of theatre often goes overlooked, but the immersion provided was simply exquisite. Further credit should be given to Niamh Connellan's phenomenal musical direction, with the band being one of best I have seen from a DST show.

This article won't just be an ode to Ben Cawood's directing skills, but I would be remiss not to talk about Black Comedy, one half of a double bill put on in January and again directed by Cawood. This amazing farce revolves around the lighting being inverted, so when the audience see bright light, it is pitch black for the characters. This core mechanic allows for some exceptionally physical humour in the ensuing chaos of a power cut. One stand out performance from this show was Oli Butler's character of Brindsley, who spends the entire show covering up for his own transgressions, including some excellent physical comedy. Once again, this show relies heavily on the lighting, this time incredibly designed by Lucy Smith.



IMAGE: DAN WATTIS

It would be amiss for me to write about the best performances of this year and not mention the absolute success of this year's Live on the Hill, which saw over £3000 raised for Anthony Nolan over both nights. Emma Knight led the band excellently in one of the most musically exceptional iterations of Live on the Hill in memory. A particular stand out for me was Trevs Music veteran Dan Scobbie's arrangement of the classic song 'Tainted Love', excellently performed by Thomas Rainford. This jazzy interpretation provided a nice change of pace from the Shakira and Sabrina Carpenter that surrounded it. Of course, it was also nice to see, once again, half a dozen of my own arrangements in the mix, including the show's opener: 'Time Warp.'

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**This term alone there has been well over 120 performances across the university from the 30+ theatre groups, 30+ university music groups, and 50+ college music groups**



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**I have seen so many impressive performances this year, it was hard to only pick a few to write about**

Perhaps the most musically talented performance of the year in Durham would have to be the Northern Lights' performance at Gala theatre in February. The Northern Lights are Durham's competitive A Capella group – think Pitch Perfect! They have just become the first group from the UK to finish on the podium since 2016 at the International Championship of Collegiate A Capella in New York. At Gala, they performed this competition set alongside a few other songs in February at a joint concert with Footnotes, Full Score and Durham Dynamics. I can absolutely see why Northern Lights won the UK round with a flawless performance.



IMAGE: DAN WATTIS

I particularly loved the weaving of 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow' through this entire performance. Their incredible ICCA set wasn't their only performance, there were many more songs after that, including a breathtaking beatboxing feature from Dan Laheney, and my personal highlight: a mash up of 'Great Balls of Fire' and 'Jailhouse Rock.'

A final shoutout must go to the comedy groups of Durham, who often go overlooked when discussing theatre in Durham. Ooook's interpretation of Taskmaster, was, once again, one of the funniest things I have seen all year, with particular credit to Oli Owen's blasé attitude to everything as well as Jonas Stringer's lovable anarchy. A great way for me to experience all of comedy's finest though was at the opening night for the Durham Drama Festival which saw the Stand Society and Shellshock join DU Musical Troupe and the Durham Revue in a variety show. The Revue were once again fantastic, with a range of sketches from one-liners to longer skits, once again excelling in having the audience in stitches.

I have seen so many impressive performances this year, it was hard to only pick a few to write about. I have discovered some incredible new pieces of music, such as Anna Clyne's 'PIVOT' as performed by Durham University Orchestral Society or the entire soundtrack of Bonnie and Clyde as performed by Tone Deaf Theatre Company, as well as witnessing several other incredible bits of theatre such as Jekyll and Hyde or Iolanthe. All of Durham's performing arts has been so incredible, and I cannot wait for next term's performances including Little Shop of Horrors, Rocky Horror Picture Show, Alice By Heart, Spamalot, Hay Fever, and Room for a Doubt, to name just a few of the shows that I am already looking forward to seeing.

**DAN WATTIS**



IMAGE: ELLIOT BURRIN

**8-10 MAY** LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS  
**19-21 JUNE** ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

**8-9 JUNE** SPAMALOT  
**26-28 JUNE** ALICE BY HEART



# How to carpe diem in the arts: advice & anecdotes from a fourth year

Like the title of a song by one of my favourite bands, Joker Out, I have found myself trying to seize the day - or seize as many opportunities as I can - before my time in Durham draws to a close. This has particularly manifested itself within the performing arts scene. Coming to uni can feel very overwhelming, especially when there is some underlying pressure to make the most of your time here. These are my words of wisdom (of sorts) for how to get involved, and what I wish I could have told myself four years ago.

## **DON'T BE DISHEARTENED BY REJECTION**

This can be an incredibly annoying thing to be told, but I say this coming from someone who has been rejected from well over half of the auditions that I've been to. I remember I went through a period in my second year of getting call-backs but never a role and it was incredibly frustrating. It was like 'What am I doing wrong? Why am I not good enough?'

Truth is, sometimes it's just not meant to be. Sometimes your vocal range isn't suited to the song or the chemistry isn't clicking with other actors and these things are all out of your control. Just because you don't get something doesn't mean you aren't good at what you do. As part of my aforementioned 'carpe diem', I spontaneously signed up for several auditions. But this year, I went in with the attitude of 'maybe I'll get it, maybe I won't, either way it's ok.' While I was successful in some cases and now have some exciting upcoming productions, the first few I heard back from were nos and going into the process with this attitude made auditioning feel less stressful, and reading the outcome email a lot easier.

Particularly, when you have ten people auditioning for one part it's not always an easy decision, so don't assume that you were instantly rejected.



**Maybe I'll get it, maybe I won't, either way it's ok**

Believe me, I've been on the other side of the desk making the decisions and have been tearing my hair out trying to decide who gets a call-back. It can be heart-breaking trying to decide who is cast and who isn't, so don't take rejection to heart. Don't give up! Only in my last term at uni have I had a good run of getting call-backs and offered roles, so don't worry if you don't book every audition you go to, especially in your first year.

## **APPLY FOR ASSISTANT & SHADOW ROLES**

If you are interested in getting involved in theatre but don't really know where to start, I would strongly recommend applying for assistant or shadow roles. These give you an insight into how student theatre runs as well as the opportunity to learn and network. A shadow role focuses on 'shadowing' the person in the full role while assistants (you guessed it) 'assist'.

Another thing to note is typically these roles are lower commitment. I was the Assistant Producer of 'Jekyll & Hyde' this year which involved booking rooms for rehearsals and printing posters - exciting stuff. While I have produced on other productions before, it was great to still be involved in a production but with less pressure and responsibility.



**IMAGE:  
DAN WATTIS**



**Sixth Side Pantomime. IMAGE: SIXTH SIDE THEATRE**



**Jesus Christ Superstar. IMAGE: TCMS**



**Live on the Hill. IMAGE: DAN WATTIS**





It's Ok.  
We'll Be Ok.

IMAGE: SIXTH SIDE THEATRE

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As cheesy as it sounds, do what you love [...] You have time so just enjoy yourself. Carpe diem in a way that feels right for you

## MAKE THE MOST OF NON-AUDITIONED SOCIETIES & PRODUCTIONS

If you want to get involved but auditioning is not for you, there are plenty of opportunities where you can just sign up to take part. There are lots of Trevs societies such as Dance, A Capella and TCOS (Orchestra) that are non-auditioned and a great way to meet people in college.

‘Unplugged’ events take place in Trevs Bar several times a term and are a chance to perform in a more relaxed, low-pressure setting. One of my New Year’s resolutions this year was to learn how to play guitar because a lot of the songs I like to sing don’t have YouTube backing tracks (hence the obvious solution was to learn to play the songs myself). I performed with my guitar at an Unplugged earlier this year and it definitely gave me the motivation to practice and something to work towards so I could keep my resolution. These events operate on a sign up basis and you can perform as a soloist or in a group/band.

Other performances that are a bit more informal are the Sixth Side Christmas Panto and the TCMS 48 hour musical. If you watched the panto post-Christmas Formal, I’m sure you could tell it’s not the most serious of productions, and a lot of fun to be involved in. My reprising of the role of Queen Klute will definitely be the peak of my student theatre career. The 48 hour musical hasn’t been run in the last few years but I can guarantee it will be chaotic and again just really light hearted and fun.

## YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN

When I first came to Durham, I’d done some musical theatre and dance classes as hobbies so was keen to continue this. Alongside acting in musicals and plays, I’ve gained a lot of experience behind the scenes ranging from choreography to producing to directing and even a bit of tech, which I wasn’t expecting to do.

If you told fresher me that in my fourth year I wrote a play, Sixth Side facilitated staging it, and it’s now going to the Edinburgh Fringe I would think you were mad. But, here we are. It’s definitely taken a lot of work and dedication to make it happen but I am so grateful that it is going ahead. I never really saw myself as a script writer and while I have always been interested in

going to the Fringe, I thought it would be as an actor rather than a writer and director. I am absolutely terrified no one is going to come to the show and my social awkwardness is dreading the flyering but I am very excited. Really, anything can happen.

## JUST GO FOR IT!

I think one of the biggest bits of advice I would give to my past self is to stop worrying about what people think. As much as I hate to admit it, when I first started at uni I think I held on to some self-consciousness from school and didn’t want to put myself out there in case I was laughed at. In reality, the majority of people are mature enough now to be past that level of pettiness. In a way, being on the audition panel helps you realise that creative team members are only really interested in how well you portray the character, not trivial things like what you’re wearing or how you’ve done your hair. There’s a saying ‘if you don’t try, you’ll never know’ and I think it’s very apt for opportunities at uni. What’s the worst that could happen? I have messed up songs, tripped over myself, and done all sorts of embarrassing things. No one really cares. We’re all too busy with our own lives to focus on other people’s mishaps. So, give it a go, and see what comes of it.

## REMEMBER YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING AT ONCE

You have three to four years of uni - take your time. Don’t worry if you don’t get around to doing everything you want to as there IS life after uni. Plenty of local choirs, orchestras, and theatre groups exist so you can still pursue your passions post-uni. It is a bit ironic me writing this, and I fully acknowledge I should take my own advice, but know your limits. In the past year I’ve done all sorts, from singing at Live On The Hill, to choreographing a musical, to writing and directing a play. I know I am one to take on a lot and try to keep busy but the stress and tears are not worth it. Make sure you’re doing things for the right reasons and when something stops being fun remember you don’t have a duty to plough on with it.

As cheesy as it sounds, do what you love. Give things a go if you feel passionate about them because what’s the worst that can happen? What will be, will be. You have time so just enjoy yourself. Carpe diem in a way that feels right for you.

**ALYSIA ORBELL**





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**The room swap allows students to get to know people they wouldn't usually mingle with or encounter**

## Should Trevs bring back swapping rooms each term?

As a fresher, I, similar to most current Trevelyanites, have never experienced the now retired tradition of livers-in swapping rooms every term. Changing rooms each term was abolished by the university in 2020 to reduce the mixing of students, making the COVID-19 pandemic protocols and measures easier to manage. Cost saving measures around cleaning were also a factor, especially as terms only last about ten weeks.

However, I have mixed feelings around this tradition. On one hand, I can't imagine the pain of having to haul all your belongings around college three times a year, moving in is already an ordeal. Secondly, at least for me, I have formed quite a tight-knit friendship group with the others on my landing and I shudder with the

thought of having to acquaint yourself with new neighbours every term. Although this would probably be a godsend if you absolutely can't stand your neighbours, especially if they are the type that blast music to help them study or party into the early hours of the morning or leave a weird smell in the communal kitchen.

On the other hand, I am someone who values traditions and by removing them, it could be a slippery slope to other traditions being abandoned. Attending Durham University is a unique student experience due in large part to all the many weird and wonderful customs established by either the institution or former students wanting to leave a legacy. In a way, losing this ritual is a shame as I think it

could further strengthen the community feeling that Trevelyan, as a small college, prides itself on. The room swap allows students to get to know people they wouldn't usually mingle with or encounter. In addition, if all students swapped rooms termly, it is also a chance to liberate those sharing a room with someone who unfortunately is not going to be a lifelong best friend, foregoing the awkward room change request.

In conclusion, I believe there is no definitive answer. Personally, I couldn't imagine how inconvenient it would be to move termly. Maybe in a hypothetical scenario, the best thing would be to operate it in a similar fashion to room sharing (sadly this tradition also seems to be on its way out), in that students could opt into a specific percentage of Trevelyan accommodation that has termly room swaps, meaning there is the best of both worlds, and the tradition lives on, just slightly modified.

**ANDREW HAMILTON**



ILLUSTRATIONS: ANNIE COLLIER



# The joy of University Challenge

For well over sixty years, University Challenge has been a fixture of national television, showcasing the brightest and best young minds in the country. From Bamber Gascoigne to Jeremy Paxman and now Amol Rajan, the question masters themselves have carved out a real identity in the pantheon of British pop culture, from Paxman's disdain for anyone who dared to get a question

of demonstrating your knowledge, however niche it is, in one of the most knowledgeable environments in the country.

I should preface this piece by saying that I am famously quite partial to a quiz, as anyone who has frequented Trevs Bar on a Sunday evening (SNQ) over the last three years can attest to. In addition, I do actually

IMAGE VIA SEAN BLANCHFLOWER



wrong, to the viral “we need jungle I’m afraid” of Amol Rajan’s first series. The program has been depicted multiple times in film and television, from Scumbag College v Footlights College in the Young Ones, to the film Starter For Ten. Thus, University Challenge has a long-established cultural relevance in the UK, and the program has a number of notable alumni, from Stephen Fry to Kwasi Kwarteng.

There are many people who critique University Challenge for its difficulty, but I argue that the joy of the program lies in its difficulty, and the joy

of demonstrating your knowledge, however niche it is, in one of the most knowledgeable environments in the country. (I may allegedly have more experience than that, but I am not allowed to confirm or deny for the moment).

While I am definitely not a purveyor of high culture (my love of Tottenham Hotspur reinforcing this), I would consider myself to be at least an above average quizzier. However, this does not mean that I can actually answer the questions on University Challenge with regularity, but this is the

point. University Challenge is undeniably difficult. I do not know who won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1937, and frankly, neither should you. But every Monday evening at 8.30, having had your mind numbed by Only Connect, millions of people watch the program for the one or two questions that we can get right, and for a moment, feel just as clever as the geniuses that dominate the program.

No other show on television has the power to make people feel so proud when they get one answer correct. Certainly, from my perspective as a former reserve on the program, it is a memory that will fill me with pride for the rest of my life, knowing that by some miracle I was considered bright enough for a place on the team.

**“No other show has the power to make people feel so proud**

Going on the program itself, albeit not on camera, was truly fantastic. I had the pleasure of sharing the experience with a wonderful group of people with whom I made lasting friendships. Amol Rajan is a friendly and engaging man, who took time out of his evening to talk with us, and all of the production team worked hard to make us comfortable in what is undoubtedly a high-pressure environment. While we may not have progressed past the Second Round, it is an event we will surely cherish.

To its credit, University Challenge has, to an extent, moved with the times. Every year, there appears a debutant university, whilst Oxbridge colleges, once the guardians of the famous trophy, are now less likely to win. Not only that, but the breadth of questions is much greater in the Rajan-era, something which I welcome, but this has crucially not impacted the trademark difficulty.

Thus, University Challenge is rightly a national treasure, and I hope that it continues to make us regular people feel overjoyed when we get a question correct, and continues to amaze us with just how concerningly intelligent students can be for many years to come.

**JAMES GOWERS**



# Is Durham University in its 'flop era'?

All universities have their flaws, and Durham is no exception. Unless you think Durham's 'downfalls' are the concrete hellscape that is the Students' Union, beef with the college system, or you're still just upset about that Oxbridge rejection; perhaps the first thing that comes to mind when thinking of our beloved alma mater's setbacks is money. The UCU strikes, speculation on staff salary disparities, donors pulling funding etc...and a conversation about money can not be had without considering class inequalities and the culture at Durham. Even gowns, formals, and balls reflect upper-class culture.

Durham is often pinned as a sort of glorified boarding school due to its collegiate system which is perhaps not the most appealing to an average Joe, but must be a pull to the Eton boys and private school pupils when considering their university applications. I also cannot leave out the House of Lords-esque playground that is the Durham Union, swarmed year after year with controversies, and accusations of elitism and exclusivity. We've yet to mention sport society culture or the mocking Northern and working-class students can receive. It's not looking good for Durham...

But, a supposed 'flop era', connoting something to have 'fallen' or declined from a previous state of success. So, if we define Durham's lack of success as elitism and financial setbacks, I ask: was Durham ever **not** in its 'flop era'?

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## Even gowns, formals, and balls reflect upper-class culture

First of all, let's discuss the elitism. Where did Durham begin? I'll take you back to the good ol' days of the 1830s when William Van Mildert and Charles Thorp brought the university into being. You'd never guess, but Van Mildert went to an all-boys public school and Charles Thorp was at a private grammar school before they both attended Oxford. Being the third oldest university in England after Oxford and Cambridge, it's not surprising, but this helps paint the picture of the sort of education these men were likely envisioning when setting up the university. Thorp was the first chancellor of Durham, followed by a gaggle of Lords, Earls, Dukes and Viscounts. In fact, nearly all of Durham's chancellors came from aristocratic, upper- and upper-middle-class backgrounds. Not that I'm claiming this is unique to Durham, just that it doesn't take much to understand the elitist culture I'm talking about, more or less, stemmed from day one. In 2005, Bill Bryson was pretty much the first chancellor to come from a modest background.

Furthermore, nearly every college is named after an upper-class individual. The exceptions being: John Snow, George Stephenson, and Mary (as in mother of Jesus). And South, because that's a road. Trevs was named after the 9<sup>th</sup> chancellor of Durham, G.M Trevelyan, who was born into a massive estate in Britain. His grandfather was a baronet, as well as a colonial administrator whose politics contributed to the Irish Famine.

IMAGE: MELISENKA KOZLOVA





This, plus the formal dinners, balls, initiation ceremonies, gowns, Durham's need to call it matriculating and parade the cobbled streets, fancy term names and the catered boarding school vibes, the upper-class energy is not difficult to find. Obviously, this has been happening since its founding nearly 200 years ago. Maybe all this 'higher society' energy is just an inevitable product of being one of the oldest universities in Britain. After all, isn't some tradition nice? Having a 180-year-old debating society that moves with the times and never upsets anyone, right?! Or maybe Durham needs to let go a bit, move away from its roots and work a bit harder at not identifying with elitist attitudes. Who am I to say?

Now, money! Durham University has a history of great donors and support. Unsurprisingly, this support has changed over the years. Considering the current cost of living due to a myriad of factors; it's obvious we can't compare the 1800's to now. That being said, Durham is still considerably better off now than it was at its founding, even considering inflation. So what's with all the strikes, changes in closing hours (RIP Billy B), and general whispered concerns about the financial state of the university?

Last financial year, Durham reported an operating deficit of nearly £8 million, and that they would need to

cut 200 jobs to fill the gaps.

So they can keep the university running smoothly, Durham relies on a multitude of sources, including grants, government funding and philanthropic donors. However, international students are by far their biggest friend. The cap on international students' tuition fees is much higher than home students' current £9,535 limit, meaning pushing for more international applicants is a priority.

As for the costs of running a university, last financial year Durham reported they spent approximately £7,000 on "miscellaneous expenditure," £15,907 on "residences, catering and conferences", and a casual £300,000 for the vice chancellor's salary. To combat this, voluntary redundancy is being offered to all of the University's staff, though they aren't ruling out firmer measures. All of this, plus accommodation shortages due to over-subscription and thousands spent on refurbishing the vice-chancellor's house, isn't leaving university members feeling appreciated.

Have these financial setbacks existed since Durham's founding? Kind of. Durham hasn't really been financially 'comfortable', so to speak, for a lot of its duration. We can speculate on why, but an elitist culture, a castle, and miles of owned land, sadly, won't pay the bills.



**Maybe Durham needs to let go a bit, move away from its roots and work a bit harder at not identifying with elitist attitudes**

Is Durham in its flop era? I would argue, no. There would have to be a decline. I see no sufficient evidence for any "slay era" (except maybe when our beautiful modern castle was built in the 60's). Okay, this is a bit harsh. We do love Durham! We all chose to come. Whether it was the beautiful buildings, the history, the prestige, or the courses; Durham definitely has its charms. The question is, will Durham's reputation precede itself? Haunted by controversies, league tables and the relentless cost of running a university, will Durham continue to succeed as a top 100 university? Time will tell.

**ROSIE CROMPTON**



# Are our student days really the best of our lives?

Everyone is undoubtedly familiar with the expression 'your student days are the best of your life', I would hazard a guess that almost every student reading has been on the receiving end of this statement at some point. If you are anything like me, you may feel gripped by anxiety and the panic to immediately run outside and do something crazy all in the name of having a cracking story to tell at a dinner party at the ancient age of 22 when life is all but over.

Herein lies the problem with this statement, it is so hyperbolic that it subsequently causes intense anxious feelings that the sands are running out. This is ridiculous, students are so young and, with the way life expectancies are heading, we are potentially only a fifth of the way through our lives. The idea the fun is already done is incredibly depressing and surely incorrect.

The statement conjures images of the crazy clubbing scenes seen in films followed by the protagonists doing everything but working, soundtracked

by an impeccable indie playlist. Consequently, students are left feeling they have failed at their supposed best days when their student life mostly comprises hours just staring at a laptop or nights in watching Bake Off with flatmates. Another expression commonly heard is 'youth is wasted on the young'. As students, yes, we are probably the freest we will ever be during our lives but, firstly, I think most are aware of this fact.



**The idea all the fun is already done is incredibly depressing and surely incorrect**

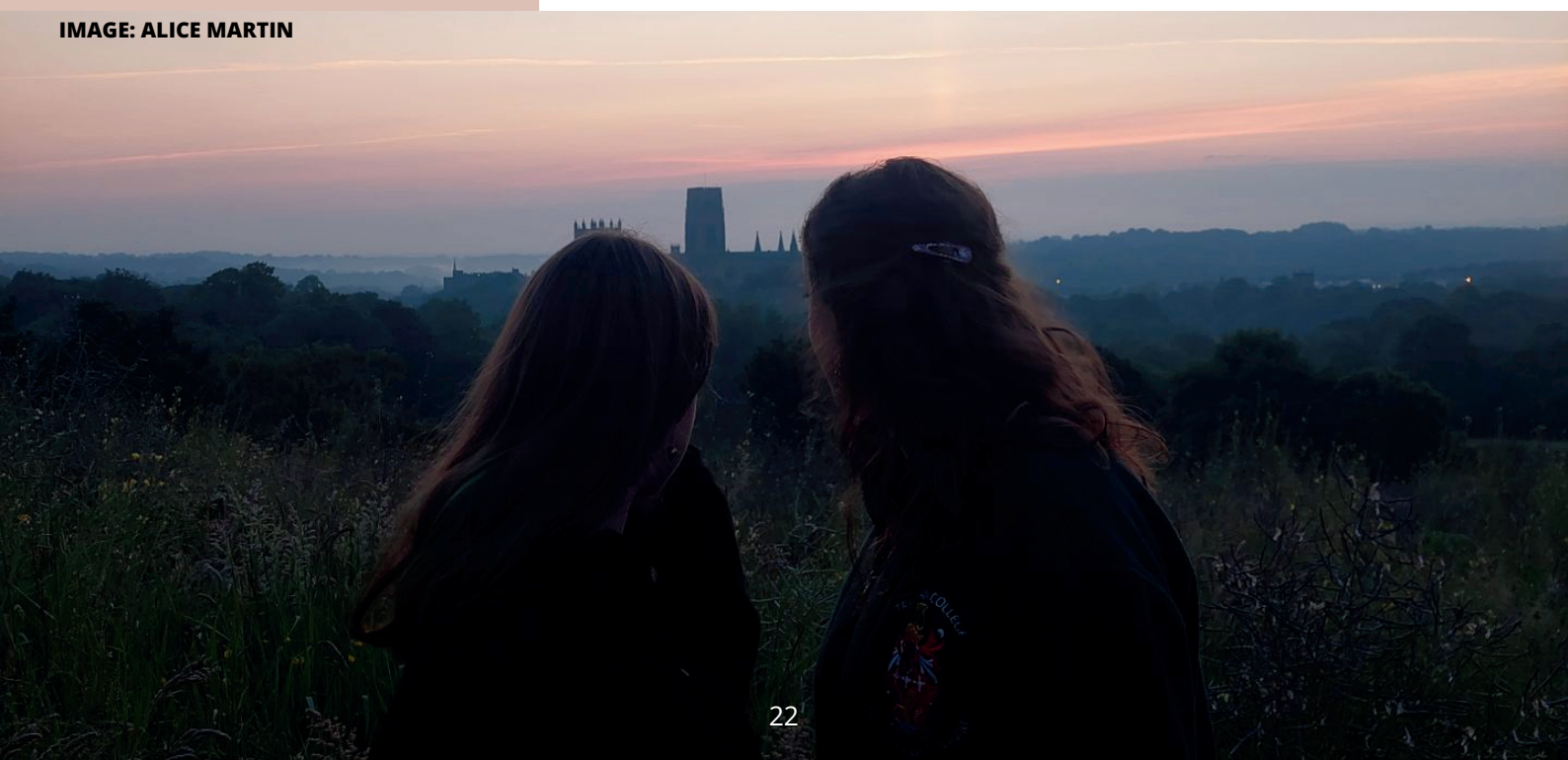
Secondly, holding your future in the palm of your hand and exploring all the many different paths you can take is exciting but also feels extremely overwhelming and scary. Many feel paralysed by choice: start a career, save for a house etc; or throw caution to the wind, and go travelling for a year or two to see the world when you're young as there's plenty of time to be sensible later.

Moreover, we are so young that we do not fully know ourselves yet. One of the major boons of student life, and I think one of the main areas people wistfully look back on, is the time of self-exploration; discovering who we are, what we really like, and what we truly want. While this is a luxury, all this reflecting can be hard work, no, really, and can leave students feeling unmoored and anxious. But it is essential to lay the groundwork for later life when we can reap the rewards of feeling more secure in our identity having had the time to try different things and make mistakes or change our minds.

Which brings me back to the statement at the crux of this article which I believe to be a double-edged sword. On one side, it makes us aware of the fleeting nature of youth and how we only have this time once. On the other side, this easily gives way to a feeling of alarm and needing to cram a whole lot of 'living' into three years, in addition to a sense of impending doom as the time to do that all important gown approaches. Leaving the era of student life behind is momentous and can be painful. It depends on what you view as the 'best'. For some, student life may really be the best memories they make, but for others, not so much. Life has many different phases, some are better than others, but the point is they all come to a close at some point. I highly doubt the very first phase that we experience learning how to 'adult' Bambi learning to walk, is going to be the best. So go be a student, be silly, be pretentious, enjoy it to the fullest, but take comfort in the fact the best is yet to come.

**ALICE MARTIN**

IMAGE: ALICE MARTIN





# The Interloper

*Content Warning: Contains themes of abuse*

I met a man on the train to Cambridge  
Slumped in front of me like a neglected marionette  
He guzzled Peroni while spewing his prose  
Being near Ely station, I stared out at the pastoral horizon  
My attempt to deflect his attention in vain

His accent was thick, yet his cadence enveloped me  
Speaking in waves of intensity, gesticulating with humorous latency  
Pivoting sporadically between tangents  
Lobbing questions to the gallery of passengers, met with absence  
Broken only once my sympathy for the interloper had overflowed

Once I interjected, his frantic diatribe soothed  
Tunnelling his words towards me, the carriage fell into soft focus  
He inquired where I was headed, my name, age, occupation  
After the inquisition ceased, his eyes wandered to that same horizon  
Black absorbed the surrounding periphery, as if a spotlight shone upon him

From his spontaneous stage, he laid out his confession  
It happened years ago,  
He didn't know  
They paid him to go stow it,  
Why would he even ask?  
He broke down and needed to check,  
It wasn't him who put them in there  
They were young and scared,  
He didn't know why he left  
He never knew their fate,  
What was he meant to do?

Concluding his admission, he resumed eye contact;  
"Dreams of them keep you up at night  
See their faces at the foot of your bed  
Eyes poised to pierce your skull  
They speak but their mouths don't move  
The words in isolation are empty  
In cacophony, they sing an eternal fugue  
Listen so might you leave the world unseen"

After the train pulled into Ely, my interloper stumbled onto the platform  
From my seat, I observed his spotlight extinguish  
An oppressive silence stifled the carriage  
A silence I've kept with me since  
Inherited from my neglected interloper

**KEELAN WORWOOD**

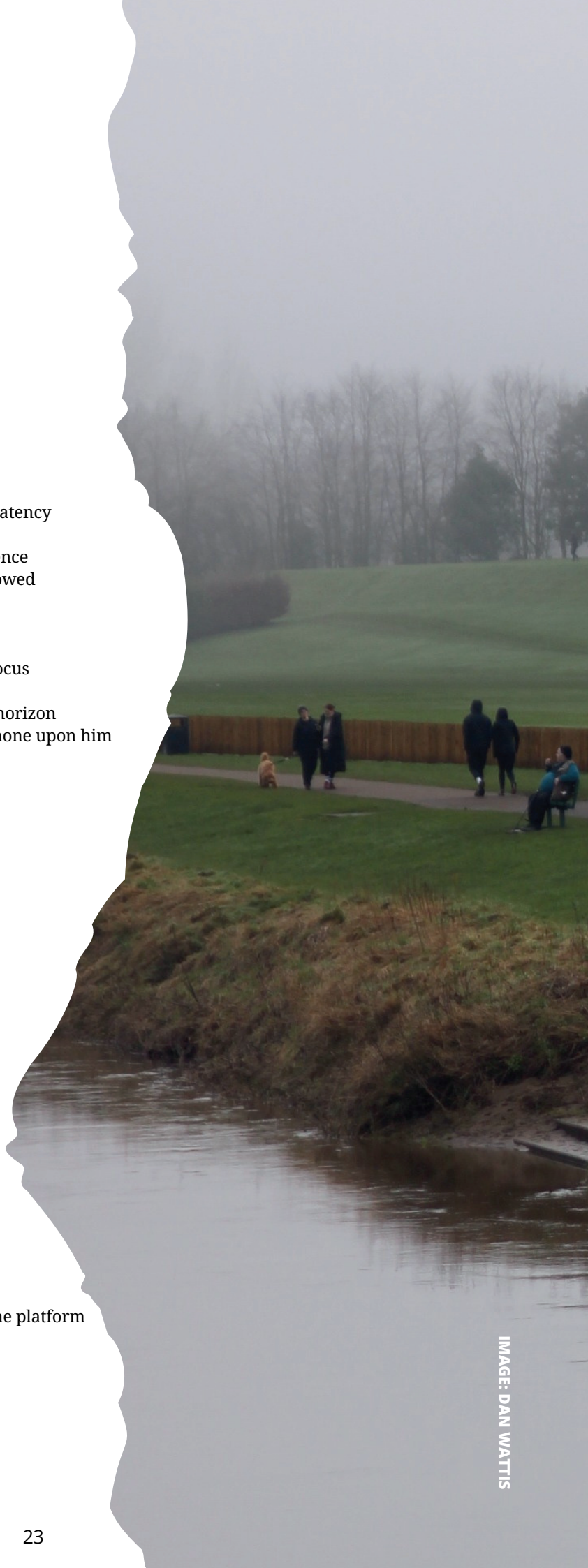


IMAGE: DAN WATTIS



# Feathers

*Content Warning: contains mentions of death, body horror*

In spite of everything, we know what the old man buries.

Out there, the ground resents the dull flash of his rusted spade. Stubborn roots and thick moss fight him for space, while the mottled light under the canopy makes the depth of his pit hard to judge.

Not like our fields, well-tilled and used to the small indignities of farming, but then our Pas had to go and have a word, all quiet-like, when the old man started on them. He could do what he liked in his own home, but it wasn't to affect the rest of the village. Besides, they said, it attracts predators. Better to leave him to the forest and the silent stare of his wife from behind the warped glass of their cottage windows.

Eventually, the old man will stamp his way back to her, trailing gritty feathers that are livid against the dark earth. A grim embrace at the doorstep and they withdraw. The door stays shut until she reappears with a broom to beat any feathers away from the house. We ran home after the first time. Her quiet fury makes the quills rustle strangely, and we won't let them touch us.

We're supposed to be too young to know any of this, but we'd watched the old man and his wife plenty even before our Das told us to stay away.

You have to pay a tithe of scuffed knees and grazed elbows if you want to follow him all the way through the woods. None of us use his path. He's carved his way into the forest enough times to leave a scar, but the carpet of feathers stops us from getting close. Coverts and pinions and

scapulars. At night, the wind turns them into a breathing river we dare each other to jump over.

One time, Billy got there first. He fed the meat to Nell, the family collie, then dried out the rest behind the shed so his Ma wouldn't find out. You've got to be careful with the wing joints, else they crack in the heat, but he managed it okay. Turns out the hardest part was hanging the bones so Nell wouldn't jump up at them.

The old man's wife doesn't go into the forest, only sweeps more feathers off her doorstep, but she still gave Bill a filthy look next time she was in town. She can't know really. Maybe her husband mentioned how thorough the scavengers had been this time or something, but she can't really know. We were careful.

Still, Billy's not keeping the skeleton anymore. Tom bought it off him for an old coin with a hole in it he found in the river. His Mam's let him hang it up in his room as long as it can't be seen from outside. Eventually, Tom gives the rest to his own dog, who buries it – Tom won't say where. Says he's getting too grown up to play with bones anyway.

There are enough small mounds out there for a skeleton each if we wanted but we've not had another go. Didn't seem right after the old man's wife died. She got buried in a graveyard, of course, but downy feathers still lead from the headstone all the way to her old cottage door. Without her, the grey tide has drifted onto the front step.

The bundles haven't stopped.

The old man moves slower now, all seized up with sadness. His spade seems to weigh more, and we can hear his wheezing as he shuffles through the banks of feathers. His coat shifts as he moves these days, as though there's not enough of him to hold it in place. Not like us: we're fast outgrowing our shirts even as our Mas make them, limbs twinging as they stretch beyond cuffs made ragged by snagging branches.

It's harder to follow him now. We're taller, more solid, and the undergrowth doesn't hide us the way it

used to. Lucky for us, we don't think the old man sees much beyond his spade anymore. Journeys into the forest take longer and longer until the shadows flow together and we can't stay to watch him fill in the pit.

Then he stops coming out at all. We're braver now, we go right up to the walls but even Bill isn't quite tall enough to look through the window properly. The glass is dark and wavy at the bottom, stretching what we can see into strange shapes.



We can't go in.

We shouldn't, we mustn't, we can't go inside but the door isn't locked, and the window is too high and, actually, we can. Easy as you like.

Bodies are everywhere. Birds of all sizes lie in piles, some with chests torn open. In the middle kneels an emaciated figure, raw skin not quite covering what little meat is left on him. We cluster round the doorway while his blunt teeth sink into the breast of a wood pigeon. As the old man chews, his skin knits together over his flayed back. He flings the pigeon into a corner and grabs at a dove. His new flesh melts away again, falling to the floor as soft feathers.

Tom gags. Can't blame him really. He's always liked the doves in his Da's cote, sneaks them crusts after supper. But the old man hears him. He drops the bird as his head jerks round, neck cracking. He gurgles hopelessly.

Whatever he tries to say, it's too late.

The villain of our childhood stories chokes on his mouthful of feathers and blood. We can't move. Not to run, not to help somehow. There's more of us outside, trying to see inside. Keeps us trapped. We stand vigil while the old man crumbles into feathers and dry, cracked bones.

**HANNAH RODRIGUEZ**



# March

Through the barren trees,  
I see a glimpse of summer.  
A reminiscent sniff of July.  
Past ice ridden roads,  
and worrying winds,  
I see hope,  
in the shape of a humbling sunlight.

Amidst frost bitten ears,  
and shivering souls,  
I can yet see a vision,  
of a sweltering heat.  
The gentle breeze is banging on this wintery door,  
saying 'Please! let me in!'

I pray mercifully to the lifeless trees and the budding snowdrops  
To the cold and the wet and the grey  
And the weather nudges me to remind me that  
this too  
shall pass

**ROSIE CROMPTON**





# STRESS-LESS PETTING ZOO DISASTER

Treveryfun College's "Stress-Less Petting Zoo" was meant to be a calm and restorative event for students before exams, but thanks to a rogue llama, Vice-Principal Bartin Mader's impulsive decisions, and a drunken chicken with a surprisingly foul mouth, chaos ensued.

It all began innocently enough. JCR President Kames Joo organised a petting zoo featuring rabbits, guinea pigs, and baby goats. Students arrived, ready to relax and pet the animals, and for a brief moment, everything was serene—until Wan Dattis, the college's infamous troublemaker, strolled in. Wan, who has made a hobby of turning every event into mayhem, immediately began tossing granola bars at the goats, despite clear signs stating "Please do not feed the animals."

Meanwhile, Vice-Principal Mader, who had been wandering aimlessly, had a "brilliant" idea: "Let's add a llama! Llamas are very calming!" He sent a hasty email to the farm, requesting a last-minute addition. The farm, eager to please, sent Bernardo, a llama whose emotional stability could best be described as "unpredictable."

When Bernardo arrived, the students were excited—until Cen Bawood, the overly dramatic Director of Jesus Christ Superstar, tried to interact with the llama. He began theatrically "directing" the llama, whispering to it like a misguided animal whisperer. Bernardo, having none of this, shrieked and immediately bolted toward the goat pen. Goats flew out of the pen like it was a jailbreak. Rabbits and guinea pigs scattered. And then—things got even worse.

In the midst of this mayhem, McSam Mahon, the college bar sabb, stumbled upon the scene. He had been experimenting with 3.4% pilsner and, for reasons no one quite understood, had gotten a chicken drunk.

The chicken, now very much tipsy, suddenly gained the ability to speak perfect English and, in a move no one saw coming, started screaming abuse at the catering staff. "What kind of pathetic excuse for a meal is this?!" it squawked in a high-pitched, slurring voice. "Chicken burgers? You think I would endorse such a thing? DISGUSTING!"

Students stopped dead in their tracks, staring in confusion as the chicken

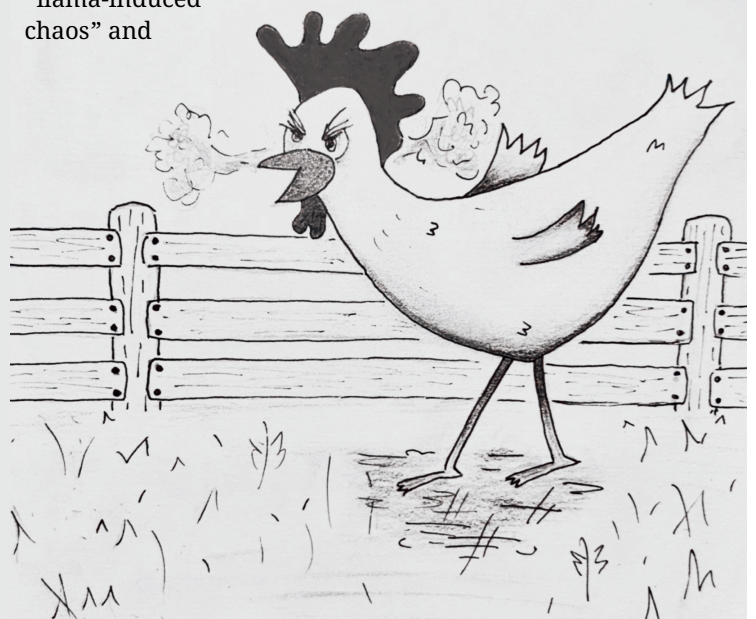
launched into a tirade of insults about the quality of the food. "I was a free-range bird! You don't serve me like this! How dare you!" The catering staff, understandably shaken, tried to ignore the bird, but the chicken wasn't done. "You think your food is better than my opinions? I was born to be free, not to be cooked!"

Meanwhile, Wanice Jare, the beleaguered College Operations Manager, was doing her best to restore order. She was seen frantically texting the porters, apologizing for the "llama-induced chaos" and

explaining that "no, the library is not a suitable location for a speaking chicken."

By the time the event ended, Bernardo the llama had been escorted off-campus, McSam Mahon was still trying to calm down the now very opinionated chicken, and Kames Joo released a statement: "Next year, we'll stick to stress balls, maybe one calm goat, and absolutely no more drunken animals."

**OLI MATTHEWS**  
Treveryfun College  
Correspondent



**NEXT YEAR, WE'LL STICK TO STRESS  
BALLS, MAYBE ONE CALM GOAT**



# the UNDERCROFT oracle



**ARIES** • 21 March - 19 April  
You'll be the centre of attention today, as usual. Just try not to upstage the sun—it's a tough competition.



**TAURUS** • 20 April - 20 May  
You will invite your friend from home to a college event, but he will get lost in the confusing corridors of Trevelyan College. You'll find him in tears after he accidentally gets stuck hiding in the SCR during Head of Section. They are discussing how to "explore wasting money without limits."



**GEMINI** • 21 May - 20 June  
You will make a spontaneous decision that leads to adventure, self-discovery, and mild food poisoning. Yes, you ate the pink chicken from the dining hall.

**CANCER** • 21 June - 22 July  
Your mood today is like your favourite song on repeat: emotional, dramatic, and probably annoying to everyone within a 5-mile radius.



**LEO** • 23 July - 22 Aug  
You'll argue with a pigeon this week. It will win. You'll pretend it didn't happen, but your housemate saw.

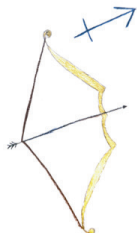


**VIRGO** • 23 Aug - 22 Sept  
You'll try to teach your girlfriend to correctly pronounce your surname. Maybe it's time to cuddle up to your number one fan...

**LIBRA** • 23 Sept - 22 Oct  
You will treat yourself to something nice. That "something" will be lying horizontal for 6 hours and calling it "restorative self-care." The stars support you. Fully.



**SCORPIO** • 23 Oct - 21 Nov  
You walk into a room and people instantly know you're the kind of person who'd use Comic Sans unironically on a CV. You radiate the vibe of someone who thinks "quirky" is a personality trait and says "lol" out loud in group discussions.



**SAGITTARIUS** • 22 Nov - 21 Dec  
You're feeling ambitious this week, which means you'll attempt to do 17 things in one day. You'll complete 2. One will be eating cereal standing up.



**CAPRICORN** • 22 Dec - 19 Jan  
You will be invited to a meeting with the "college officers" that should have been a one sentence email, I'm sorry that's an hour you'll never get back. They're extremely busy people; it's a hard job creating needless bureaucracy!



**AQUARIUS** • 20 Jan - 18 Feb  
You will have the urge to participate in Trevelyan JCR. Don't. It's a land of irrelevance, pettiness and people with strong opinions on what colour the wristbands for Trevs Summer Ball will be.



**PISCES** • 19 Feb - 20 March  
You will attempt to organize your entire life using a colour-coded spreadsheet. Then accidentally delete it. You will feel rage. Then make a better spreadsheet. You are terrifying.

ILLUSTRATIONS: ANNIE COLLIER





# Puzzles

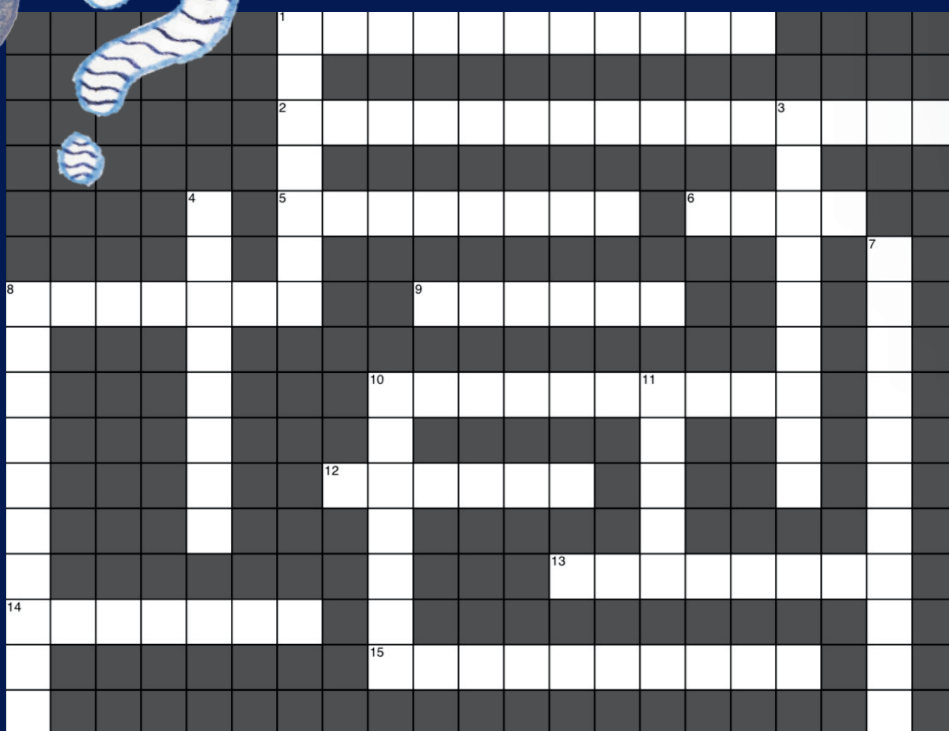
ILLUSTRATIONS:  
ANNIE COLLIER

## Quiz

ISAAC WILLIAMS

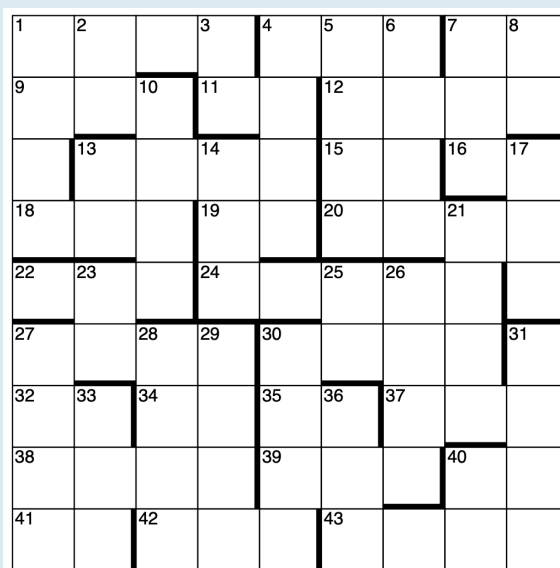
- Which newly released film had the best opening weekend for a video-game based film?
- Madeira is an archipelago of the coast of Africa that is an autonomous region of which country?
- What were the three major battles that took place in England in 1066?
- The outro to what famous Pink Floyd song repeats the phrase "How can you have any pudding if you don't eat your meat"?
- The actors: Paul Mescal, Barry Keoghan, Joseph Quinn and Harris Dickinson have been chosen to play members of which band for a 2028 Sam Mendes film?
- The Critérium du Dauphiné, Giro D'Italia and Vuelta Espana are events in which sport?
- What singer has had hits with Taste, Espresso and Bedchem?
- Which penguin from a children's animated TV show famously goes "Noot Noot!"?
- Was Richard the Third a member of the house of York or the house of Lancaster?
- What spirit is the base of the cocktail sex on the beach?
- Who was the labour party leader immediately before Keir Starmer?
- What year was Trevelyan College founded?
- Lake Bled is a popular tourist destination in what country?
- How many pieces of silver did Judas betray Jesus for?
- Who wrote "Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde"?
- What is the capital of Nigeria?
- What style of architecture "commonly makes use of exposed, unpainted concrete or brick, angular geometric shapes and a predominantly monochrome colour palette"?
- What sex of bee (and wasp) can sting: male or female?
- Who is 6<sup>th</sup> in line to the British throne?
- Ultimate Question: Which Cambridge college was George Macaulay Trevelyan (our college's namesake) a fellow at?

## Colleges Crossword



Each answer for this puzzle is one of the 17 colleges of Durham (one is split in two)!

**MATTHEW HALL**



## Crossnumber

**DAN WATTIS**

### ACROSS

- Year Trevelyan College was founded
- Number of livers in
- Number of students the college opened with
- 999 over the sea
- Number of years that the first principal was in place
- Date of Summer Ball '25
- Year of the newsworthy Miners vs Thatcher social
- Number of Tier 2 positions

- Scrabble Score of the original Latin motto
- Number of seconds Live on the Hill 2024 sold out in
- 
- Year the Professor Adayeye became principal
- Count in a Waltz
- One of the Durham area codes
- Year that HEX restarted
- Year that HEX was originally founded
- Number of students who can receive Trevs JCR Colours each year

- Currently filled JCR positions for 2025-26
- Triangular number
- Lesser twin prime
- Number of 1st year rooms
- Year that Tim Fowler joined Trevs

### DOWN

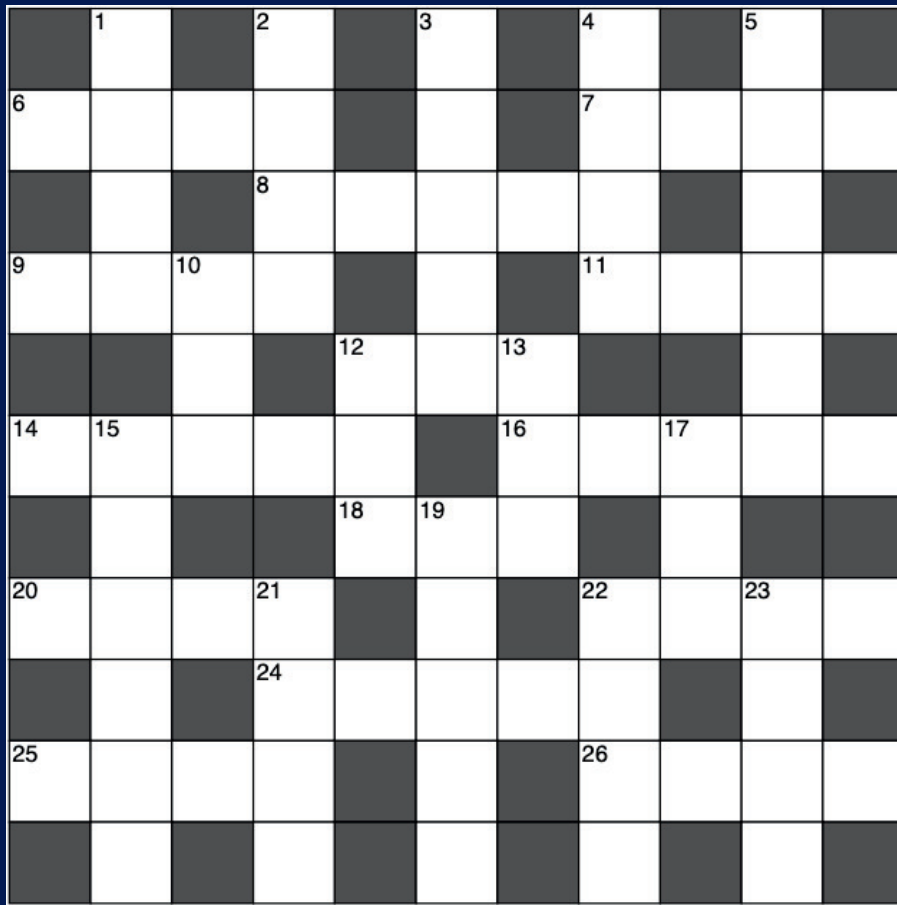
- Year that the bar moved from where the Buttery is now
- Δ
- Prime
- Amount that TCFS 2024 raised (GBP)
- Year of TCMS' Legally Blonde



- First date for an American to graduate this year from Durham
- Product of consecutive numbers
- Age GM Trevelyan died
- Durham Cathedral started construction
- Number of points the name of the current JCR President would score in Scrabble
- a Factorial
- Largest prime that will fit here
- Year TCBC was officially founded
- Number of league games won by the Badminton Society this year
- əɪnəʊ sɪn snəʊweɪ
- Year our the college's namesake became University Chancellor
- dlog now gniksoH eihpoS taht raeY
- Consecutive numbers
- Year the college went fully mixed
- Year the JKH opened
- Two cubes
- Total votes in the JCR President Election that Harry Naylor won
- Number of elected Tier 3 committee positions



# Vs Cryptic Crossword



## ACROSS

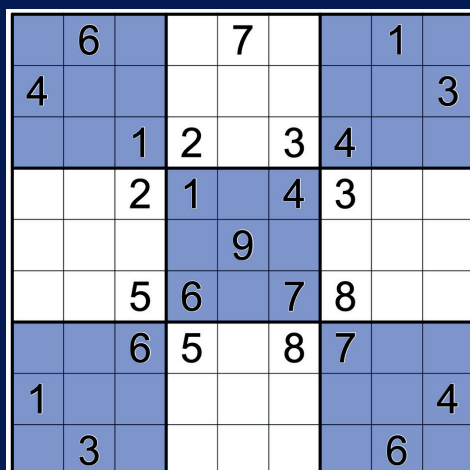
- 6 Traumatise second vehicle
- 7 Intertwine two doctors for privacy law
- 8 Market the Bill Bryson (in brief) without preparing speech
- 9 Forty confused fatherless party
- 11 Time I harmonise
- 12 Clasp demi-snake?
- 14 Connected with no students who are tattooed
- 16 Right in wonky bolt
- 18 Go downhill fast in overseas kingdom
- 20 Consider Scottish island
- 22 Link unending tea
- 24 Draw out stateless, nameless actor
- 25 Odd Italian Banks?
- 26 To court after my old man made deal with the devil

## DOWN

- 1 Parrot bearing components of carbohydrates
- 2 10 cartilaginous fish find possibly broken bones
- 3 First priest's taxes for the poor makes coins disappear
- 4 Regular Lego batman briefly loves community of his husband
- 5 Penwomen confused, not in the northwest, by instructions on a parcel
- 10 Korean soldier swings without club
- 12 Even TARDIS notices...
- 13 Athenian character is back after first Philipian
- 15 Unreal - lost before network?
- 17 Posh sun god is initially happy
- 19 Japanese chick at such a hidden place
- 21 Novice moving tree fast
- 22 Mafia boss changes guitar tuning
- 23 Curve leaderless stride



DAN WATTIS



**Sudoku**  
MATTHEW HALL

**Anagrams**  
MATTHEW HALL

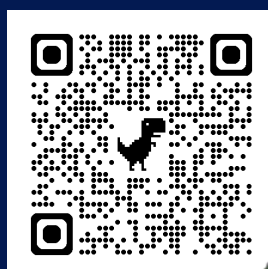
WORTHIEST ELLIOT MIXUP

STURDY RACCOON

YEAH STYX!

BRIE FILE UNVISITS ACT

Check out the Hex  
Puzzles page online for  
all solutions and many  
more puzzles!





# Sophie Hosking: Trevs Alumna, Olympian, Legend

Sophie Hosking is a retired rower who was on Team GB, winning gold at the 2012 London Olympics, as well as participating in several world championships with excellent results. She was even granted an MBE for her contributions to rowing! But she's more than just a Gold medalist and holder of an MBE, she's an alumna of our very own Trevelyan College, who studied Chemistry and Physics. In an exclusive interview for HEX Magazine, we asked Sophie Hosking about her years at Trevs, her Olympic journey, and her life since.

## LIFE AT TREVELYAN COLLEGE

Sophie's sporting success came long before her Olympic Gold, however. While initially, she did not row at Durham, she felt incomplete without it, and picked it up soon into her time here. But she didn't stop there—the prodigious athlete also played for Trevs football and even darts, describing the atmosphere at Trevs as being “really supportive” of sports, with it being “an encouraged part of College life”. She credited the “welcoming” nature of Trevs as being something that has stuck with her all of her life, and cited the structure of our landings as being conducive to making good friends. The common return to college in final year,

she claimed, was a testament to the merits of that system.

It wasn't just the good social life at university that helped her reach such heights, however. She worked with coach and former professional athlete Jared Deacon for strength and conditioning, who served as an inspiration for her to later go into that world.

## CHASING OLYMPIC GOLD

Lots of us think our degrees are tough. But for Sophie, those times were probably fond memories once she turned professional. 49 weeks a year, she was on, working 6-7 days per week, with several sessions in one day. A job like that takes dedication and perseverance, traits she assigns learning to her time at Durham, being on her own for the first time and still contending in the “very competitive” Durham sports world. But all that work paid off when she won Olympic Gold, an experience that served as a mix of relief, vindication for all her work, and extreme gratitude towards all that helped her journey along. She and her partner didn't allow themselves to daydream about the feeling of winning before the event, so all emotions were heightened when they cinched that victory in front of the home crowd. To Sophie, the Olympics were far more special than any other Olympic championship she participated in. They were in her own backyard, the great city of London and there was so much more interest for the sport than ever before. As a part of Team GB, she felt the joys and triumphs of all the British athletes as her own.



**[To all athletes] Keep going and don't quit... it's worth the journey alone**

## LIFE AND RETROSPECTION

Like all professional athletes, Sophie Hosking eventually retired, securing her Olympic Gold and excellent World Championship record. She described that period of moving on and switching careers as a “grieving process, where [her] whole direction changed”. But she did not give up, she reached out to old contacts, figuring out her niche, and trained in law, a career where she appreciated the long training period, as it gave her time to transition from the high-intensity world of sports. Looking back, she misses the momentous occasions of Uni life, like the relief that stems from submitting all your summatives before summer. But most importantly, she encourages all Trevs athletes who are balancing high-intensity athletics and academics to “keep going and don't quit, it's very rewarding”. This is the best time of our lives to try some activity more than just academics, and she encourages all of us to take advantage of that. Simultaneously, she believes that it's important to enjoy it all and make sure you don't get a case of tunnel vision!

## MY IMPRESSION

Sophie Hosking is a giant, both mentally and in her athletic achievements. Speaking with her was a fantastic insight into the mind and life of a high performance athlete. As Sports Editor, I was delighted to hear her strong endorsement of Trevs Sporting life, and I echo her encouragement to join a team. If an Olympian can play three sports at Trevs while preparing for a rowing career, then surely each and every last one of us can play at least one.

## ALEXANDER BEER

IMAGE: L. ALTENHUBER & L. TIEFENTHALER VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS





One of my best friends, Nicolas Restrepo, is the Trevelyan College Men's Basketball team captain. Our basketball team is not at the top of the league, but it is still filled with players who work hard week in and week out and get better every game they play. Before I took this role as Sports Editor, I once asked him how many spectators attend an average game. He laughed and said that nobody ever came, except for maybe a few girlfriends of the players.

“

## Even University-level sports are just not that popular over here!

In the US, the University of Nebraska just won the College Basketball Crown. Almost 3,500 people came to see this game. This championship did not even exist until this year, and it was created to help small schools combat larger ones. It's not the highest level of basketball played either, but still drew thousands in its infancy.

Looking at football, the most popular sport over here, we see a similar phenomenon.

My friends on the Trevelyan teams say that a dozen spectators are a rare sight. Yet, at the University of Arizona, my friends on the intramural team (which isn't even really a regulated league) say they get a couple hundred at events. Both these comparisons beg the question of why college sports are so small in Durham.

This is not a Trevs thing; even University-level sports are just not that popular over here. Of course, athletes tend to be liked and respected, or at least seem to be popular. So, why do people not go to see their games?

**IMAGES (TOP TO BOTTOM):**  
**PHILLIPKOFLE** VIA PIXABAY, **SNAPWIRE**  
**VIA PEXELS, YUNUSTUG VIA STUDIO**  
**TURKEY, VICTOR FREITAS VIA PEXELS**

# Why aren't college sports bigger in the UK?

But the reality is that an incredibly slim minority of college athletes make it into the pro leagues in either country. While Americans may attend games because they think they are seeing the pre-pros, they may see less than five across an entire season. But they continue to watch because the sport itself is good—and that is something we have in the UK as well.

Just because university or college sport is not going to produce the next Lionel Messi or Gareth Edwards, the actual play itself is engaging, exciting, and fun. When you watch, you're rooting for your friends. Perhaps because almost nobody is pro level, the games are more unpredictable and we see a lot of last minute victories and defeats.

Whether it's Trevelyan College Basketball or DU rowing, we should all pay more attention to the sports that our comrades are playing. Trevs has a surprisingly rich sporting world, with some fantastic teams (especially badminton!).

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## Trevs has a surprisingly rich sporting world

Our college is a strong and welcoming community, and we should all have pride in our teams and virulent opposition to our opponents. So next season, come watch badminton continue to dominate the ranks, the Football Bs face off in their new division, or the Boat Club racing down the river to secure another victory.

**ALEXANDER BEER**



I think the key is the perception of the routes to start a career in professional sports. In America, college sports feed directly into the pro levels, but in the UK, pros usually come from youth academies and never end up getting degrees. So, people in the US see college sports as the natural predecessors to the professionals, thinking that the quality of play is near-identical.



**5:30**

First alarm goes off. It's a very optimistic alarm, as I will stay in bed for another 15 minutes. It's nice now that the sun has basically risen by this time, as getting up in the dark in the middle of winter is pretty foul. I try to leave time to make a quick breakfast, but I often end up just taking a couple of slices of bread to go so I'm not late to the session.

**6:00**

Leave the house. One of my housemates is the other Women's Captain, so the walk to the boathouse is slightly more bearable together. If it's bad weather, we'll complain a lot and question why out of all the sports Trevs has on offer, we chose to row. If it's a nice sunrise, we tend to be more positive and feel better about our choices.

**6:30**

Arrive at the boathouse. Early sessions at the beginning of this term started when it was still pitch black, but we've seen some lovely sunrises from the water, which always makes it worth it. Our sessions in Durham tend to be more technically focused as it's a relatively short stretch of river to row on. This year, our 8 has been kept in Stockton, so we do longer sessions when we're there.

**8:30**

Off the water in time for any lectures. If I'm feeling productive, I'll go to the gym, but if I'm deciding to prioritise my degree, I'll head straight to the library. I'll have a second breakfast on the way (overnight oats are the go-to). The early sessions can be rather miserable at times, but they do mean that you get to the library in time for your favourite seat to be free.



IMAGE: HARRIET FRASER

## A Day in the Life: TCBC Women's Captain

**9:00**

As a captain, there tends to be a lot of rowing admin to get through every day. I schedule an hour to sort through this first thing in the morning, but it always takes longer, and there'll be stuff that crops up throughout the day that we need to sort as well. I'm very glad to have a co-captain, as it makes the amount of work a lot more manageable.

“If it's a nice sunrise, we tend to be more positive and feel better about our choices

**10:30**

Finally get around to degree work. I'm a final year English Student, so the big focus this term has been on my dissertation. Shakespeare makes quite a nice change to availability spreadsheets!

**13:00 - LUNCH TIME!**

**14:00**

More degree work and rowing admin.

**18:00**

Leave the library. Sometimes we have ergs in the evenings, if that's the case I'll try and stay in the library until then. If not, I'll run when I get home to shake off the stress of the day. Durham is a very beautiful place to go running, and there are lots of great routes, although I'm often humbled as it's a lot hillier than at home.

**19:30**

Dinner time. By far my favourite time of the day.

Rowing means you need to eat a lot, and I love cooking and eating, so it's rather

ideal. I spend most of my day thinking about what I'm going to have for dinner. When

I've got time, I roast a chicken over the weekend and then use the leftovers throughout the week. Half of my housemates are rowers, so together, we get through a lot of carbs. We've had conversations about what kind each of us would be; I was told I would be a potato, which I'm fairly content with. If we've got a race on, we do pasta bonding the night before, which is always good fun and allows us to talk through the logistics for the day and our race plan.

**21:00**

Try to chill before bed. Invariably, some last-minute problems crop up that we have to sort out so that sessions can go ahead as planned. When these are dealt with, I'll try and have at least an hour of winding down before going to sleep. If I've got the ingredients, I'll do some baking, which keeps me and my housemates happy, and the rest of the squad if there's any left over!

**22:30**

Go to sleep ready to do it all again the next day!

**HARRIET FRASER**



# Trevs' Fiercest Sporting Rivalries

Manchester United and Manchester City. Celtics and Rangers. Arsenal and Tottenham. Every part of the United Kingdom has its infamous rivalries. Durham is no different. The college system here fosters sporting rivalries like no other. With higher stakes, greater emotion and the all-important bragging rights to play for, rivalries add to the drama and excitement of getting involved in college sport. So, who is our greatest rival? Who is the college we simply need to beat?



IMAGE: DAN WATTIS

## HILL COLLEGES

They say keep your friends close, but your enemies closer. Sport amongst our neighbours on the hill offers the opportunity to achieve the crucial (and absolutely official) title of the best college on the hill.

It goes without saying that Collingwood, known as the 'sports college', is the one to beat. With excellent participation across a wide range of sports, Collingwood dominates many of the college leagues we find ourselves in, including rowing, football and cheer. Our small size may make us seem harmless to the much larger Collingwood student population, but this only fuels our desire to prove ourselves.

For example, Trevelyan College Boat Club and Collingwood College Boat Club are fierce rivals. Arguably the two best rowing teams on the hill, recent races such as the Novice Head in February have showcased narrow margins between the teams. Recently, TCBC & CCBC (try saying that three times after a Woodgate) spent a bar crawl together, allowing for this friendly rivalry to expand off of the water as well.

Furthermore, the atmosphere at the Floodlit football quarter-final last term between Trevs and South was truly electric, with a tense 90 minutes of excellent (ish) football attracting large numbers of both fans. The night included fiery crowd chants and some intense back-and-forths between Trevs and South's mascot, Oswald the Owl. Unfortunately, the game ended 3-2 in favour of South. However, the match highlighted the sporting feud between us and our purple-clad opponents.

Despite us being neighbours with Mary's, there is nothing loving between us and them. Topping the mixed lacrosse and men's hockey league tables, Mary's offer a serious barrier to Trevelyan sporting glory in these areas. This rivalry is about much more than sport though: we were taught to see Mary's as the enemy from fresher's week, with some brainwashing content on social media from Trevor the Donkey.

## BAILEY COLLEGES

Although sport fixtures between the hill colleges is competitive, the spirits are usually still friendly. However, the same cannot always be said for the Bailey colleges. There is nothing more satisfying to a Trevelyan athlete than strutting into Trevs bar post-match to hear the chorus of cheers congratulating you on defeating a team from the Bailey. In recent seasons, the Bailey has not proved to be very successful in the league tables, yet their students still have a superiority complex from being housed in a Norman Castle or the shadow of the gorgeous Cathedral rather than our slightly strange hexagonal sixties masterpiece. It's always fun to knock them down.

Hatfield. Hatfield. Hatfield. The college that everyone loves to hate. It overflows with students who have been coached since the age of 2 by the most qualified teachers that the elite schools have to offer. Trevs A team for netball remain the underdogs against Hatfield who top the league table. Castle is not so different. Most of the Castle students have probably never stepped foot into our bar, which I suppose doesn't quite have the same appeal as their atmospheric 11th Century Undercroft. This distance between us and Castle, caused by the different social spheres in which we find ourselves compared to the elite of Durham, makes any battle with us mere Trevelyanites very interesting. This added weight means that beating Castle in any fixture or race just has that extra bit of satisfaction.

So, there we have it: a brief analysis of Trevs' most intense sporting rivalries. Inter-college sport offers the perfect opportunity for individual and team victory. From Collingwood to Hatfield, South to Mary's, Trevelyan college sport will always be competitive, showcasing our ultimate desire to prove ourselves as moderately above average.

**ISOBEL ADAMS**



# Statistics in Trevs Football

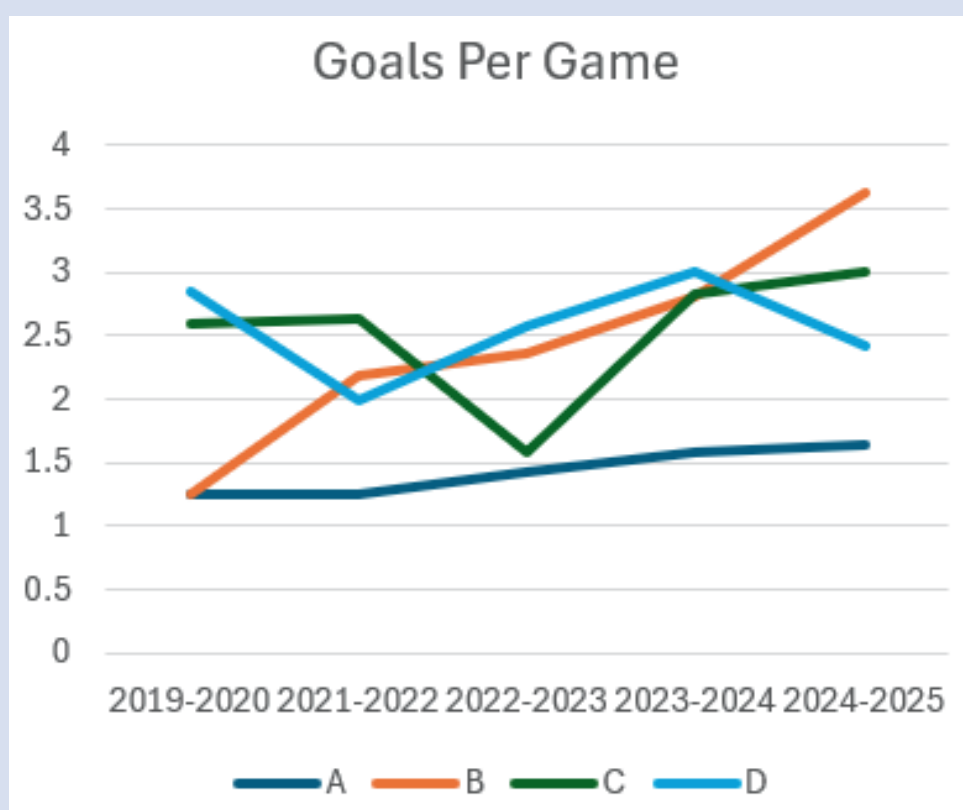
The use of data in football has increased exponentially in the last decade. From complex expected goal calculations to basic win-loss records, statistics have become a mainstream way of analysing a football team's performance over time. The prevalence of data-driven tactics have brought the use of data in football into the public spotlight, and it seems sensible to suggest the stats are here to stay.

With that being said, it would be amiss not to incorporate the use of data in the sphere of Trevs football. Have the performances of Trevs since 2019 matched the data? Where does this 2024/25 season sit amongst the records of previous years? Who has been the most successful team in the past half-decade? By taking a glance at the data provided by College Sport, these questions and more will be answered. If you were hoping for references to xG (expected goals) and goals-per-minute stats, then, unfortunately, College Sport has promised that they'll release these in the coming months (just kidding) – but the data that is available will still provide an insight into Trevs' performances these past years.

**“ It would be amiss not to incorporate the use of data in the sphere of Trevs football**

## **FIRING ON ALL CYLINDERS OR DRAWING BLANKS? HOW TREVS' GOALSCORING HAS EBBED AND FLOWED?**

Since 2019, Trevs have hit the back of the net 477 times – an average of 2.19 times per game. Yet, there has been a large degree of variation in goal-scoring when breaking down the seasons individually. The gap between our lowest-scoring season (the 2019/20 Bs) and our highest (the 2024/25 Bs) is a surprising 25 goals, indicating that there is a non-linear pattern to Trevs' attacking.



Whilst these stats might be suggestive of an overall indicator of Trevs' footballing success, goal scoring isn't that indicative. Teams such as the 2022/23 Ds have seen their results largely match their prolificacy in front of the goal, as their relegation season coincided with only 19 goals scored. On the other hand, some of Trevs' most prolific seasons haven't experienced the success that might be expected, such as 2023/24 Cs who didn't achieve promotion despite hitting the back of the net at an average of 3.10 times a game.

## **NESTA-ESQUE OR CLOSER TO WOUT FAES? TREVS' DEFENSIVE RECORD AT A GLANCE**

They say the best form of defence is attack, but try telling that to Ange Postecoglou's Tottenham side this season (apologies to any Spurs fans – it's nothing personal). For all the merits of a high goalscoring side, many a championship has been won through defensive solidity. The Ds conceded an impressive 11 goals in the 2019/20 season, making them the most watertight group in Trevs since 2019, while the average number of goals conceded across the whole cohort in 2024/25 was the lowest since the 2019/20 season. There have been some leakier campaigns, such as 2022/23 Ds shipping 53 goals in a single year, but we'll put that down to ringers and swiftly move on.

## **THAT TASTES LIKE PROMOTION'– WAS THERE A DECIDING FACTOR IN TREVS SUCCESS?**

Since the 2019/20 season, Trevs has been able to say those iconic words on twice. The 2019/20 Ds and 2024/25 Bs both achieved promotion, and the stats may be able to suggest a cause that is shared by these successes. Both of these teams finished with a goal difference of +25 or better, indicating that they combined an attacking ruthlessness with resolute defending. Sir Alex Ferguson once stated that "Attack wins you games, defence wins you titles", and this idea echoes the qualities of these two teams. But does promotion make a team the best? Teams like the 2019/20 As, who finished an impressive 6th in the Premier division and conceded only 15 goals, didn't have the same success– but does that diminish their triumphs? This question perhaps is less statistically influenced.

Overall, stats can illuminate the peaks and troughs of Trevs football. They can indicate when teams gelled, and they don't shy away from when Trevs failed. The 2024/25 season, from a data-based standpoint, was certainly a success and leaves us in no doubt that the future of Trevs football is in safe hands. Next season, it will be interesting to explore whether these trends continue or if certain teams buck the norm. An exciting period for Trevs football is undoubtedly to come!

**ZAC ARNEY**



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