

*President - Joshua Doherty*

# *the* DURHAM UNION

EPIPHANY 2026



# 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 principal 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!



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*... will you dare to join the debate?*

I	PRESIDENT'S WELCOME	3
II	DEBATES	5
III	OPPORTUNITIES	21
IV	SPEAKERS	23
V	SPONSORS & PROMOTIONS	32
VI	SOCIALS	35
VII	TERM CALENDAR	41
VIII	DURHAM DEBATING	43
IX	OUTREACH	45
X	EQUALITIES AND WELFARE	46
XI	ALUMNI	47
XII	HOW TO GET INVOLVED	48
XIII	MEET THE OFFICERS	49



# *President's Welcome*

*President Joshua Doherty*

Welcome back to the Durham Union Society! After what I hope was a restful and merry Christmas break for all, we must now return to Durham to kick 2026 off with a bang! I cannot wait to share with you all the events we have planned for this term, none of which could be possible if not for the fantastic team I have around me.

Epiphany Term in Durham is a real kaleidoscope of experiences. Freshers have settled in, the weather begins to improve, and summative deadlines loom on the horizon. It was Epiphany term last year when I got truly involved in the DUS. I would urge as many of you as possible to do the same.

It is this term that also marks the end of an era in the DUS. Fortunately, we shall be returning to our Debating Chamber in the Pemberton Building next term, and as such these are our last events outside of the Chamber...

That being said, I have made sure Epiphany Term 2026 is one to remember at the DUS! With a mixture of classic and topical debates, engaging and informative addresses, and electrifying socials, there is something for everyone at the Durham Union this term.

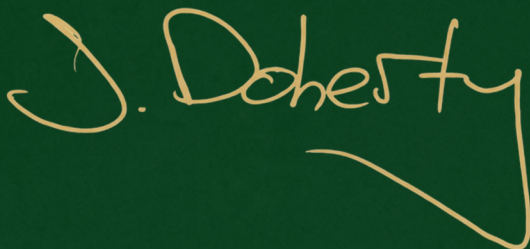


We will be starting the term by debating the future of Britain's politics and closing with a student-only debate as a glorious send off to Epiphany 2026! However, please do remember that your DUS membership doesn't just include our Friday night debates; we have everything from addresses with world leaders and international athletes, to glamorous black-tie balls and chicken-chase socials, to alumni mentorship programs and so much more!

The best part about the Durham Union (in my humble opinion) has to be the diversity of its events, members, and experiences. I have made memories I will cherish for life, and friends that I hope to recollect those memories with in 50 years time.

The DUS is a special place, and I hope you all think that too. We have events for everyone this term, so I hope to see each and every one of you at some point. Remember to say hello if we're passing on the way to the Billy B, or let me pour you a pint in 24s at our Monday Pub Quiz.

Céad Míle Fáilte to you all, and I hope you enjoy Epiphany term at the Union.



JOSHUA DOHERTY  
STEPHENSON COLLEGE  
PRESIDENT | EPIPHANY 2026

# Debates

This House Believes Britain's  
Future does not lie with Labour  
or the Conservatives

*Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January*

This House Would  
Legalise Assisted Dying

*Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January*

This House Would  
Leave the ECHR

*Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February*

This House Believes Free  
Speech is Dead

*Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February*

*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 Regrets the  
Commercialisation of Feminism

*Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March*

This House Regrets the Creation  
of the Northern Irish State

*Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March*

This House Would Rather have  
gone to Oxbridge

*Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March*

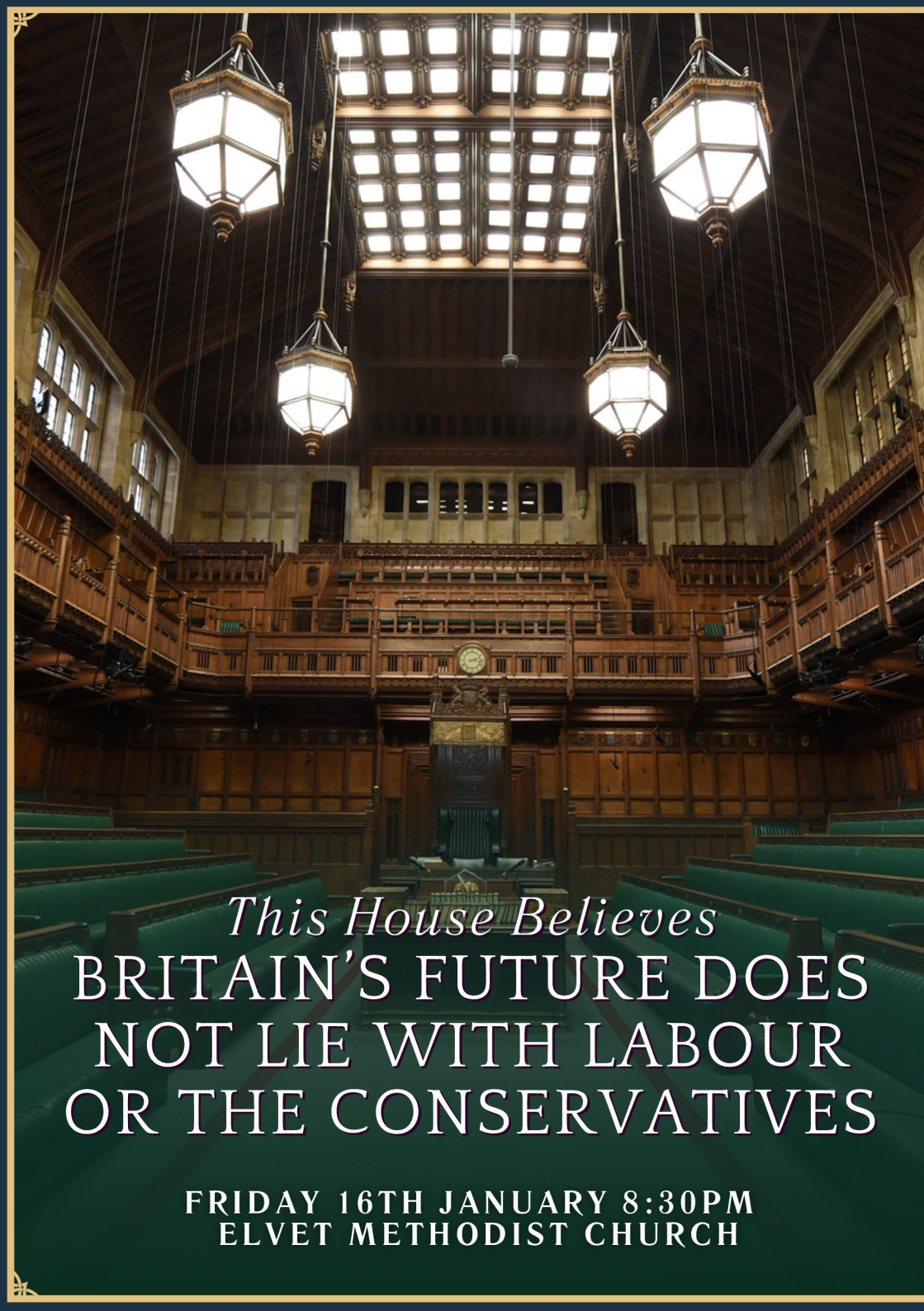


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**THE IAN MACTAGGART PROGRAMME**  
OPEN DEBATE. INDEPENDENT THINKING. FREE EXPRESSION



**FSU**  
FREE SPEECH UNION



*This House Believes*  
BRITAIN'S FUTURE DOES  
NOT LIE WITH LABOUR  
OR THE CONSERVATIVES

FRIDAY 16TH JANUARY 8:30PM  
ELVET METHODIST CHURCH

# PROPOSITION

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## JONATHAN ELMER

A Green Party County Councillor representing the Brandon area in Durham County, Jonathan is also the party's National Spokesperson for Nature.



## JAMIE DRISCOLL

A independent politician and past Mayor of the North of Tyne, Jamie has previously served as a Newcastle city councillor. Leaving the Labour party in 2023, he remains a prominent advocate for regional devolution.



## SPEAKER TBC

This speaker is yet to be confirmed.



## STUDENT SPEAKER

Open to Applications:  
[dus.org.uk/speak-in-a-debate](https://dus.org.uk/speak-in-a-debate)

# OPPOSITION

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## ROWAN REE

A Labour politician and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Reform at Hammersmith & Fulham Council. Formerly an economist at the Bank of England, Rowan has represented the Coningham ward as a local councillor since 2018.



## WILL CALVERLEY

A Conservative politician and City Councillor for the Tiptree Ward in Colchester, Essex. Will acts as a prominent local voice on matters of regional development and community infrastructure.



## GEORGE CARTER

A Durham alumnus who has served as an advisor for Durham University and is currently Chief Finance Officer for Durham Cathedral. George has also previously stood for Parliament as a Conservative.



## SIR EDWARD LEIGH

A Conservative politician and the Member of Parliament for Gainsborough. Formerly a barrister at the Inner Temple, he has served in the House of Commons since 1983 and is currently the Father of the House.



**YES TO CHOICE.**

**CAMPAIGN FOR DIGNITY IN DYING.**

For my lovely mum Rita



**CAMPAIGN FOR DIGNITY IN DYING.**

**TO CHOICE FOR DYING PEOPLE**

**CAMPAIGN FOR DIGNITY IN DYING**

**VOTE YES TO ASSISTED DYING.**

**VOTE FOR DIGNITY IN DYING.**

**legalise assisted dying and**

**MY LIFE MY CHOICE MY DEATH MY CHOICE**

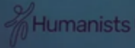
**FREEDOM OF CHOICE**

**VOTE YES TO ASSISTED DYING.**

**VOTE FOR DIGNITY**

**VOTE FOR THE LEADBEATER**

*This House Would*  
**LEGALISE ASSISTED DYING**



**FRIDAY 23RD JANUARY 8:30PM  
ST. OSWALD'S CHURCH**

# PROPOSITION

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## ALEX NEIL

Alex Neil is a Liberal Democrat politician and a County Councillor for Durham, representing the Langley Park & Esh ward. He is an active member of the County Planning Committee and a prominent advocate for local children and young people's services.



## SEAN MUTISO

Sean Mutiso is a professional currently serving as case officer for the Nursing and Midwifery Council. He also holds a Law LLB from Coventry University.



## STUDENT SPEAKER

Open to Applications: [dus.org.uk/speak-in-a-debate](http://dus.org.uk/speak-in-a-debate)

# OPPOSITION

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## FR. HUGH MACKENZIE

A Catholic priest and Chaplain at Westminster Cathedral, he also serves as a chaplain to St John's Hospice. Hugh is a former philosophy lecturer at Allen Hall.



## PETER LADD

Head of Content at Christian Action Research and Education. Peter oversees the organisation's messaging and regularly publishes articles, and studied Classics and Theology at Oxford University.



## KEVIN YUILL

Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Sunderland and founder of the online journal Spiked. Kevin is currently CEO of Humanists Against Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia.



*This House Would*  
**LEAVE THE ECHR**

**FRIDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 8:30PM  
ELVET METHODIST CHURCH**



# PROPOSITION

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## 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. Lord Lilley is a long-standing Eurosceptic and was a leading voice in the Brexit campaign.



## SHAILESH VARA

A Conservative politician and former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. He served as the Member of Parliament for North West Cambridgeshire from 2005 until 2024 and held ministerial posts in both the Ministry of Justice and the Department for Work and Pensions.



## MARK LITTLEWOOD

Former Director General of the Institute of Economic Affairs and a prominent free-market commentator. Originally a Liberal Democrat spokesperson, he became a leading voice in public policy and economic reform, and now serves as Director of the organisation 'Popular Conservatism'.

# OPPOSITION

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## JENNIFER NADEL

A journalist, author, and the Co-Director of Compassion in Politics, a cross-party think tank. Formerly the Home Affairs Editor at ITV News, she has been a prominent advocate for integrating compassion into public policy.



## AKUA REINDORF KC

A King's Counsel barrister, Akua specialises in employment, discrimination and human rights law. She was awarded 'The Legal Business Awards' Barrister of the Year in 2023 and is a Senior Visiting Fellow at LSE's Law School.



## ANGEL ELLIS

Angel Ellis is a Second Year Law Student at Hatfield College. Angel is also a former Secretary of the Durham Union Society, but he can still be found haunting the Reading Room - particularly when there's good wine out.





# PROPOSITION

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## TILLY MIDDLEHURST

A political commentator and student activist. An undergraduate reading Human, Social, and Political Sciences at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, she gained international prominence for her viral debate performance against Charlie Kirk at the Cambridge Union.



## CALLUM OXLEY

Callum is a former Michaelmas President of the Durham Union Society. He is a third-year student at Trevelyan College studying Politics. As President Emeritus of the DUS, he is a strong advocate for the importance of free speech.



## SHOZAB MAJEED

Currently serving as a Consultant for the World Bank, he is an international law and public policy professional with experience across government and international institutions. Shozab was previously Director of International Law at the Government of Pakistan's Ministry of Defence, and co-founded the Global Peace Summit.

# OPPOSITION

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## VINAY KAPOOR

Vinay is the Education and Engagements officer of the Free Speech Union. During his time at Warwick University, he founded Warwick Speakeasy as a place for speakers and students to debate ideas freely and in good faith.



## ANDREW LUCAS

Andrew is a second-year law student from St Chad's College. He is a former member of the Durham Union's Secretary Committee and serves as the Inns of Court Liaison Officer of the Durham University Bar Society.



## FINLEY HARNETT

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.





*This House Regrets*  
THE  
COMMERCIALISATION  
OF FEMINISM

FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 8:30PM  
ELVET METHODIST CHURCH

# PROPOSITION

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## NATASHA WALTER

A journalist, author, and the founder of the charity Women for Refugee Women. Formerly a columnist for The Guardian and The Independent, she is a prominent voice on feminism and human rights.



## TILLY YOUNG

Tilly Young is a Second Year French and Italian Student from St John's College. She is a member of the Union's Social Committee. Her policy preferences are based on economic concepts of economic 'common sense' and Institutional Transparency.



## SPEAKER TBC

This speaker is yet to be confirmed.

# OPPOSITION

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## CAMILLA TOMINEY

A journalist, broadcaster, and the Associate Editor of The Daily Telegraph. She serves as a prominent commentator on British politics and the Royal Family, and is a regular presenter on GB News.



## SPEAKER TBC

This speaker is yet to be confirmed.



## STUDENT SPEAKER

Open to Applications: [dus.org.uk/speak-in-a-debate](https://dus.org.uk/speak-in-a-debate).



FRIDAY 13TH MARCH 8:30PM  
ST. OSWALD'S CHURCH



*This House Regrets*  
THE CREATION OF THE  
NORTHERN IRISH STATE

# PROPOSITION

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## JOSHUA DOHERTY

Joshua is the current Durham Union President and is a second-year Law student at Stephenson College. When not on DUS business, he is also the head of Durham's Gaelic Football Society and the proud owner of an Irish passport. He doesn't mention it much.



## DEREK MOONEY

A Fianna Fáil political strategist and communications consultant. He served as a senior programme manager and special adviser to the Irish Government for six years before becoming a prominent columnist and speechwriter on Irish and Northern Irish politics.



## SPEAKER TBC

This speaker is yet to be confirmed.

# OPPOSITION

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## BEN HUTHWAITE

Ben is a fourth year Economics student at Stephenson College. He is Social Mobility Representative at DUS and Director of the Durham Diplomatic Society. Half Irish, he maintains that the last he checked, his Irish passport was 'in the post'...



## SEAN SMITH

Sean Smith is a second year History and Politics student at South College, Durham. Sean has served on the Durham Union's House Committee, and currently is the Secretary of the Durham University Conservative and Unionist Society.

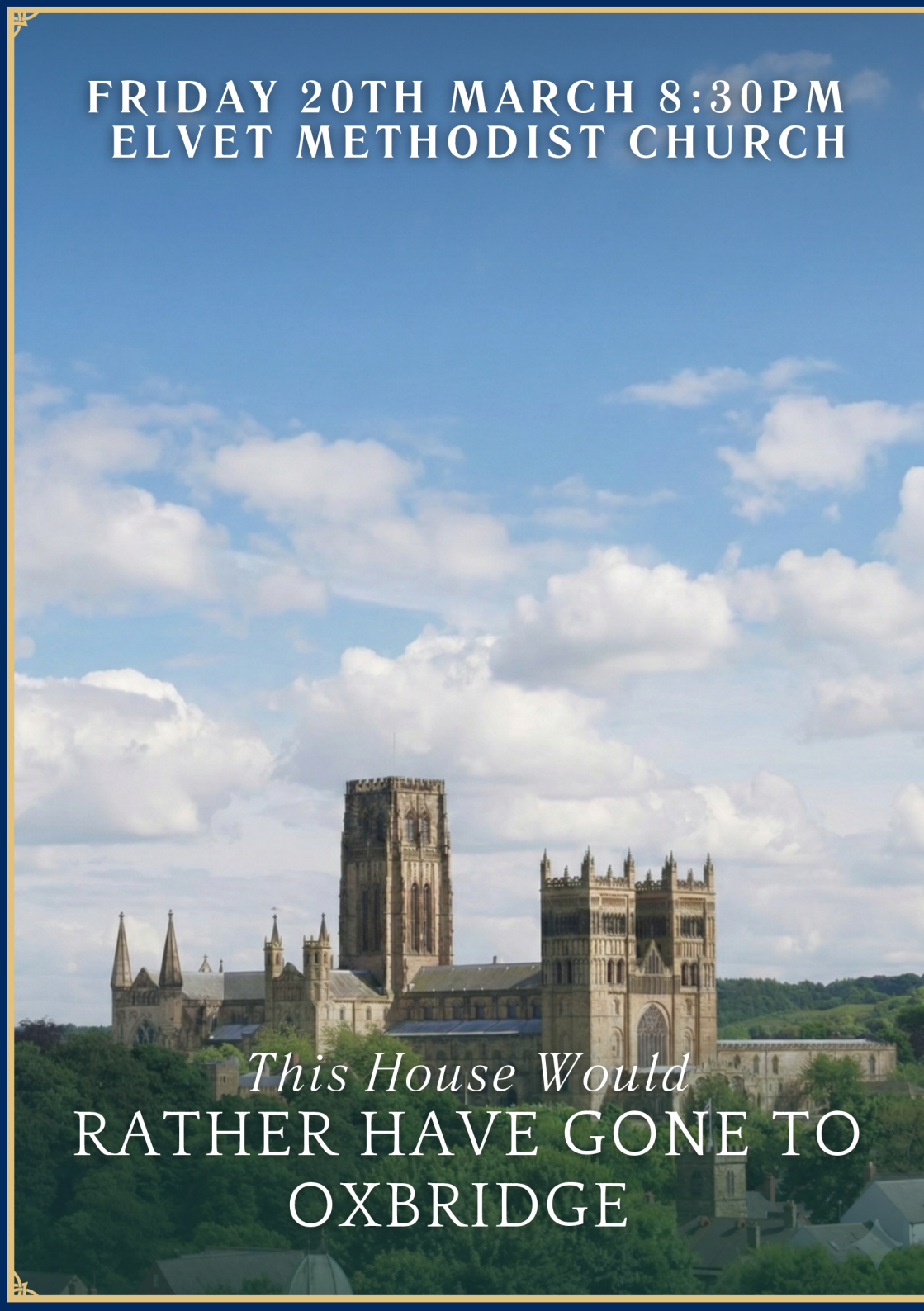


## SPEAKER TBC

This speaker is yet to be confirmed.



FRIDAY 20TH MARCH 8:30PM  
ELVET METHODIST CHURCH



*This House Would*  
RATHER HAVE GONE TO  
OXBRIDGE

# STUDENT SPEAKER DEBATE

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*This motion will be tackled exclusively by Durham students - it is an excellent opportunity for those who haven't spoken before, or maybe who haven't even considered it, to throw their hat into the ring!*

*Are you a seasoned debater? Do you have an opinion on this motion? Or are you just someone who feels that they have something to say? We welcome you to apply for a position on this, the last debate of Epiphany term!*



STUDENT SPEAKER

[dus.org.uk/speak-in-a-debate](https://dus.org.uk/speak-in-a-debate)

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STUDENT SPEAKER

[dus.org.uk/speak-in-a-debate](https://dus.org.uk/speak-in-a-debate)

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STUDENT SPEAKER

[dus.org.uk/speak-in-a-debate](https://dus.org.uk/speak-in-a-debate)

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# 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!



## *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 at 24s 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. Inquire at: [info@dus.org.uk](mailto:info@dus.org.uk)

## *One Membership, 5 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, St Andrews, 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.



ST  
ANDREWS  
'UDS'



OXFORD  
UNION



CAMBRIDGE  
UNION



'THE HIST'  
TCD



'THE PHIL'  
TCD

WILL GREENWOOD  
*Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January*

YOUNES SADAGHIANI  
*Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January*

EVA CLARKE  
*Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February*

PETER BLEKSLEY  
*Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February*

PROFESSOR YARON BROOK  
*Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March*

LEO VARADKAR  
*Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March*

ILISHA MASUAN  
*Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March*

MARISSA LINTON  
*Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March*

RAPHAEL ROWE  
*Date TBC*

# Speakers

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 The Durham Union Society's 24 North Bailey Club.

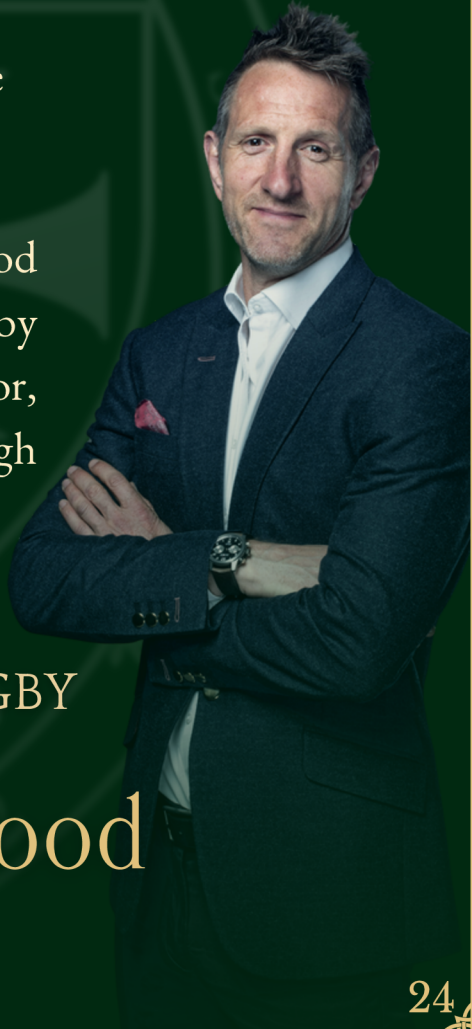
# WEDNESDAY 21ST JANUARY ELVET METHODIST CHURCH



A former England international rugby union player and World Cup winner, he was a key member of the England team that won the 2003 Rugby World Cup.

Playing primarily at centre, he was known for his intelligence, versatility, and leadership on the field.

Since retiring, Will Greenwood has become a prominent rugby pundit and media commentator, contributing to the sport through broadcasting and analysis.



FORMER ENGLISH RUGBY  
UNION PLAYER

# Will Greenwood

# MONDAY 9TH FEBRUARY ELVET METHODIST CHURCH



A Holocaust survivor born in the Mauthausen concentration camp in 1945, she is one of the youngest known survivors of the Nazi camps. The daughter of parents who survived Auschwitz, her earliest days were shaped by persecution and loss.

She is well known for her work as an educator and speaker with the Holocaust Educational Trust, sharing her family's story to promote remembrance, tolerance, and historical understanding.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR  
AND EDUCATOR

Eva Clarke



# THURSDAY MARCH 5TH ELVET METHODIST CHURCH



A former Taoiseach who served multiple terms as head of government and leader of Fine Gael, as well as Tánaiste, playing a central role in Irish politics over several decades



His ministerial career spans Health, Social Protection, Transport, Tourism & Sport, and Enterprise, where he was closely involved in shaping Ireland's economic and labour market policy.

He is well known as Ireland's first openly gay Taoiseach and for steering the country through Brexit negotiations and the COVID-19 pandemic.

FORMER IRISH  
TAOISEACH

Leo Varadkar

# DATE TBC



An award-winning British journalist, presenter and author. Wrongfully convicted in 1990 as part of the “M25 Three,” he spent 12 years in prison before his conviction was overturned.

Following his release, he built a distinguished career in broadcasting, reporting for BBC Radio 4 and BBC One on criminal justice and social affairs. .

He is best known as the presenter of Netflix’s Inside the World’s Toughest Prisons, offering an unfiltered look at incarceration systems around the globe

BROADCAST JOURNALIST  
AND PRESENTER

RAPHAEL ROWE



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# Younes Sadaghiani

## *Political Analyst and Media Personality*

An Iranian-born political analyst, commentator, and independent journalist known for his analysis of international affairs. With regular contributions to outlets such as GB News, Talk TV, Visegrad24, Iran International, and other major platforms, he has built a substantial online following with tens of millions of views and hundreds of thousands of followers across social media. In 2024, he played a key role in shaping the social media communication strategy for the Reform Party during the UK general election cycle, interviewing political figures and engaging broad audiences in political discourse.



THURSDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY  
ELVET METHODIST CHURCH

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# Peter Bleksley

## *Former Scotland Yard Detective*

A former Metropolitan Police detective and founding member of Scotland Yard's elite undercover unit, recognised for infiltrating organised crime and major criminal networks during a distinguished policing career. After being forced into the witness protection programme following an exposed assassination plot, he transitioned into media and public engagement. Bleksley is now a bestselling author, presenter and commentator on crime, justice and investigative affairs, known for his work on Channel 4's *Hunted* and his podcast *Manhunt: Finding Kevin Parle*.



MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY  
ELVET METHODIST CHURCH

# Yaron Brook

*Economist and Board Chairman of  
the Ayn Rand Institute*

An Israeli-American economist, author and leading advocate of free markets and individual liberty. He serves as Chairman of the Board of the Ayn Rand Institute, where he previously led as Executive Director, promoting the philosophy of Objectivism and laissez-faire capitalism through writing, speaking and media engagement. Brook is co-author of *Free Market Revolution* and *Equal Is Unfair*, and hosts *The Yaron Brook Show*, sharing his analysis on economic freedom, individual rights and public policy.

TUESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH  
VENUE TBC



# Ilisha Masuan

*Entrepreneur and EdTech Innovator*

A British entrepreneur and founder of Econominds, an educational technology company using artificial intelligence to personalise learning and improve student outcomes. Inspired by her own experience with undiagnosed dyslexia and multiple school exclusions, she developed a learning system that has helped thousands of students study more efficiently and achieve higher grades. In 2025, she was recognised as one of Innovate UK's Women in Innovation Award winners for her AI-powered platform and leadership in addressing educational challenges.

TUESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
ELVET METHODIST CHURCH



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# Marisa Linton

## *Author and Expert on the French Revolution*

A British historian, Professor Emerita of History and award-winning author. She specialises in the French Revolution, Enlightenment politics and the history of magical beliefs, and has published influential academic works on revolutionary ideology and terror. Linton also writes fantasy fiction and won the Times/Chicken House Prize for her young adult novel *The Binding Spell*. In addition to her writing, she has served as a historical consultant for television and delivers public talks on history and storytelling.



THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
VENUE TBC



# SUDAN CONFLICT SPEAKERS PANEL

10<sup>th</sup> February

## *The Panel System*

In an event partnered with the University College Chaplaincy Team and with the help of Christian Solidarity Worldwide, we will be reintroducing Panel Events to the Durham Union Society.

We will be joined by expert speakers to address the most sensitive issues of the day. This term, we will gather experts to discuss the ongoing conflict occurring in Sudan.

During this event we shall be educated on the context of this crisis, hearing about the history of Sudan and the surrounding region. We will then move on to consider the circumstances that led to the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crises affecting the Sudanese people.

*Due to the sensitive nature of this event, the location and speakers will be revealed at a time closer to the scheduled date.*

## 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!

## 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.



Join us | 28<sup>th</sup> February  
1pm



**BRIGHT** NETWORK × *the* DURHAM UNION

Career choices are some 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. You'll get free access to job and internship opportunities with top employers, expert career advice plus invitations to events.

**Take your first step to a brighter future.**

## The Ian Mactaggart Programme

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 and emerging future leaders.



**FSU**  
FREE SPEECH UNION

*We would like to thank the Ian Mactaggart Programme for its support.*



# Treasurer's Treats

*Woven*  
Gentlemen's Outfitters

10% in-store discount

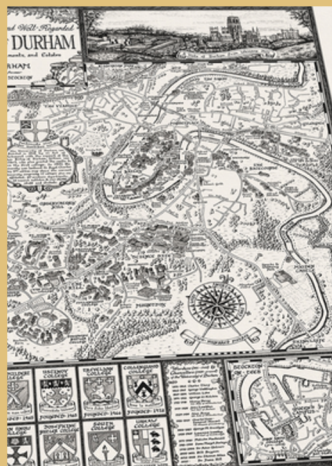


20% off Tuesdays, 10%  
off on other weekdays



Free pints for floor speech  
winners

*We've partnered with local businesses to revive our outreach scheme, benefiting both our members and our local community by delivering unique offers to you and more customers to local businesses. More to come...*



## Manuscript Maps

*The Durham University Map*

*Originally hand-drawn by a Durham alumnus*

- Signed ltd. edition prints from £45
- 1000 piece Jigsaw Puzzles - £32
- Tea Towels - £17<sup>95</sup>
- Tote Bags - £25<sup>95</sup>

SAVE 20% with  
code DURHAM20



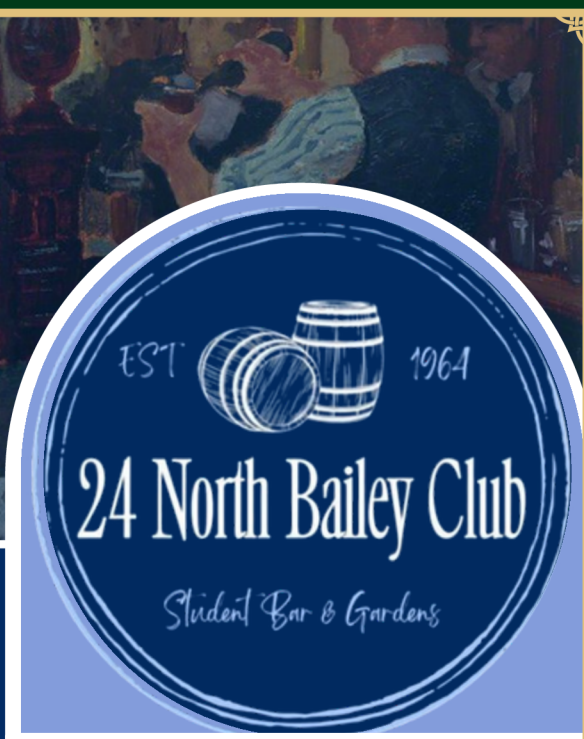
ManuscriptMaps.com



## 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

24 North Bailey Club is at the heart of the Durham Union Society. Home to our bar, adjoining Reading Room and office, we host a variety of social events throughout the academic year.

Open to all; 24s is a place to meet Union members, partake in our weekly pub quiz, or have a quiet pint of our famous 'Spin Doctor'.

## PRIVATE BAR HIRE

**£350 DEPOSIT, £300 REFUNDABLE**

**NO BOOKING FEE**

**Available:**

**MON, TUES, THURS, SUN**

**FOR ANY ENQUIRIES CONTACT:  
CUSTODIAN@DUS.ORG.UK**

**24s PUB QUIZ**



**9PM EVERY MONDAY**

**24s** **OPENING HOURS:** SUNDAY TO THURSDAY: 20:30-23:30  
FRIDAY TO SATURDAY: 20:30-MIDNIGHT

# Socials

NEW YEARS SOCIAL  
*13th January*

RAGE ROOM SOCIAL  
*25th January*

STUDENT MOCK ELECTION  
*30th January*

VALENTINES DAY SOCIAL  
*15th February*

PANCAKE DAY  
*17th February*

CHARITY 5-A-SIDE  
*24th February*

OU-EST LE POULET  
*7th March*

UNION QUIZ NIGHT  
*16th March*

ST PATRICKS DAY SOCIAL  
*17th March*

CHARITY BAKE SALE  
*18th March*

# NEW YEARS

# SOCIAL

13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

# RAGE ROOM SOCIAL



25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

the DURHAM UNION

# MOCK ELECTION EVENT

*Join us at the Elvet  
Methodist Church where  
we shall vote on what  
Durham Student Political  
Society should govern us...*

30<sup>th</sup> January - 8:30pm



36



# Valentines Social



**YOUR RESERVATION:**  
8:30PM  
24 NORTH BAILEY CLUB

**WHEN...**  
*17th February*

# PANCAKE DAY

**WHAT TO EXPECT...**  
*Pancakes Galore!*

# CHARITY 5-a-side FOOTBALL

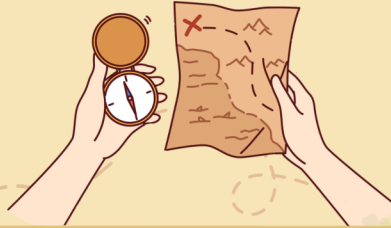
TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> OF FEBRUARY

7-3-25 | 7:30PM

OÙ EST LE

# POULET

THERE'S A CHICKEN ON THE LOOSE IN DURHAM! SPLIT INTO TEAMS TO SEARCH DURHAM'S BARS!



Can you find him?



# ST PATRICK'S DAY

*At the Durham Union Society*

TUESDAY  
17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH



# Bake Sale

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March

Come down to eat something sweet and contribute to our charitable collection!



# A NIGHT IN MONTE CARLO ♣



A NIGHT OF GLAMOUR AWAITS  
—◆◆◆—  
20TH FEBRUARY

# EPIPHANY BALL



*Last term we hosted one of our largest balls to date in Wynyard Hall and also raised £430 for the Percy Hedley Foundation!*

*Our termly ball is a great chance to meet fellow members of the society - it is not to be missed! Keep up to date on the Durham Union Ball by following our Instagram, where you can find updates and teasers for what's to come.*

*See you there!*

*Stay up to date  
on Instagram*



# THE DURHAM UNION QUIZ NIGHT

MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<i>Week 1</i> 12/1/26-18/1/26		New Year's Social 8pm	
<i>Week 2</i> 19/1/26-25/1/26			Will Greenwood Address 8:30pm
<i>Week 3</i> 26/1/26-1/2/26			General Committee 2pm
<i>Week 4</i> 2/2/26-8/2/26			
<i>Week 5</i> 9/2/26-15/2/26	Eva Clarke Address 8:30pm	Sudan Panel 8:30pm	General Committee 2pm
<i>Week 6</i> 16/2/26-22/2/26	Peter Bleksley Address 8:30pm		
<i>Week 7</i> 23/2/26-1/3/26		Charity 5-a-side Football Time TBC	General Committee 2pm
<i>Week 8</i> 2/3/26-8/3/26		Yaron Brook Address 8:30pm	
<i>Week 9</i> 9/3/26-15/3/26		Ilisha Masaun Address 8:30pm	General Committee (Photos) 2pm
<i>Week 10</i> 16/3/26-22/3/26	The DUS Quiz Night 8:30pm	St. Patrick's Day Social 8pm	Charity Bake Sale 12pm

*What we run every week*

*Pub Quiz at 24 North Bailey Club Monday 9pm*

*Novice Debate Practice Monday 7pm*

*General Debate Practice Tuesday 7pm*

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	Britain's Future Debate 8:30pm		
	Assisted Dying Debate 8:30pm		Rage Room Social Time TBC
Younes Sadaghiani Address 8:30pm	Student Party Mock Election 8:30pm		
	ECHR Debate 8:30pm		
	Free Speech Debate 8:30pm		Valentine's Day Social 8:30pm
	Epiphany Ball	6 Nations Watch-along 2pm	
		Professional Headshots 1pm	
Leo Varadkar Address 8:30pm	Feminism Debate 8:30pm	Où est le Poulet 7:30pm	
Marisa Linton Address 8:30pm	NI State Debate 8:30pm		
	Oxbridge Debate 8:30pm		

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

*Open Spar  
Debate Practice  
Thursday 7pm*

*President's Office  
Hours (Drop in)  
Sunday 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.

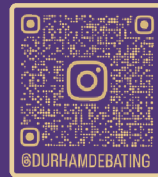
**Novice Debate Training**  
*Monday | 7pm*

**General Debate Training**  
*Tuesday | 7pm*

**Open Spar**  
*Thursday | 7pm*

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

*Follow us here for weekly room details*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Durham Schools 2026!**  
*29th-30th March*

We are particularly excited to be supported by the John Locke Institute this year! If you want an insight into how large scale events are organised or how we can get young people passionate about it... get involved in our organisation!

➤ **See you at training!** ⇐



# A LITTLE RECAP

## Recent Successes

From our brilliant novices taking their first steps onto the circuit to our accomplished seniors thriving- we've been busy!!

We opened at Bogwall Novices, charging to the Silver Final, with Emma 7th on speaker tab. At Cambridge IV, Lara & Evan broke 1st to the ESL Final, alongside a stellar run from Divesh & Theodora. Lara & Evan then powered into Quarter Finals at Oxford IV! At Manchester Novices, both teams broke into the finals, Yiya and Kevin into the Gold Final, Zach and George into the Non-Schools Final!



At WUDC, the world's toughest debating battlefield, Lara & Evan closed on 14 points! Our judges shone too, led by Callum Hendry-panelling Bogwall Gold and panelling Cambridge Quarters.

## Durham IV

Our most successful competition yet with 45 teams, 125 attendees, and an unmatched group working behind the scenes. This event wouldn't have been possible without our lovely volunteers who supported it and helped it thrive.



# OUTREACH

## *at The Durham Union Society*

### *Our work with schools*

Hosted and arranged yearly by our fantastic Debating Officers, we welcome students from schools across the country to compete in the Durham Schools Competition. 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 (forfeits 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 University 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.



# 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
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Year
- Economics
- St. Cuthberts

### **To find out more:**

See our EDI plan online or email: [equalities@dus.org.uk](mailto:equalities@dus.org.uk)



- Milli Hargreaves
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Year
- PPE
- Van Mildert

### **To get in touch:**

[welfare@dus.org.uk](mailto:welfare@dus.org.uk)  
In-person (see timetable)

'Hi, I'm Robbie. We 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 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 annual mentorship scheme pairs Durham Union members with alumni working across a wide range of professional fields. This term, the mentorship scheme will be relaunching, with applications opening to members within the next few weeks and mentor–mentee pairings taking place shortly thereafter.

With mentors spanning Parliament, top law firms, finance, media, diplomacy and beyond, the scheme offers students meaningful insight into competitive career paths. From CV feedback and informal guidance to shadowing opportunities and longer-term professional relationships, the mentorship scheme continues to provide tangible value to members navigating early career decisions.



## *Career workshops*

Our career workshops and networking events give members the opportunity to learn from field leaders, gain practical insights into industry, and boost their employability. Several workshops are currently in development, with further details and announcements to follow via Durham Union channels later this term.



# 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*



*Media  
Committee*



*Rules  
Committee*



*Social  
Committee*



*Debates  
Committee*

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

### *The Important Dates*

Committee elections are coming up soon! Nominations for House and Social Committees open on Monday 12th January and close on Saturday the 17th. Nominations for the Media, Equalities, and Secretary's Committees open on Monday 19th January and close on Saturday the 24th.

To stand, write and submit a 100 word manifesto to our Returning Officer at: [returningofficer@dus.org.uk](mailto:returningofficer@dus.org.uk)

To find out more, visit [dus.org.uk/getting-involved](https://dus.org.uk/getting-involved)

# MEET THE OFFICERS

## STANDING COMMITTEE



### *President*

JOSHUA DOHERTY  
STEPHENSON COLLEGE

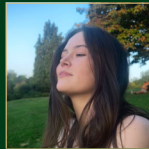
[president@dus.org.uk](mailto:president@dus.org.uk)



### *Secretary*

OLIVER COX  
TREVELYAN COLLEGE

[secretary@dus.org.uk](mailto:secretary@dus.org.uk)



### *Treasurer*

MOLLY PURCELL  
STEPHENSON COLLEGE

[treasurer@dus.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@dus.org.uk)



### *Custodian*

ADAM MCINTYRE  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

[custodian@dus.org.uk](mailto:custodian@dus.org.uk)



### *Social Secretary*

DARCY DUHRA  
ST AIDAN'S COLLEGE

[social@dus.org.uk](mailto:social@dus.org.uk)



### *Publicity Officer*

DAVID PEGLER  
ST AIDAN'S COLLEGE

[publicity@dus.org.uk](mailto:publicity@dus.org.uk)



### *Director of Debating*

HAYA CHAUDHRI  
JOSEPHINE BUTLER

[debating@dus.org.uk](mailto:debating@dus.org.uk)



### *Equalities Officer*

ROBBIE BONO  
ST CUTHBERT'S SOCIETY

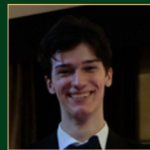
[equalities@dus.org.uk](mailto:equalities@dus.org.uk)



### *Debating Treasurer*

LOUISE BROWN  
ST HILD & ST BEDE

[debating.treasurer@dus.org.uk](mailto:debating.treasurer@dus.org.uk)



### *President-Elect*

EDWARD TYE  
GREY COLLEGE

[president.elect@dus.org.uk](mailto:president.elect@dus.org.uk)

## JUNIOR OFFICERS



### *Returning Officer*

RYAN WILMOT-SIMMONS  
ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

[returningofficer@dus.org.uk](mailto:returningofficer@dus.org.uk)



### *Alumni Officer*

OLIVER HUGHES  
STEPHENSON COLLEGE

[alumni@dus.org.uk](mailto:alumni@dus.org.uk)



### *Outreach Officer*

KATHERINE THOMSPON  
SOUTH COLLEGE

[outreach@dus.org.uk](mailto:outreach@dus.org.uk)



### *Tech Officer*

RIMJHIM JAYASWAL (MJ)  
STEPHENSON COLLEGE

[tech@dus.org.uk](mailto:tech@dus.org.uk)



*Assistant Secretary*

DANIEL ANBINDER  
TREVELYAN COLLEGE

*secretary.assistant@dus.org.uk*



*Steward*

INDIA JUBB  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

*steward@dus.org.uk*



*Assistant Custodian*

MARIA HUNT  
ST AIDAN'S COLLEGE

*custodian.assistant@dus.org.uk*



*Sponsorship Officer*

PIA COMER  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

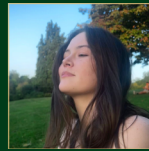
*sponsorship@dus.org.uk*



*Dep. Publicity Officer*

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*Speakers Secretary*

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STEPHENSON COLLEGE

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*Dep. Tech Officer*

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GREY COLLEGE

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*Welfare Officer*

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VAN MILDERT COLLEGE

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*Debate Training Secretary*

CALLUM HENDRY  
ST CHAD'S COLLEGE

*training@dus.org.uk*



*Speakers Secretary Elect*

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UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

*speakers.easter@dus.org.uk*



*Competitions Secretary*

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ST AIDAN'S COLLEGE

*competitions@dus.org.uk*



*Competitions Secretary*

WALI SULTAN  
ST AIDAN'S COLLEGE

*competitions@dus.org.uk*



*Debating Equity Officer*

JULIETTE FAIRHURST  
JOSEPHINE BUTLER

*equityandwelfare@dus.org.uk*



*Debating Equity Officer*

YULIA WOLCZUK  
ST CHAD'S COLLEGE

*equityandwelfare@dus.org.uk*



*President Emeritus*

CALLUM OXLEY  
TREVELYAN COLLEGE

JUNIOR OFFICERS



Free Speech since 1842