

*President – Theo Osborn*  
*the* DURHAM UNION



MICHAELMAS 2023

"I spent many a happy hour at the Union whilst an undergraduate at Durham. It was a lot of fun and I've discovered since taking a seat in the House of Lords that the standard of debating was at least as high as in Parliament. I'm greatly looking forward to returning."

– The Rt Revd Dr John Inge  
*Bishop of Worcester and former Secretary of the DUS*



# President's Welcome

I hope you've all had a fantastic summer; I cannot wait to welcome you to the Union this Michaelmas!

I'm immensely proud of our speakers lineup for this term. Whether you want to hear about the history of the Beatles from a world-renowned filmmaker, tales from the first explorer to walk to both North and South Poles, or even an insider's insights on Brexit from Theresa May's Deputy PM: there is truly something for everyone. We're even hosting the first student event with the new Chancellor of the University, Fiona Hill, who is the former national security adviser to the White House.

Our **Friday night debates** allow you to get to the heart of the most striking questions around, and to make your voice heard.

Michaelmas Term kicks off with a "No Confidence" debate on Rishi Sunak's government, followed by debates on

billionaires, the climate crisis, and even attempting to answer the question: should we still be listening to Kanye West?

Throughout the year, we also give you the opportunity of world-class debate training, whether you've debated previously or not. This year our competitive debaters are representing Durham across the UK and around the world, from Bulgaria to Vietnam.

Beyond the intellectual entertainment of our historic Debating Chamber, you can meet fellow freshers at our much-anticipated Freshers' Social, and dress in your finest for our famous Michaelmas ball.

It's a cliché, but your time here at university really is the best time of your life. For me, the Union has been crucial in shaping my experience. Most importantly, however, I've had the privilege of meeting my best and closest friends here at the Union.

To cut my long spiel short: I cannot wait to meet you all, and see the Union change your life, as it has mine. See you soon!



A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Theo Osborn".

**THEO OSBORN**  
*President, Michaelmas 2023*

# 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. It brings together students from across the University in a way that no other student society can.

The Union's guiding principle of free speech lays the foundation for rigorous debate and discussion. Our Debating Chamber on Palace Green is a place to engage with people from all walks of life; guest speakers and fellow students alike.

On top of our debates and addresses from distinguished speakers, we host free members' socials and termly headline balls. We also operate our own bar along the Bailey: 24 North Bailey Club, better known as '24s'.

Beyond this we are the home of competitive debating on campus, hosting some of the country's best debating championships and sending teams to the European and World Universities Debating Competitions.

**JOIN TODAY!**  
*at [dus.org.uk](https://dus.org.uk)*



# Debates

*This House Has  
No Confidence in His Majesty's  
Government*

*This House Believes That  
We Should Separate the Art  
From the Artist*

*This House Would  
Ban Billionaires*

*This House Regrets  
the Decline of Western  
Interventionism*

*This House Believes That  
God Is Dead*

*This House Believes That  
the Climate Crisis Cannot Be  
Effectively Tackled Without  
Transforming Capitalism*

*This House Believes That  
Private Schools Do More Harm  
Than Good*

*This House Would  
Legalise Assisted Dying*

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

OPEN TO NON-MEMBERS

*Friday 6th October*

*8:30pm*



*This House Has  
No Confidence in His  
Majesty's Government*

THE DEBATING CHAMBER, PALACE GREEN

# Proposition



**Stephen Kinnock MP** is a Labour politician serving as the Member of Parliament for Aberavon since 2015. He has served as Shadow Minister for Immigration since 2022 and is the son of the Labour politicians Glenys and Neil Kinnock, the latter of whom is a former Labour party leader.



**Kim McGuinness** is the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria since 2019 and was selected as Labour's candidate for Mayor of the North East in 2023. She was formerly a Councillor on Newcastle City Council, from 2015 to 2019.

And a further Student Speaker

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# Opposition

**Huw Merriman MP** is a Conservative politician serving as the Member of Parliament for Bexhill and Battle since 2015. He has served as Minister of State for Rail and HS2 since October 2022. He studied Law at Durham University, and is a former President of the DUS.



A further Guest Speaker to be confirmed and a Student Speaker



*Friday 13th October  
8:30pm*

*This House Believes That  
We Should Separate the Art  
From the Artist*

THE DEBATING CHAMBER, PALACE GREEN

# Proposition



**Dr Zoe Strimpel** is a research fellow at Warwick University and has written three books on gender and relationships. She is also a columnist for the Sunday Times and a regular on Radio 4.



**Kate Willard OBE** is Chair of the Arts Council North and sits on Arts Council National Council. She was Vice Chair of the Liverpool Playhouse and Everyman Theatre, where she was also the Associate Director.

And a further Student Speaker

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# Opposition

**Ruth Millington** is an art historian, critic and author. Her research areas specialise in women artists and muses. In 2022 Penguin published her book called 'Muse' which reframes muses as active agents in art history.



**Farah Nayeri** writes for The New York Times. Her 2022 book, 'Takedown', focuses on the changing landscape of art activism and visual art amid #MeToo, Black Lives Matter and the political censorship of art in 1980s America.



And a further Student Speaker

*Friday 20th October  
8:30pm*



*This House Would  
Ban Billionaires*

THE DEBATING CHAMBER, PALACE GREEN



# Proposition



**Oli Dugmore** is a journalist based in London, and is the Head of News and Politics for JOE.co.uk. On his popular podcast series *Unfiltered*, he has interviewed Niall Horan, Gary Lineker and Sadiq Khan among others.



**Professor Linsey McGoe** is Head of Sociology at the University of Essex. She is the author of 'No Such Thing as a Free Gift' and is a regular Guardian and New York Times columnist.

And a further Student Speaker

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# Opposition

**Sir Vince Cable** was leader of the Liberal Democrats from 2017 to 2019 and served as MP for Twickenham from 1997-2015 and from 2017-2019. He also served as Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills from 2010 to 2015.



**Emily Carver** is a presenter, commentator and columnist based in London. She regularly presents on GB News and appears as a guest on BBC Politics Live and BBC Question Time. She is formerly Head of Communications at the Institute of Economic Affairs.



And a further Student Speaker

*Friday 27th October  
8:30pm*

*This House Regrets  
the Decline of Western  
Interventionism*

THE DEBATING CHAMBER, PALACE GREEN



# Proposition



**Megan Gittoes** is the Director of Communications for the Henry Jackson Society, a foreign policy and national security think tank based in the UK. She was formerly a Senior Aide to Tobias Ellwood MP, former Chair of the House of Commons Defence Select Committee.

A further Guest Speaker to be confirmed and a Student Speaker

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# Opposition

**Abdullah al Andalusi** is an international speaker, thinker and intellectual activist for Islam and Muslim affairs. He is the Head of the Department of Occidentology at The Quran Institute, and co-founder of the discussion forum the Muslim Debate Initiative.



**Professor Nigel Ashton** is Professor of International History at the London School of Economics. He is the author of the recent book 'False Prophets', detailing British prime ministers' flawed interventions in the Middle East.



And a further Student Speaker

*Friday 3rd November  
8:30pm*



*This House Believes That  
God is Dead*

THE DEBATING CHAMBER, PALACE GREEN

# Proposition



**Alex O'Connor** is the founder of the CosmicSkeptic YouTube channel and Within Reason podcast. Alex's work focuses on religion, morality, and (formerly) veganism. He has appeared on radio talk shows and on TalkTV and Channel 4 News.

A further Guest Speaker to be confirmed and a Student Speaker

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# Opposition

**The Rt Revd Dr John Inge** is the Bishop of Worcester, a member of the House of Lords, and former Secretary of the DUS. He studied chemistry at St Chad's College, Durham.



**Professor Simon Oliver** is the Van Mildert Professor of Divinity at Durham University. His work is focused on Christian theology and metaphysics, particularly the doctrine of creation.



And a further Student Speaker

A large, billowing plume of smoke or steam rises from a tall chimney, dominating the left side of the frame. The smoke is illuminated from below, giving it a golden, glowing appearance. In the background, the silhouette of an industrial complex with various pipes and structures is visible against a hazy, orange-tinted sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is one of environmental impact and industrial activity.

*Friday 10th November  
8:30pm*

*This House Believes That  
the Climate Crisis Cannot Be  
Effectively Tackled Without  
Transforming Capitalism*

THE DEBATING CHAMBER, PALACE GREEN

# Proposition



**Paul Mason** is a British journalist, writer, playwright and commentator. He is a former reporter for BBC Newsnight and Channel 4 News, a prominent supporter of the Labour Party, and a self-described “radical social democrat”.



**Rupert Read** is the Co-Director of the Climate Majority Project, having formerly been an Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of East Anglia for 26 years. He was a spokesperson and political strategist for Extinction Rebellion (XR).



**Jamie Driscoll** is an independent politician who serves as Mayor of North Tyne. Formerly of the Labour Party, he resigned after he was barred from the selection process for Labour candidate for Mayor of the North East.

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# Opposition

**Sir Desmond Swayne MP** is a Conservative politician serving as the Member of Parliament for New Forest West since 1997. He was previously Minister for International Development and the Parliamentary Private Secretary to David Cameron.



**Emma Pinchbeck** is the Chief Executive of Energy UK, the trade body representing energy companies in the UK. She is the former Deputy CEO of RenewableUK, and is an expert in whole-economy decarbonisation and the energy transition.



And a further Student Speaker

*Friday 24th November  
8:30pm*



*This House Believes That  
Private Schools Do More  
Harm Than Good*

THE DEBATING CHAMBER, PALACE GREEN

# Proposition



**Margaret Greenwood MP** is a Labour politician serving as the Member of Parliament for Wirral West since 2015. She was Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions under Jeremy Corbyn, and was later Shadow Minister for Schools. Before politics, she worked as an English teacher in secondary schools.



**Robert Verkaik** is an author and journalist specialising in social mobility and security. His 2019 book, 'Posh Boys', details his critique of public schools. He is the former home affairs editor and law editor at the Independent.



**David Osland** is a “forty-year veteran of leftwing politics” and writes for LabourHub. He is a former contributor to Tribune, Labour Research Department and Labour Briefing, and regularly appears in the media on programmes such as BBC Politics Live.

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# Opposition

**Reem Ibrahim** is the Communications Officer and Linda Whetstone Scholar at the Institute of Economic Affairs. She regularly appears on BBC, LBC, GB News and TalkTV, and has written for The Telegraph. She worked in education prior to joining the IEA.



**Maxwell Marlow** is an author and Director of Research at the Adam Smith Institute, a free-market think tank. He has presented on TalkTV, GB News and has contributed to The Times and The Telegraph.



And a further Student Speaker

*Friday 1st December  
8:30pm*



*This House Would  
Legalise Assisted Dying*

THE DEBATING CHAMBER, PALACE GREEN

# Proposition



**Dr Jacky Davis** is a Consultant Radiologist at Whittington Hospital London, and is on the board of Dignity in Dying. She is the Chair of Healthcare Professionals for Assisted Dying and contributes to The Guardian.



**Dr Alexandra Mullock** is a Senior Lecturer in Medical Law at Manchester University. Her research focuses on End-of-Life Law, the legitimacy of ethically-contentious medical interventions, and the regulation of healthcare professionals via the criminal law.

And a further Student Speaker

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# Opposition

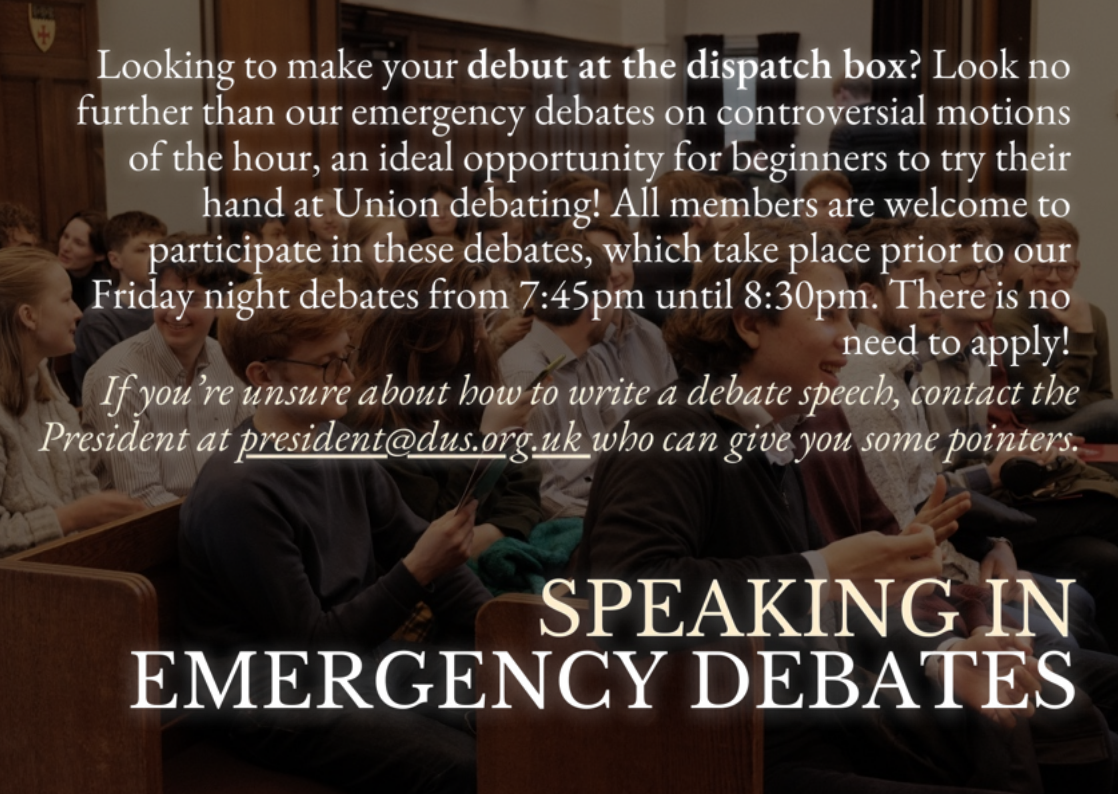
**Professor Rob George** is Professor of Palliative Medicine at King's College London and at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust. He was formerly Medical Director of St Christopher's Hospice.



**Dr Mark Lee** is a Consultant in Palliative Care working in St Benedict's Hospice and Centre for Specialist Palliative care in Sunderland. His most recent focus has been on End-of-Life care for patients with progressive neurological diseases as expounded in his recent articles in Practical Neurology.



And a further Student Speaker



Looking to make your **debut at the dispatch box**? Look no further than our emergency debates on controversial motions of the hour, an ideal opportunity for beginners to try their hand at Union debating! All members are welcome to participate in these debates, which take place prior to our Friday night debates from 7:45pm until 8:30pm. There is no need to apply!

*If you're unsure about how to write a debate speech, contact the President at [president@dus.org.uk](mailto:president@dus.org.uk) who can give you some pointers.*

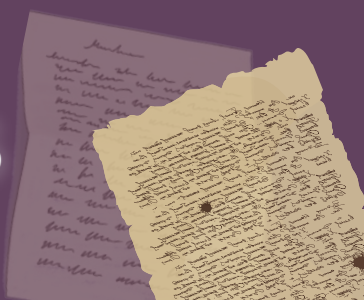
## SPEAKING IN EMERGENCY DEBATES

A **passionate debater**? Take the opportunity to apply for one of our formal paper speeches, and stand alongside experts to argue points of view on motions that interest you.

To debate in one of our motions this term please apply by filling in this form (via the QR code). This must be done at least a week in advance of the event, and you will be emailed shortly thereafter if your application is successful.



## APPLYING FOR PAPER SPEECHES



THE DURHAM UNION / THE YORK DIALECTIC UNION

# JOINT DEBATE

22nd November 8:30pm

Debating Chamber,  
Pemberton Buildings, Durham

We are pleased to announce that the Durham Union will be hosting the York Dialectic Union for a joint debate. You can sign up to speak by visiting the link to apply for a paper speech on page 22.

*'This House Would Rather  
Get a Life  
Than a First'*

# FAREWELL DEBATE

6th December 8:30pm

Debating Chamber,  
Pemberton Buildings, Durham

The farewell debate is a termly tradition here at the Union. With three student speakers on either side, it's a chance to relax with a light-hearted end to Michaelmas term. Join us at a drinks reception at 24s beforehand! Details to be confirmed.

*'This House Would Rather  
Be Naughty Than Nice'*

# Speakers

<i>2nd October</i>	Toby Ord
<i>4th October</i>	Tony Palmer
<i>9th October</i>	Jim Chapman
<i>16th October</i>	Peter Bleksley
<i>17th October</i>	Shashank Joshi
<i>23rd October</i>	David Lidington
<i>24th October</i>	Robert Swan
<i>30th October</i>	Jordanian Ambassador
<i>31st October</i>	Matt Ridley
<i>7th November</i>	Lindybeige
<i>8th November</i>	Ahana Banerjee
<i>13th November</i>	Fiona Hill
<i>23rd November</i>	Matt Goodwin
<i>Date TBC</i>	Andrew Aldrin (Virtual)

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

Dr Toby Ord is a Senior Research Fellow in Philosophy at Oxford University. He is a leading researcher on the existential risks facing humanity, including nuclear weapons, climate change and AI. He founded Giving What We Can in 2009 and has advised the UN, WHO, WEF, and the UK Prime Minister's Office. His work has been featured in publications such as The Guardian and The Spectator.



## Toby Ord

2nd October 8:30pm

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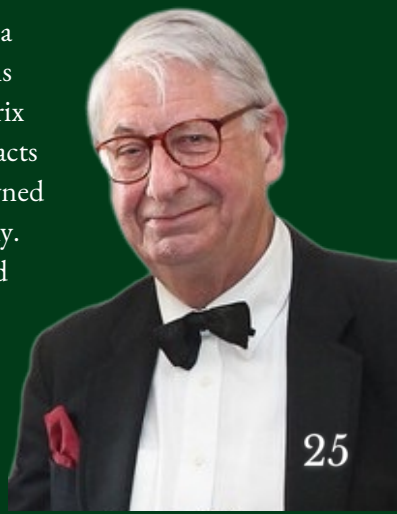
## Open to All

Whether you want to hear about the existential risk of AI, learn insider details about the Beatles, or debate your confidence in The Government, join us for our first week of events.

**No membership required.**  
2nd - 6th October

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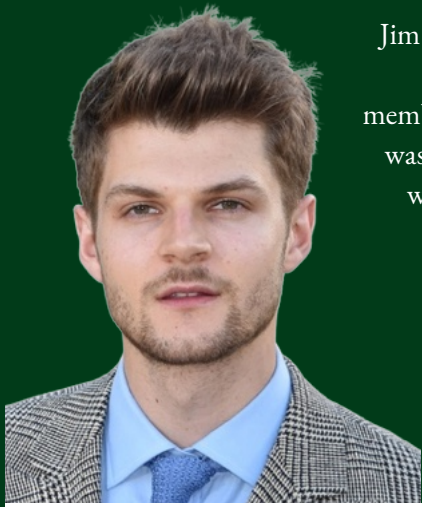
Tony Palmer, an iconic filmmaker and director, has enjoyed a remarkable career, having directed more than a hundred films and received over 45 international awards, including three Prix Italia. His diverse filmography ranges from legendary music acts like The Beatles, Jimi Hendrix and Leonard Cohen to renowned composers such as Vaughan Williams, Britten, and Stravinsky. Palmer has also written seven books, and directed theatre and opera productions worldwide.



## Tony Palmer

4th October 8:30pm

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Jim Chapman is a YouTuber, model and writer, who has over 6.5 million combined followers on social media and was a member of the 'Brit Crew' YouTube group. In 2015 Chapman was voted as GQ's Best-Dressed Man in Britain and has since worked with brands such as Mulberry, Burberry, and Bally; marking a transition towards fashion-related content.

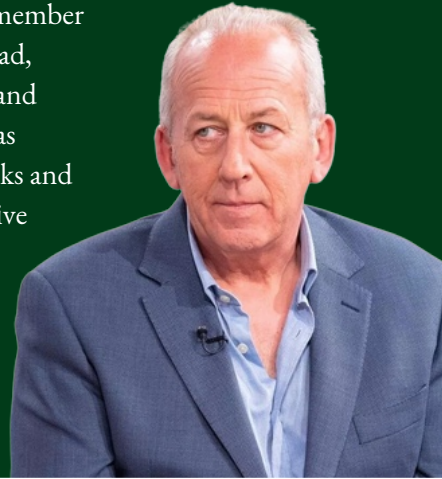
## Jim Chapman

9th October 8:30pm

Peter Bleksley is a former detective and was a founding member of SO10, Scotland Yard's most secretive undercover squad, where he worked to bring drug barons, contract killers, and arms traders to justice. Since leaving the Met, Bleksley has appeared in 'Hunted' on Channel 4, written several books and created a BBC podcast series based on his hunt for fugitive Kevin Parle.

## Peter Bleksley

16th October 8:30pm



Shashank Joshi is The Economist's defence editor, and a visiting fellow at the Department of War Studies at King's College London.

He will be speaking on the latest developments from the war in Ukraine. Joshi has previously published books on Iran's nuclear programme and India's armed forces, while his recent cover stories for The Economist have included the war in Ukraine, the future of nuclear proliferation, the character of cyber conflict, the Afghan war and the rise of open source intelligence.

## Shashank Joshi

17th October 8:30pm



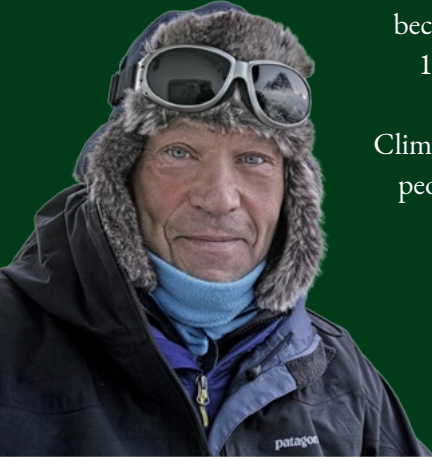
Sir David Lidington is a former Cabinet Minister, holding positions such as Leader of the House of Commons, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and Secretary of State for Justice, during his 27 years in Parliament. Lidington also served as Minister for Europe during David Cameron's premiership, and was described as Theresa May's de facto Deputy Prime Minister during her spell as PM.



## Sir David Lidington

23rd October 8:30pm

Robert Swan OBE is an explorer and environmentalist, becoming the first person to walk to both Poles unassisted in 1989. Swan has since campaigned for the protection of the Antarctic, and is a founder of the 2041 Foundation and ClimateForce, which led to him and his son becoming the first people to walk to the South Pole while using only renewable energy, in January 2023.



## Robert Swan

24th October 8:30pm

His Excellency Manar Dabbas is the current Ambassador of Jordan to the United Kingdom, Ireland and Iceland. Dabbas has previously been praised for his 'open door' policy towards Jordanians in the UK, often meeting with students. He has worked towards bringing more skilled Jordanian labour to the UK market and increasing British investment into Jordan.

The Jordanian Ambassador

## Manar Dabbas

30th October 8:30pm





Matt Ridley, 5th Viscount Ridley, is the former Chairman of Northern Rock, a science writer, and a retired Member of the House of Lords. He will be speaking about his recent book 'Viral: The Search for the Origin of Covid-19', in which he examines the scientific evidence for how Covid-19 started, including the lab-leak hypothesis.

**Matt Ridley**  
31st October 8:30pm

Nikolas Lloyd, known online as Lindybeige, is a history YouTuber who has over 1.2 million subscribers. Lindybeige produces a wide range of videos revolving around ancient and medieval warfare and technology, evolutionary psychology, and self-described 'silliness'. Lindybeige has most recently interviewed foreign volunteers fighting in Ukraine, discussing their experiences of the conflict.



**Lindybeige**  
7th November 8:30pm

Ahana Banerjee is the founder and CEO of Clear, an app that lets users track and share their skincare routines and buy products. Clear is valued at \$15 million and is partnered with more than 2,000 brands.

It was part of Y Combinator's Winter 2021 cohort, which is one of the most successful and sought-after startup incubators in the world.

Banerjee was featured in the Forbes 30 Under 30 list, and Clear won the 2022 L'Oréal Beauty Tech for Good award.



**Ahana Banerjee**  
8th November 8:30pm

Dr Fiona Hill is the current Chancellor of Durham University. She took up the role in June 2023. Hailing from Bishop Auckland, Hill previously served as Deputy Assistant to the President and Senior Director for European and Russian Affairs on President Trump's National Security Council. Hill testified twice during President Trump's first impeachment trial, and has since drawn parallels between the leadership of Trump and Putin.



## Fiona Hill

13th November 8:30pm

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Professor Matthew Goodwin is a researcher and writer on British politics, radical-right politics, and Euroscepticism. He is a Professor of Politics at the University of Kent, and has written for the New Statesman, The Times, and the Daily Mail, among others. Goodwin's work has focused on the 'realignment' of British politics, caused by the 'new elite'. He also serves on the Social Mobility Commission, and is on the advisory panel of the Free Speech Union.

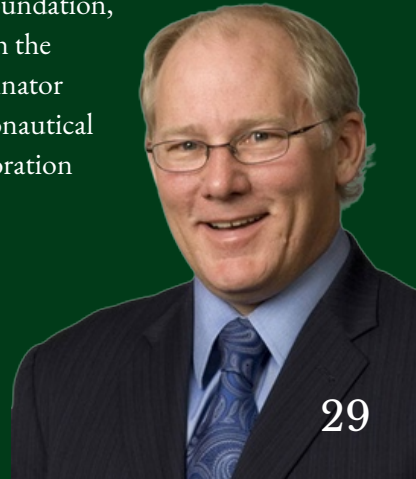


## Matt Goodwin

23rd November 8:30pm

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Dr Andrew Aldrin is the President of the Aldrin Family Foundation, a charity dedicated to inspiring the next generation through the inspiration of space exploration. He is the Program Coordinator for the Masters of Space Operations at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and has held research roles at the RAND Corporation and the Institute for Defense Analyses. He is the son of Buzz Aldrin, the second man to walk on the moon.



## Andrew Aldrin

Date TBC

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<i>Freshers</i>			
<i>Week 1</i>	Toby Ord Address - 8:30pm	Freshers' Social 8:30pm, 24s	Tony Palmer Address - 8:30pm
<i>Week 2</i>	Jim Chapman Address - 8:30pm		70's Social 8:30pm, 24s
<i>Week 3</i>	Peter Bleksley Address - 8:30pm	Shashank Joshi Address - 8:30pm	
<i>Week 4</i>	Sir David Lidington Address - 8:30pm	Robert Swan Address - 8:30pm	
<i>Week 5</i>	Jordanian Ambassador Address - 8:30pm	Matt Ridley Address - 8:30pm	
<i>Week 6</i>		Lindybeige Address - 8:30pm	Ahana Banerjee Address - 8:30pm
<i>Week 7</i>	Dr Fiona Hill Address - 8:30pm		The Nutcracker Ball
<i>Week 8</i>			York Union Joint Debate 8:30pm
<i>Week 9</i>			
<i>Week 10</i>			Farewell Debate 8:30pm

Novice Debate  
Practice

Intermediate Debate  
Practice

Advanced Debate  
Practice

30

Monday 7pm

Thursday 7pm

Tuesday 7pm

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		Open House 2-5 pm	Open House and 24s Karaoke 2-5 pm; 8:30pm
Debating Placement Trials	No Confidence Debate 8:30pm		
	Art and Artists Debate 8:30pm		24s Karaoke 8:30pm
	Ban Billionaires Debate - 8:30pm		
	Western Interventionism Debate - 8:30pm		Halloween Karaoke 8:30pm - 24s
	God is Dead Debate - 8:30pm		
	Climate Crisis Debate 8:30pm		
Matt Goodwin Address - 8:30pm	Private Schools Debate 8:30pm	Durham IV	Durham IV
	Assisted Dying Debate 8:30pm		24s Karaoke 8:30pm

Welfare every Wednesday 1-2pm; General Committee on  
 Wednesdays odd weeks of term at 2pm unless otherwise advertised. 31

# Treasurer's Treats

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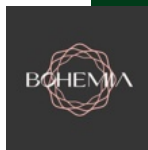


## Klute

Free entry on  
Tuesdays

## Bohemia

£3 guaranteed entry  
on Fridays



## Woven

10% off

## Revolution Durham

40% off food  
Reduced drinks

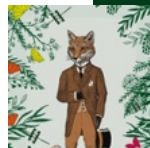


## Treats Tea Rooms and Café

10% off

## The Curious Mr. Fox

20% off food  
10% off drinks



## Reciprocal Relations

Our members enjoy numerous reciprocal memberships:

Oxford Union Society

Cambridge Union Society

Edinburgh Union Society

Trinity College Dublin Historical and Philosophical Societies

See [dus.org.uk/treats](https://dus.org.uk/treats) for more information

# DINE WITH OUR GUEST SPEAKERS

Enjoy a three-course meal with wine at the Marco Pierre White restaurant with our speakers and the President. This provides an unparalleled opportunity to get to know our celebrity speakers, and have your burning questions answered. Purchasing a dinner includes an exclusive invitation to the post-event drinks reception in the Reading Room. Visit [dus.org.uk/dinners](https://dus.org.uk/dinners) to learn more.

## WELFARE

I am thrilled to introduce myself as the first Welfare Officer here at the Union. I am deeply committed to promoting the well-being and happiness of our members, and I aim to foster an inclusive and nurturing environment where every member feels valued and supported. My Office Hours are 1-2pm, every Wednesday in the Pemberton Buildings.



– Fraz Ahmad, [welfare@dus.org.uk](mailto:welfare@dus.org.uk)



# DURHAM DEBATING

**Novice Debate Practice (NDP):** Mondays at 7pm

**Intermediate Debate Practice (IDP):** Thursdays at  
7pm

**Advanced Debate Practice (ADP):** Tuesdays at 7pm

All ADP sessions will take place in the Pemberton Buildings.

NDP and IDP session are in Elvet Riverside. Check our  
Instagram each week for the room.



@durhamdebating

Check out our IG  
for more info!



In addition to our regular training sessions, we provide our competitive debating squad with amazing opportunities to compete at numerous university competitions throughout the UK, and have the honour of participating in prestigious events like the European and World Universities Debating Championships. This year, we're excited to be sending our teams to Bulgaria and Vietnam.

# Durham IV

25th-26th November

The **Durham IV** (intervarsity) is one of the most prestigious university debating competitions in the UK.

The final of the competition is hosted in our historic Debating Chamber on Palace Green. There are plenty of opportunities to speak, spectate, judge and volunteer, and if you'd like to learn more or get involved, email the Competitions Secretaries at [competitions@dus.org.uk](mailto:competitions@dus.org.uk)





The Union's bar, fondly known as '24s' by students, is the beating heart of social life at the Union, as well as the wider University. It is managed by our Custodian, Theodore Stubbs.

After events many of our members go to 24s to socialise, as well as to talk with our guest speakers, creating connections and enriching understanding with our renowned expert and celebrity speakers.

Come and try our new exclusive club lager, enjoy our beer garden or kick back and relax in the Reading Room.

24s socials often include karaoke, costumes, competitions and more. They're open to all students, not just members!

## OPENING TIMES

**8:30–11:30pm**  
Sunday – Thursday

**8:30–Midnight**  
Friday & Saturday



# FRESHERS' SOCIAL



8:30PM @ 24 NORTH BAILEY CLUB

3RD OCT - MEMBERS ONLY - FREE DRINKS

# 70'S Social



8:30pm

11th Oct @ 24s

Cocktails • Karaoke • Clubbing



# HALLOWEEN KARAOKE

8:30PM, 29TH OCT @ 24s

OPEN TO NON-MEMBERS 37



# THE NUTCRACKER BALL

15TH NOVEMBER 2023

Join us at the spectacular Beamish Hall for a night to remember. With a sparkling drinks reception, three-course dinner and an electrifying array of ents, it is certainly not one to miss. Dress code is Black tie, White tie optional.

# Getting Involved

There are many ways you can get involved in the Durham Union, and your contributions make the Society the melting pot for intellectual curiosity it is today. Organising our debates, addresses and socials each term is a huge task involving numerous elected Officers and their committees.

Getting involved comes with lots of perks. Members of the General Committee earn points to live in our North Bailey Club's accommodation and can have their say on the future of the Society.

## Elected Committees

The committees support the work of the Officers and keep the Society running. Being an elected member of a committee grants membership to the General Committee, which votes in elections and helps to set the direction of the Society.

*President's Committee*

*Equalities Committee*

*House Committee*

*Secretary's Committee*

*Social Committee*

*Rules Committee*

*Standing Committee*

*Note: Standing and Rules Committees are elected from  
the General Committee*

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

# Meet the Officers

## Standing Committee



**President**  
**Theo Osborn**  
Grey College  
president@dus.org.uk



**Treasurer**  
**Matthew Brooker**  
Hatfield College  
treasurer@dus.org.uk



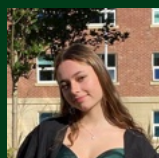
**Secretary**  
**Angela Ortiz-Jimenez**  
Grey College  
secretary@dus.org.uk



**Custodian**  
**Theodore Stubbs**  
Hatfield College  
custodian@dus.org.uk



**Director of Debating**  
**Joshua Oxley**  
Grey College  
debating@dus.org.uk



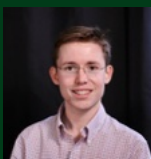
**Social Secretary**  
**Emma Zaoli**  
South College  
social@dus.org.uk



**Publicity Officer**  
**Maria Snow**  
Trevelyan College  
publicity@dus.org.uk



**Debating Treasurer**  
**To Be Elected**  
debating.treasurer@dus.org.uk

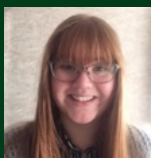


**President Elect**  
**William Rome**  
College of St Hild and St Bede  
president.epiphany@dus.org.uk

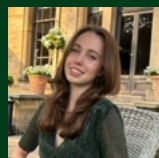
## Junior Officers



**Returning Officer**  
**Charles Aldous**  
University College  
returningofficer@dus.org.uk



**Equalities Officer**  
**Olivia Dunn**  
Josephine Butler College  
equalities@dus.org.uk



**Sponsorship Officer**  
**Maria Barinova**  
St Chad's College  
sponsorship@dus.org.uk



**Steward**  
**Adam Shank**  
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steward@dus.org.uk



**Alumni Officer**  
**Reece Short**  
 College of St Hild and St Bede  
 alumni@dus.org.uk



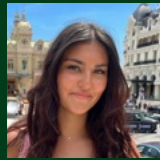
**Outreach Officer**  
**Alex McDermott**  
 University College  
 outreach@dus.org.uk



**Debate Training Secretary**  
**Aryan Makechka**  
 South College  
 training@dus.org.uk



**Welfare Officer**  
**Fraz Ahmad**  
 Hatfield College  
 welfare@dus.org.uk



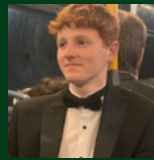
**Competitions Secretary**  
**Diya Perry**  
 University College  
 competitions@dus.org.uk



**Competitions Secretary**  
**Angela Wang**  
 College of St Hild and St Bede  
 competitions@dus.org.uk



**Tech Officer**  
**Chris Straughan**  
 Josephine Butler College  
 tech@dus.org.uk



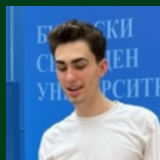
**Dep. Tech Officer**  
**Ben Huthwaite**  
 Stephenson College  
 tech.deputy@dus.org.uk



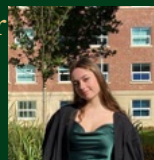
**Dep. Publicity Officer**  
**Will Lawrence**  
 John Snow College  
 publicity.deputy@dus.org.uk



**President Emeritus**  
**Jordan Kiss**  
 South College  
 jordan.kiss@durham.ac.uk



**Debating Equity Officer**  
**Severino Bonvini**  
 St Aidan's College  
 equityandwelfare@dus.org.uk



**Debating Equity Officer**  
**Emma Zaoli**  
 South College  
 equityandwelfare@dus.org.uk



**Speakers Secretary**  
**Joshua Oxley**  
 Grey College  
 speakers@dus.org.uk



**Speakers Secretary-Elect**  
**Felix Powell**  
 Hatfield College  
 speakers.elect@dus.org.uk

To Be Elected: Assistant Custodian, Assistant Secretary

## Officerships

Our Officers are responsible for the day-to-day running of the Society with the support of their committees. They are split into Junior Officers and Full Officers, the latter of which serve on the Standing Committee, the Society's executive body.

# President's Thanks

To **Diya** for your unwavering patience, support, and love. You have given me confidence and hope when I have needed it most. I am so truly grateful to have you by my side.

To **Aditya**, my best friend, for your selflessness, kindness and intellect. It's fair to say I wouldn't be President without you. Enjoy your Union retirement!

To **Josh**: the absolute shift you've put in this summer has blown me away. Even by your standards, confirming more than 15 speakers and writing literally hundreds of invites is truly superhuman. You have surely been the finest Speakers Secretary any President could have asked for, and I could not be more grateful.

To my elder statesmen and friends **Jamie** and **Ryan**: I am truly grateful for your clear-sighted advice, unwavering encouragement and humour over the past year - and for reminding me not to take myself too seriously!

To **Angela**, for your unrelenting commitment, humour and trusted counsel. After having seen the sheer number of hours you've put in this holiday, it's clear your love for the Union knows no bounds.

To my friends outside the Union: in particular **Charlie**, for his esteemed advice, support and friendship. To my friends from college: **Toby**, **Fin**, **Kathleen**, **Paris**, **Tom** and **Callum** - thank you for tolerating me banging on about the Society for two years, and for keeping me sane.

To Standing Committee, who represent the height of dedication to our Society: **Matthew**, **Angela**, **Theo S**, **Josh**, **Emma**, **Maria** and **William**. I am lucky to have such a passionate team working alongside me.

To my predecessor **Adam**, and my successor **William**, thank you so much for your advice and wisdom over the last few months, which has made this job such a pleasure.

To my **campaign team**, particularly my proposer **Aditya** and seconder **Emma**, thank you for believing in me and being such outstanding campaigners.

And finally to **Sharon**, whose renowned patience, advice and support I have come to value and rely on.

And to my President's Committee, many of whom have given up their summer to help me and the Union:

*Adam A, Adham S, Archie, Asha, Ben A, Ben D, Ellie, Harvey, Henry, Josh J, Julia, Kashiff, Lexi, Mack, Maddy, Marnie, Maxim, Miles, Olivia, Prem, Reece, Riyad, Robil, Ryan L, Ryan W-S, Sara, Sev, ShengYu, Stas and Un*

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