

the Durham Union



EASTER TERM CARD

2022

FREE SPEECH SINCE 1842



Welcome



Welcome to the Easter term at the Durham Union. The busiest (and hottest) weeks of the academic year are upon us, but hopefully coming along to the chamber offers a welcome reprieve. We've got a suite of excellent addresses and debates planned this term, and a glorious jubilee garden party once exams are finished!

Returning to normality after two years of restrictions has highlighted how special a place the Union occupies in Durham. Nowhere else will you find a community on campus that is as curious and engaged as the Union's. Each year, I'm pleasantly surprised by the variety and depth of arguments put forward by new members. The Union transcends college and course and has become a cherished part of my time at Durham, and I hope it will be for you as well.

It is important then that the Union remains an accessible and welcoming place for all. Over the past year Standing has worked to ensure this is the case, and our upcoming Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Plan will lay the groundwork for the next three years of this effort. I'm

particularly proud of the introduction of an elected Equalities committee and the expansion of the support we provide to access members to include subsidised social tickets.

It would be remiss to not touch on the Union's guiding principle of free speech, a principle increasingly politicised both by those who would abuse and those who would restrict its use. Free speech is the foundation of rigorous debate, and it is also an essentially egalitarian principle. The Union provides a vital forum for discussion and understanding on campus in a climate of increasing extremes. I hope it may continue for another 180 years.

JFEM

- Jack Morgan, President



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

Garden Party

HONOURING

*Her Majesty
Queen Elizabeth II*

ON HER PLATINUM JUBILEE

SATURDAY 4TH JUNE 2022
24 NORTH BAILEY CLUB
DURHAM, DH1 3EW

Upcoming Speakers



Olesya Khromeychuck *The War in Ukraine*

Director of the Ukrainian Institute London, Dr Khromeychuck will be talking on the war and resulting humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. Author of *A Loss: The Story of a Dead Soldier Told by His Sister*, her brother was killed serving in the Ukrainian Armed Forces in 2017.

We will be fundraising for the Ukrainian Institute London in conjunction with this event. You can donate here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/durhamunion-ukraine>

Wednesday 27th April



Jolyon Maugham *Director of the Good Law Project*

Challenging government policy on Brexit and COVID-19 in the courts, Jolyon Maugham has become one of the UK's most prominent "activist lawyers". His recent work with the Good Law Project has included challenging a "culture of cronyism" in government COVID-19 appointments, and asserting the legal right of transgender individuals to timely treatment.

Wednesday 4th May

Upcoming Speakers



Simon Cheng *Hongkongers in Britain*

Abducted and tortured by the Chinese state in 2019, former British Consulate staffer Simon Cheng is now a refugee in the UK. He founded Hongkongers in Britain, which seeks to defend the rights of Hongkongers and assist those who are forced to flee. He is one of six activists charged under Hong Kong's totalitarian National Security Law.

Wednesday 8th June

Ribal al-Assad

Founder of the Organisation for Democracy and Freedom in Syria and cousin of Bashar al-Assad, Ribal al-Assad has been a vocal critic of the Syrian regime and the Muslim Brotherhood. As part of his work with the Iman Foundation, he looks to promote inter-faith dialogue in the Middle East and confront extremism.

Monday 13th June





Eric Murangwa MBE

Former international footballer for Rwanda and genocide survivor, Eric Murangwa's Ishami Foundation works to promote tolerance and reconciliation through sport as well as raise awareness of the lasting effects of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi.

Monday 20th June



Manveen Rana

Times Journalist and former DUS President (Epiphany 2001), Manveen Rana's work includes the award-winning series 'A New Life in Europe', for which she travelled for five weeks with the refugee Dhníe Family. Other highlights include the investigation into the dissemination of racial charged fake news in South Africa by British PR firm Bell Pottinger in 2017, which led to the firm's collapse.

Saturday 18th June



THIS HOUSE WOULD
Ban
Cryptocurrencies

Friday 29th April

8:30pm, Debating Chamber, Palace Green

PROPOSITION

David Gerard

Author of 'Attack of the 50ft Blockchain' and blog of the same name, David Gerard has extensively chronicled the scams and collapses of the cypto-world. He is fiercely critical of the way in which he sees groups, from small time individuals to massive corporations such as Facebook, attempting to use crypto to establish inequitable and unregulated systems of money.



Jemima Kelly

As part of her coverage for the Financial Times, Jemima Kelly has delved into the sometimes murky and often deliberately confusing world of crypto traders. Branding crypto a pyramid scheme, she has approached cryptocurrency not as a form of money, but as a social phenomenon and the product of a febrile hype culture.



Prof. Kevin Dowd



An early academic commentator on cryptocurrencies, Professor Kevin Dowd has advocated that cypto has potential for major innovations in private money and limiting state expansion. However, he believes that due to technical design flaws, bitcoin is not a viable currency and only represents an intermediate step in creating a viable cryptocurrency.

Tom Alcott



Tom Alcott is the CEO and co-founder of BlockMark Technologies, a firm behind early NFT and blockchain technology whose flagship product is Registry, a digital certificates platform anchored on the blockchain. He has recently created an NFT series with UK street artists.

OPPOSITION



THIS HOUSE WOULD

Remove monuments of
controversial historical
figures from public spaces

Friday 6th May

8:30pm, Debating Chamber, Palace Green

Prof. Jason Arday

Author of ‘Cool Britannia and Multi-Ethnic Britain’, Professor Jason Arday specialises in deconstructing collective memory. Much of his work has been examining pitfalls of marginalisation black students face in accessing education, and he sits on the UK Universities Advisory Board on Racial Harassment in Higher Education.



Matt Warman MP

During his tenure as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the DDCMS, Matt Warman was one of the main figures advocating for the government's “retain and explain” policy for controversial monuments. A Durham Alumni and current Conservative assistant Whip, he was previously a journalist for The Daily Telegraph

+ Two Student Speakers

contact the secretary if you wish to take part



JOIN TODAY

Membership of The Durham Union Society is a ticket to experience the best the University has to offer. **You can join online at dus.org.uk or by visiting our office at Pemberton Buildings, Palace Green.**

Lifetime Membership is available for as little as £65, and includes free access to all our events and socials, as well as priority ticketing for our balls. A one-year membership is available for £42.

Discounted access membership is available for those receiving the maximum **Durham Grant award** or who have successfully applied for a University, College, or JCR hardship fund in the last twelve months. Contact the office manager at sharon.tumbull@durham.ac.uk for more details. All applications are treated with complete discretion and will not be seen by any student.



THIS HOUSE REGRETS

The rise of OnlyFans

Friday 10th June

8:30pm, Debating Chamber, Palace Green

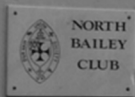


THIS HOUSE BELIEVES

The right to protest
includes the right to cause
public nuisance

Friday 17th June

8:30pm, Debating Chamber, Palace Green



24

24 North Bailey Club

In addition to our debating chamber and office at Pemberton, Palace Green, the Union also operates the 24 North Bailey Club, a bar and venue space with members only events.



CLASSIC PUB EVENTS

24s regularly hosts karaoke and pub quiz nights every other Sunday. Prizes for the winning team and great deals at the bar!

TALK TO SPEAKERS

Following every Friday night debate, join speakers in the reading room afterwards to enjoy a drink and a chat. Tickets are free but limited, and given out to those that contribute to the debate with questions.



STAFFED BY MEMBERS, FOR MEMBERS

24s is entirely staffed by student members of the Union who help create the pub's warm and welcoming atmosphere. Hirings are regularly publicised on our member's Facebook page.



OPENING TIMES

SUNDAY - THURSDAY 20:30-23:30

FRIDAY - SATURDAY 20:30-0:00

24 NORTH BAILEY CLUB

UPCOMING EVENTS

28.04 — EMO COCKTAILS
+ KARAOKE

04.06 — JUBILEE GARDEN
PARTY

07.06 — END OF EXAMS
KARAOKE

14.06 — FILM NIGHT

19.06 — END OF TERM
KARAOKE



Getting INVOLVED

There are many ways to become involved in the Union besides attending our events. Putting together our termly programmes is a huge undertaking, involving a host of elected officers and committees. There really is a role for everyone who wants to get involved. Elections are announced during Friday Debates.

President's Committee

Helps the President-Elect to prepare for their upcoming term, by researching potential speakers for addresses, debates and forums, and assisting them in the drafting of invitations.

Equalities Committee

Assists the Equalities Officer in working to produce policies and practices that promote an open and inclusive environment at the Union, as well as acting as representatives for historically underrepresented groups.

Consultative Committee

Connects the Union with the colleges. It consists of a representative from each of the University's colleges, who are elected in order to gather members' feedback, and distribute Union publicity to members of their college.

House Committee

Assists the Steward in their responsibilities of taking care of the logistical operations that accompany each of our addresses and debates in our chamber.

Social Committee

Working with the Social Secretary, this committee helps organise and run the Union's social events, from our termly balls to quieter socials in our bar, 24s.

Outreach Committee

Along with the Sponsorship Secretary, this committee encourages outside bodies (local and national) to support the Union's events and charitable aims.

Who's Who



President

Jack Morgan



Treasurer

Adam Albazy



President-Elect

Amy Mitchell



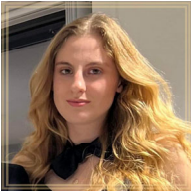
Secretary

Jordan Kiss



Custodian

Emily Gordon



*Social
Secretary*

Evelyn Knight



*Sponsorship
Secretary*

Dylan Buckley



*Publicity
Officer*

Sam Smith



*Technologies
Officer*

Theo Osborn

Speakers Secretary - Jon Chan

Steward - Theodore Stubbs

Equalities Officer - Jerry Li

Assistant Sponsorship - William Rome

Deputy Technology - Chris Straughan

Returning Officer - Matthew Brooker

Alumni Officer - Vladimir Tooril

Assistant Custodian - Felix Powell

Assistant Secretary - Eudo Ashbrooke

President's Thanks

It is the end of a long road. The Union has gone through a hard two years under lockdown and restricted activity, and now we are finally able to enjoy things as they are meant to be. We have rebuilt, and I am confident that what will be produced will be stronger than what stood before.

Our Technologies Officer Theo Osborn has done excellent work producing a digital alumni platform that will be launched as part of our Alumni Weekend on the 18th June, and it will plant the seeds for us to deepen our ties with our alumni and further remove financial barriers to entry at the Union through their patronage. Our Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Plan is the product of a period of introspection over the past year and will build on the groundwork recently laid with the Equalities Committee to ensure that the Union is an open and inclusive environment free from prejudice. And I am confident that Amy Mitchel, president-elect and someone who has proved an

an invaluable fountain of advice during my time at the Union, will carry forward this momentum into Michaelmas. Big things are coming down the line for the Union for the first time in a while.

I would like to thank members of my president's committee for helping me put together such an excellent suite of events, particularly Jon Chan, Asha Symons, Georgia Hughes, Theo Osborn, and Sam Smith. I would also like to thank my predecessor, Xavier Wain, whose steady and sensible hand is one I aspire to emulate, and Matthew Midlane, who as RO throughout most of my time at the Union had an unparalleled grasp of the constitution. Finally, I would like to thank our speakers for graciously giving up their time to come and speak at the Union, and without whom we could not enjoy the privilege of our world-class events.

In our 180th year, we cannot forget that the Union is only made possible by our volunteers, whose hard work and sacrifice on top of the demands

and academic pressures of university ensure we continue to function.

Why do they do so? Despite it often being an overworn answer, I think it is because the Union is truly special. I remember being amazed in my first year listening to Prof. Richard Swinburne during a debate on the decline of organised religion, and recently relished the opportunity to challenge Alexander Downer on Australia's human rights record, something as a citizen of that nation I was deeply concerned with. That level of access to world figures is something that would be unimaginable anywhere else in Durham, and it has truly been a honour and a privilege to be involved in the society that provides the forum. My time at Durham has been so precious to me, and the Union will always occupy a special place in my heart - thank you to all who made it possible.

JFEM



WHY JOIN?

- **Free entry** to addresses from celebrities and leading public figures
- **Free entry** to debates with expert speakers on a variety of topical issues, every Friday evening
- Online access to livestreams of addresses and debates
- Access to the Union's private bar and events venue at the 24 North Bailey Club
- Free Admission to the events and facilities of the Oxford, Cambridge, and Edinburgh Unions, as well as the Hist and Phil societies of Trinity College Dublin
- Access to our members-only socials, which are amongst the best in Durham
- Exclusive discounts and deals at independent shops across Durham
- The ability to get involved with the running of Durham's largest student society, a great addition to any CV
- Socialise with students from a range of different colleges and courses

Join online at dus.org.uk

 The Durham Union & The Durham Union Members 2021-22

 The Durham Union Society

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