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SPA STUDENT PUBLICATION ASSOCIATION
BEST PUBLICATION SCOTLAND

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THE JUTE JOURNAL

FREE!

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ISSUE 003
Your Campus, Your Truth, Your Paper
13 / 03/ 2026

JOB CUTS NECESSARY

TO AVOID 2027 BANKRUPTCY SAYS INTERIM PRINCIPAL



November Strike
PHOTO: EVA MILNE

BY CONNOR BERTIE, JAMES ELLIOT AND NICK WHELAN

Dundee University will be at risk of bankruptcy by mid-2027 if no further action is taken to reduce university expenditure, says Interim-Principal Professor Nigel Seaton.

This comes after the university announced that a further 180 Full-Time employment *(FTE)* positions are to be cut across the university, in order to save £10 million per year.

The newest round of the voluntary severance (VS) scheme is due to take place from Wednesday the 25th of February until Friday the 13th of march.

A Voluntary severance scheme is a mechanism by which staff members can come forward and take redundancy or early retirement on favourable terms, as opposed to involuntary redundancy.

Staff will be offered a lump-sum payment ratable to their pay and time served at the university. Members of staff must apply to be considered. VS applications will be considered by faculty and directorate leads, with oversight from the University Executive Group.

In an email to staff, Principal Seaton described how the actions taken so far "are making a difference. However, we remain some way from achieving a sustainable position, where we can cover the cost of running the University and invest in our future."

DUSA have since opposed this scheme by launching a petition of their own, which can here be found on their website.

Response from *University Rector*, Maggie Chapman:

"I think one of the things that has been sorely lacking in the last year, despite voices like mine and others on the university court, is a very clear and structured approach of outreach to different parts of the institution.

"Reducing the staff population by up to a third is going to put pressure on those staff that remain. It's going to significantly compromise the student experience because staff will be more stressed, staff will be less able to deal with student issues.

"We know that student lives are becoming increasingly complex and challenging. Students are also feeling the impact of the cost of living, soaring and precarious rents.

"When there is no slack in the system, when there's no flex for staff, because they're running from one thing to the next, students are going to suffer. I think the other issue that we know is already happening is, you know, courses are changing. Things are being cut.

"We know that [academic] staff are having to do some of the work that previously, teaching assistants or others would have done.

"It's certainly not good for the long-term reputation of the university."

DUCU Response

Professor Melissa D'Ascenzio, Co-President of the Dundee University College Union (DUCU) had this to say on the VS scheme:

"DUCU has seen no evidence of an immediate financial threat to the sustainability of the University that would justify the launch of a voluntary severance scheme at this sensitive time in the academic year.

"In fact, the forecasting produced by the finance department has been extremely unreliable over the past year.

"On the basis of these forecasts, the University is imposing more and more misery onto its staff, who has already been

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Last month at the Student Publication Association (SPA) Regional Awards we won Best Publication in Scotland. It was an amazing day for student journalism in Dundee.

Our Editor in Chief, Eva Milne, has also been shortlisted for the Billy-Dowling Reid Award for Outstanding Commitment at the SPA National Awards later this year.

To be recognised for our dedication to amplifying student voices on a regional and national level is amazing. More rewarding, however, is the endless support from staff, students, and the local community. Thank you to everyone involved for your hard work and to all those who have backed this initiative.

Student voices do matter. We will continue to advocate for student voices at Dundee University.

A Message from Eva

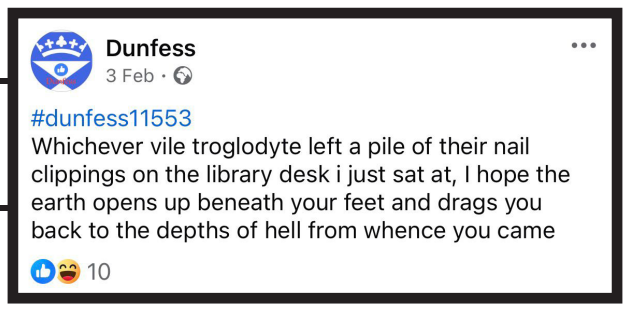
With the release of our 3rd Print Issue and a Dissertation to write, this will be my last print issue for The Jute Journal.

This past year has been an incredible one. It was February 21st, 2025, that I put out the first Jute Journal newsletter, which kicked things off. Looking back at that wee newsletter to what the Jute is today is something I can't put into words. My goal was, and remains, to keep students informed about what is going on at this university. I couldn't have imagined that it would end up being such a crucial part of campus life.

Running a newspaper has taught me so much about myself and I have met so many amazing people through the Jute. It has been an unforgettable experience. You may see my byline on a few articles, but I am ready to take a step back editorially and focus on getting my degree!

Again, I am so thankful to EVERYONE who has supported this project. To Hazel Martin at the BBC who encouraged my work from the get-go, Dominic Smith in Philosophy who has been invaluably supportive during my four years at university, and Dani McFawns at DUSA who has become a great friend and fierce advocate for the Jute. You are all very much appreciated. And to Braes; your £3 pints have been a big help!

Dunfess of the Month



Join the team!

WE ARE HIRING FOR SEVERAL ROLES FOR THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR. ALL INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND BY SCANNING THE QR CODE!

Got a pitch or a tip? Want to get involved?

EMAIL:
THEJUTEJOURNAL@DUSAMEDIA.COM

INSTAGRAM:
@THE.JUTEJOURNAL

HIRING INFO

FEEDBACK FORM

Meet The Team

Editorial Team

EDITOR IN CHIEF — *EVA MILNE*
DEPUTY EDITOR IN CHIEF — *CONNOR BERTIE*
HEAD OF NEWS — *DANIELLA ONYEWUENYI*
HEAD OF PHOTOGRAPHY — *ALEXANDER STEWART*
HEAD OF COPY — *ESME ONG*
HEAD OF SOCIAL MEDIA — *BETH CHISHOLM*

Print Team

CO-HEAD OF DESIGN — *ROSE ALLAN*
CO-HEAD OF DESIGN — *MAISIE MCCREDIE*
DESIGNER — *BECCA HUTCHINSON*
DESIGNER — *JOSHUA DAU*
PRINT EDITOR — *NICK WHELAN*

We are part of DUSA Media and the Student Publication Association.

JOB CUTS CONT.

traumatised by enduring almost 15 months of crisis with no end in sight.

"DUCU is worried that the University will not be able to sustain the level of staff cuts proposed by UEG.

"It seems that, regardless of the intervention of the SFC and the Scottish Government, UEG is blindly pursuing the goals of the University Recovery Plan submitted to SFC in August, which includes 180 voluntary redundancies in March 2026 and 180 compulsory redundancies in May.

"The DUCU has now passed a motion of no confidence in UEG, particularly referring to the Interim Principal and the Interim Director of Finance."

Senior Management Defend Job Cuts

The recent Student Representative Council (SRC) meeting was attended by two University Executive Group (UEG) members and the University Chair of Court:

- ***Interim-Principal,*** Professor Nigel Seaton
- ***Vice-Principal of Education,*** Linda Martindale
- ***University Chair of Court,*** Esther Robertson

All three gave brief introductions, Principal Seaton used his to defend the VS scheme:

"The expenditure is greater than the income by about 2 million a month.

"The Scottish Government is under no obligation to ensure our survival."

The floor was then opened to questions from the SRC. Due to time constraints and the length of each answer, the SRC were unable to ask more than four questions to the three senior management members.

Aaqil Hussain, *President of Social Sciences, Humanities and Law* first asked about the proposed 180 staff cuts. He explained that there is "strong opposition to that" from humanities students.

"I am strongly opposed to the proposals you've come up with.

"What you're proposing is an end of the institution."

Principal Nigel Seaton responded:

"If you have any alternative suggestions about reduction of cost, I'd be very pleased to hear them.

"If we get that [£40 million grant from the Scottish Government and the £12 million loan from the Scottish Funding Council] and don't reduce the running costs, the University will be bankrupt at some date in the middle of 2027.

"But we're not in a position of being a university where there's been a high level of financial discipline, and now we're having to reduce the expenditure further."

Chair of Court, **Esther Robertson also responded:**

"[Previous] senior leaders in the University predicted 1200 or so post-graduate student recruitment, and staffed up accordingly, but only 300 students [were recruited].



Union Signs
PHOTO: EVA MILNE

"There were people hired to do jobs that never existed."

Robertson added that of the 180 staff who may leave not may all be academic staff and that they may come from "profession services across the piece, central departments and the like.

"Voluntary Severance is the kindest way, the most humane way to do this, to allow people to make a choice."
- Esther Robertson, Chair of Court

James Douglas, *School of Business President,* asked:

"What would you say is the single most important thing that members of this meeting could take away from this session?"

Principal:

"We have to reform. Unfortunately, we have to reform in a way that will involve very tight controls on expenditure, which will affect the employment of people, as well as cash expenditure.

"I'm confident that we can do this without affecting the quality of the teaching or the quality of the student support."

Marcus Flucker, *Independent Member of Court,* asked:

"The Gillies Report has identified weak governance as being the key to how financial situation occurred. In your view, what is the route back to strong governance? How are you implementing that?"

"Voluntary Severance is the kindest way, the most humane way to do this, to allow people to make a choice."

Chair of Court:

"There's a difference between assurance and reassurance, and my understanding is that the previous substantive principle, Gillespie, was a great one for saying everything was fine, and everybody believed him.

"Assurance is asking for evidence. And I think what Tánaiste and Marcus have seen today [in university court], and hope it's an improvement, is serious evidence that's providing the encouragement to ask the difficult questions."

This was all the Principal, Vice-Principal & Chair of Court had time for, despite further questions that the SRC had.

What is the SRC?

BY EVA MILNE

The SRC is the Student Representative Council, most Universities have one. They represent students in meetings, submits and debates motions on student issues, campaigns on academic, welfare, equality, and institutional matters, and acts as a formal student voice.

It's different from DUSA which runs services, events, societies, advice, and commercial venues. The SRC focus on representation and governance.

SRC members include elected Councillors (and now Deputies under the restructure), who represent different groups of students and bring motions forward.

The wider university governance structure looks like this:

1.University Court (Governing Body)

2. Senate (Responsible for Academic Matters)

3. University Executive Group (Senior Management)

The SRC does not govern the University directly. They debate and pass student motions.

The pipeline is as follows: Students > Class Reps > SRC > Elected Officers (DUSA Exec) University Governance.

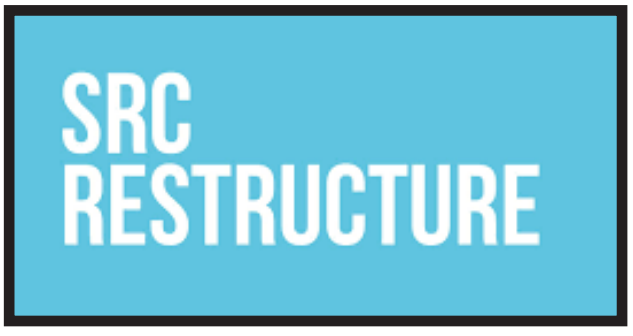
The SRC debates issues and sets policy positions. The executive team take those positions into Senate, Court, and University committees.



Student Representative Council, UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE SRC

Students Divided on SRC Restructuring

BY ESME ONG & CAMPBELL NAPIER



SRC Restructure, DUSA

The Student Representative Council (SRC) has undergone major restructuring over this academic year.

The number of Councillors has been reduced from 23 to 5, with 17 of the Councillors' roles being replaced by Deputy Councillors. These positions will not be elected by students but appointed (co-opted) by the five elected Councillors at the first SRC meeting of the next academic year.

The Deputy Councillors can speak during meetings; however, they do not have voting power in SRC motions. The elections are also being consolidated, with main elections held in March and co-options for Deputies in October.

The Jute Journal interviewed students to gain an insight into their opinions on the changes.

Of a total of ten different and unconnected students we interviewed, only two of them knew about the downsizing of the SRC, and only three voted in the last election. There was a general air of apathy from the students interviewed, with most unsure about what the SRC does that directly affects the student experience. There was a sense that the SRC is detached to day-to-day student life, with a 3rd year Physics student, adding, "people care about their classes more than the uni as a whole."

They were unsure about the difference between DUSA and SRC, citing their presence on campus as not obvious. They hadn't heard about the downsizing of the SRC, but weren't surprised, with the current budget cuts and downsizing.

When asked about their opinions on the visibility of the SRC, an English & History student stated, "It's only there if you look for it." There generally seemed to be a lack of information on SRC elections, let alone the consolidation of them. However, when asked, students seemed to think that this was a good change, making them less tedious throughout the year.

In the interviews, the students stated issues with the lack of information being broadcast about the SRC, suggesting going into classes to talk about the elections, instead of mainly email correspondence, as well as the SRC having a more permanent and overt presence on campus.

Another interviewee, a 4th year studying History & Geography stated, "I don't really understand what it means, or what I'm voting for." They cited a lack of communication of the importance of voting and its relevance to students. They added that the SRC seemed apathetic about issues that directly affected students, such as DJCAD material costs.

When asked for the reasoning behind the restructuring, Kyle Gray, DUSA Vice President for Representation stated that the SRC "collectively decided that it had grown large, too large for any one voice to stand out without being forced, which is the last thing we want."

He added, "It also allows us to add roles when needed without having to go through a great upheaval of the current standing orders, leading to more work for current Councillors and people like Kellie, the representation lead at DUSA."

He cites ease of scheduling meetings and allowing more flexibility within the role as benefits for the future Deputy Councillors. He believes the restructure has led to more student participation through election turnout and the number of applicants to become a Deputy.

However, one 3rd year student who had been involved in the SRC in years past criticised the positions that had been chosen for downsizing. They claimed that the roles selected, which predominantly are representatives for minority groups on campus, including LGBTQIA+, Black & Minority Ethnic (BAME), Women's Representatives, "takes power away from student voices, especially ones that the current Council and Executive deemed not as central to student experience."

These sentiments were echoed by a group of 3rd year CAHID students, who described the transition from Councillor to Deputy Councillor as "taking away the obligation to show up by also taking away the ability to vote," and questioned why minority representative groups were predominantly cut as full Councillors.

Student Team GB Athlete Brings Back Bronze at European Championships

BY CONNOR BERTIE

After smashing Scottish archery records, a third-year student has brought back the Mixed-Teams bronze medal competing for Team GB in Bulgaria.

His first time competing in an international event, crack-shot William Anderson, 20, only took up barebow archery when he came to university in 2023.

"I've only been doing it for about two and a half years. I was always interested in it, so I went to the sports union here and saw the archery society. I thought I'll try it out and see how it goes.

"I was a bit socially awkward when I joined, especially since I had moved away from home. But everyone in the club is so friendly, and it's been a great experience.

"And I was horrendous, like awful. Then every single day I thought keep going, keep going, keep going."

Rising through the ranks in Scotland at exceptional speed, William beat the previous Scottish 18-metre barebow record, 523, by a single point, 524. On the same weekend, he beat his own record with a score of 538 and holds it to this day.

He then went on to secure the Scottish outdoor 50-metre barebow records as well.

Naturally, William was scouted for the Scotland team. He enjoyed competing so much that he began to put himself forward for as many as he could, always looking to increase his score.



Will with his medal and plate, PHOTO, CONNOR BERTIE

"I now do it semi-professionally," he added.

In late 2025, he found that his scores were high enough that he could enter himself into the European Indoor Championships. Encouraged to do so by his coach, Steven Brison, his scores were submitted.

Soon after, he was ecstatic to find that he had been selected to represent Team GB in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. But one final challenge lay ahead before he could compete: cash.

"The only unfortunate thing about this competition was it had to be fully self-funded. So, it was quite a pricey one."

Fortunately for William, it wasn't long before the support poured in.

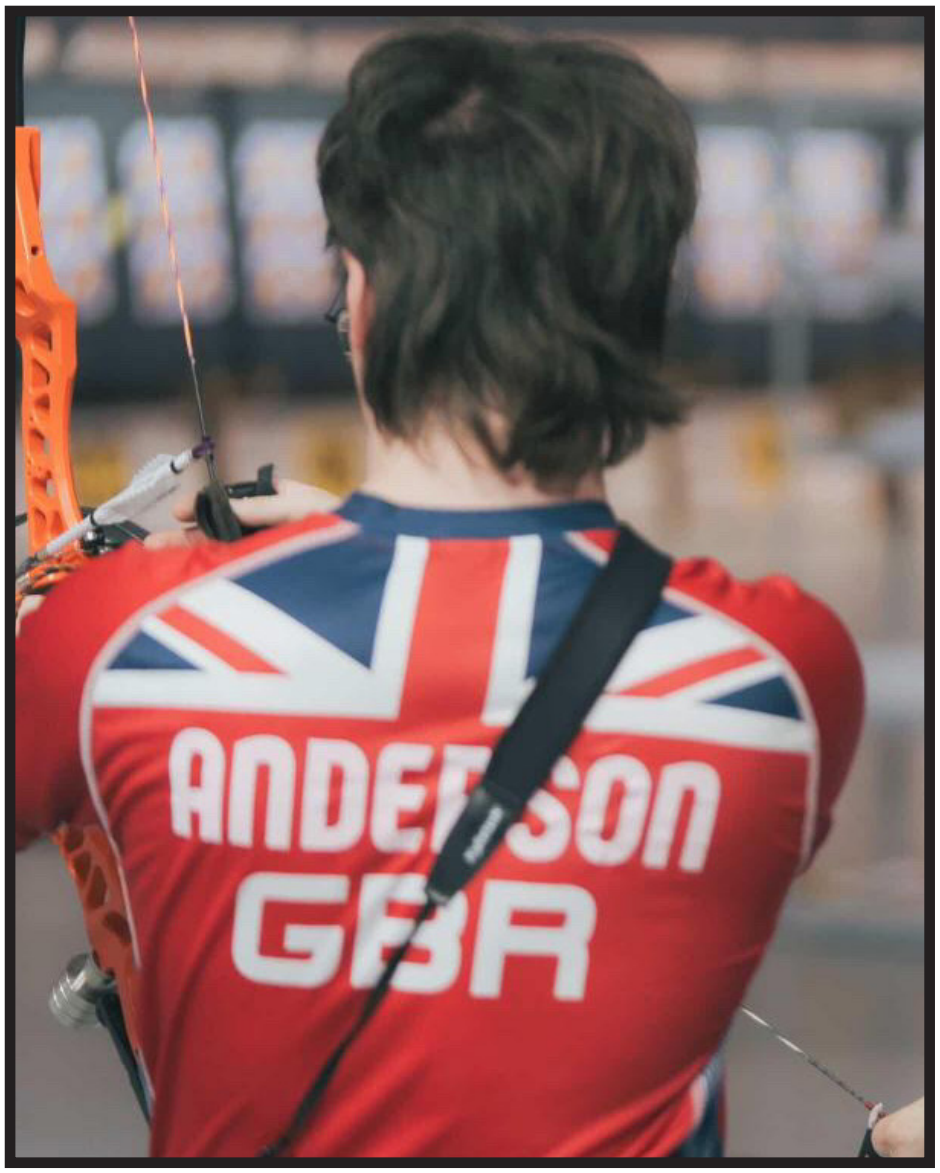
"I did a GoFundMe and all the Scottish archers; the community I'm a part of, supported it. Because of them, essentially the whole trip was paid for.

"I reached my goal of £1650 in less than 48 hours and actually surpassed it. It got up to £2165. I actually couldn't believe how much was raised.

"I wouldn't have been able to do it without their support. It really did bring a tear to my eye."

William described the moment when he landed his last arrow almost perfectly in the centre of the target, winning bronze medals for himself and his teammate, Illaria Knibb.

"I've never been more nervous for a single shot than I was in that moment.



Will in Action in Bulgaria PHOTO: TEAM GB

"With less than a second left on the clock, I shot and banged it right into the nine just outside the ten. The cheer from the whole team watching us was insane.

"We got the medals, and we were the first ones to win for Team GB in the event. It was amazing."

But what next for William? The next Olympic games, to be held in Los Angeles in 2028, is not so far away. Though he would love to compete, he shared with TJJ some disheartening news.

"There's a big problem with that. The bow style I shoot is called barebow, and sadly it's only officially been recognized by World Archery, not the Olympics.

"It has a really popular community; however, this isn't actually done at the Olympics at all. It's only recurve and compound bow styles that are in the Olympics.

"But the archers that have supported me in the community have asked me if I would be interested in trying out the recurve because they think I have the skill to get into it. So, I think this summer, I'll give that a try.

"I'm going to see what kind of other competitions I can get in to, but the Olympics, it's a long way off."

If you want to support William, his archery journey can be followed throughout the world on his Instagram: williams_archery_page.

Alternatively, William encourages any interested student to join the Dundee University Archery Club.

The Debtor's Portal Opens At Cooper Gallery

BY SEAN KWOK AND BHIJAN TALAJOOY



Free To Choose (2023) BAHAR NOORIZADEH

The Cooper Gallery at DJCAD has opened its doors to The Debtor's Portal, a solo exhibition by Iranian-Canadian filmmaker and artist Bahar Noorizadeh.

Noorizadeh is also the founder of Weird Economies, a website known for interrogating the ideological foundations of global finance through film and installation.

Her latest exhibition continues that exploration by immersing visitors in a disorienting yet meticulously constructed reflection on capitalism's past, present and speculative future.

Curators from DJCAD's Cooper Gallery and The Otolith Collective have co-developed what they describe as a "synergy of curation, critique, and creation for a radical unpacking of reality". Indeed, the exhibition itself seems like an experiment of time and space.

At the centre of the exhibition is Free to Choose (2023), a "financial sci-fi" film produced in collaboration with Brazilian filmmaker Rudá Babau.

The film takes Hong Kong as its focal point, once heralded as the model free-market economy by figures such as Margaret Thatcher and economist Milton Friedman.

Across the gallery space, a timeline of Iran's banking history hovers beside a pop-up library, connecting historical financial infrastructures to contemporary uprisings against state tyranny.

Visually, The Debtor's Portal is intriguing. Elon Musk memes drift through video game worlds; cars crash through fifty years of accumulated capital; winds sweep through the banks of Iran.

These collages of colour and sound blur the boundaries between human and inhuman forces, suggesting that the "weird economies" Noorizadeh identifies are as psychological and cultural as they are financial.

Those interested in surrealist film and art will have plenty of time to visit the Cooper Gallery and enjoy every aspect of this unique and cleverly stylised experience.

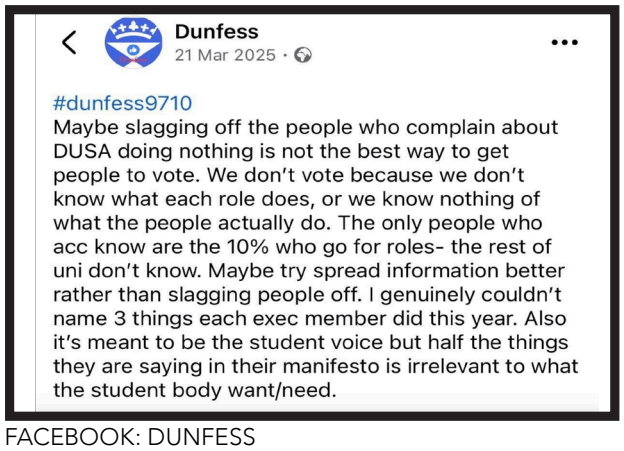
The immersive exhibition will be running until the 11th of April.

COMMENTARY

Why DUSA Doesn't Need an Exec Who Just Want to "Stack Their CV."

BY EVA MILNE

This year's advertisements to run as part of the student Executive have been released. Last year DUSA faced controversy for their posters, with one Dunfess post summing it up:



FACEBOOK: DUNFESS

Two highlights from last year's posters include one which read "who gives a fuck" and another explicitly calling out Dunfess: "tired of shouting from the sidelines on Dunfess? Heres your chance to be paid to do something about it."

I still think there is a great a disconnect between DUSA and the students it serves. Dundee University has had a dismal past 15 months.

This year's posters are a somewhat improvement. There is less "slagging off" as the Dunfess put it, however one poster which sticks out this year is this one.



@DUSADUNDEE
INSTAGRAM

DUSA needs people to run who want to make things better. Not people who want a CV filler, an ego boost, or have their face splashed above the Prem.

In September, DUSA's funding was cut by 34%, in a statement released a spokesperson said:
"This cut is of such a scale that this is likely to mean venue closures, fewer events, reduction in society funding, and a further reduction in student opportunities."

Now, CEO Chris Gourley has explained that the cut has resulted in

"The closure of DJCAD cantina.

"A significant reduction of discretionary funding available to societies.

"Reduced capacity of DUSA's advice and support team by one third.

"Reduced the fixed staffing resource of DUSA by approximately 30%, with a recruitment freeze for all non-essential roles.

"Restricted our ability to deliver events for students and to provide support for student led events."

Dundee University is in chaos, and DUSA isn't in a much better position.

It's a difficult situation for everyone. And no, the Executive did not cause the funding cuts. But when the University continues to face uncertainty, and DUSA has lost funding, staff, and capacity, this is exactly when leadership matters most.

That's why this really isn't the year for surface-level campaigning.

If the Executive advocates for students and shapes the direction of services, then students deserve to see that leadership clearly.

If students don't know what the Executive does, something is wrong. Either the impact isn't strong enough, or the communication isn't good enough.

In a year like this, both need to improve.

Students need an executive team who will defend and advocate for the student experience.

Not people who are interested in "stacking their CV."

Staff to Strike Next Week

BY EVA MILNE

It has been announced that members of the Dundee branch of the Universities and Colleges Union (DUCU) will take strike action on Tuesday 17th March and Wednesday 18th March.



Strike Action November 2025 EVA MILNE

The announcement comes from Interim Director of People, Jane Stark. It said:

"DUCUmembers may also take part in action short of a strike, which may involve staff taking actions including working to contract, not covering for colleagues, or undertaking voluntary activities at the University.

"At the same time, the University will seek to minimise the effects of strike action on key stakeholders, particularly students."

Recently, DUCU voted for no confidence in the University Executive Group (UEG).

A statement released by DUCU read:

"In an emergency branch meeting on Thursday Feb 26, there was a unanimous vote of no confidence in the UEG, particularly in the Interim Principal and the Interim Director of Finance.

"DUCU members have lost trust in the University Executive Group (UEG). Members feel misled and that the employer is not fulfilling its duty of care towards them.

"DUCU has collated a long list of governance failures between July 2025 and February 2026 that constitute the background of this vote of no confidence which was shared with the SFC. DUCU is still waiting to receive a meaningful response to the issues raised."

Recently the University launched another voluntary severance scheme to cut 180 FTE jobs and save £10 million.

However, 21 Grade 10 (the highest salary band) posts are being advertised. DUCU said this "could have serious financial implications for the institution."

A spokesperson for the University said:

"The University Executive Group is focused on the absolute priority of returning the University to a sustainable position where it can not only survive but go on to thrive.

"The University's costs are still substantially in excess of our income, and that balance needs to be urgently addressed.

"We have repeatedly acknowledged this has been a difficult time for the whole University community. Through the listening exercise conducted last year, through town halls and other forums, through consul-tation on the objectives for our strategy to recovery, we have heard the views of staff and continue to do what we can to support them through what remains a very challenging period."

Dundee Students Advocate for Imprisoned Belarusian Student

BY SOFIIA YEVMENKINA

Students hosted an evening at the George Orwell in effort to raise awareness for the release of imprisoned Belarusian activist Marfa Rabkova.

As part of an advocacy campaign in defence of Marfa Rabkova, a third-year Belarusian student at the International Law and European Union Law program at European Humanities University (EHU), Lithuania.

Marfa has been imprisoned in Belarus since September 17, 2020.

She was arrested after a series of non-violent protests across the country over the re-election of President Lukashenko in 2020. Despite peacefully protesting, she was treated as a terrorist who undermines the regime. She was sentenced to 15 years in prison, with the trial closed to the public and lasting for four months.

As part of their campaign, politics students organised an evening with a Belarusian rock musician and activist, currently living in exile from Belarus and wishes to remain anonymous, who played at Dundee's George Orwell on 5 February. This event was dedicated to raising awareness about the events in Belarus and all those who have been unlawfully imprisoned.

The musician performed a range of songs that reflected his personal experience living in Belarus and the ongoing political situation there. The pub was full of students and other members of the Dundee public, who listened and enjoyed the set.

One student shared that "it was great to have an open discussion and hear a first-hand perspective of a Belarusian". It shows how crucial it is to share and engage in meaningful conversations to promote the protection of human and basic rights.

Another student shared that what unites them with Marfa is that they are all students, but the real difference lies in the freedoms they have.

While students in Scotland can enjoy their lives to the fullest without having restrictions on speech or political positions, in Belarus, it is quite the opposite.

That`s the exact reason why it's so important for people to know her story. Those who are students, like no one else, can imagine what her life might have been like before her imprisonment. But what her life was like afterwards, probably no one can imagine.

If you want to get involved in the advocacy efforts for Marfa, the event with the Belarusian musician was not the end. Students are planning to set up a stall in DUSA on 9 March, commemorating International Women`s Day, dedicated to raising awareness about Marfa and her extensively long sentence. The stall will be filled with symbolism, and everyone is invited to come and learn more about Marfa to show her our support.

ACCESS THE SCHOLARS AT RISK WEBSITE TO SIGN THE PETITION FOR MARFA:

COMMENTARY

the boys are

RADICAL DUNDEE PT 1

BY NICK WHELAN

Belfast alternative rap group "KNEECAP" is set to play Dundee's LIVEHOUSE on April 28th on their tour for their new album, Fenian. Tickets sold out within minutes.

Formed in 2017, the band made up of: Liam Óg Ó hAnnaidh (Mo Chara), Naoise Ó Caireallán (Móglaí Bap) and JJ Ó Dochartaigh (DJ Próvaí), make no secret of their stance on the Irish struggle and are outspoken critics of the British involvement in Ireland during the troubles.

They often express support for the Palestinian cause; a sentiment with historic roots in Dundee. The city is twinned with Nablus in the occupied West Bank. The Dundee-Nablus Twinning association was formed on the twinning with Dundee and Nablus in 1980. Dundee Labour MP, Ernie Ross, had been instrumental in its founding. It is celebrated in Thread Memory: Embroidery from Palestine in the V&A.

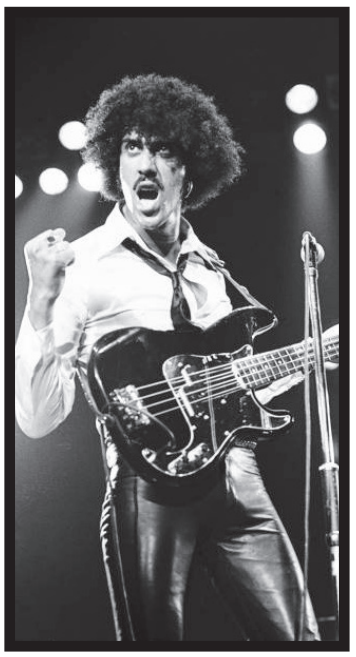
The group are no strangers to controversy. Most recently, Liam Óg Ó hAnnaidh who performs under the stage name "Mo Chara" was accused of showing support for proscribed terrorist organisation Hezbollah at a gig in London in 2024. The charges were later dropped because of time-bar restrictions. As recently as the 11th of march 2026, the decision to drop the case was upheld by the high court in London They also won a case in 2024 against the now Conservative leader of opposition, Kemi Badenoch for illegally withholding funding from them through refusing an arts grant to the band.

Most of their lyrics are performed in the Irish language and the bands work across social media has incited what has been labelled a 'language revolution' with a significant number of young people taking up an interest in the language. Their methods of delivery echo the way in which Irish folklore and history was passed down orally.

Their 2024 film, KNEECAP, starring Irish Hollywood legends such as Michael Fassbender, depicts a semi-factual account of their rise to fame and was nominated for 6 baftas.

Though this is not the first time a powerhouse of Irish folklore intertwined with loud and in yer face music came to Dundee. Dublin hard rockers "Thin Lizzy" performed in the caird hall on May 3rd 1980, as part of a tour for the 1980 Chinatown album. The band took their name from a character in Dundee's own comic, The Dandy, known as "Tin Lizzie".

Fronted by the "hard man of rock" and poet Phillip Paris Lynott, Thin Lizzy became Irelands first international rockstars as early as the 1970s with smash hits such as "The boys are back in town", 'Dancing in the moonlight' and a reworked Irish power ballad "Whiskey in the Jar". From a fractious upbringing in Crumlin, Lynott soared to heights no Irishman had reached before. Paving the way for the likes of U2, The Boomtown Rats and kickstarting the international interest in Irish rock, pop and indie acts we are so familiar with today.



'Lynott at full pelt," GETTY IMAGES

> ***"No, Irish, I'm Irish, not British. Republic of Ireland, you have to get that right",***

Lynott was often seen sporting a black and red striped jumper, popularised by Dundee's own Dennis the Menace. A black man in Ireland was certainly a rare sight at the time but a black man on stage, in leather trousers, in full attack mode was sure to raise a few brows in much the same way Dennis would have.

Lynott insists in a now viral clip of him being labelled a British act. He regularly displayed his staunch love and support for the emerald isle. But the Irish curse seemed to follow him wherever he went. He fused a volatile yet punchy mix of fantasy and fact through Irish mythology, folklore and unique melodies. Lynott told of the trials and tragedies faced by Irish immigrants chasing fortune in the new world in the 19th century with "Fools gold", the thousands of 'Wild Geese' who went off to fight for the continental European armies escaping persecution in 'Wild one', honouring rebels who fought in mythical battles with spellbinding "Emerald" and also exploring the societal taboos faced by young single mothers with "Little Girl in Bloom". The world is yet to see the likes.



back in toun:

Typeface FINN WALLACE

The Courier reports that per head of population, Dundee had acquired more weapons for the cause than any other City in Britain.

The toil and tribulations faced by Irish immigrants is a story Dundee knows well. It has a long and often untold relationship with Irish republicanism. For those unfamiliar with the city's history: Make no mistake, you are living, working, partying and studying in "The Radical Toun".

Immigrants arriving in droves to Dundee during the time of potato famine of the 1840s were greeted by a Dundonian working class who had suffered similarly at the hands and demands of empire. Dundee's industrial working classes had faced appalling working conditions in the city's jute mills and docklands, meagre wages and squalid living conditions. They felt the plight of those escaping the great hunger. A strong shared Celtic heritage and a vibrant radical political environment of trade unionism, socialism and working-class solidarity formed a radical coalition.



Dundee Jute Workers
INDUSTRIAL MUSEUMS SCOTLAND

A part of Lochee, among the most popular schemes for Irish families, came to be known as "Little Tipperary". It is said that by the mid 19th century, 20 percent of Dundee's population was Irish born. Dundee has also been home to some of the most senior figureheads of the Irish republican movement. After leaving the British Army in 1889, James Connolly moved to Dundee taking an interest in socialist politics and trade union rights. Connolly went on to lead the Irish Citizen army as Commandant General of the Dublin brigade during the infamous 1916 Easter Rising and was later tied to a chair and shot by a British firing squad in Kilmainham Jail.

Living up to its name "the woman's town", Dundee produced the "McDonald Women". Helen, Cathy and Lena, a mother and two daughters, played a significant role in the acquisition and transport of weapons to the Irish citizen army during the Irish civil war.

Dundee's Brook Street, now housing a large number of students (who I'm told, get up to equally sketchy things), was once the centre of Dundee's IRA gun-running operation. The McDonalds, a midwife and 2 student nurses by trade, operated out of the family shop at number 31 which stood next to what is now "Laundry Online Tayside", similarly a family run business.

They had accrued revolvers, rifles and munitions in such plentiful numbers that when questioned, Lena had been unable to produce an exact figure. Father John Fahy, a right-wing nationalist leader and priest ordained in Dundee, later testified in a letter to the pensions board that Lena had been more instrumental in procuring arms than any other member of the IRA in Scotland. The courier reports that per head of population, Dundee had acquired more weapons for the cause than any other City in Britain. Charging people a couple of quid on entry to be surrounded by Scotland's privately educated, accompanying playlist and a few buzzballs doesn't quite cut the heights of the illicit operation Brook Street was once home to.

Kneecap are walking into a city that is no stranger to their case. Perhaps they could even learn a thing or two from it.

For those who would like to learn more, check out "A History of Irish Republicanism in Dundee 1840-1985" by Ruth Forbes, and "The Social Impact of the Irish in Dundee 1845-1922" By Richard McCready.



Kneecap at BFI awards
BBC GETTY IMAGES

THE JUTE JOURNAL'S TOP IRISH TRACKS

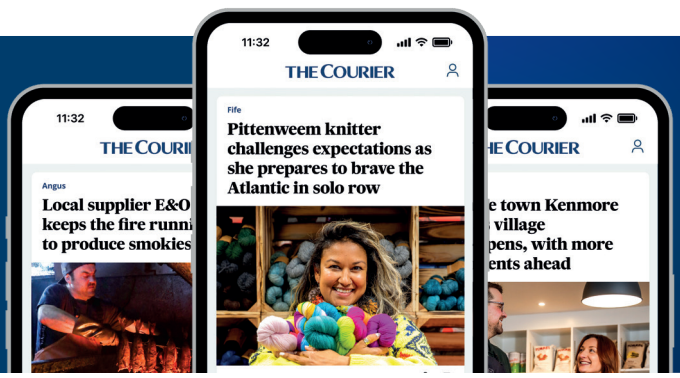




Local stories make us







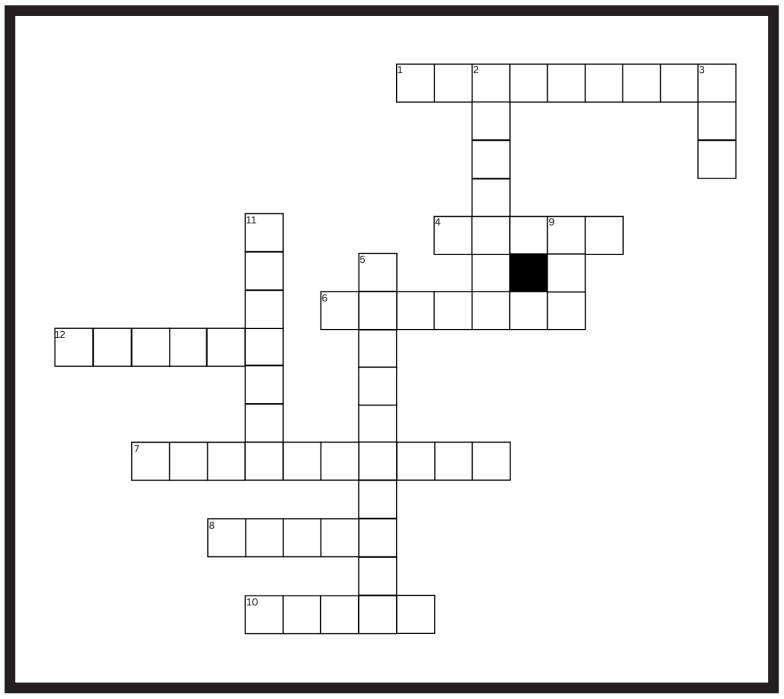
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THE COURIER

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Puzzles

Dundee History Crossword



Fill in the grid using the clues provided, placing each answer across or down as indicated.

Down:

2.The name of Dundee's oldest ship.

3.The hill that overlooks the city.

5. Antarctic explorer that ran in the 1906 Dundee election.

9. Famous Hollywood actor born in Dundee.

11. Historic Dundee newspaper formed in 1801.

Across:

1.Dundee's MP that would become a future Prime Minister during WW2.

4. English General that sacked Dundee in 1651.

6. Dundee's oldest pub.

7. The longest of Dundee's three J's.

8. US President that visited the first Tay Rail bridge.

10. Name of Dundee's most famous comic.

12. The woman who founded University College, Dundee.

Student Publications Wordsearch

Hunt for the names of some great Student Publications hidden in the grid. Words may appear forwards, backwards, diagonally, or vertically.

W	W	C	G	U	A	R	D	I	A	N	V	A	G	G	I	W
V	Z	M	R	B	E	D	E	P	Y	G	N	P	N	N	H	A
T	Z	A	L	T	Q	T	N	J	D	N	P	R	I	I	O	E
N	A	G	O	I	U	A	R	I	A	S	N	I	R	V	N	P
E	V	D	H	J	S	U	Q	S	M	W	Y	W	E	O	E	I
D	E	A	M	T	U	P	A	D	N	T	B	W	D	L	S	G
U	U	L	R	F	L	C	O	T	E	I	Z	A	B	N	T	R
T	D	E	A	P	H	T	E	E	D	I	O	U	R	O	L	A
S	N	N	G	R	N	L	I	O	U	S	F	Z	I	I	U	M
G	E	Y	V	I	E	T	Q	V	T	R	W	N	C	N	F	C
Q	W	L	A	G	A	W	K	A	O	Q	I	L	K	U	R	I
Z	A	S	R	P	L	V	G	A	U	D	I	E	A	C	E	A
F	J	A	L	G	I	R	B	R	S	F	X	O	J	N	D	L
J	P	I	S	H	E	Q	B	U	E	W	B	Z	R	A	N	S
H	V	B	W	W	S	S	R	L	N	I	O	V	U	M	O	G
G	A	I	D	B	A	G	I	R	E	D	N	U	V	H	W	X
T	V	I	T	R	O	X	P	V	A	R	S	I	T	Y	A	T

GAUDIE	SAINT	TELEGRAPH	MANCUNION
BRIG	MAGDALEN	VARSITY	TAB
STUDENT	JUTE	REDBRICK	ANNASACH
DAMNED	GUARDIAN	EPIGRAM	FELIX

ALL ANSWERS WILL BE POSTED ON OUR INSTAGRAM @THEJUTEJOURNAL

Sudoku

Fill in the blank squares with digits 1 to 9 so that each row, column, and 3×3 box contains every digit exactly once. The grid should be complete with no digit repeats in any line or box.

			4					6
3					7		2	4
				5			1	
		4					3	
		1						2
8	6			3				5
5		6						
					9			
9		7			2	1		

Are you interested in acting, directing, writing, art & prop design, set creation, or costumes & makeup?

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'Artists Connecting Through Theatre'

What we do:

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★ Socials & Events

Follow our instagram (@acttheatresociety) to find out more!



Anstruther, Scotland

ALEX STEWART

This collection of coastal photographs captures more than my passion for photography; it reflects my love for travel and the sea. I often find that the ocean, with its endless expanse and unpredictable nature, offers me a sanctuary of serenity. Despite its vastness and danger, it possesses a calming presence that stirs a profound sense of sonder in me.



Ballintoy, Ireland



Malibu, USA



Løkken, Denmark



Bergen, Norway

Students Vital To Dundee's Emergency Housing Plan

BY MATTHEW REES

Students in Dundee are identified as one of the key groups affected by the city's housing crisis in the Dundee Housing Emergency Coalitions action plan.

Dundee's Housing Emergency Action Plan (or HEAP) had been put together by a collection of organisations and experts across the city as part of the coalition who aim to develop a meaningful plan to tackle Dundee's previously undeclared but statistically evident housing crisis.

The 28-page report is rife with criticism of austerity, skyrocketing private rent prices, underinvestment and a digitalisation of Dundee City Council's housing services as some of the lead causes of the current crisis.

Some of the groups most affected by the housing crisis are ethnic minorities, people living with disabilities, and students. Private rent hikes, lack of affordable housing and poor condition of available housing were listed as some of the biggest contributors to a systemic problem in need of a systemic solution. A chronic shortage of social housing is another impacting factor in the emergency.

The plan posits remedies such as a funding increase to acquire new houses from the market; devolving more housing powers to local government to tackle the crisis; reverting from digital social housing applications to more face-to-face appointments, as to not put extra barriers in people's way; and bettering the information available to people in the city regarding their housing rights.



Dundee
PHOTO: ALEXANDER STEWART

To further gather support, an open letter had been signed by 15 organisations to demonstrate their commitment to pressuring the council to declare a housing emergency in Dundee. Signatories include DUSA President Tánaiste Custance.

"Everyone, including students, has the right to decent, affordable housing."

He said: "Everyone, including students, has the right to decent, affordable housing. Declaring a housing emergency is an important step towards the proper investment in council and social housing - including for students - that this city needs."

Until March 2026, mere weeks after the action plan was tabled, Dundee had been the last of the four largest cities in Scotland to declare a housing emergency. The motion to see a housing emergency declared had been voted against on two occasions despite damning evidence showing the bleak situation in the city, like a near 25% rise is homelessness applications between 2024 and 2025.

However, following the impact of the action plan, the beginning of March saw Dundee City Council vote in favour of an SNP motion to declare a housing emergency in Dundee.

The caveat being that the motion does not take HEAP forward formally, and we will most likely see a different plan tabled soon with council officers already under instruction to draft one.

This comes somewhat sooner than expected by those who supported the action plan.

It was supposed that more support would have to be mustered before a third attempt at declaring a housing emergency could be taken to full council, especially since a similar motion had been tabled in the past 6 months meaning current standing orders would have to be suspended to take forward the motion.

Despite this, there is now a housing emergency in place in Dundee. While most will welcome this new direction from the SNP, others are critical of the length of time these developments have taken, and may have come too late for some.

Taking to social media, Dundee Labour said "After months of delay, the SNP administration has finally been forced to declare a housing emergency".

Labour Councillor Wendy Scullin reacted by saying "Thank you to all the organisations that collaborated with Shelter Scotland to produce the Housing Emergency Action Plan for Dundee".

Councillor Scullin also went on to say, "I hope the administration fully considers the report's recommendations and works constructively with all those involved following today's declaration".

Shelter Scotland Director Alison Watson gave her reaction and said "Finally, Dundee voices are being heard. By voting to declare a housing emergency, Dundee City Council is sending Westminster and Holyrood a clear message – end Dundee's housing emergency now".

"Dundee's housing emergency will only continue to get worse."

The director also welcomed Dundee City Council's intention to work with the community on turning the crisis around. However, she warns that a lack of long-term investment and changes to housing benefits "Dundee's housing emergency will only continue to get worse" and looks forward to helping end the broken and bias housing system in Dundee.

Details of the Council's plan are eagerly awaited by Shelter Scotland and all organisations involved. This has been an incredibly swift course of action lead predominantly by the community of Dundee. In a time when division is rife among us, this is an incredible reminder of what a community can achieve when it comes together.

Four Years On, the War in Ukraine is Still Not Over

BY TUSYA TULINOVA



Protest March
PHOTO: ROBERT PAGE

The war in Ukraine has just surpassed the four-year mark, with no end in sight.

On Sunday 22 February, the Ukrainian community in Dundee gathered together for a march and demonstration to mark the fourth anniversary since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, and twelve years since Russia first started a war on Ukrainain territories.

The event was organised and promoted through the joint efforts of AUGB (Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain), Ukrainian Societies at the University of Dundee and the University of St. Andrews, local media, and the supporting community of Dundee City. Such collaboration transformed the usual February afternoon into the stance of resistance and solidarity. Yet this was more than an event of commemoration. It was a visible declaration: **Ukraine is still fighting, and the world must not look away.**

What made the event particularly significant was the active involvement of the students. Organised by the Ukrainian Society at the University of Dundee, the march brough together Ukrainian and International students who moved from campus to the city centre. They were carrying banners and flags, calling for justice and the recognition of Russia as an aggressor state.

"This war is not abstract. It is not distant. It is not only a headline in your daily news."

The demonstration also featured speeches by Scottish political representatives such as Shona Robinson (MSP for Dundee City East), Mark Flynn (Leader of Dundee City Council), and Heather Anderson (Councilor for Coldside in Dundee). Also invited was Chris Law (MP for Dundee Central). He was unable to attend the event as he was in Ukraine at the time, underscoring the connection between Scotland and Ukraine.

Speakers addressed the humanitarian consequences of the conflict, including death toll, displacement, infrastructural destruction. They urged Dundee and all Scottish residents not to be swayed by the misinformation spread by Russia, and to resist the rising apathy around the war.

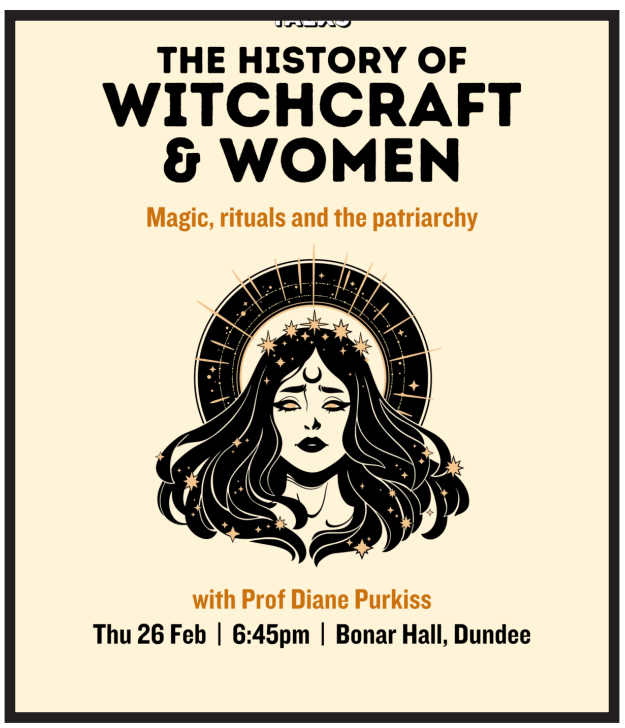
In an interview, Mariia Trush (President of the Ukrainian Society) emphasised the importance of collective action and remembrance:

"Today we stand not only to remember the lives lost, but to remind the world that Ukraine continues to fight for its freedom, dignity, and future. The support we see here — from Ukrainians and international students alike, shows that solidarity crosses borders, and that our voices remain strong together."

As the crowd left the square, the message of the event stands: the war continues, and so must the awareness. Members of the Ukrainian community are calling to remember about the war, to share the information, and donate to United24 to support Ukraine!

Professor Diane Purkiss Explores Witchcraft's Past at Sold Out Event

BY JASMINE SELBIE



Event Poster
PHOTO: SEED TALKS

Recently, Professor Diane Purkis delivered a lecture on "The History of Witchcraft & Women: Magic, Rituals, and the Patriarchy" in Bonar Hall.

Professor Purkiss, who is affiliated with the University of Oxford as a Tutorial Fellow at Peebles College, specialises in various topics, including witchcraft, feminist literature, and folklore.

The lecture was divided into three parts. The first part focused on the broader history of witchcraft and folklore, particularly in Scotland.

It was striking to learn that many witches were executed in the northeast of Scotland. Purkiss has a unique approach that presents historical issues while connecting them to contemporary figures, making the history of witchcraft more relatable and easier to understand. Purkiss also conducted a mock witch trial, allowing the audience to experience what the questioning process would have looked like during the era.

The final segment featured a Q&A session, where attendees had the opportunity to ask Purkiss about their interests.

At the end of the session, I asked Purkiss for recommendations on where students should start their research.

She suggested focusing on primary sources related to witchcraft, as these provide factual accounts of the trials. After examining primary sources, students can explore secondary resources to understand the perspectives of critics and academics.

Purkiss also emphasised the importance of identifying personal interests within the history of witchcraft and expanding research from there.

She recommended a recently published book titled "Contagious Enemies: The Aberdeen Witch Trials" by Dee Lawlor.

The book delves into the history of witch trials in Aberdeen, illustrating how witches were often ordinary people, such as neighbours, herbal medicine practitioners, or midwives, who faced punishment after the Witchcraft Act was enacted in 1563.

The event was organized by Seed Talks, an independent events company founded in London in 2021. Seed Talks hosts events throughout the United Kingdom, aiming to offer the public a safe and relaxed space to learn about a variety of topics, including science, philosophy, and wellness.

Navigating Education as a First-Generation Student of Colour

BY SAREENA BILAL

I graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Pakistan. As a gold medalist and a bright student, I had big dreams: completing my Master's degree in Data Science from a foreign university, just like my other fellows of South Asian heritage. Gaining admission to the University of Dundee in Scotland represented the ultimate reward for my sustained focus and academic drive.

But high-calibre at home doesn't necessarily equate to comfort in an international setting.

As the first one in my family to attend a university abroad, I realised that universities don't just focus on syllabi, they teach more than that. This unspoken syllabus revolves around the art of navigating social circles, bypassing formal barriers, and managing cross-cultural friction through group projects. Many first-generation and international students enter academically qualified, but culturally disadvantaged, not due to inaptitude, but because no one ever gifted us the compass.

"resilience is not built because we are weak; it is built because the system was never designed with us in mind."

Psychological toll can be elusive yet draining. Being the only phenotypically distinct person in a lecture hall, having your accent scrutinised, or having the need to continuously validate your proficiency adds a shadow of cognitive load. I regularly internalise, "resilience is not built because we are weak; it is built because the system was never designed with us in mind."

First-generation trailblazers normally shoulder two-fold expectations: the strain to excel in academic pursuits and the expectations to honour the sacrifices made by their families. Migrating from South Asia to Europe meant carrying the mantle of my dreams, but my family's belief in education as a gateway to advancement. Not making it seemed less like a personal obstacle, and more like shared betrayal.

However, this pressure could also transform into strength. It crystallises intent. It intensifies mindfulness. It catalyses resilience.

The remedy is not solely advising students to have "self-assurance." Universities should proactively establish guidance centres, support cohorts, and culturally attuned frameworks.Visibility carries weight. Dialogues ab-out justice must surpass demographic metrics in favour of systemic integration.

"Universities should proactively establish guidance centres, support cohorts, and culturally attuned frameworks."

For the under-represented first-generation scholars, success is seldom sequential, yet it is evolutionary. We are not just acquiring degrees; we are reshaping paradigms. And in this endeavour, we broaden the frontiers for those who follow in our footsteps.

Trump's Government Poses Threat to Ocean Biodiversity

BY LAURA BARTKOWSKA

US President Donald Trump is once again proving to be an obstacle in the world's response to global environmental issues.

As countries unite to protect ocean biodiversity, the Trump administration is in direct contrast to this sentiment.

Since 2004, the UN has been working on an agreement which outlines a framework which will specifically aid the protection of biodiversity of international waters, as currently only 1/3rd of the global ocean (all oceans) fall under national jurisdictions which specifically protect these waters.

In 2023 the treaty was completed and has been signed by 145 states since.

The agreement is colloquially referred to as "The High Seas Treaty", formally known as the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement. Through cooperation and coordination this agreement will address: the equitable sharing of resources; management measures; assessing environmental impacts; and the transfer of marine technology.

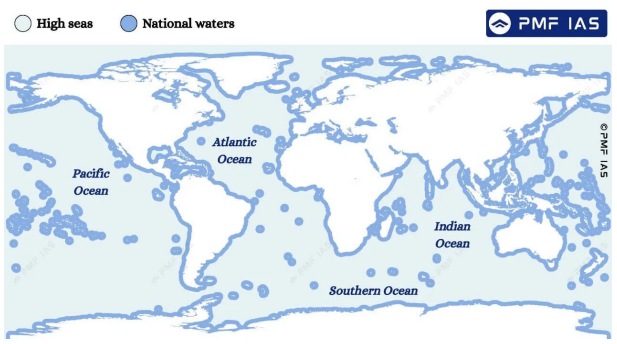
"Management measures" involve increasing the amount of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in international waters. An MPA is a designated part of the ocean placed under protection to limit human practices which negatively impact the environment.

As destructive fishing practices such as bottom-trawling (dragging large heavy nets across seabed) and marine heatwaves are becoming more common, such protectionist practices are necessary to prevent further damage to habitats and complex ecosystems. MPAs currently only account for 9.65% of the global ocean, with only 1.45% accounting for waters outside of national jurisdictions.

As of January 2026, the treaty has officially entered into force following the ratification of 60 nations (formal consent to legally commit to international law through domestic implementation) and the next steps can be carried out.

The next step will take the form of an Ocean COP (Conference of Parties) which will establish governing structures and systems to allow distribution of technical knowledge and funding to all nations for optimal participation.

Despite the US signing the agreement in 2023 under Joe Biden's presidency, the current situation is proving diappointing as Donald Trump's administration shows no interest in pursuing ratification.



National Waters VS High Seas. Photo, PMS IAF

Instead, Trump's administration is in direct contrast with the treaty's aim as the administration is taking steps to fast-track deep-seabed mining in waters outside its jurisdiction. Some international environmental law experts are calling this a breach of international law.

As countries unite to protect the ocean, the US seems to be the main outlier by taking necessary steps to becoming a greater threat to the ocean.

What's on in DUNDEE in MARCH

**TJJ Recommendations*

ENTERTAINMENT & GIGS

Scottish Roots
@ DUNDEE REP THEATRE, THU 12 – SAT 28 MAR

Endometriosis Charity Showcase*
@ CLARKS ON LINDSAY STREET, SUN 22 MAR

Yungblud
@ LIVEHOUSE, THUR 2 APR

The Lowdown Jazz Jam
@ CANVAS THURS 19 MAR

Pastel
@ MUSIC HALL 28TH MAR 7PM

CINEMA

***California Schemin'** **
@ DCA, 28 MAR – 12 APR

The Testament of Ann Lee
@ DCA, UNTIL THU 12 MAR

The Moment
@ DCA, UNTIL THU 12 MAR

Frankenstein
@ DCA, UNTIL FRI 13 MAR

Sinners
@ DCA, WED 11 – FRI 20 MAR

One Battle After Another
@ DCA, THU 12 – SAT 21 MAR

Everybody to Kenmure Street
@ DCA, FRI 20 - WED 25 MAR

PUBBING & CLUBBING

SKINT, St Patrick's Day Special*
@ BONAR HALL: TUES 17TH MAR

Dundee's Biggest St Patrick's Day
@ AURA AND FAT SAM'S: TUES 17TH MAR

Funky Gunners: Open Decks
@ GUNNERS BAR: EVERY TUESDAY 7.30PM

Open Mic Night
@ GEORGE ORWELL: EVERY THURSDAY 8PM ONWARDS

EXHIBITIONS & WORKSHOPS

Thread Memory: Embroidery from Palestine
@ V&A, UNTIL SUN 26 APR

We Contain Multitudes
@ DCA, UNTIL SUN 26 APR

Curtain Call: Costumes from Stage and Screen
@ THE MCMANUS, UNTIL SUN 15 NOV

The Paintings and Etchings of Charles G.L. Phillips*
@ VERDANT WORKS UNTIL 5 JUN

C'MERE, Leah McDonald
@ GENERATOR PROJECTS 28 MAR-3 MAY