

Jt's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Aidan's Christmas

Hey everyone! Thank god that year is over, I don't know about you but it's about time 2020 ended... The last few months have been pretty bad tbf and I know an article about which xmas movie our college is won't particularly cure your winter blues but it might give you a laugh.

The travel window is open now and I assume a lot of you will already be home so please remember that you deserve a break now and uni can wait until the new year. I know so many of us are disappointed by the lack of events in college and the wider durham and let's be real the JCR really hasn't had a chance to show you what you're paying for but trust me when I say it'll be worth it when you have your first taste of formal wine and hear the glorious chants bouncing off the arches of the dining hall! Have faith that you'll have the opportunity to go to Newcastle in true [re]freshers' week style and I proba-



bly can't speak for everyone but I think a lot of the people who were supposed to frep this year will be there to walk you home when the clubs finally do open. The JCR will be buzzing with activity soon and you'll be struggling to find time to do work instead of struggling to find anything to do that isn't work. Not that I want to agree with BoJo but just you wait until you see how amazing Aidan's really can be!

Until then, we're going to try our best at journocomm to get some printed versions of the magazine and bogroll and hopefully that'll brighten your time spent in the toilet. It's been such a pleasure making the badger so far this year with all of our committee but please feel free to submit anything you like to the badger if you're on the committee or not. Stay tuned for some great things to come and Happy Christmas!!

-Saoirse





Welcome to the rolling segment of The Badger, this arguably useless segment called Question Time (Disclaimer: does not resemble the real question time) takes questions submitted to Aidan's Crush and Fess and attempts to find out some interesting information about our Aidanites.

Rosie Knighton speaking to Kat Pittallis.



Highlight and lowlight of your time in Durham?

A highlight of my time in Durham definitely has to be my first year Aidan's Beerfest where my band, 'Loose Change', was the last performance of the day. By the time it was our turn to perform, we

had all consumed quite a lot of alcohol. It was by far the most fun I've ever had performing with those legendary musicians and it even ended with Smiley John doing a stage dive into the audience which was truly iconic.

Where do I begin with lowlights of my time in Durham? I think I'm going to have to go with the time I was at a party and was having a really great time until the doorbell went off. My mates went to the door and I heard this voice and thought to myself "wow that really sounds like my lecturer". I thought it definitely could not be him but when I went into the hallway, I got a shock because I saw my lecturer standing outside, looking incredibly pissed off. Turns out he lived a few doors down and at first I was standing behind some of my mates so he didn't see me properly but then they decided to part ways and so I was left in the doorway with my lecturer standing outside in the rain trying to figure out why I looked familiar. To get out of this awkward situation I decided to hide in another room and sent my mates back out to try and get rid of him. Eventually he left but this was because he succeeded in shutting down the party. To top this off, I had a 9am with him the next morning and let me tell you that was the one of the most uncomfortable 50 minutes of my life.

What is going to be the highlight of your Christmas?

My birthday.

If you ran into Bojo on the street tomorrow what would you do?



I'll tell him that because of his cuts to universal credit and public reliance on food banks, a Scotch Egg IS in fact a substantial meal.

Guilty crush?

This question really got me thinking but I'm going to have to say Ryan Reynolds cause that man is something else.



Favourite tik tok sound?

"Fuck this shit I'm out" oh wait that's Vine.

Biggest pet peeve?

So, I'm hoping people can relate to my pet peeve as it is surprisingly not something musical. It is when someone replies to my messages with 'fair enough'. I'll admit I am not the greatest at messaging as my phone is usually on silent but the rare times that I do have a conversation with someone through messaging, I'm not a fan of people who respond with 'fair enough'. I'm not against the phrase but it's merely after I've been so passionate about a topic and have sent quite a few messages or even when someone asks how my day is and I give them the exciting details, they hit me with the delightful response of 'fair enough'. To me it's the equivalent of being on your phone in the street, happily texting away and then suddenly walking into a lamppost.

Ever had a dream about Susan Frenk...?

Oddly enough I have not, probably because I'm up most of the night making music or frantically trying to finish an essay I forgot was due the next day.

Are you sure you don't still have my music stand? (Maddy)

Maddy I'm so incredibly sorry but I still have abso-

lutely no idea where that music stand is. If I'm honest I don't even use music stands anymore, I usually just balance my music on anything I can find.

Did you get Russian bots to vote for your own Eurovision country? (Saorise)

I am all about winning so of course.

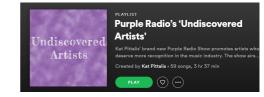
What's the best music event you've ever heard in Aidan's? (Chappers)

Best music event I've ever heard in Aidan's has got to be Summer Ball back in first year with the ABBA Tribute Act because who doesn't love a bit of ABBA? Honestly though that got the adrenaline going and was an absolute highlight of that night.

Why aren't we using crush n fess this time? ;) (Aisling)

That page still exists?

Editors note: Kat has a show on the university radio station and a corresponding playlist on sportify– give it a follow!

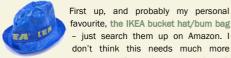


THE CHRISTMAS BIT



How to Nin at Secret Santa

Picture the scene, it's one week till the end of term and you're all broke. Solution to get all your lovely house mates great presents whilst only paying for one? Secret Santa of course! But with only that £10 limit you're worried you're going to disappoint. Well, fear not, here are some ideas that will impress anyone with eyes and enable you to have enough money to actually get home for Christmas ...



favourite, the IKEA bucket hat/bum bag - just search them up on Amazon. I don't think this needs much more explaining really. If your housemate doesn't like IKEA then I don't think they should be your housemate. With this gear on there's no way you're not

going to pull on a night out.

Now we turn from tea to alcohol. If a tea heater is not their style then this is the one - we all have that one friend that takes it a little bit too far with the mulled wine at Christmas. Well, now it doesn't matter how many glasses they have with this wine glass bottle top. They can drink straight from the bottle!



Second up, here's a little covid idea for you all. Think your mate is getting lonely in lockdown? Or think they're not missing you and they should be? Then this is the gift for you. Why not get your mate a life size cut out of you. Here's a beautiful example of a Harry Styles cut out with Chappers's face shoved on it:



Thirdly we have a serious one. No, really. This is the real deal. Every morning you get up and make your cuppa without fail. However, you get distracted by one of your housemates and

when you go to drink it it's cold.

TRAGIC. With this incredible gift you will never be bothered again! Get your secret santa a tea warmer (or one for yourself tbh) and it'll never go cold again.

Last but by no means least you can always go for a covid theme. Make them a covid gift bag of everything they are going to need to get through this Christmas ... The classics like mask and hand sanitizer, but there's also room to be more creative and make it your own such as loo roll with personalised messages written on to it... You get the idea...



Whatever you decide to go for, whether it's on here or not, have a great Secret Santa and Christmas Aidanites!!



The Colleges as Christmas Films

loveactually







Snowman





Nuteracker

<u>Cuths</u>: It's a wonderful life: a solid film for a solid college, wholesome college and they'll never give up their position on the bailey (building and loan) for parsons field (potter). Named the greatest Christmas film of all time the title certainly fits their bar which I am deeming the best in Durham (except for Aidan's obviously)

Aidan's: Love actually: slightly problematic relationships and everyone is shagging each other (but a great college and film nonetheless)

South College: Elf: all silly fresh just like mr elf himself

<u>Hilde Bede:</u> Home alone: because they're so alone (read: far away) and you'd probably encounter a booby trap or two in the very old building they're in

Castle: The Snowman: old but gold and not hated... except their bar but then again nobody likes the ending of the snowman so it's all full circle

Hatfield: The Grinch: need we say more? (for legal reasons this is a joke)

Mary's: Barble nutcracker: All girls boarding school vibes, probably all do ballet in the halls of that beautiful building. The marys bull probably has the heart of a prince inside

Mildert: Nativity: chaotic energy, rivals with the neighbouring school (aidans), surprisingly good college but by pure accident

Johns: that one play your mum recorded in year 6: but instead of joseph you were the back end of the donkey

Butler: Gavin and Stacey Christmas special: brynn is welsh for hill

Stevo: Polar express: entire college is train themed so

Ustinoy: Die Hard: Technically a Christmas film (college) but you wouldn't show it to your children (freshers) because it has mature themes (students and masters/phd peeps)

Chads: Arthur Christmas: wears a green jumper which is probably xmas stash and he's kind of annoying (on chads day)

<u>Grey:</u> The Muppets Christmas Carol: crowd of muppets (no justification for this but alas) but loveable and a classic shortcut to Christmas spirit (the science site or colingwood) also a mediocre version of Collingwood aka the real Christmas carol

Trevs: Jingle All The Way: left it to the last minute to get the most popular toy in town (read: left it to the last minute to prepare the new rooms for freshers leaving them without rooms and freps having to prepare the rooms themselves) kind of weird film and college but still a good one

<u>Collingwood:</u> A Christmas Carol: Huuuuge sponsorship from pretty wealthy alumni (ghosts of students past) aka scrooge and his money bank... always top the sports leader board and don't share their points with anyone else. Pretty luxury but still at the end of the day they're quite nice and the ghost of students present and future will probably grow on you

John Snow: The Hollday: broke up with the hill and swapped to rushford court, didn't like it, fell back in love with the hill- hope you enjoy it there now

theHoliday









An Aidanites Christmas

This year, Christmas is looking very different from usual. To start with college keep burning their roast potatoes! Whilst that is definitely the worst thing going on at the moment, many of us will be spending Christmas in different ways to usual – here is how some of us will be enjoying (or not) Christmas across the UK...

Vedika Bedi

This Christmas, I will probably be catching up on lectures that I've sacrificed for a lie in (oops)! I'll be driving home for Christmas a week before the younger sister and brother finish school so that should give me enough time to take a breather. I'm hoping to take up a job because I did get a slight shocker when the accommodation money came out of my account on the first of December. The rest of the time I'll be working at our family business VV PHONES helping out in the busy period! I do really enjoy that to be honest - speaking



to all the families shopping for their presents makes the atmosphere so lively. On Christmas Day I'm looking forward to a very relaxed day with the family and just feasting on food . I will really miss the ice skating with family and friends this year but we'll have to make the best of a bad situation and have a really good relaxed and warm holiday



Aisling O'Toole

Soooo this Christmas I'm going to be at home because we're not going to Ireland!! So I'll be waking up at like 8am and opening my stocking which will undoubtedly have some chocolate coins, socks and less lindor than I should because my mum always eats some

when she wraps my stocking lool then we'll open the main presents and probs have some snacky snacks idk Christmas is just food and presents in our consumerist house. My Dad also makes us watch the Queen's speech before dinner and we have to stand up for it..... Then we might go on an afternoon walk or watch my brother break a remote control helicopter he got from a distant relative in the morning. And In the evening we always end up starting a random tv series that we never continue beyond the day but it's good vibes while it lasts xoxox tbh this year will be very chill and slow paced because I think we all just need a break and won't have any distant relatives to cause major drama big sad

Emily Jolizze

Over the Christmas holidays, I will unfortunately be spending lots of time doing my dissertation (or at least I'm going to try to do at least a bit of work - realistically I'll probably spend the whole holiday procrastinating by watching The Crown on Net-



flix). The rest of my holiday will be spent desperately hunting every supermarket in the hope of finding a nice vegan Christmas Day meal. If anyone has any suggestions for a nut-free vegan alternative, pls let me know!! On Christmas Day, I'll open my stocking from Santa Claus - if anyone is planning on telling me he doesn't exist, I don't want to hear it. Then whilst my parents prep the turkey, I'll hopefully have found some yummy vegan alternative (probs not, but we move) so I'll make that. A lot of planning goes into the logistics of xmas day, to ensure that we finish eating lunch EXACTLY in time to get our Christmas pudding and watch the Queen's speech (and obviously my mum makes us stand up for the national anthem). The highlight of my day is definitely the Eastenders Christmas special, followed closely by dinner which is literally lunch but either cold or re-heated in the microwave. I think it's going to be a very chilled out xmas hols, and hopefully when we come back to Durham in January, college life will be slightly more back to normal. Happy Christmas everyone, hope you have a great break

Joe McGarry



Over Christmas I don't yet know what I'm doing but there's a good chance I'll be staying in Aidan's over the holiday. If so, I'll be getting blackout drunk, eating quavers and listening to reggae on Christmas day and then at some point learning the 4 weeks of lectures I've missed and writing the first half of my diss. I have a few mates who live in Durham so hopefully at some point will see them. I'll also be working on the handover for the NEW HEAD FREP! who, at the time of writing is yet to be elected. I'm super excited for them to be elected because I've been head frep for 2 years and it's

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been a massive part of my uni life, and both of the candidates are really good and were freps for me in the past 2 years, and I remember frepping when they were freshers. The handover I got from Sofia (absolute bae and the head frep before me) is 23,000 words long, and I need to rewrite a lot of it, so this is actually going to be bigger than my diss lol. We'll also be keeping a close eye on covid news, to plan refresher's week together, and because I'm eagerly awaiting the return of college sport and Aidan's E team football. I might go and see my grandparents for a couple of days but I don't want to stay with them because they're old and knackered and I don't want to give them covid. I'll also be eagerly looking forward to the latest escalation in a series of protests against the unis crazy high rent, when we seek to set Aidan's on a rent strike. The spare time in my holiday will be spent looking at funny monke memes and watching lots of Always Sunny on Netflix. Hope you all have a good holiday and looking forward to seeing you all again next year!

How to get Christmassy from your room



Light: These are a really easy way to make your room a bit warmer and pretty cheap normally. For hanging them up, command strips work really well and aren't as messy as blue tack: just feed the wire through the Velcro.

Decorations: These are really easy to get hold of and you can normally get stuff at different prices. Whether it's reindeer, snow globes, baubles or pom-pom snowmen, decorations are really nice to have around, especially to distract from piles of textbooks, folders, notes etc.

Bedefothes: It's a bit all-out to get seasonal covers for your bed but a blanket on top in a Christmassy colour (red, silver, gold) is a really nice way to change your room for Christmas.

Physic: Christmas FM is an Irish radio station which is solely for Christmas music. It runs from 28th November until 27th December and is available online so sticking it on in the background is really easy and simple.

DIV: There are loads of different projects you can work on from your room to get Christmassy, some more messy than others. Some ideas are paper chains and pinecone towers – you can

use indoor or outdoor materials and there are so many websites with seasonal crafts of varying difficulty.

Films: Festive films are amazing and, especially not being able to properly go to the cinema or outdoor screenings this year, your room is the perfect venue. Options include Love Actually, Die Hard (it's a Christmas film) and The Holiday on Sky Cinema, Christmas with the Coopers and The Grinch on Netflix and Deck the Halls and The Night Before on Amazon.

(also see the article about which college is which film or some more inspo)

Food Alrink: Christmas is nothing without the food and so much of it is either Christmassy itself or seasonally packaged. Mince pies, hot chocolates, Pringles – they've got the snowy tube design – gingerbread, pigs in blankets etc. are all perfect for a room picnic.

Advent Calendar: No one's ever too old for an advent calendar, whether it's chocolate, alcohol, beauty or any other kind. There's no more to say – just get one.

N: Box sets are so good for procrastination and the Christmas specials mean they can also help you get Christmassy from your room! Also underrated are crime adaptations for cosy Christmas viewing – see any Agatha Christie tv adaptation for example.



The Laidlaw Scholarship: a unique opportunity

Hello fellow Aidanites! I know that things might feel up in the air at the moment, it may feel more difficult than ever to secure funding, work experience and other growth opportunities to get the most of the student experience.

If you're interested in developing practical **leadership** skills and gaining **research experience**, the Laidlaw Scholarship is providing 25 undergraduate students with a generous stipend of **£6000** to enable two summers participation in leadership development programmes and to undertake a self-defined research project with leading academics. Furthermore, there are **internship opportunities** in your summer periods.

As a Laidlaw scholar coming towards the end of the scholarship, I have found the programme has provided me with skills that are incredibly valuable to **employers and further education.** Additionally, the research period has allowed me to get my foot in the door through the increasing competition for research experience.

In addition to the fully funded leadership and research activities. There will be opportunities to attend international conferences and residential trips (I had a wonderful time visiting UCL). Obviously, this will be virus permitting!

Have an academic in your department you would like to work with? Have a research question that could make a real-world impact? This is the perfect opportunity to make a change in your chosen field before you graduate. If you are interested or would like more information, please visit the Durham University careers and enterprise Laidlaw Scholarship page.



Furthermore, feel

free to contact me any time. I would be happy to answer any questions or tell you more about my experience with the programme! Applications close on the 17th Jan.

You can find me at

hollie.n.watchorn@durham.ac.uk

I hope to hear from you soon and stay safe.

Hollie Watchorn



Image: A wonderful business start-up presentation at the UCL conference

A message from Tyla

Badger Submission: Christmas Present Collective

Each year, St Aidan's (in association with Durham City of Sanctuary) hosts a Christmas party for refugee families in the local area; providing the children with games, a tea party, and a gift to take home with them. This year, due to the pandemic, this party sadly cannot take place, so we would like you to help us send a message of love and hope in a different way: we are instead fundraising to give children of refugee families Christmas presents, through various fundraising activities within college, and donations from friends and alumni of St Aidan's.

For livers in, we will be running various fundraising activities over the next few weeks, fundraising to buy presents for children of refugee families, so keep your eyes peeled for future upcoming events! Unfortunately, for livers out, we cannot invite you up into college (miss you guys!), but you can still donate via the St Aidan's donations site, the details for which you can find on your Freshers Facebook page.

So why do we need to focus on providing support for refugees/asylum seekers?

As part of the Outreach Comm x Aidan's for Refugees campaign week, we focused on the #InsultNotIncrease campaign. A Home Office review conducted earlier this year concluded that people seeking asylum in the UK did need better financial support from the Government – and in response, the Government raised asylum support rates by just 3 pence per week. This would bring asylum support rates to just £39.63 per week per person – an amount that would still leave many people unable to pay for food, medicine and public transport.

You can get involved with raising awareness for this campaign by using the hashtag #InsultNotIncrease online, as well as by writing to Government officials to lobby them to revaluate the asylum support rate. Also, by getting involved with the Christmas Present Collective, you can help make the Winter season just that little bit better for people seeking asylum in the UK, and give children of refugee/asylum seeking families a gift for Christmas. While it is difficult to lobby the Government, and demand that they be less hostile/xenophobic towards asylum seekers and refugees, we can make a difference on a local level, but extending our love and support out towards local people, and ensuring that they have a safe space in which to live and thrive.

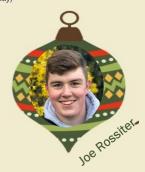
Meet Fournocomm



Your course and Year? A silly fresh, I do Liberal Arts :)) Your interests/ What do you like writing about? I like global politics, college drama and rating things out of 10 unnecessarily Rate your own chat Sh*t chat but I wear it well A word or phrase you overuse? "HEEEEeeyy"*outraged tone* or "steady on"- according to my flatmates The main thing you waste money on? Anything marketed to me as a 'bargain' (I get conned constantly)

Your course and Year?

Hi, I'm Joe, I study history and politics andI'm in first year Your Interests/ What do you like writing about? I like writing about politics and drama. Rete your own chat 2/5, very weak and usually involves puns A word or phrase you overuse? My most overused phrase: sorry (all the time) The main thing you waste money on? Christmas decorations at the moment, but normally just Amazon





Your course and Year?

I'm second year studying natural sciences (maths and physics). Your interests/ What do you like writing about? I like writing about food, drink and music (also making the memes for bogroll). Rate your own chat I'm a STEM student so I don't even know what chat is A word or phrase you overuse? I overuse the word feral. The main thing you waste money on? And the main thing I waste money on is cheese and chive dip from co-op

Your course and Year? History, year 1 Your interests/ What do you like writing about? Love doing interviews and satirical pieces - nothing I love more than making fun of my friends... ;))

Rate your own chat 4/10. 10/10 when I've got a beer down me. A word or phrase you overuse? Always saying "could never be me". When it usually is. The main thing you waste money on? Basic, but it's gotta be chocolate.





Your course and Year? Chemistry 2nd year Your Interests/ What do you like writing about? interests: biology/nature, cricket, art, languages. like writing: comedy pieces, stories Rate your own chat 5/5 - I am my own type. A word or phrase you overuse? "maaad" or "duuuuude" The main thing you waste money on? Club penguin memberships



Your course and Year?

Hi I'm Saoirse, the Secretary and chair of journocomm! I study Biology and psychology and I'm in my second year.

Your interests/ What do you like writing about?

Probs trying and failing to be funny and making the badger look pretty [pretty rubbish ha]

Rate your own chat

I rate my chat: 3.5/5 but a 6/5 for effort, room for improvement but the heart is there **A word or phrase you overuse?**

My most overused phrase: either 'truuueee' or 'you're not wrong' (I seem to agree a lot...)

The main thing you waste money on?

The main thing I waste money on is stash or just clothes in general tbh and actually a lot of bits and bobs like in first year I bought a contactless card machine (with my overdraft) because we were going to do a bakesale (which never happened)

Your course and Year?

Hey I'm Aisling, I study English lit and French and I'm in Second year. Your interests/ What do you like writing about? I like bullying Saoirse for not being able to spell properly and I do book reviews and charity spotlights and fun stuff like that xo Rate your own chat I rate my chat 4/5. A word or phrase you overuse?

My most overused phrase is probably 'literally!!!' Or 'really??' and I've been told it's really annoying so maybe my chat is only 3/5

The main thing you waste money on?

The main thing I waste money on is probably diet coke considering I consume like 24 cans a week and I very much have braces rip.





Your course and Year?

I'm Chloe and I'm a second year Psychology student Your interests/ What do you like writing about?

My interests/what I like writing about is the bog roll and thinking my memes are hilarious

Rate your own chat

I rate my chat a solid 3/5, given that I don't even know myself what I'm talking about most of the time

A word or phrase you overuse?

My most overused phrase is "it is what it is" because it really do be like that sometimes

The main thing you waste money on?

The main thing I waste money on is plants, but is it really a waste cos they're really pretty?



Your course and Year?

Hi my name's Govind and I am a second year doing PPE! Your interests/ What do you like writing about? I like writing about whatever really, but my favourite is writing about weird, offbeat subjects or writing about boring stuff with a funny twist Rate your own chat I like to think it's 10/10 but in actuality it's probably closer to 3/10

A word or phrase you overuse? "Fair enough" - It's the most polite way to end a conversation without telling

someone you dont care about what they're saying

The main thing you waste money on?

Before covid it was definitely shots at klute, jimmy's and lloyds, now it's probably chocolate, which i am slightly addicted to

The Year in Review: A Fresher's Perspective

Joe Rossiter (He/Him)

December/January: Mocks and stress. Everything was getting real but in a new decade, it was all going to be fine.

February: More work and stress. Coronavirus was a tiny speck on the news.

March: Coronavirus got big and started shutting everything down (except Cheltenham). Soon, everyone in the country was working from home, everyone was social distancing... except us in school. Then schools shut and exams were cancelled.

April: Lockdown. Everyone pretended that online school was a thing. 'Checking in' at 8:30am was compulsory until everyone worked out how to schedule emails. Rumours like 'but they might use this work to grade us' spread but were ignored for the lies they were.

May: Lockdown but hotter.

June: Lockdown but even hotter and now with football. Similar to April and May, there wasn't much to do. At this point, exams should have been starting and, though it was nice not to be doing them, it was strange to think that we had no influence over our grades any more. Irritatingly, Liverpool were on their way to winning the Premier League and Tottenham were just hanging on.

July: Not lockdown but still not great. Pubs, restaurants and hairdressers opened and we could meet people outside but in groups of six but not inside and we had to go to work if we could but if couldn't we should not go and take a test if you can but not if you can't etc.

August: Famously results day (13th) and Tottenham documentary release day (31st). Results day was difficult for a lot of people having not had control over the outcome and many are still feeling the damage now. Hopefully though, we'll all have ended up in the right place.

September: Across North London, Tottenham's documentary was creating hype, positivity and excitement just in time for them to lose on the opening day of the new season. People started leaving for uni and we found out our household numbers - until they weren't our household numbers any more and we all played group chat carousel.

October: Teaching started from our desks and immediately law students were behind. Coronavirus cases were inversely proportional to our enthusiasm.

November: The second lockdown began and Joe Biden won the US election. Mixed month.

December: Christmas decorations were put up... and promptly taken down again because they're a fire hazard. We're hoping for better in 2021 ...





Written by Aidan's Journalism committee.

If you would like to submit anything at all to the magazine please message the Aidans Journocomm facebook page/ JCR Secretary email (secretary@staidans.com)

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