



THE
BADGER
festive

Editor's Note

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Welcome to the Festive Holiday edition of the Badger.

Big props to Becky Mingard for the cover art. I failed my year 7 art class, so it's brilliant to have someone that can actually draw.

In this issue you will find rants from our President, nostalgia of the OG Durham, some great advice on checking out the music scene and some bibberish on Christmas. Ignore your summatives, your dissertation can wait.
Badger Festive Edition is out.

I am so happy to get the Badger and the bogroll **bogging** again and have a great Journocomm (**shoutout to all the new members**). It's been a massive few months at Aidan's for me, acclimatising to British weather, British chat, and British beer etc.

Aidan's itself has been as good as ever, from some amazing formals and balls, to battle of the bands, to bagels still not being on the menu. We've had international nights, old boys, meet the parents 🐟🐟🐟, floodlits, weird flexes, stale memes and some banging toasties.

In that spirit, Merry Christmas, have a great festive season and I'm keen to hear about the adventures everyone gets up to.

Matt xxxx



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Wasting Time: A President's Guide

We are now in peak job application and dissertation season, and what better way to celebrate than procrastinating yourself and pissing other people off by:

WASTING THEIR TIME.

This advice is especially relevant if your friend is complaining non-stop over the work they have to do (despite being at Lloyds every Wednesday) or if you genuinely just despise them.

1. Run for something

You will inevitably beg all your friends to help you campaign. Once they are guilted into it, this should be an efficient way to coerce at least five or six people into handing out leaflets, tarnishing their Facebook walls and harassing all their acquaintances.

3. RSVP going to two events that clash

Now this one is guaranteed not only to waste peoples' time but also to annoy them! (Sorry FinComm).

2. Write for the Badger

If you are anything like me, you've probably only written a couple articles in your life. One might have been to prove a point (go to Palatinate) And the other will definitely be the one you write to procrastinate and to please Matt (this one).

4. Start a new society

Have you ever heard of the **St Aidan's JCR Book Club?** **ReserveComm?** **The Untalented Society?** This one is fairly self explanatory and you probably won't even be able to put it on your CV.



5. Organise a meeting!

Invite people who really don't need to be there just so they will feel included even though they will actually just end up silently resenting you!

7. Become a social member of a Sports team

Especially if you have absolutely no interest in them (sorry women's rugby and football)!! Week after week, the small flicker of hope they initially had of seeing you show up to training slowly but surely grow dimmer.

9. Play piano in the Interfaith Room

Preferably after 8pm on a Sunday.

All the people in the library will resent you but god knows not a single one of them will tell you to stop.

By Clara Ohayon



6. Organise a brunch in town with all your friends!!

Forget to book a place. Wonder aimlessly. At this point and because it's Durham, it will probably start raining, someone will call you a wanker and you will end up in Greggs.

8. Tell your friends that you should all meet up in the dining hall at 6pm to have dinner.

Show up at 6:10. Act outraged when they call you out in it. Storm off. Move to the countryside so you never have to see them again. Fall in love with your neighbour. Start a family.

10. Talk about your diss in really obscure terms.

Your friends will be too polite to tell you they don't understand and also just really don't care!

Formals

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I love formals. Great chance to catch up with mates, chuck on something other than slides and trackies and really get into the collegial spirit. In this article I will provide a checklist of some things that may happen (BYO pen :) and some conversation boosters for when you get stuck. Enjoy xoxo.

Checklist

- Any speech that lasts long than 30 seconds
- Someone holds up a shoe
- A small circle-shaped copper piece enters an equipment that is primarily for consumption of liquids
- Someone complains about the food
- Someone mentions the game odds
- Someone doesn't actually go through with the odds challenge
- "Hey what do you study again?"
- Someone picks up the Badger because the conversation has died
- Someone reads the label of the wine bottle
- Someone says yeet (Clara please don't)

Conversation Starters (or Killers)

- Who would win between 60 jaguars (in adult form) and every member of the JCR?
 - Location: Palatine Centre
 - Jaguars are unable to open or close doors?
- If you could be any US President in the last 30 years who would you be?
- What is your irrational fear?
- What is the worst movie you've ever watched? +5 points if it is the kissing booth?
- If you were given the choice between living with Edward's scissor hands or having lightsabers for fingers which would you choose (permanent)?
- What is your guilty pleasure?
- What is the cringiest thing you've done?

By Matt O'Brien



Back in My Day

A three part series by Stevo

Ah to be a fresher- when you first arrive, you see the uni with fresh eyes, believing that what you see is what has always been here. And who can blame you? You wouldn't know anything different. However, despite **Durham's reputation** as an epicentre for English heritage, this city goes through numerous evolutions on both small and large scales. Having been here almost **FIVE years (yes I'm old)**, I have witnessed a great deal of change since my time as an *innocent Aidan's fresh*, and thought I'd share some of the most significant developments to have befallen DHU since the autumn of 2014.

YikYak - forget memes, Durfess, Tindur, the source of all university-related humour was the wonderful world of YikYak. You submitted posts anonymously to a thread limited to people in Durham, where fellow users would up or down vote your post, allowing people to quantify how funny you are. A post that banged made you feel like a **BNOC**, while a post that flopped left you questioning your identity and every decision you've ever made. It eventually got updated and lost its charm, but for a time, it was the ideal place for amusing content, and giving the decisive down vote that got a post removed was satisfaction at its peak.

The Mary's Challenge - if ever you've been to Mary's Bar, you'll know that there isn't a lot to shout about, but fresh from all corners of the hill used to venture there for the express purpose of completing 'the Mary's Challenge'. A simple task in theory but harder in practice. A strange challenge that has since died a rather inconspicuous death. Is it worth a resurrection? You be the judge.

Series two will be released with the next Badger edition.

By **Harry Stephenson**

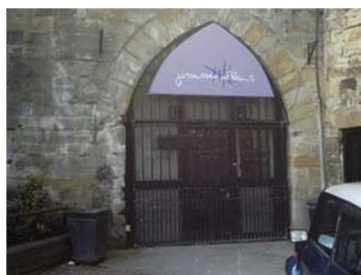


Badger Budgeting

It's getting to that time in first term again- there's still a week or two left but you're running out of cash, and with Secret Santas, Christmas meals, and of course presents for the family still to pay for, you're going to need to do some serious budgeting to make ends meet. Fortunately I'm here to help you out with my Treasurer's Top Two Transaction Tips.

1. Free Entry

Most clubs in Durham do free entry before 11, with some (Fabio's & Jimmy's) staying free all night. Be smart about it and try to get in for free- £3 might not seem like a lot but over the last two weeks of term it really adds up!



2. Don't Buy Food

OK, if you're a liver out this advice may not completely apply to you- although the human body can probably subsist for two weeks on the very cheap diet of rice, pasta and water. Why not find out? If you're a liver in, though, there's no need to buy food ever. Just fill up on college meals and go round for seconds, thirds, and maybe even fourths if you feel like it. At the end of meal times you're allowed to do this, though you can probably pull it off earlier with a quick change of clothes so you don't get recognised.



Handy Tip

Also I'd recommend that when it comes to the JCR shop you ignore this advice completely and buy a tonne of food from there. In no way do I have a conflict of interest here.

By Ed Gallagher



Nightline

Nightline is an organisation made up of a group of student volunteers who offer their time to answering the phone to **students who need someone to listen to them**, it is very similar to the work Samaritans do. **We are open every night of term 9pm-7am**. All conversations are anonymous and **confidential**, meaning whatever the content, it is never spread to other volunteers, or outside of the organisation.

There are 2 ways of contacting Nightline:

1. Messaging them on their IM system found at durhamnightline.com
2. By phone (number on back of campus card, Duo)

Durham
Nightline



An Aidanite's Christmas

At Aidan's, we pride ourselves with having a very international, open, and diverse community.

So what does an Aidanite's Christmas look like? We asked some of our very own to tell us about their plans for Christmas. Enjoy!



Claire

"I am spending Christmas with my family in Norway. For Christmas I will mostly be with family. I usually go for a church service on Christmas eve with some of my friends. After the service, we stand outside and **drink mulled wine together**. After that we have a nice meal together. My family usually celebrate Christmas on Christmas day with stockings, dinner and presents. If there is snow, we will go skiing or ice skating. I am most excited to **spend time with my nieces and nephews**. My Grandad is also celebrating Christmas at our place, which I am looking forward to. My Christmas celebration is unusual for my country. In Norway we celebrate Christmas on Christmas Eve. However, my family celebrate on Christmas day. This is because my mother is English and we have grown up with the English tradition. Most of **the holiday is spent on meeting family, being with friends and being as much outdoors in the snow as possible.**"



Yingquan

"I'll stay in Durham during Christmas to write my essays. Before that I'll go to Finland so there is nothing more exciting than that and I hope I can watch the snow falling in Durham! The cathedral must be the place where I'll visit during Christmas."

Daniel

"So I'm dead boring but I'm going back home to North Yorkshire for Xmas. Christmas will be spent mostly seeing my family and my step-daughter Willow who has been missing me. I am most excited for getting to ride my Harley again. I get proper withdrawal symptoms being away from it. **My Christmas is all about spending time with family, which is very Yorkshire indeed.**"



Ido

"I'll be in Kenya and Israel and will have a family dinner on Christmas day. I am most excited for my mums cooking."



William

Will be spending Christmas in Scotland. He will eat and spend time with his family and is most excited for the relaxation. What makes his Christmas typical for Scotland is the ceilidh they are doing.



Billie

"While I first go back home to Brussels, we spend Christmas in Spain, with the rest of the family! In Spain it's a very family-centered tradition, so it's nice to see everyone again. Our Christmas traditions aren't that exciting so I'll tell you about New Year instead: *we prepare twelve grapes per person on New Year's Eve, and when the clock strikes twelve we eat one grape per "dong" until it's past midnight!* Essentially you're eating 12 grapes in 12 seconds, so it requires a bit of strategy but it's always really fun! I am most excited about Secret Santa with my cousins... except that in Spanish we call it the "Invisible Friend"! Everyone always gets really creative so it's a lot of fun. While the side of my family that I celebrate Christmas with is from Valencia, my Catalan side of the family celebrate the "Tió de Nadal", which is possibly the weirdest celebration I know of. *The "Tió" is a log with a smiley face on, that children get around of to beat it with sticks while chanting so that it poops presents.* There's really no other way to put it."



Johnathan

Will be spending Christmas in Deeping St. James with his family. He is most excited about seeing all his friends when he gets back home. "In the UK Christmas is about coming together as a family, having a good Christmas dinner at lunch time and decorating your house with a Christmas tree."



Lily

Will spend Christmas in Paris eating too much and drinking lots of wine, listening to good music and maybe watching a movie or two. She is most excited to see loved ones and her most cherished Christmas tradition is Christmas dinner. "Seriously, I'd be devastated if I didn't get a really solid Christmas lunch or dinner!"



By Ann-Cathrin Klöckner



Music Guide

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE DURHAM LIVE MUSIC SCENE

Tom Chapman is Aidan's Music Coordinator and a part from knowing some good places for music, he ain't too dusty on the piano.

University Music

For the classically-oriented amongst you, Music Durham runs most of the orchestras in Durham such as the Durham University Palatine Orchestra (DUPO) and the Hill Orchestra. The Hill Orchestra is un auditioned and I'd recommend it to those looking for a way into the rabbit warren of uni orchestras. Music Durham every year runs a series of lunchtime concerts to show off these various ensembles including choral groups, which I also suggest checking out.



Jazz in Durham

Durham seems to have a particular affinity for jazz music, and of many different kinds. For those interested in more dancey, big-band jazz the **Aidan's Jazz Band** performs at many university events and is open for all to join, and the Durham University Big Band's "Jazzy Christmas" at the DSU is always a highlight to check out. For a more traditionalist, improvisational style, the DU Jazz Soc's weekly Jazz Jams have been hugely popular, so head along to one of those and keep in tune with the society as they host a huge number of great events at some awesome venues such as **Empty Shop HQ** and the **Cellar Door restaurant**.

Rock and Pop

Having played in DIY student bands since I arrived at Durham I can tell you there's nothing more rewarding than reaching out to fellow musicians and going out and making a name for yourself. Our King Of The Hill battle showed off just a few of the highest-quality bands in Durham, and there are plenty of college and uni events on the lookout for performers, especially during the post-exams period of summer balls and festivals, including the Aidan's Beer Festival which always has one of the best ranges of student bands to see in Durham. DU Rock Soc also has some cool events for the heavier-minded amongst you so keep up to date with them and there should be something for you!



By Tom Chapman

A Timeless Rant

What I wish I could do to people who break pool cues

By Clara Ohayon

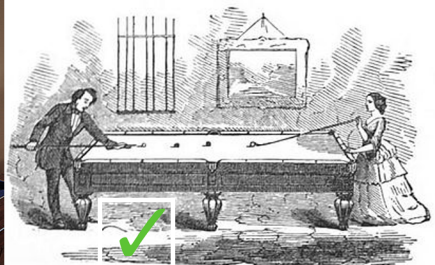


1. Make them pay for pool cues
2. Make them play with broken pool cues
3. Make them use broken pool cues as cutlery
4. Laugh at them while they try to justify why they broke pool cues
5. Have them trialled in front of a jury of their peers for breaking pool cues
6. Make them whittle pool cues
7. Fence with them using pool cues as swords
8. Have them sit still while I read the entirety of Hume's "An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals" to them
9. Ask them WHY? WHYYYYY? WHYYYYYYYYYYY?
10. Look for them, find them and kill them.

Wrong Way



Right Way



Christmas Bibberish

Stuck on the toilet? In a lecture? Having a solo meal in the dining hall? Read this.

We don't know how it happened, but it's that time of the year again: Even though we are still socialising and drinking the nights away as if it was still just after Fresher's week, formatives and summatives have caught up to our busy student lives. But most importantly, we were catapulted into the most beautiful time of the year when studying and formatives could not be further from our minds. And really, how can we focus on minor things like deadlines, grades and various obligations when even the university institutions tempt us to join in many early festivities? 'tis the season to be jolly, enjoy the food December brings and go on a hunt for the most instagrammable Christmas lights.

Inevitably, you have come across the saying that this is the season to reflect and look back – After all, even Spotify offers you a review on your year and your music choices, representative of life, showing you your bad decisions (Taylor Swift might have been mentioned in my top artists) or shamelessly displaying the amount of time you spent not being productive (apparently I listened to my favourite party song for 31 hours this year). So why not reflect a bit on our time at Aidan's, think of the events and the little things that made us feel like Aidanites and take make us proud the be a part of the king of the hill?

Your first memory of Aidan's is probably the view from our privileged seat on top of the hill, overlooking the cathedral. Take a moment this Christmas season and enjoy the unique view of Durham lit in colourful Christmas lights. Not many get to see this as, let's face it, no one voluntarily climbs up all those stairs, not even for a pint at our beloved bar. Which is another reason we love Aidan's, because unlike castle or other bailey colleges, our bar is actually ours and if you head there, you are likely to find familiar faces to enjoy a pint or two with. Unfortunately this Christmas season had its downside for all Doombar lovers out there as their elixir of life was taken out of stock and replaced with a Christmas beer. To those of us affected by this tragedy, it might be the first year that we are looking forward to the post-Christmas blues because it means we can appease our sorrows with Doombar once again.

One of the exciting nights of this year was undoubtedly "meet the parents" at the end of freshers week, after all it was the first time the new and old Aidanites met. It showed that our Aidan's family has many different facets, there is your college family, the intergenerational construct that gives you guidance, support and people to look up to and then there is your chosen Aidan's family, the people you live with, the people you have meals with, generally speaking the friends you find at Aidan's. One of the most precious things this year was probably watching all those families form and evolve, noticing the group constructions during freshers week and then the altered versions during the formals to come. It is truly an Aidan's accomplishment to see no one left out.

As you can tell, the Christmas season has made me somewhat sentimental and I don't think I am the only one counting down the days until I get to go home to see my friends and family there but at the same time knowing that I will miss my friends and family here.

But until it is finally time to leave Aidan's in a few short days, there is so much to enjoy and discover here. We had our beautiful winter ball, a Christmassy formal which felt like Christmas eve as an Aidan's family, we set up our very own Christmas tree together and ventured out to the Christmas markets surrounding us. Apart from feeling as ripped off by the prices at the markets (five pounds for a small cup of mulled wine!!) as we all feel by the University accommodation fees, it is that one time of the year that you appreciate having an excuse to skip some college meals.

But wait, there's more!

Some of you might have noticed the abundance of international food, German Gluehwein and Bratwurst, French baguette and cheeses, Belgian waffles and Hungarian sweets, but the apparent absence of English products. Which, let's face it, we do not particularly miss as we have the English breakfasts, sausages in a hole and potatoes in all shapes and forms waiting for us at college. It is the time of the year to embark on a journey of tens of thousands of calories in exotic foods with the level of authenticity of bad "Italian" and "Chinese" copy restaurants (No one outside of the UK will have ever heard of German Christmas beer??). I will leave you with the word "orientalism", it is worth looking up the meaning when you are looking for a productive and intellectually meaningful way to procrastinate.

'tis the season to reflect and be thankful. So excuse this Christmas bibberish with no apparent punchline other than hey, Aidan's is great, college is expensive and we miss Doombarr.

Whether your favourite memory of this Christmas season in Durham was dancing the night away at winter ball, venturing out to see the Christmas lights, or one of the many Christmas socials, surely you are just as excited to get home and pick up your favourite Christmas traditions there. So enjoy the rest of the Christmassy days here with the thought that when you are home, the time will come that you will be counting down the days until you will travel back to our homey college.

Merry Christmas!

By Ann-Cathrin Klöckner



