



the DURHAM UNION

President - Callum Oxley

MICHAELMAS 2025

WHAT IS THE UNION?

The Durham Union Society is Durham's oldest and largest student society. Founded in 1842, the Union plays a unique role in the collegiate system of Durham University in a way no other student society can.

The Union's guiding principle of free speech is the foundation of our rigorous debate and discussion. From our weekly Friday night debates, to addresses from the most esteemed speakers across the country, the Union hosts the greatest diversity of thought in the University.

On top of this, we host free members' socials and termly headline balls. We also operate our own bar, affectionately known as 24s!

JOIN THE UNION TODAY!



Sign up here

... will you dare to join the debate?

CONTENTS

I	PRESIDENT'S WELCOME	3
II	DEBATES	5
III	OPPORTUNITIES	23
IV	SPEAKERS	25
V	SPONSORS & PROMOTIONS	33
VI	SOCIALS	35
VII	TERM CALENDAR	41
VIII	DURHAM DEBATING	43
IX	SPECIAL EVENTS	44
X	EQUALITIES AND WELFARE	49
XI	ALUMNI	50
XII	HOW TO GET INVOLVED	51
XIII	MEET THE OFFICERS	53



President's Welcome



**WELCOME TO THE DURHAM UNION SOCIETY! I AM THRILLED TO
SHARE WITH YOU ALL THE EVENTS WE HAVE PLANNED FOR
MICHAELMAS TERM!**

In a time when breaking news stories happen every day, society feels like it is falling apart, and the word “unprecedented” seems to be used weekly, the opportunity to hear new perspectives is evermore important. Michaelmas in particular, is a time for fresh starts. Whether you have made attending our events a staple of your week, or whether you are arriving at Durham for the first time, you will find something for everyone, a thriving community of like-minded peers, and the opportunity to challenge yourself.

At its core, the Union is a bastion of free speech, a place where ideas exist to be challenged. University, and indeed the DUS, is your greatest chance to listen to, learn from, and debate those from different backgrounds to your own. Diversity of thought is central to the Durham Union- after all, how can we learn more about the world without it?

That is why you will find this term is full of speakers from different backgrounds, professions, and walks of life. We will hear from senior parliamentarians, diplomats, lawyers, financiers, heads of charities, and academics- all experts in their fields- giving you rich insights into the most topical global events. This term, we will debate our confidence in the government, whether war criminals deserve a defence, if revolutions can ever truly succeed, and so much more. I hope to see you at the despatch box.

Your membership goes far beyond academics however. We also have a packed social calendar, including our headline masquerade ball at Wynyard Hall which promises to be an unforgettable night. Whether you're a bar crawl fiend, or prefer a more relaxed atmosphere to enjoy a couple of pints, you will find the DUS and 24s have it all. From Oktoberfest, Halloween, and Christmas socials, to an end of term Oscars Gala, this term has an unmatched social calendar.

Above all, what makes the DUS truly special are its people, and friendships that last a lifetime. I am grateful to have the pleasure and privilege of working alongside such extraordinary individuals. This term is a culmination of all our efforts, and I hope that you enjoy all the events that we have put on. So, with that, I wish you all a very pleasant Michaelmas, and I look forward to seeing you at the Union this term!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "OXLEY". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "O" and "X".

CALLUM OXLEY
TREVELYAN COLLEGE
PRESIDENT | MICHAELMAS 2025

Debates

THIS HOUSE HAS NO
CONFIDENCE IN HIS
MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

10TH OCTOBER 9:00PM

THIS HOUSE BELIEVES WAR
CRIMINALS ARE NOT ENTITLED
TO A DEFENCE

17TH OCTOBER 8:30PM

THIS HOUSE BELIEVES LAW-
ABIDING CITIZENS SHOULD
NOT FEAR SURVEILLANCE

24TH OCTOBER 8:30PM

THIS HOUSE BELIEVES
CHRISTIAN CHURCHES HAVE
BETRAYED THEIR
FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

7TH NOVEMBER 8:30PM

Our Friday night debates offer members the opportunity to hear from and question renowned speakers. Our guest speakers come from a variety of fields and speak on some of the most pressing issues of our time.

Debates

THIS HOUSE BELIEVES
MULTICULTURALISM IS A
SOURCE OF NATIONAL PRIDE

14TH NOVEMBER 8:30PM

THIS HOUSE BELIEVES SOCIAL
JUSTICE DEMANDS THE
REDISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH

21ST NOVEMBER 8:30PM

THIS HOUSE BELIEVES
REVOLUTIONS NEVER
TRULY SUCCEED

28TH NOVEMBER 8:30PM

THIS HOUSE BELIEVES THE
UK'S FUTURE LIES WITH THE
EU AND NOT THE US

5TH DECEMBER 8:30PM

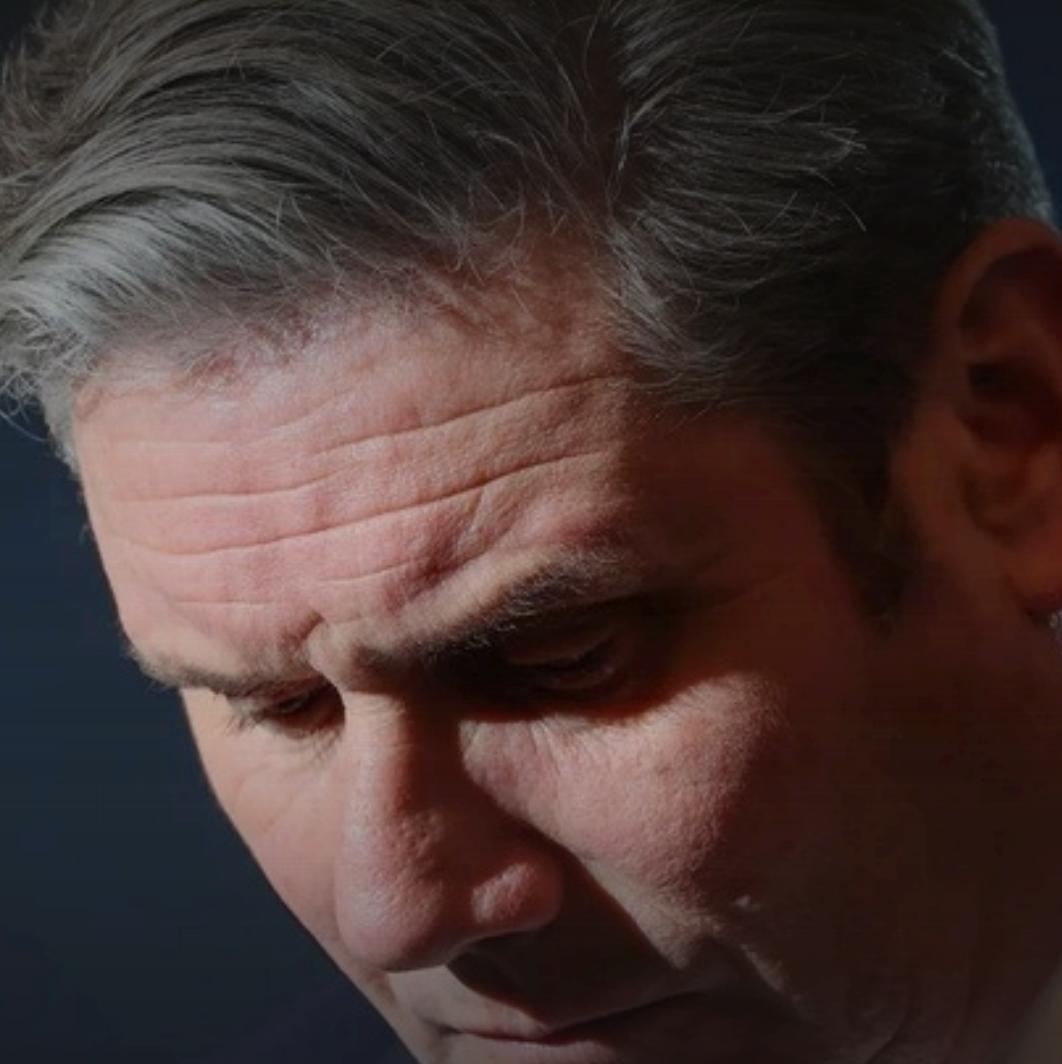
supported by

THE IAN MACTAGGART PROGRAMME
OPEN DEBATE. INDEPENDENT THINKING. FREE EXPRESSION



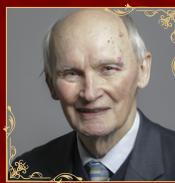
FSU
FREE SPEECH UNION

FRIDAY 10TH OCTOBER 9:00PM
ST OSWALDS CHURCH



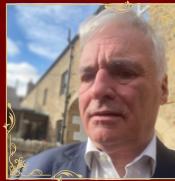
This House Has
NO CONFIDENCE IN HIS
MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

PROPOSITION



LORD BRADSHAW

A Liberal Democrat peer and former Deputy Chairman of the Oxfordshire Police Authority. He served as Director of Operations at British Rail before becoming a prominent voice in the House of Lords on policing, transport, and public accountability.



CHARLES HESLOP OBE

A lifelong Conservative Party activist, he served as the President of the Conservative National Convention, and also chaired the 2013 Conservative Party Conference.



CHARLOTTE CANE MP

The Liberal Democrat MP for South Cambridgeshire, she first started her career in finance and international development. She currently serves on the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee.

OPPOSITION

RUPA HUQ MP (TBC)

Representing Ealing Central and Acton since 2015, she served as the Shadow Crime Prevention Minister. She has sat on multiple committees including Justice, Regulatory Reform, and currently sits on the Culture, Media, and Sport Committee.



FINLEY HARNET

A Senior Parliamentary and Communications Assistant, and Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Laura Kyrke-Smith. He is also a Durham Union alumnus.

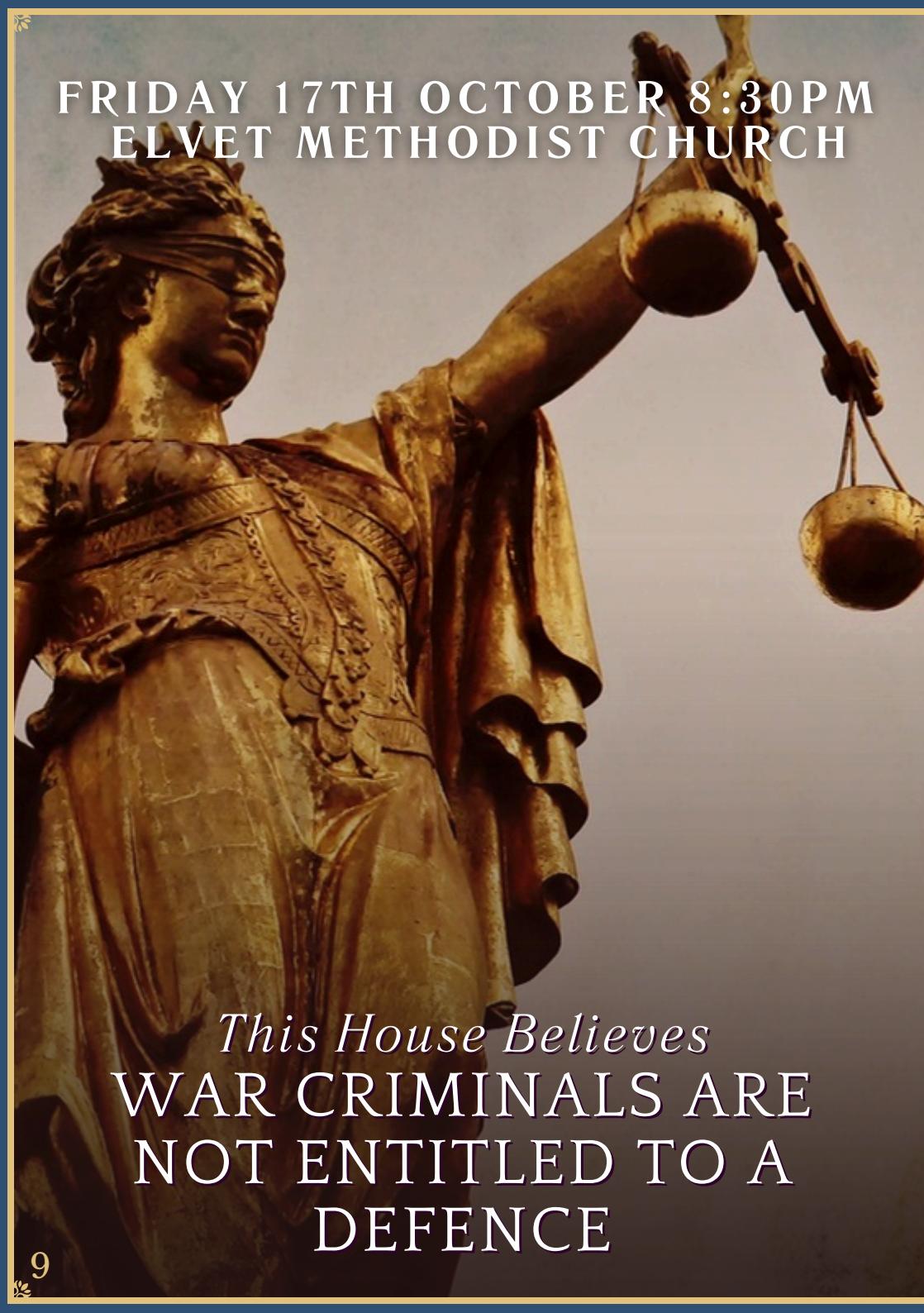


ROBBIE BONO

A third-year Economics student at St Cuthbert's Society, Robbie is the Equalities Officer of the Durham Union Society, and the Co-Chair of Durham University Labour Society.



FRIDAY 17TH OCTOBER 8:30PM
ELVET METHODIST CHURCH



This House Believes
WAR CRIMINALS ARE
NOT ENTITLED TO A
DEFENCE

PROPOSITION



ANNA MERCHUK

A war refugee who fled Ukraine in 2022 at 17 years old. Anna passionately advocates for an end to the war in Ukraine and co-founded Nadiya, a charity to re-settle, empower, and support war refugees.



DEREK EDWARDS

Nadiya's other co-founder and sponsor. Derek has travelled to the Poland/Ukraine border of Korczowa-Krakovets to volunteer. He was influential in ensuring Ukrainian refugees would have accommodation after the UK Govt's 'Home for Ukraine' scheme expired.



SARAH KHAN

Sarah is first-year reading English Literature and History at Hild Bede (because someone has to be). She enjoys literary drama, historical nuance, and debates that begin with "just to play the devil's advocate".

OPPOSITION

NEVILLE SORAB

Serving on the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) for nine years, Neville investigated senior leaders of the Khmer Rouge for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.



GILLIAN HIGGINS

A leading international criminal barrister at 9BR Chambers, having acted in landmark cases before the ICTY, ICTR, ICC, and Special Tribunal for Lebanon. She advises governments on human rights, transitional justice, and accountability, with recent work in South Sudan, Sudan, and Libya.

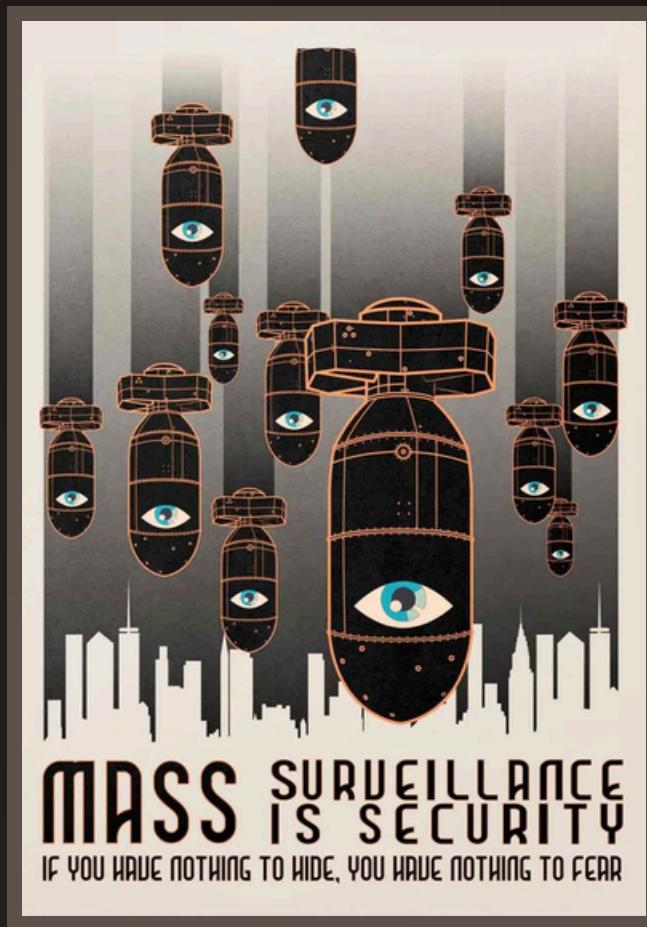


STUDENT SPEAKER

Open to applications.



FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER 8:30PM
ELVET METHODIST CHURCH



This House Believes
LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS
SHOULD NOT FEAR
SURVEILLANCE

PROPOSITION



ANTHONY GLEES

An expert on national security, who has advised the Home Office at various times in his career. For ten years, he advised MEPs in the European Ideas Network as a Security Policy Rapporteur. He is the Director of the Centre for Security and Intelligence Studies at the University of Buckingham.



SPEAKER

To be confirmed.



STUDENT SPEAKER

Open to applications.

OPPOSITION

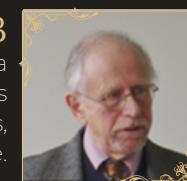
JIM KILLOCK

The Executive Director of the Open Rights Group (ORG), a UK-based digital rights organisation. Since taking the role in January 2009, he has led campaigns on issues including internet privacy, government surveillance, copyright reform, and data protection.



CHARLES RAAB

Professor Emeritus of Government at the University of Edinburgh, and a leading authority on privacy. As a recipient of the Surveillance Studies Networks Outstanding Achievement award, he has advised governments, the EU, and international bodies on the ethical implications of surveillance.

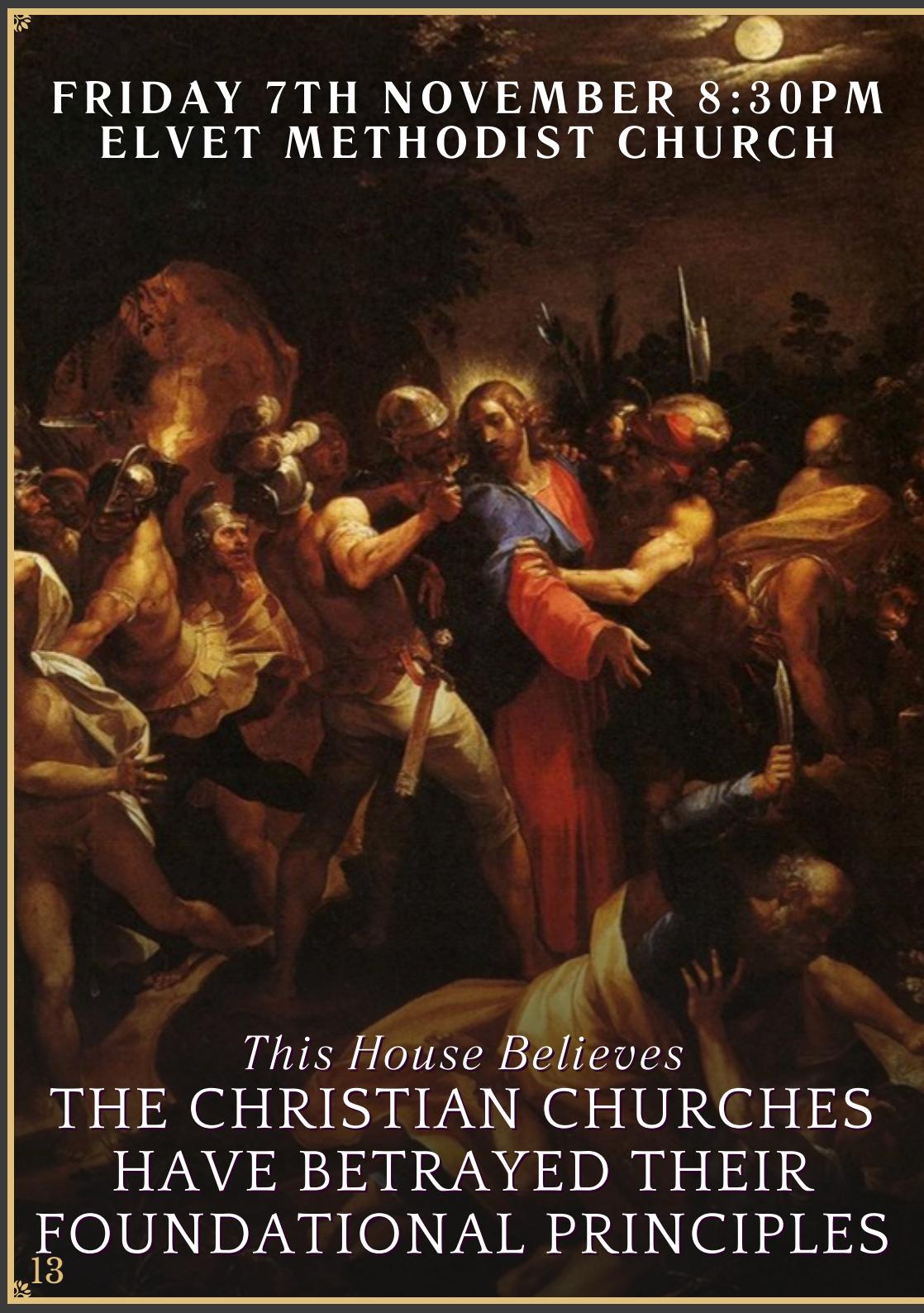


REBECCA VINCENT

An American-British human rights campaigner, former diplomat, and the current Interim Director of Big Brother Watch, a UK-based civil liberties and privacy advocacy organisation. With nearly two decades of experience, Rebecca's work centres on defending free speech and privacy.



FRIDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 8:30PM
ELVET METHODIST CHURCH



This House Believes
THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES
HAVE BETRAYED THEIR
FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

PROPOSITION



TIM DIEPPE

The Head of Public Policy at Christian Concern, an evangelical advocacy organisation in the UK. He has a specialist interest in Islamic affairs, especially how Islam interacts with law, culture and social policy in Britain.



ED STEVENSON

The Quaker Chaplain to Durham University, and an Associate Professor of Anthropology and Global Health. He is currently serving as clerk to Quakers in Durham, who meet for worship at Alington House, on the North Bailey, on Sundays at 11am.



HANNAH ZUKIC

A second-year Politics and International Relations student at Trevelyan College, and an active Pentecostal Christian. She also serves on the Presidential Committee of the Durham Union Society.

OPPOSITION

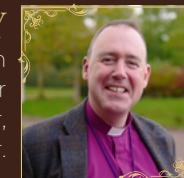
FR. ANDREW DOWNIE

A priest for 23 years and the Catholic Chaplain at Durham University and St Cuthbert's Church since 2016. He recently completed a PhD in Durham's Department of Theology and Religion, and has a special interest in the encounter of Christian faith with contemporary culture.



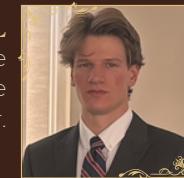
REV. SAM CORLEY

A British Anglican Bishop, currently serving as the Bishop of Stockport in the Diocese of Chester. He studied theology at Durham before training for ordination and being ordained in 2004. He has served in Lancaster, Blackburn, Bradford, and Leeds, where he was Rector of Leeds Minster.

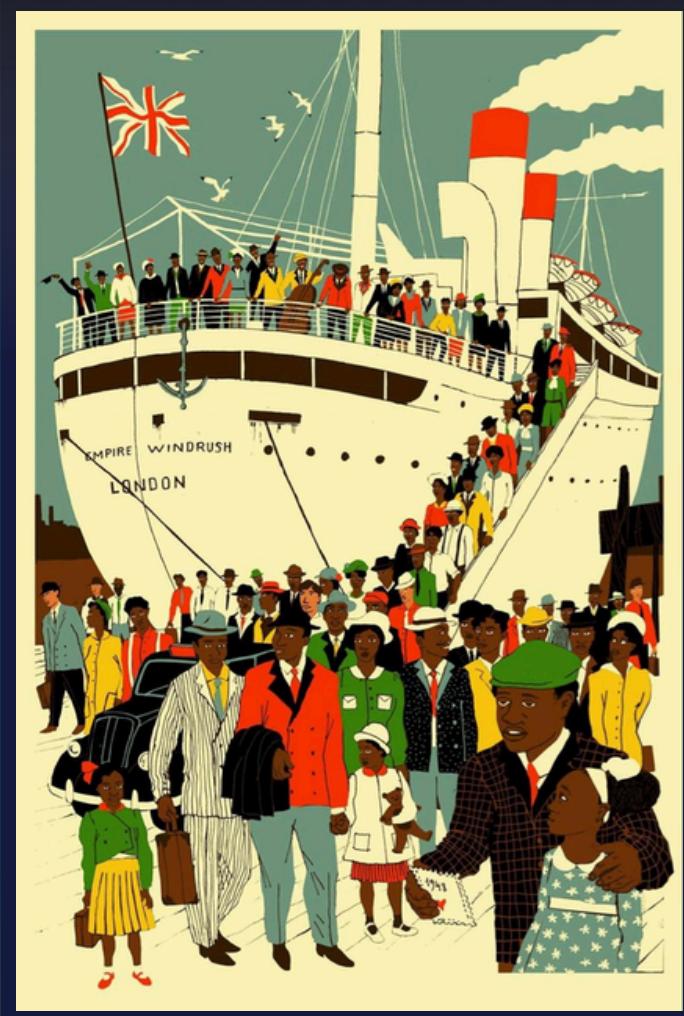


JAKE BELL

A finalist Computer Science undergraduate at University College, and the current Treasurer of the Durham Christian Union. Outside Durham, he works for a classical Christian educational services provider.



FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 8:30PM
ELVET METHODIST CHURCH



This House Believes
MULTICULTURALISM IS A
SOURCE OF NATIONAL
PRIDE

PROPOSITION



LORD BHIKHU PAREKH

A Labour peer and one of Britain's foremost political theorists, renowned for his influential work on multiculturalism and political philosophy. A former Chair of the Commission on the Future of Multi-Ethnic Britain, he has shaped debates on diversity, ethnicity, and inclusion.



TARIQ MODOOD

Professor Tariq Modood is one of Britain's leading scholars on multiculturalism, integration, and political theory. As founding Director of the University of Bristol's Centre for the Study of Ethnicity and Citizenship, he has strongly influenced academic and policy debates on DEI.



STUDENT SPEAKER

TBC.

OPPOSITION

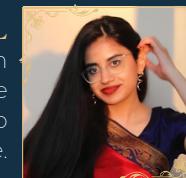
COUNCILLOR SAFFRON SIMS-BRYDON

A Reform Durham County Councillor representing Derwent and Pont Valley, she serves on the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as well as the Corporate Parenting Panel as its Chair.



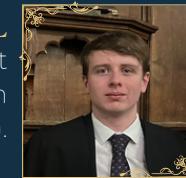
NOORULAIN JAMAL

Noorulain is a second-year student at Hatfield College reading English Literature. President of the World Cinema Society and the Lion Theatre Company, as well as the Vice-President for the Buddhist Society, she is also a writer at Palatinate's Indigo Magazine.



ANDREW HALL

Andrew is a second-year Archaeology BSc student at University College. He is also the President of the Durham University Conservative Union Association (DUCUA).



FRIDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 8:30PM
ELVET METHODIST CHURCH



This House Believes
SOCIAL JUSTICE DEMANDS
THE REDISTRIBUTION OF
WEALTH

PROPOSITION



DANNY DORLING

One of the UK's leading social geographers, he specialises in inequality and distribution of wealth. He has advised governments, NGOs, and charities on addressing inequality. He is a Professor of Geography at the University of Oxford, and a Visiting professor in New Zealand and the Netherlands.



SPEAKER

To be confirmed.



MADDY FRANK

Maddy is a third-year student studying English Literature at St. Cuthbert's Society. She was a Xavier Project participant helping raise funds for the education of children in refugee camps. She is also our Former Social Secretary.

OPPOSITION

ANDREW LILICO

An Executive Director and Principal at Europe Economics, an economic consultancy firm. Previously, he has held roles including Chief Economist at Policy Exchange, and positions at University College London, the Adam Smith Institute, and the Institute for Fiscal Studies



MAXWELL MARLOW

The Director of Public Affairs for the Adam Smith Institute, and Director of Policy at The YIMBY Initiative. He sits on the board of a number of pro-building organisations, including PricedOut and ConsYIMBY. He is an award-winning economist, as awarded by MHP Group 30 under 30.

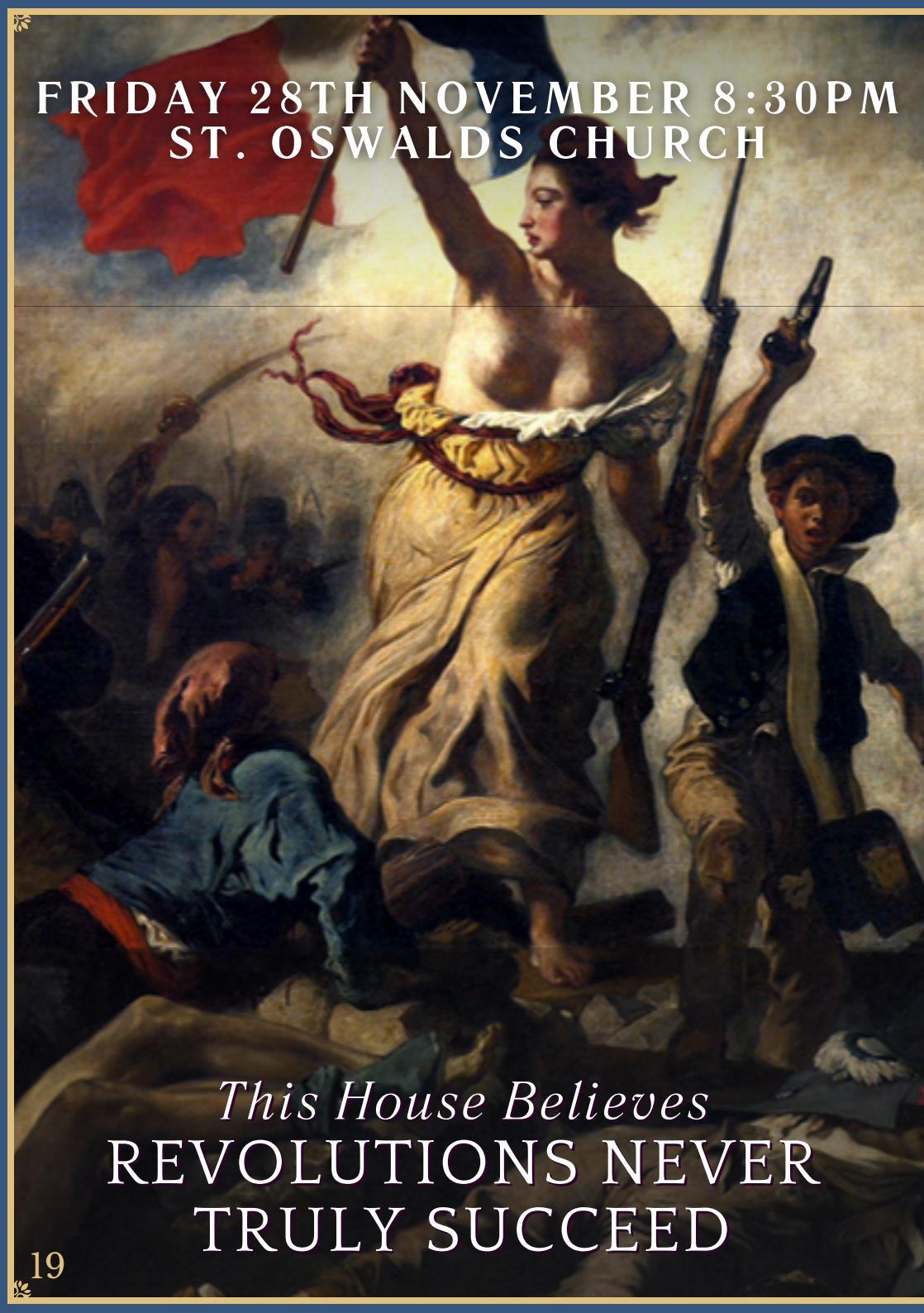


LUCY WOODRUFF

A Private Credit Asset Manager at HSBC, Lucy has real world experience in wealth distribution and economic markets. She is also a proud alumna of the DUS, having previously served as our Sponsorship Officer.



FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 8:30PM
ST. OSWALDS CHURCH



This House Believes
REVOLUTIONS NEVER
TRULY SUCCEED

PROPOSITION



ROBERT POOLE

A Professor of History at the University of Lancashire. He is the author of *Peterloo: the English Uprising* and was consultant historian to the 2019 Peterloo bicentenary programme in Manchester. He has been a visiting research fellow at the universities of Manchester, Durham, the Free University of Berlin, Sorbonne University, and the Smithsonian Institution.



PAMELA PILBEAM

A distinguished and highly regarded British historian and Professor Emeritus in French History at Royal Holloway University. She specialises in the social, political, and cultural history of France since the French Revolution, especially during the 19th century.



STUDENT SPEAKER

Open to applications.

OPPOSITION

DR KOJO KORAM

A writer and an academic, teaching at the School of Law at Birkbeck College, University of London. In addition to his academic writing, he has written for the New Statesman, the Guardian, Dissent, The Nation, and The Washington Post as well as appearing on CNN and Sky News.



DR GRACE MALLON

A historian of the Early American Republic, currently at Lady Margaret Hall College at the University of Oxford. Her research focuses on law, politics, and government in the 18th and 19th century US, especially the relationships and interactions between state and federal government in the early years of the American Union.



STUDENT SPEAKER

Open to applications.



FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER 8:30PM
TBD



PROPOSITION



MADELEINA KAY

Known for her pro-European Union activism, especially during the Brexit debate, earning the nickname "EU Supergirl". A British artist, writer, musician and political activist. She has been recognized with several awards, including Young European of the Year in 2018.



PIA COMER

Pia is a second-year student at University College studying Theology and Religion BA. She is the Executive Assistant to the Founder and Director General of the John Locke Institute, a Pinsker Centre Policy Fellow, and the Sponsorship Officer of the Durham Union.



STUDENT SPEAKER

Open to applications.

OPPOSITION

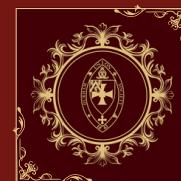
LORD LILLEY

A Conservative peer and former Cabinet Minister, having served as Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and Social Security under Margaret Thatcher and John Major. A long-standing Eurosceptic and leading voice in the Brexit campaign.



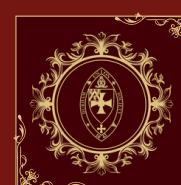
SPEAKER

To be confirmed.



STUDENT SPEAKER

Open to applications.



DEBATE OPPORTUNITIES

Speaking in our debates

Speaking at the Union despatch box is an experience unmatched elsewhere in Durham. You will feature on the order paper and have the opportunity to debate alongside and against world-leading speakers, even challenging yourself to upstage them.

We welcome pitches from all our members to speak in a debate with an open speaker slot. Simply scan this QR code to pitch your speech!

Sign up here



Getting involved on the night

Any member attending a debate will get the opportunity to raise their hand at the end of the main speeches to make a floor speech. These are three minute speeches for or against the motion.

We also encourage members to ask the speakers questions. Doing any of the above will allow you to join the speakers in the reading room after the event for a more personal atmosphere.

Speakers who've debated before:



DEBATE OPPORTUNITIES

Join our speakers for dinner

The Durham Union offers the opportunity to enjoy a three-course meal with our speakers and the President at the Marco-Pierre White restaurant before our events.



These dinners present a great opportunity to meet with speakers on a more personal basis, ask any burning questions, and enjoy a lovely meal before the main event of the evening.

One Membership, 4 Unions

As a member of the Durham Union, you will also enjoy the benefits of being a reciprocal member of our sister Union Societies in Oxford, Cambridge, and the Historical and Philosophical Societies in Trinity College Dublin. This status allows you to attend a certain number of their events each term, completely free of charge.

This term we are also excited to announce the annual Intervarsity Debate between the four Unions which will be hosted in **Cambridge** this year on the **1st November**



OXFORD UNION



CAMBRIDGE UNION



'THE HIST'
TCD



'THE PHIL'
TCD

Speakers

RUFUS RICE 14TH OCT

NINA AOUILK 20TH OCT

CHRIS JEANS KC 27TH OCT

RIORDAN MAYNARD 11TH NOV

SIR VINCE CABLE 13TH NOV

OLIVIA ATWOOD 18TH NOV

AMBASSADOR
LINDSAY SKOLL 27TH NOV

JOCK WISHART 4TH DEC

JOE MAYES 9TH DEC

DAME PENNY MOURDANT TBD

Alongside our weekly debates, we host individual speakers from a variety of fields.

Members have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to engage with renowned experts and celebrities. Each event takes the form of either a speech from the speaker followed by questions from the audience, or a more relaxed 'In Conversation With' interview.

All events are followed by a drinks reception in 24s.

TUESDAY OCTOBER 14TH
ELVET METHODIST CHURCH

A comedian, musician and podcaster known on social media for his rogue banter and intricate parody songs.



A modern, cosmopolitan, metrosexual man who sees life as a conduit for questionable chat, good times, and above all, having a laugh.

On the side, he is a self-declared “arms dealer, philanthropist and loan shark”.

INTERNET PERSONALITY
Rufus Rice

DATE TBD - VENUE TBD

A former Cabinet minister who served as Leader of the House of Commons and Lord President of the Council. Her ministerial career spans the Department of Defence, FCDO, Home Office, Cabinet office, and Business & Trade.

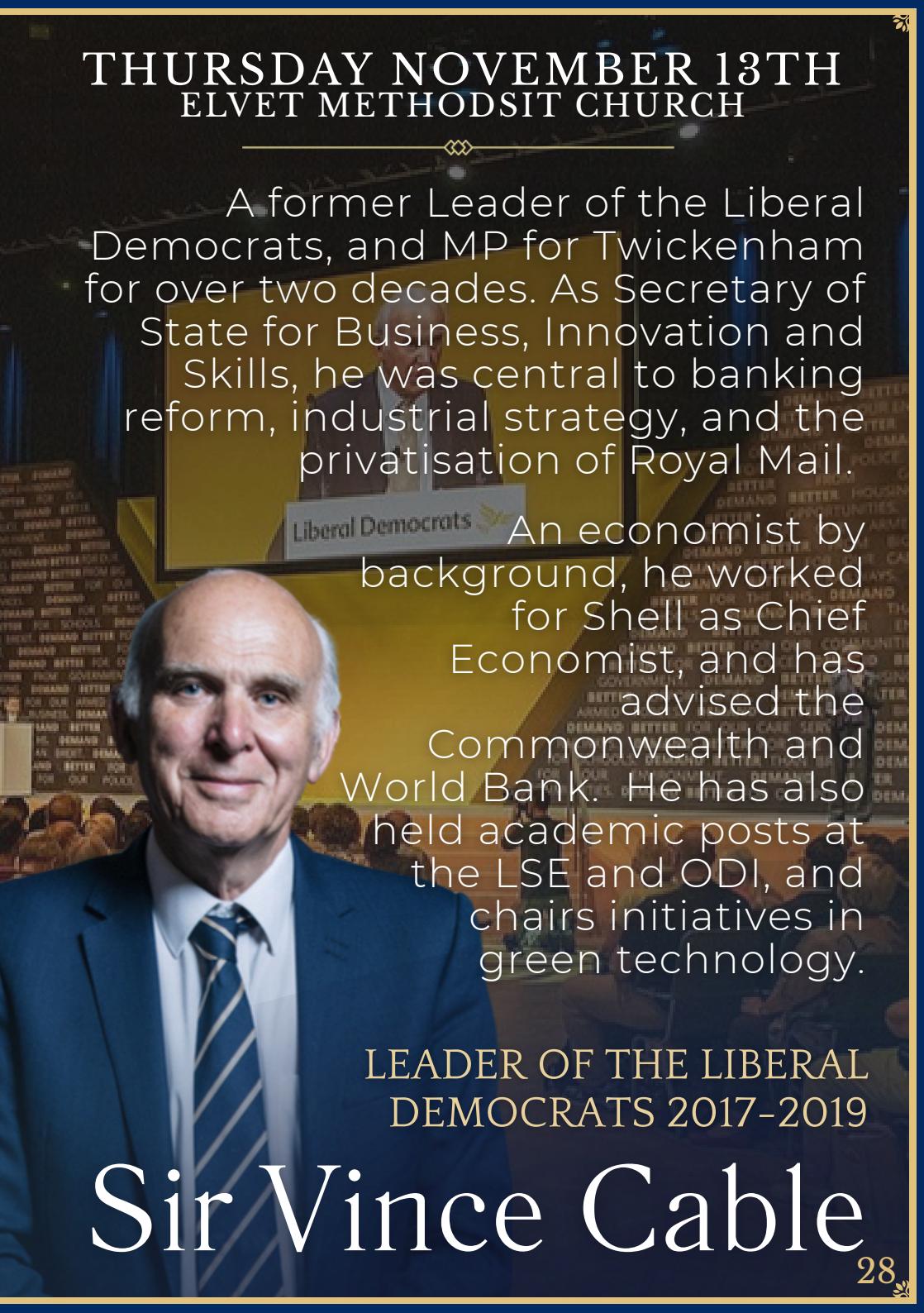
She is well known for her prominent role at the coronation of King Charles III, bearing the Sword of State and presenting the Jewelled Sword of Offering.

She was MP for Portsmouth North from 2010 to 2024.

FORMER LEADER OF
THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Dame
Penny Mordaunt

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 13TH
ELVET METHODSIT CHURCH

A black and white portrait of Sir Vince Cable, a man with white hair and blue eyes, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a blue and white striped tie. He is smiling slightly. The background is a blurred indoor setting with a "Liberal Democrats" sign and a wall covered in text.

A former Leader of the Liberal Democrats, and MP for Twickenham for over two decades. As Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, he was central to banking reform, industrial strategy, and the privatisation of Royal Mail.

An economist by background, he worked for Shell as Chief Economist, and has advised the Commonwealth and World Bank. He has also held academic posts at the LSE and ODI, and chairs initiatives in green technology.

LEADER OF THE LIBERAL
DEMOCRATS 2017-2019

Sir Vince Cable

Nina Aouilk

ACTIVIST AND PODCASTER

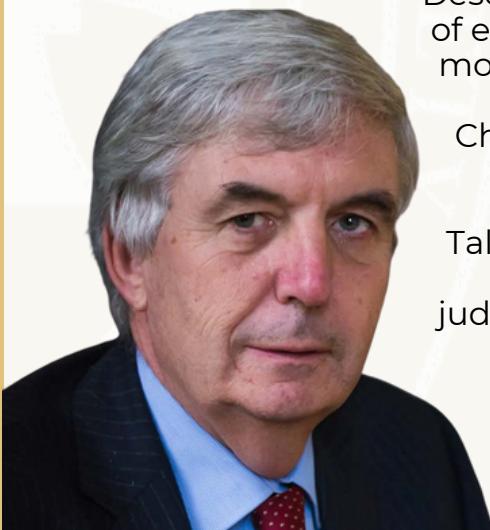
An award-winning activist, bestselling author, and speaker, whose journey from abuse, assault, and complex trauma from escaping an honour killing and a violent relationship, has shaped her into a leading expert in gender-based violence, cultural intelligence, and healing. Known best as London's Life Coach, she is also the co-founder of an organisation named End Honour Killings.



MONDAY 20TH OCTOBER
ELVET METHODIST CHURCH

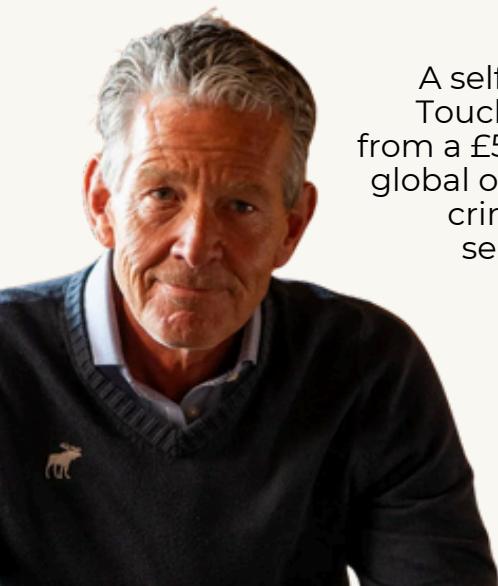
Christopher Jeans KC

RENOWNED EMPLOYMENT LAW BARRISTER



Described as “one of the all-time greats” of employment law, he has appeared in most of the leading employment cases in recent history. He is listed in the Chambers & Partners Bar 100, and has won the Chambers & Partners Employment Law Silk of the Year. Talking about whether we can truly be impartial, the politics within the judiciary, and drawing back the curtain on the inner workings of the Justice System.

MONDAY 27TH OCTOBER
ELVET METHODIST CHURCH



Riordan Maynard

FORMER BUSINESSMAN

A self-made entrepreneur and founder of Touchbase, a tech services firm that grew from a £5,000 startup into a highly respected global organisation. Convicted of tax-related criminal charges in the USA in 2019 and sentenced to 6½ years in a maximum-security federal prison.

Today, through Mindfort, he works with individuals and organisations to share his experiences and insights to help them navigate their own struggles.

TUESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER
ELVET METHODIST CHURCH

Olivia Atwood

TV PERSONALITY AND MODEL

A television personality and presenter who first rose to fame on Love Island in 2017. Since then, she has appeared on a number of reality TV shows, and has gone on to front her own investigative documentaries into online abuse, cosmetic surgery, modern beauty standards and the adult entertainment industry. In 2023, she joined ITV's Loose Women as a regular panellist.

TUESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER
ELVET METHODIST CHURCH



Lindsay Skoll CMG

UK AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA

The UK Ambassador to Austria and the UK's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Vienna. A career diplomat since 1996, she has served as High Commissioner to Seychelles, where she officiated the country's first same-sex marriage, and as Deputy Head of Mission in Moscow, where she spoke at the 2018 FIFA World Cup. Recently, she became the first woman to serve as Principal of Jesus College, Oxford.



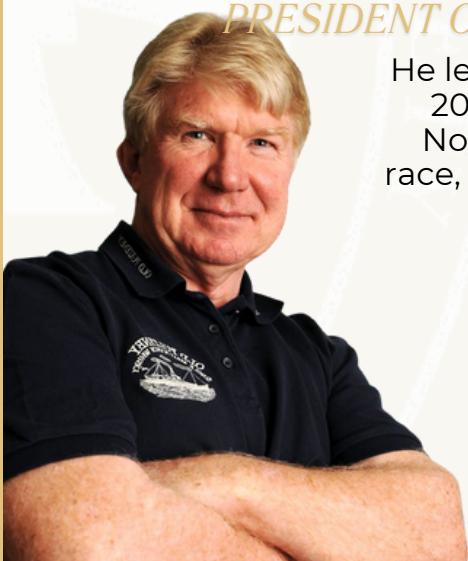
THURSDAY 27TH NOVEMBER
ELVET METHODIST CHURCH

Jock Wishart

MARITIME AND POLAR EXPLORER AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE DURHAM UNION SOCIETY

He led the Old Pulteney Row to the Pole in 2011, the first expedition to the Magnetic North Pole. He also co-founded the polar race, training novices to traverse the Arctic.

He circumnavigated the globe in a powered vessel in record time, rowed the Atlantic, and competed in America's Cup. In 2015 he set a Guinness World Record for organising the most northerly rugby match in the Arctic.



THURSDAY 4TH DECEMBER
ELVET METHODIST CHURCH

Joe Mayes

U.K. GOVERNMENT REPORTER AND ECONOMIC SPECIALIST FOR BLOOMBERG



A political reporter at Bloomberg News, where he covers British politics, government, and economic policy. A proud alumnus of the Durham Union Society and a keen debater, Joe has built a career at the heart of Westminster journalism. His reporting includes high-profile interviews with senior figures such as Rachel Reeves, Jeremy Hunt, Kwasi Kwarteng, Philip Hammond, and Norman Lamont.

**TUESDAY 9TH DECEMBER
ELVET METHODISTY CHURCH**



Treasurer's Treats

Woven
Gentlemen's Outfitters

10% in-store discount



20% off Tuesdays, 10%
off on other weekdays

Free pints for floor speech
winners

We've partnered with local businesses to deliver a revived outreach scheme that benefits both our members and our local businesses, returning unique offers to you and customers to our local community. More to come...

BRIGHT NETWORK

Making the right career choice is one of the most important decisions you'll make. Join the network of 1,300,000+ members and let us do the hard work for you.

Take your first step to a brighter future.



FSU

FREE SPEECH UNION

We would like to thank the Ian Mactaggart Programme for its support. Administered by the Free Speech Union, the Ian Mactaggart Programme was established to foster a culture of open debate, independent thinking and free expression among young people in the UK, especially students.

EST 1964
24 North Bailey Club
Student Bar & Gardens

READING ROOM HIRE

IN ADDITION TO BOOKING OUR WELL RENOWNED 24S BAR, WE OFFER THE OPPORTUNITY TO BOOK OUR READING ROOM. A FANTASTIC EVENTS VENUE FOR MEETINGS, EVENTS, RECEPTIONS, EVEN SMALLER GATHERINGS!

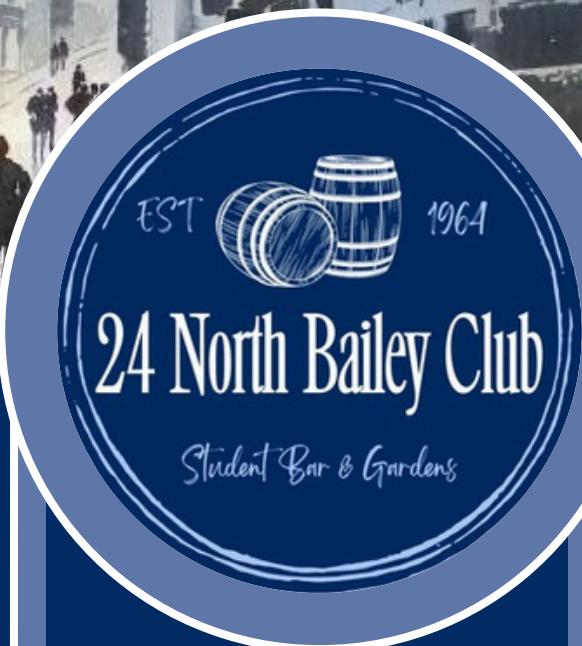
READING ROOM £35
HOURLY - MIN 2 HOURS



ABOUT US

The 24 North Bailey Club is at the heart of the Durham Union Society. It is home to our bar, adjoining Reading Room, and our office. Throughout the year we host an array of social events.

Open to all; a place where you can meet Union members, partake in our weekly Pub Quiz, or have a quiet pint.



PRIVATE BAR HIRE

**£350 DEPOSIT, £300
REFUNDABLE**

NO BOOKING FEE

**MON, TUES, THURS,
SUN**

FOR INQUIRIES CONTACT:
CUSTODIAN@DUS.ORG.UK

Socials



- 5TH OCT RETURNERS SOCIAL
- 8TH OCT FRESHERS MIXER
- 12TH OCT FRESHER BAR CRAWL
- 21ST OCT OKTOBERFEST
- 2ND NOV HALLOWEEN
- 2ND DEC CHRISTMAS CHARITY SOCIAL
- 8TH DEC OSCARS NIGHT



JOIN US AT 24S TO MEET THE TEAM, MAKE NEW FRIENDS, AND
DISCOVER WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER OVER DRINKS



OKTOBERFEST

.. 2025 ..



24S IST EINE
BIERHALLE!

- Bavarian Music
- Lederhosen
- Ticked - on FIXR

20TH OCTOBER

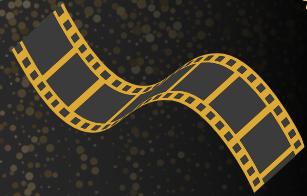
Ugly Christmas jumper social

2nd of December

24's reading room

All money raised goes
to centrepoint charity
for the homeless





The Durham Union Welcomes you to Celebrate

THE UNION AWARDS 2025

Categories:



RISING STAR AWARD
2025



BEHIND-THE-SCENES HERO
2025



SILLIEST FRESH
2025



THE WALKING
CONSTITUTION
2025

*With many more
Awards to come...*

Join us...



...on the 8th of December celebrate
debate heroes to bar regulars
with wit, glamour, and a touch of
chaos



BLACK TIE • PAPARAZZI • AWARDS



OUR PREVIOUS BALLS

PAST ENTERTAINMENT:

FIRE BREATHERS	CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION
BALLET DANCERS	POKER, ROULETTE
JAZZ PERFORMERS	AND BLACKJACK
CARICATURISTS	TABLES
LIVE MUSIC	EXOTIC ANIMALS

PAST LOCATIONS:

BEAMISH HALL
VERMONT HOTEL
LUMLEY CASTLE
DURHAM MASONIC HALL
HARDWICK HALL

For details about this terms ball check out @thedurhamunionball on Instagram



The Durham Union
Presents



THE
MASQUERADE
ball

25TH NOVEMBER 2025
WYNYARD HALL

BLACK TIE - 3 COURSE MEAL - WELCOME DRINKS
RAFFLE - CASINO TABLES - LIVE MUSIC

and more to come...

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<i>Week 1</i>		Debate Taster Session 7pm	General Committee 2pm
<i>Week 2</i>		Rufus Rice Address 8:30pm	
<i>Week 3</i>	Nina Aouilk Address 8:30pm	Oktoberfest Social 8:30pm	General Committee 2pm
<i>Week 4</i>	Chris Jeans KC Address 8:30pm		
<i>Week 5</i>			Novice Cup Final 2pm
<i>Week 6</i>		Maynard Address 8:30pm	
<i>Week 7</i>		Olivia Atwood Address 8:30pm	General Committee (Photos) 2pm
<i>Week 8</i>		Masquerade Ball 6pm	
<i>Week 9</i>		Charity Christmas Social 8:30pm	General Committee 2pm
<i>Week 10</i>	Oscar's Night 8pm	Joe Mayes Address 8:30pm	

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	Confidence Debate 9:00pm		Fresher's Bar Crawl 8pm
	War Criminals Debate 8:30pm		
Debating Skills Workshop 2pm	Surveillance Debate 8:30pm	Professional Headshots 1pm	
		Cambridge Intervarsity 6pm	Halloween Social 8pm
	Christianity Debate 8:30pm		
Sir Vince Cable Address 8:30pm	Multiculturalism Debate 8:30pm		
Postliberalism Conference 10am-5pm	Redistribution Debate 8:30pm		
Lindsay Skoll Address 8:30pm	Revolutions Debate 8:30pm		
Jock Wishart Address 8:30pm	UK/EU/US Debate 8:30pm		

Welfare Officer's Office Hours
Tuesday 2pm-4pm

Open Spar Debate Practice
Thursday 7pm

President's Office Hours (Drop in)
Saturday 1pm-3 pm



DURHAM DEBATING

Step Up to the Podium!

Whether you have never debated before or are a seasoned pro, there's a place for you!

We offer tailored training programmes, world-class coaches, and the ability to compete across the world! If you enjoy travelling, themed socials, and a cheeky debate between friends, Durham Debate could be the place for you.

Do you want the chance to compete alongside Durham's top debaters?

Follow us here for weekly room details



➤ See you at training! ⇐



Novice Debate Training
Monday | 7pm

General Debate Training
Tuesday | 7pm

Open Spar
Thursday | 7pm

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

Bogwall Debate Competition
Novice competition hosted in Glasgow!

Cambridge IV Competition
Intervarsity hosted in Cambridge with the best and brightest!

Manchester Novices
Novice competition hosted in Manchester!

Annual Intervarsity: Cambridge

'THW Rather Be Nice than Right'

A unique chance to head down to Cambridge and watch the best and brightest debate in the historic CUS chamber. Join our friends from Oxford, Cambridge, and Trinity to debate, dine and drink - then enjoy a great night out afterwards!

Key Details:

- Saturday 1st November
- Travel is self-arranged
- Limited accommodation can be provided by CUS



Watch the best
Debaters in Britain

DEBATING SKILLS WORKSHOP

24s Reading Room | 23rd October at 2pm



Although often daunting to begin, debating and persuasive speaking offer a wealth of transferable skills that apply to a variety of career paths.

Our free workshop aims to provide a soft introduction to 'Union-style debating' - a more accessible and beginner-friendly debating format you'll see in action at every Union debate.

This is a great way to prepare yourself for a variety of undertakings, be that moots, mock trials, speeches, interviews, or even debating at the Union itself!

GET INVOLVED

Movember is a global movement and foundation that raises awareness for both mental and physical health for men.

At DUS, we will be holding many fundraising initiatives throughout Movember, such as a bake sale and charity karaoke night in 24s!

THE TARGETS



- £50 - Presidential Leg Waxing
- £150 - Temporary Hair Dye
- £300 - Officer Beer / Milk Mile
- £500 - Walk to Newcastle
- £1000 - Standing Committee Group Forfeit

OUTREACH

SCHOOLS – CHARITY – LOCAL STUDENTS

Our work with schools

Hosted and arranged yearly by our fantastic Debating Officers, we welcome students from schools across the country. Students compete in a huge range of motions, on topics ranging from politics, philosophy, film, and pop culture, providing a gateway to professional debating



Charitable initiatives

As a charitable organisation ourselves, we ensure that we give back to the local community. From a 24-hour debate raising money for a local foodbank, a Movember fundraiser (fees included), or socials where all proceeds go to local charities, we have a history of community spirit and charity.

How we work with local students

Every year we welcome local students into both the DUS and Durham itself to show them Uni life, give them application advice, and most importantly, show them the importance and appeal of debate! We invite students to our Friday-night debates to highlight the importance of open discussion, free speech, and robust debate.





NOVICE CUP

DEBATE FOR YOUR COLLEGE

The Novice Cup is Durham's biggest inter-collegiate debating competition, aimed at encouraging beginner debaters. Join your college's team to build your debating skills and compete for a cash prize of £250.

Key Dates:

Nominations Open: 17th October

Debating Skills Workshop: 23rd October

Nominations Close: 24th October

Round of 16: 27th October

Quarter Final: 29th October

Semi Final: 3rd November

Final: 5th November

Venues & Times To Be Announced...



In addition to the prize money for the winning team, the novice cup is a physical trophy which is awarded to the winning college for the duration of the academic year.

Current Champion
Van Mildert College





Professional Headshots

At the Durham Union, we're committed to setting our members up for success, which is why we're offering professional headshots entirely for free!

**Join us | 25th October
1pm**

What they can do for you

Whether for LinkedIn, a cover letter, or a personal profile, a professional photo is a simple yet powerful tool to help you stand out from the crowd, present yourself with confidence, and make a lasting first impression on future employers or colleagues.



POST-LIBERALISM ACADEMIC CONFERENCE

the
**DURHAM
UNION**

Elvet Methodist Church | 10am-5pm | November 20th

Join field leading academics in debates, talks and discussions on whether:

'This House Believes Postliberalism Is A Dead End'

A rare opportunity for students to get involved in high-level academic discussion on a newly emerging research topic free of charge.

Join the leading academics, many of whom are publishing ground-breaking research on Postliberalism later this year. There will be signed copies of their works available, complimentary food and drink, and free copies of books and research papers kindly supplied by the Institute for Economic Affairs.

Prof Paul Kelly • Prof Adrian Pabst • Oliver Willmott • Prof John Milbank

OUR WORKSHOPS

—What we've run before—

Last year, we ran our **Westminster Workshop** to help demystify SW1 for members. It was run by the Chief of Staff to a former Defence Minister, and the Director of Research and Education at the Adam Smith Institute. It offered a great chance to understand how to gain experience in Parliament, what they are looking for, and what working there is like.

—Journalism Workshop—

This term's workshop is kindly led by Tim Luckhurst, Principal of South College and Professor of Journalism. Before becoming an academic, he was an accomplished journalist, having served as Editor of The Scotsman, and as National News Editor for BBC Scotland. He has also contributed to half a dozen newspapers, and even made a submission to the Leveson Inquiry.

This workshop offers the chance to hear Prof. Luckhurst's insights from his career in national media, editorial leadership, and academia, highlighting journalism's challenges, changing landscape, and the importance of responsible reporting. He will also provide insights into how to break into the industry, and what employers are looking for.



Prof. Tim Luckhurst

Former Editor of The Scotsman

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion At The DUS

OUR COMMITMENTS

- An open environment free from prejudice or discrimination
- Removing barriers so all can engage fully
- Transparent, fair, and trusted governance
- Stronger ties with the wider student body and the local community

Our Insta



Who you can talk to:



- Robbie Bono
- 3rd Year
- Economics
- St. Cuthberts

To find out more:

See our EDI plan online
or email:
equalities@dus.org.uk



- Milli Hargreaves
- 2nd Year
- PPE
- Van Mildert

To get in touch:

welfare@dus.org.uk
In-person (see timetable)

'Hi, I'm Robbie, I believe the Union is at its best when people from all walks of life feel confident to join in and share their views. Diversity, equity, and inclusion aren't just nice ideals - they're what make our debates richer, more representative, and more relevant to the world we live in today. We've made real progress, but there's still plenty more to do.'

'Hi, I'm Milli, as Welfare Officer, I'm your first point of contact for any issues within the society. Regardless of whether it's solved internally, or you're seeking support in taking one further, no problem is too big or too small. Regardless of your level of involvement in the Union, welfare is always here to support you.'

—♦— ALUMNI OPPORTUNITIES —♦—

Mentorship Scheme

Our yearly mentorship scheme pairs our prestigious alumni with our student members. With mentors from Parliament, investment banks, top law firms, and more, we offer the chance to meet, work with, and learn from professionals.

From CV feedback and shadowing opportunities, to simply hearing from someone in a field you want to pursue, our mentorship scheme offers real value to students looking to break into competitive careers.



Career workshops

Our career workshops and networking events give our members' the opportunity to learn from field leaders, gain crucial insights into industry, boost their employability, and help kick start their careers.



OUR COMMITTEES

To keep a student charity as big as the Union running, we rely on our fantastic Committee members. As a Committee Member you'll get lots of extra perks like cheaper tickets for dining with our speakers, access to the reading room for a chat with them after our events, and points towards living in 24s.



General Committee



Secretary's Committee



Equalities Committee



House Committee



Social Committee



Debates Committee

At the start of term, there will be elections for our House, Social, Secretary's and Equalities Committees...

The Secretary's Committee:

Helps the Secretary in promoting the DUS in-person and on social media, and in representing our members within their respective colleges.

The Equalities Committee:

Helps to elevate minority voices within our society and ensure the full diversity of our student body is represented.

The House Committee:

In charge of hospitality, preparing venues for Union events, and managing the post-event drinks receptions.

The Social Committee:

Plans, organises, and executes our social events, including our wonderful balls.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The Important Dates

Committee elections are coming up soon! Nominations for House and Social Committees open on **Monday 6th October** and close on **Saturday 11th**. Voting for these roles will begin at **6pm on Saturday 11th** and will stay open for 24 hours.

The following week, nominations will open for the Equalities and Secretary's Committees, running from **Monday 13th** to **Saturday 20th**, with voting again opening at **6pm on Saturday 20th** for 24 hours.

Ahead of the elections we will put out a reminder on our Instagram about nominations opening. These elections are open to everyone and voting will be done online by all members of the society

What applying looks like

To apply, you'll need to submit a 100-word manifesto as to why you'd be a good fit for the committee you'd like to join. This can include previous experiences, any skills you think would come in handy, and what sets you apart from other people running for the role.

As well as the benefits it gives within the DUS, joining a committee is a great way to get more involved in the Union, make new friends, and even line your CV.

MEET THE OFFICERS

STANDING COMMITTEE



President

CALLUM OXLEY
TREVELYAN COLLEGE
president@dus.org.uk



Secretary

ANGEL ELLIS
HATFIELD COLLEGE
secretary@dus.org.uk



Treasurer

MOLLY PURCELL
STEPHENSON COLLEGE
treasurer@dus.org.uk



Custodian

ADAM MCINTYRE
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
custodian@dus.org.uk



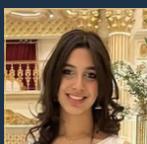
Social Secretary

DARCY DUHRA
ST AIDAN'S COLLEGE
social@dus.org.uk



Publicity Officer

WILL PUGH
SOUTH COLLEGE
publicity@dus.org.uk



Director of Debating

HAYA CHAUDHRI
JOSEPHINE BUTLER
debating@dus.org.uk



Equalities Officer

ROBBIE BONO
ST CUTHBERT'S SOCIETY
equalities@dus.org.uk



Debating Treasurer

VACANT
TO BE ELECTED
debating.treasurer@dus.org.uk



President-Elect

JOSHUA DOHERTY
STEPHENSON COLLEGE
president.elect@dus.org.uk

JUNIOR OFFICERS



Returning Officer

RYAN WILMOT-SIMMONS
ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
returningofficer@dus.org.uk



Alumni Officer

OLIVER HUGHES
STEPHENSON COLLEGE
alumni@dus.org.uk



Outreach Officer

KATHERINE THOMPSON
SOUTH COLLEGE
outreach@dus.org.uk



Tech Officer

EDWARD TYE
GREY COLLEGE
tech@dus.org.uk



Assistant Secretary
DANIEL ANBINDER
TREVELYAN COLLEGE
secretary.assistant@dus.org.uk



Steward
HENRY HAWES
STEPHENSON COLLEGE
steward@dus.org.uk



Assistant Custodian
DAVID PEGLER
ST AIDAN'S COLLEGE
custodian.assistant@dus.org.uk



Sponsorship Officer
PIA COMER
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
sponsorship@dus.org.uk



Dep. Publicity Officer
RUNDONG YU
TREVELYAN COLLEGE
deputy.publicity@dus.org.uk



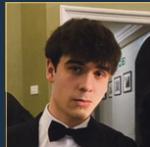
Speakers Secretary
HENRY HAWES
STEPHENSON COLLEGE
speakers.michaelmas@dus.org.uk



Dep. Tech Officer
RIMJHIM JAYASWAL (MJ)
STEPHENSON COLLEGE
tech.deputy@dus.org.uk



Welfare Officer
MILLI HARGREAVES
VAN MILDERT COLLEGE
welfare@dus.org.uk



Debate Training Secretary
CALLUM HENDRY
ST CHAD'S COLLEGE
training@dus.org.uk



President Emeritus
N/A



Competitions Secretary
SUJAAN KOCHHAR
ST AIDAN'S COLLEGE
competitions@dus.org.uk



Competitions Secretary
LOUISE BROWN
ST HILD & ST BEDE
competitions@dus.org.uk



Debating Equity Officer
NICOLE ALEXANDER
ST HILD & ST BEDE
equityandwelfare@dus.org.uk



Debating Equity Officer
YULIA WOLCZUK
ST CHAD'S COLLEGE
equityandwelfare@dus.org.uk



Ball Chair
VACANT
TO BE ELECTED
ball.chair@dus.org.uk



Speakers Secretary-Elect
MOLLY PURCELL
STEPHENSON COLLEGE
speakers.epiphany@dus.org.uk

————— JUNIOR OFFICERS —————



PRESIDENT'S THANKS



Thank you for reading the Michaelmas 2025 Term Card. This term is the culmination of thousands of hours of tireless work, and could not have been achieved without the help of everyone at the DUS. That said, special thanks are owed to the following for their exceptional help in the planning of this term, and in supporting me from my first day in this society.

Maddy Frank - Still a silly fresh if ever I've met one. You have stood by my side since the beginning, and we both know I wouldn't be here if not for you. You're a truly special friend who has supported me all the way. I will always appreciate that you'll never refrain from telling me when I'm wrong. I will always be grateful for you, and I look forward to another term of shenanigans, late night debriefs, and coffees you'll inevitably arrive an hour late to.

Josh Brookin - My right hand man, partner in crime, and friend for life. We made this journey together from our first Gencomm to the Presidential announcement. Your humour, wit, fashion, and friendship means more than I could ever express. Here's to many more years of mischief. You'll make a spectacular SPAD.

Henry Hawes - The ultimate good bloke. This term would not be a reality without you. Over a thousand emails between us, this term is as much a testament to you as it is me. You'll be an asset in the City.

Anna Beskhmelnitskaya - You're the reason I am even President. If you hadn't convinced me to run for election I wouldn't be where I am. You have stuck by my side through thick and thin, the kind of friend others dream to have. Coming back from retirement to help make my dream term card means the world to me. Thank you truly.

Will Pugh - Thank you for all your work on the publicity drive, going through innumerable outtakes, and dealing with my lack of stylistic ability. This freshers drive and term card wouldn't be the same without you.

Molly Purcell - My deputy, trusted confidant, and true friend. You have kept me sane this last year, and made sure I don't bankrupt the Union. I've no doubt you'll succeed in whatever you put your mind to.

Angel Ellis - To my protégé and close friend, I have learnt as much from you as I hope you have from me. Your tireless dedication to this society and your friends is truly admirable. I know that you will make an exceptional lawyer.

Adam McIntyre and **Ryan Wilmott-Simmons** - Only you two know how much I owe you both. You have been such great friends, and for the countless hours we've spent writing, drafting, and re-drafting amendments, I can only say thank you. We have certainly left our mark, and you will both go on to do great things, I'm sure of it.

Nicola, Ashleigh, Phil, Alma - The unsung heroes of DUS. You do more than any of us and rarely get a thanks. Thank you for all you do for this society, and for all of us in it.

Robbie Bono - Your work as Equalities Officer has been unparalleled. I am proud of all we have been able to do together to better the Union and set it on the right path. Thank you for your years of friendship.

Darcy Duhra - Thank you for making my dream ball a reality, you have already outdone yourself before this term has even begun.

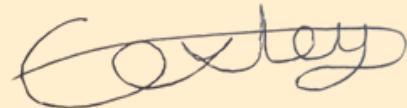
Haya Chaudhri - Perhaps the nicest person I've ever met, you have been nothing but supportive. Debate couldn't ask for a better Director!

Katherine for your tireless work on the Surveillance debate, and your creativity in helping design Movember. **Edward** for revolutionising our YouTube and securing new tech equipment. **Milli** for being such a kind person, and for being the best Welfare Officer we have had. **Oliver** for your dedicated work on the alumni dinner and mentorship scheme. I am glad it is you carrying the torch of Alumni Officer.

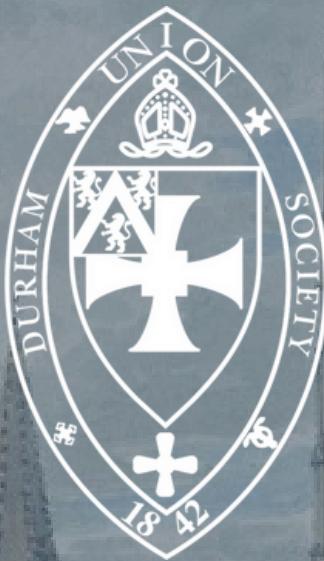
Past Presidents - **Theo Osborn, Matthew Brooker, Jerry Li, Reece Short**, you have all taught me so much, and I could not be here without all your guidance. I truly am stood on the shoulders of giants.

William Rome - a special thanks to you. It was your term which made me want to be President, and I am eternally grateful, and indebted for your help and advice these past months.

Joshua Doherty - to my successor, and dear friend, I could not feel more confident leaving the Union in your hands. You will make a remarkable President.



CALLUM OXLEY
TREVELYAN COLLEGE
PRESIDENT | MICHAELMAS 2025



Free Speech since 1842