

History Student Times
Issue 1 September 2012

What's New?

HIST





Letter from the editor...

Hello!

A big welcome to both returning students and everyone starting new this year! I think I speak for many when I say that when you begin studying History at Leeds, you are about to start probably the best years of your life.

The theme of this issue is 'What's New?' – something to reflect the start of a new academic year be it for old or new students: a welcome from the new head of department as well as the new History Society and Interns, whilst also thinking back to times of 'newness' in History such as new ideas and new movements.

My name is Lizzie, I'm a third year student and I the editor of the History Student Times this year. Past copies of the publication have successfully showcased the talent, creativity, and hard work from history students, something which I am excited to continue. One of my favourite things about the HST is there is no prerequisite of extensive experience, and whilst some contributors may have more practice than others, the consistent high quality of the contents serves as proof that if you want to write, you should!



I would love to hear from anyone wanting to get involved, whether for anything from writing, design, editing – there are endless opportunities, so feel free to contact me any time at historystudenttimes@leeds.ac.uk.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who took the time out of their summer to contribute to this issue!

I hope you all enjoy reading the articles as much as I did, and that this September marks the start of another incredible year at Leeds!

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FRESHERS 101: The Survival Guide

We all know that going to University means the start of some of the most exciting times of your life, but it's also a giant leap into the unknown. To help out, the History Student Times have assembled ten top tips which should go a long way to helping you make the most of your first year at Leeds!

- 1 . Keep your door open, especially on move in day! This will encourage people to drop by your room and is a great way to start making friends with the people in your halls.
- 2 . Make the most of freebies. Head to the Fresher's fair and grab whatever you can, although beware that a lot of freebies have terms attached like signing up to mailing lists. Also as soon as you get your student card make sure you take it everywhere with you, make the most of that discount!
- 3 . Join clubs but don't go crazy! Sign up to too many and you won't have any time left! Stick to about 2-3 to begin with - remember you can always join up later on in the year, sometimes at a discounted price as well.
- 4 . Hit the socials! Spend your time with a variety of people: go to the History socials (a great place to meet people on your course, trust me!) as well as your hall socials to meet more of the people you're living with. Talk to people in queues as well, you never know who you're going to meet!
- 5 . During Freshers and throughout the year stay safe! Know your limits when drinking and keep an eye on your drinks to stay in control and to stop yourself being the friend who has to be looked after on every night out! Remember part of being careful means practicing safe sex of course! Also make sure to always lock your room and flat up to keep your belongings safe.
- 6 . Once you've started your course always make the effort to get to your lectures and tutorials on time. That five minutes to get settled (and to get a good seat!) can make all the difference to how well you learn. If you find you're falling asleep take water and some boiled sweets with you, who knows why but they stop you feeling tired!
- 7 . Talk to your tutors. They say it all the time but it really is invaluable to do, they're the experts and will do whatever they can to help you out with issues with your work. Talk to your personal tutor if you're having personal difficulties, they're great listeners!
- 8 . Get your books out early. Trust me this is a big one, plan ahead with your essays as there's nothing worse than trying to write an essay at the last minute only to find all of the relevant books have already gone from the library! On the same note make the most of electronic resources, there are literally thousands!
- 9 . It sounds boring but make sure you budget well, there's enough going on in your first year without having to worry about money issues as well! Set a weekly amount for food and going out and make sure you stick to it! That way you should have money left over for emergencies and extra costs such as books. When buying books remember that sometimes the same book can cost half the price (or less!) by buying it second hand or online.
- 10 . Finally, make your room a nice environment. You're going to be living and working there all year so you need to feel at home. Plus you want to make it a welcoming place for friends to come and chill out in so decorate, put pictures up, buy some curtains and make it your own!

These are just a few tips to help you through first year but remember at the end of the day, everyone's in the same boat and feeling just the same! The years you spend at Leeds studying History will be some of the best of your life so enjoy them and make the most of them. Good luck!

-Lucie Shaw



Welcome from... the History Society

Hello from your new Presidents of HistSoc 2012/13!

We've been working hard as a committee all summer to make sure this year is the biggest and best year HistSoc has ever had. We've already doubled our sponsorship. This means our members get better deals, bigger nights and more free drinks – because let's face it, we're students and we're tight! This year our members will all receive a NoCurfew discount card – meaning cheaper nights all week round for our members! We're also designing your personalised membership cards as well as looking into society hoodies.

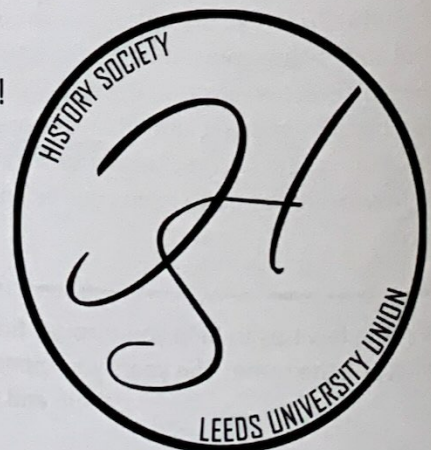
Keep on the lookout for our socials and events on Facebook in the coming weeks – we've got a lot in our diary including an Otley run and a HistSoc GIAG pub quiz. Then there's the big one. The Christmas Ball in early December. Last year was a huge success with the event selling out in 4 days. Our members can look forward to a wild send off to end their first semester.

Be prepared to get more for your money than in previous years and be prepared for a lot of new and exciting ideas.

And let's not forget...In early February we will be taking our members to Berlin for one big weekend!

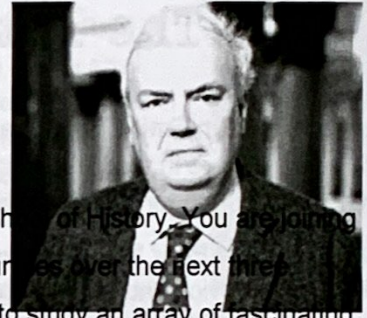
Looking forward to seeing you soon at our socials!

Catherine and Michael





Welcome from... Graham A. Loud, Head of the School Of History...



I would like to wish a very warm welcome to all our new students in the School of History. You are joining one of the best History departments in the UK, and face a host of exciting opportunities over the next three years. You will become members of a dynamic organisation, with the opportunity to study an array of fascinating historical topics, taught by acknowledged experts in the different fields. We offer an extraordinary range of modules, from the fall of the Roman Empire until the present day, and dealing with the history of most of the globe: our modern history offerings, for example, include American and Canadian, Russian, Indian, African, and now, for the first time, also Middle Eastern history.

We can also offer you different themes – not just political history and international relations, although we are rightly proud of our expertise in these areas – but also social, economic and cultural history. In addition, the School contains the Institute for Medieval Studies, which offers a range of inter-disciplinary modules at both undergraduate and postgraduate level, and annually hosts the largest conference of medieval studies in Europe.

Over the last year we have strengthened our teaching staff with a number of new appointments, including those of four new professors, who will expand our already impressive range of teaching. We also have a regular programme of visiting speakers – among those who have agreed to come during the next year is Sir Ian Kershaw, the celebrated historian of Nazi Germany. These lectures, and the regular School research seminars, are open to all. We are fortunate to enjoy some quite excellent library facilities – the Brotherton Library is one of the best university research libraries in Britain. But we can offer you a lot more as well. The School has a flourishing History society, which organises social as well as academic activities, including an annual Christmas ball. We offer innovative “History theory and practice” modules during the second year, some of which include work placements and collaboration with local businesses, schools and heritage groups. We also offer a series of internships, in which you can gain valuable experience while helping with the School's careers provision, research projects and administration, and earning money along the way.

The success of the School is not just measured by the excellent degree results that our students achieve. Of those who graduated from the School in 2011 some 97% were in employment or in further full-time education or training six months after graduation. (Only medicine and dentistry had a higher figure in the university as a whole). History is not simply an ‘ivory-tower’ academic subject – it offers valuable preparation for a whole range of career options.

Yet to make the best from your university course, you cannot simply rely on the academic staff, hard as we shall work to help you realise your potential. We also need your efforts to make the most of the opportunities you are offered, not least by going to lectures, reading widely as directed by your tutors, and above all taking an active part in class discussions. Some of what you will be studying may seem difficult, but it is also rewarding. As a Maori proverb says, ‘to have hope and faith in the future, you must first stand on the shoulders of the past’. It is by understanding the past that we can begin to create an understanding of the present. But please remember that History is not only a challenging and valuable intellectual training – it's also fun. That's why I studied History

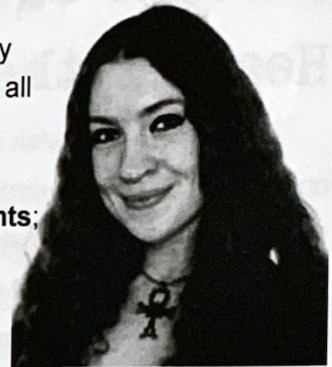


Meet The Interns!

Hello There! I'm **Emily Timms**, and I am the **Induction and Peer Mentor Intern**. It's my job to make sure that all first year students settle in well, and that you make the most of all the exciting opportunities that the school and the university has lined up for you!

I look after the **Peer Mentor Scheme**, a lovely bunch of 2nd and 3rd years who want to share their advice and experiences, either on a one to one basis, or at our **Mentor Events**; there will be six themed – and of course, catered!- events throughout the year covering topics such as: Academic/study advice/writing essays, Exam advice, and Careers and Internship advice.

So I look forward to seeing you all there, to make the most of the advice our friendly Peer Mentors can give you and have a slice of cake!



I'm **Jasmin Hamid** and I'm the **Student Employability intern**. I will be responsible for improving student employability by encouraging greater student participation in career led events, therefore ensuring all students are made aware of the demands of employers and have the opportunity to develop these skills within the history module framework.

I'm **Nicole Evans**, and I am the **teaching careers intern** for this year. Over the course of the year I am aiming to provide History students with information and advice about deadlines, applications and work/volunteering opportunities, along with inviting some helpful guest speakers into the department to advise us with teaching applications and provide an insight into the realities of the teaching career!



Hi everyone! My name is **Kerri Bridges** and I'm the new **Careers Intern for Law**. I will be there to answer your questions about getting into the legal world as a solicitor, a barrister, or doing any other form of legal work. I will be organising for speakers to come to the University to talk about the profession and provide some useful anecdotes so you can really get a feel of what working in Law will be like. Please join the Law Group on the Portal to see all my updates for careers events and general useful tips, advice and info. I am involved in the History Society as Secretary and in the Law for Non-Law Society as Co-President so beyond all the careers stuff I hope to see you all out on the town at the socials we organise! Best of luck for the year ahead!

Hi everyone, Welcome back to Leeds. My name is **Alice Ruffell** and I'm the **marketing and communications intern** for this year. My job is to help make sure that everyone hears about all the wonderful things that the other interns, the school of history and the uni in general are putting on for you so that you can make the most of your time at Leeds.



Hello to all Historians! My name is **Jessica Duncan**, and I am your **Media and Journalism Intern** for this year. As a result of this role I will be your spokesperson, talking to media and journalism companies and inviting them to come and talk to us about their company and the media and or journalism profession. I am also a person you can come and chat to if you are interested in the profession and want some advice on where to start. If you would like to talk to me please email me at jh10jcd@leeds.ac.uk.



My name is **Sophie Vipond** and I am the **IHP Recruitment Intern**. I'm going into my third year and have been passionate about the programme since before I arrived. I believe that raising awareness of IHP's existence to potential students is my most important task, as it is the only course in the country of its nature and therefore not very well known. When people do find out about it on our open days we get such a positive response, as it is very selective and very modern, which gets a good reception with students.

I'm **Amy Sullivan**, and I'm the **Politics Career Intern**. As part of my role I'll be working with the other careers interns to organise fantastic careers events, to help you make those all-important career decisions! I'm also the History School Rep so if you encounter any problems during your time here at Leeds or have any ideas about what political companies or speakers you would like me to target, don't hesitate to get in touch. My email is hy10als@leeds.ac.uk and I hope you have a great first year!



My name is **Molly Courtice** and I'm the **Leeds for Life and Alumni** intern. I will be promoting the use of the Leeds for Life website and the opportunities that the website offers. I am also hoping to encourage relations between current students and alumni to show the huge possibilities a history degree from Leeds can bring and broaden networking opportunities.

I'm **Josh Edwards**, I'm this year's **Business Intern** and plan to provide networking events including talks, lectures, round-tables and one-to-one sessions with fellow students as well as leveraging a network of some of the biggest and local national businesses. I recently finished a year in industry at IBM on the CSER8000 placement module and I hope I can provide a worthwhile and stimulating point of reference during the year. Contact – hy09je@leeds.ac.uk





On This Day... 28th September 1918

28th September. 1918. The French village of Marcoing. As the battle between British and German forces drew to a close, a wounded Austrian non-commissioned officer staggered through the dust, and into the sights of British Pvt. Henry Tandey. The British private from Leamington took mercy and lowered his sights, later admitting, "I took aim but I couldn't shoot a wounded man."

It later emerged that the soldier he let flee the battlefield was none other than Lance Corporal Adolf Hitler of the 16th Bavarian Regiment. Tandey went on to win a Victoria Cross for his gallantry, and many newspaper articles celebrated the war hero. After recognising a photograph of Tandey in a newspaper, then Chancellor Adolf Hitler contacted Tandey's former regiment and requested a copy of the painting. When Neville Chamberlain visited Hitler in 1938 in The Berghof, he was shown the painting hanging on Hitler's wall and told that "that man came so near to killing me that I thought I shall never see Germany again", before asking Chamberlain to pass his best wishes to Tandey. As Hitler's intentions became increasingly clear and war engulfed Europe for a second time that century, Tandey felt hopelessly guilty, admitting, "I was sorry to God that I let him go". He unsuccessfully attempted to re-enlist, before dying at 86. Fascinating displays of mercy on the battlefield such as this have by no means been limited to the twenty first century.

Move to September 1777, Brandywine Creek in Pennsylvania. Renowned Scottish rifleman Patrick Ferguson, who had established one of the very first 'sniper' units that relied upon a rifle of his own invention, was carrying out reconnaissance work during the American War of Independence. Two highly decorated and unsuspecting enemy officers on horseback stumbled into the ambush site of Ferguson and a small detachment of his men. Ferguson, however, was strongly morally against firing at unsuspecting or routing enemies, and so forbade his men to shoot and instead revealed his position to the officers and loudly declared his presence before allowing the enemy officers to flee. He later admitted "I could have lodged half a dozen balls in or about him", however deplored such behaviour as "disgusting". When being treated in a field hospital several days later he learned that the officers had most likely been George Washington and the General of the Continental Army, Count Casimir Pulaski. However, unlike Pvt Tandey, Ferguson expressed no regrets and said he would still not have ambushed them even if he had known their identities. These events present amongst other things, a classic *what if* question: what if these British men had not shown such compassion and instead of removing their crosshairs from Hitler and Washington, they had pulled the trigger?

-Finn Younger



What if... Hua Guofeng had managed to keep his hold on the Chinese Communist Party after Mao's Death?

Hua Guofeng, Mao Zedong's chosen successor (and uncanny look-alike) is a relatively unheard of figure in history. However, after the death of Chairman Mao in 1976 he took on the title of the "Chairman of the Communist Party of China", and became head of the Central Military Commission. Earlier in 1976, before Mao's death, he had been promoted to head of the State Council. Therefore Hua was indisputably the most powerful man in post-Mao China, holding the three highest offices in China simultaneously.

So why don't we remember Hua? Essentially it is because Hua did not last long in power, as he was outmanoeuvred and ousted by Deng Xiaoping, who represented a new order transforming China's Maoist society with an economic revolution, which is still changing the international balance of power today.

But it so easily could not have been so, as it was well within Hua's power to have Deng expelled from the Communist party in the early period of his rule. Deng Xiaoping's position in the initial period after Mao's death was certainly not a strong one. He had been purged in the Cultural Revolution, being stripped of all positions and working in a tractor factory for four years. Despite being rehabilitated and becoming vice premier in 1974, he fell out of favour with Mao a second time after the death of the prime-minister Zhou Enlai, and was again stripped of all party positions.

It was Hua that brought back Deng into top party positions in 1977, and if he had not done so, or had removed him once he realised he was a threat, Deng would never later have been able to gain power and create the economic miracle that has propelled China to become the second largest economy in the world.

Hua Guofeng represented the old Maoist order, so if he had remained in power, and set up a successor to carry on his policies, China would be a radically different place to what it is today. Economically Hua favoured the Soviet model of a centrally planned economy focused on heavy industry, with a high level of party control. With this model China would almost certainly have faced economic stagnation, or at any rate not growth comparable with the economic explosion China saw under Deng Xiaoping, an explosion which is still going on today. Therefore China would certainly be a less wealthy country, and would not have the economic power on the world stage that it does today. However China would be a more equal country, as China's economic growth has created a huge wealth divide in present China, so it may in fact be more stable as well as more stagnant.

Politically Hua favoured high levels of party control, and attempted to create a cult around himself as well as bolstering the cult that already surrounded Mao. Hua made it a requirement for his portrait to be hung alongside Mao's at every party meeting, and in every school. If Hua Guofeng had managed to keep his grip on power, and set up a lasting legacy, China may have been more like North Korea, with a strong leadership cult and an authoritarian state even more repressive than China's is today.

Clearly then, it would easily have been possible for Hua to use his extremely powerful position to quash the challenge made by Deng Xiaoping and the reformists, if he had acted soon enough, or indeed if he had simply not brought back Deng from political obscurity. If that was to have been the case then China would be hugely different place, and so would the world. Without the economic transformation that was begun with Deng Xiaoping's reforms, we would not have such cheap consumer goods, and without China being an engine of the global economy's growth, as it has been for years, not just China, but the whole world, would be poorer. So perhaps we should be grateful to Hua, for not cottoning on until it was too late.

- Rob Allen



International History & Politics:

China: Out of the Frying Pan

“Do you want to buy Chairman Mao wristwatch?” asked the Beijing street-seller in my first encounter of both China and the eponymous Chairman. As a matter of fact, I did, and entered the Temple of Heaven 30 Yuan worse off but pleased with my first souvenir. I had known little about China and her revolutionary history – a fact which may apply to anyone who has gone through a Eurocentric education system which teaches of Lenin and Stalin but largely ignores Sun Yatsen, Chiang Kaishek and Mao Zedong. A week after buying the watch (which stopped working in only a few hours), I found myself in the mausoleum of the Communist leader himself on Tiananmen Square, only a few feet from Mao’s preserved body. Thus began a fascination with China and her long, bitter revolution.

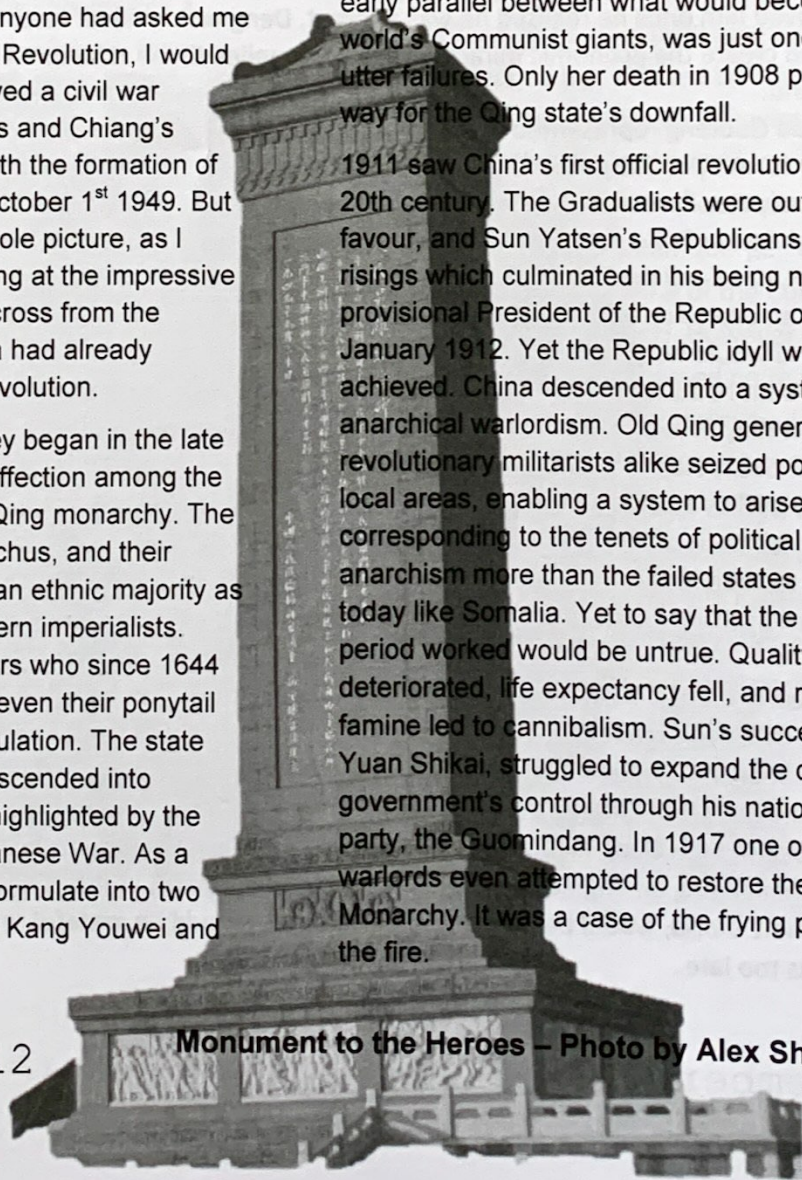
Before arrival in Beijing, if anyone had asked me what I knew of the Chinese Revolution, I would have answered that it involved a civil war between Mao’s Communists and Chiang’s Guomindang, and ended with the formation of the People’s Republic on October 1st 1949. But this is far from being the whole picture, as I began to realise whilst gazing at the impressive Monument to the Heroes across from the Tiananmen. By 1949, China had already endured half a century of revolution.

China’s revolutionary journey began in the late 1890s with widespread disaffection among the academic classes with the Qing monarchy. The Qing themselves were Manchus, and their Dynasty was seen by the Han ethnic majority as little different from the Western imperialists. They were foreign oppressors who since 1644 had forced their way of life, even their ponytail hairstyle, upon the Han population. The state bureaucratic system had descended into incompetency and apathy, highlighted by the defeat in the First Sino-Japanese War. As a result, protestors began to formulate into two distinct groups: those led by Kang Youwei and

Sun Yatsen. The former were Gradualists, advocating slow reform through the existing imperial system. Sun Yatsen’s faction, however, were Republican radicals who wanted an overthrow of the monarchy, and had attempted an uprising of secret societies in 1895.

Unfortunately for would-be revolutionaries, the Qing matriarch, Empress Dowager Cixi (the ‘Dragon Lady’, whose seat of power at the Summer Palace provided the coldest visit of my Chinese holiday) had a strong grasp on power. She removed the Gradualist reformers given positions by the Emperor, and eventually the Emperor himself. The early 20th century saw only a series of failed uprisings by both groups. An assassination attempt on Cixi in 1906 inspired by Russian left-wing terrorist group Narodnaya Volya, although interesting as an early parallel between what would become the world’s Communist giants, was just one of these utter failures. Only her death in 1908 paved the way for the Qing state’s downfall.

1911 saw China’s first official revolution of the 20th century. The Gradualists were out of favour, and Sun Yatsen’s Republicans led the risings which culminated in his being named provisional President of the Republic of China in January 1912. Yet the Republic idyll was not achieved. China descended into a system of anarchical warlordism. Old Qing generals and revolutionary militarists alike seized power in local areas, enabling a system to arise roughly corresponding to the tenets of political anarchism more than the failed states we see today like Somalia. Yet to say that the warlord period worked would be untrue. Quality of life deteriorated, life expectancy fell, and rural famine led to cannibalism. Sun’s successor, Yuan Shikai, struggled to expand the central government’s control through his nationalist party, the Guomindang. In 1917 one of the warlords even attempted to restore the Qing Monarchy. It was a case of the frying pan and the fire.





In understanding the overall course of China's revolution, several events are important. The student protests of 1919, the May Fourth Movement, signalled the rise of left-wing sympathies, which manifested themselves concretely with the formation of the Chinese Communist Party 1920-21. The early days of the CCP were of warlord repression and lack of direction. The Guomindang (GMD) managed to reorganise effectively, but were also in want of protection from the warlords. The solution proposed by Moscow was a United Front.

In 1925, Sun Yatsen died and Chiang Kaishek took the reins of a GMD split between conservative and radical factions, the latter not too different from the CCP. Under the First United Front, Chiang succeeded by in securing a party power base as well as a complex alliance system with minor warlords that enabled the Northern Expedition to unseat the unruly northern generals. The Expedition signalled the next step to 1949: the collapse of the United Front and civil war between GMD and CCP. It was against this background that Mao Zedong rose to power. As central Party leadership hit the rocks, Mao emerged as the light at the end of the Communist tunnel, ensuring the survival of the CCP throughout the 1930s – which saw a heightening civil war and invasion by imperialist Japan. Although things looked bleak, Mao's almost unique attention to working with the illiterate peasantry allowed the Party to survive, albeit barely, even when the Second Sino-Japanese War became part of WW2.

When Japan surrendered, a watershed was reached in the Chinese Civil War that had continued with only a short break in the form of a Second United Front. Chiang Kaishek had not expected victory in 1945, enabling Mao's forces to seize the initiative by disarming the Japanese armies and occupying Manchuria. Thus began the final stage of the road to 1949. One wonders what the average Chinese farmer would have made of the political upheaval since 1911. Would he have understood or cared that the fighting which ravished his country was not one war but several struggles?

By late 1948, the Guomindang had as good as lost, but it was not until 1 October 1949 that Mao inaugurated the People's Republic of China, such was the tenacity of certain strongholds under Nationalist control. It was not for another two weeks that the GMD's central base at Guangzhou fell. This is one way in which China's revolution was not complete by 1949. Under Mao's control, there were many more stages: the Great Leap Forward, effectively an agricultural revolution, and the infamous Cultural Revolution to name just two. Even after the great dictator's death, competing revolutionary voices persisted. We've all seen the photos of 1989 at Tiananmen Square.

China's revolution is complicated, but could not the same be said of any great political change? Perhaps what makes China's journey so interesting is the sheer scale of the fluctuations in its focus. Whilst the liberal reformists of 1905 Russia might seem very different to the Stalinist purgers, one can more easily draw an ideological family tree between them than Kang Youwei's Gradualists who fought to maintain a constitutional monarchy, the ultra-conservative faction of Chiang Kaishek's Guomindang, and Chairman Mao's socialist radicalism of the 1960s. But such a connection does exist, and it is evident when we trace back China's revolutionary journey to its very beginnings, in the dissatisfaction with the Manchu rulers. All the competing revolutionary factions share one thing at least in common; a desire of national independence, for the overthrow of foreign imperialists. This was, however, a somewhat abstract goal opined upon by the scholarly classes. To the ordinary working peasant, what mattered was their quality of life. Sufficient food and water. Somewhere to live without fear of bombardment, pillaging or worse. Ultimately, it was Chairman Mao who, despite the disaster of the Great Leap Forward, set China on its final course towards achieving these things. This is why a man reviled by the West is still idolised by his own people.

-Alex Shaw

Mao's Mausoleum on Tiananmen Square – Photo by Alex Shaw





What's New?

Is Our Generation "Unique in Modern History?"

Unlike every generation in the post-1945 period we are supposedly set to grow up poorer than our parents. With Youth unemployment currently at 19%, a double dip recession and a glut of graduates competing for an infinitely smaller number of real graduate positions, in the short term you can see why this may ring true. However, it is not only in the short term that our generation's prospects seem bleak. While the graduates of past generations had free education and living grants, leaving university almost debt free, half of our generation will still be paying off student loans in their fifties. If a recent study is to be believed then we are as a generation going to be 25% worse off than our parents were. There certainly does appear to be a growing body of evidence to suggest that we are "unique" for all the wrong reasons, yet if one thinks what our parents went through as they grew up, and all the things we now take for granted which they never had, could it be possible that we are just the whiniest generation in history?

While the baby boomers were able to buy their first home on average at age 29, with a 10% deposit, it is predicted our generation will be stuck as a "generation rent" until well into our thirties, buying houses at twice the cost of what our parents bought them for, with 25% deposits, and not benefiting from rising house prices after purchase as the baby boomers did. This, combined with a faltering economy and the fact that those baby boomers who went to university left virtually debt free - whilst this year's Freshers will be graduating with predicted debts of £53,000 - means that even if we all manage to enter well-paid jobs as soon as we leave uni, we will be £400,000 worse off at the age of 65 than our parents were (on average). So it's certainly clear that there is at least some truth to the claim that we are to be poorer than our parents.

However is this not historical amnesia? Does it not forget all the hardship that our parents went through? In the '60s, when the baby boomers were growing up, there were plenty of people still using outside toilets; when they were starting to get jobs in the mid '70s unemployment was as high as it was now, and by the early to mid '80s it was even higher. They lived through the Three-Day Week with regular power cuts, no bin collections and then experienced the hardship of Thatcher's brutal cuts. Imagine asking today's students to put up with outside toilets, no electricity for hours on end, and of course to do without so many other wonderful inventions and luxuries which we all take for granted. Most of us have so far led comparatively cushioned lives compared to our parents, so perhaps we don't have it quite as hard as we might like to think.

Many people say that the problem is too many people are now going to university, so there will never be enough graduate positions for us all, and thus the system has to change so as to force less people to go to university. However, an education is a resource, not a burden. The world needs more skilled people to tackle the multiplicity of problems the 21st century will throw at us, not less. We need more doctors, more researchers, more engineers, more chemists and physicists, and more economists and philosophers, and yes historians, to make the world better and to make sense of it all.

What is clear is that we are not going to have an easy time of it; our generation faces a huge mountain of problems which it has to climb, but what generation doesn't? We should not confine our response to a system that condemns us to be worse off than our parents to merely moaning about it. We are the future, and we have the power to change it, we have to create our own leaders, rather than rallying around old ones as the Occupy movement did. The likes of Chomsky and Žižek are all very well, but we need shape our own future. We could well be a generation unique in modern history, but whether it is for all the wrong reasons, or all the right reasons, depends on what we make of it

-Rob Allen



What's New?

Under the Microscope

With the invention of the microscope came the discovery of a new world. One full of tiny bugs and mites you may wish you'd never seen, but a new world nonetheless. Here are some quirky, and quite frankly gross, observations made with the optical instrument. If you'd rather not know about bugs on your teeth or a human figure in spermatozoa I recommend you cease reading!

Magnification dates as far back as Seneca (AD 4-65) with his glass bowl, but it was the early 1600s that the microscope was invented. No-one really knows who *the* first inventor was but the consensus is the Netherlander Zaccarias Janssen in 1610, followed by Cornelius Drebbel and Galileo. It was from the 1660s that this new world was really explored. Whether out of curiosity or of scientific investigations all sorts of things were placed and found under the lens . . .

Robert Hooke (1635-1703), encouraged by the Royal Society of London, was the first person to publish a detailed account of microscopic observations. *Micrographia* (1665) proved an instant success across Europe. What captured their imaginations were the intricate engravings of every-day objects as seen under the microscope; fleas, mites, fungi, cork, razor edges, hairs and snowflakes were all enlarged, sometimes frighteningly so. One fold-out page confronted the reader with a hairy, clawed, 18 inch flea: apparently some women fainted!

The image of the 2 ft. louse holding a hair raised a few laughs. Hooke had placed a human hair alongside the louse in order to show their relative sizes. However, the bizarre experiments of the Royal Society (animals suffocated in air-pumps and dog-to-human blood transfusions) prompted a number of satires and Hooke's louse was no exception. The strand of human hair was transformed into the state of the art staff held by the dignified louse: this louse was no ordinary louse claimed Andrew Marvell in 1667, but had the privilege of being a guard. Hooke had discovered the secret world of the bug in business!

The Dutchman Anthony van Leeuwenhoek (1632-1723) also pored over the images. If anyone went the extra mile in microscopy it was Leeuwenhoek. He made over

500 of his own high-definition microscopes (though he never revealed his trade secrets) and stuck literally anything he could under them: spit, skin, raindrops, insects, eggs, sperm, plaque scraped off his teeth, diarrhoea stools. In April 1676 he discovered tiny life-forms called protozoa, or as they were known, "animalcules", in stagnant pepper-water and after a struggle getting the Royal Society of London to believe him (Hooke, their own microscopist, had not come across them) he became renowned across Europe. In September 1683 in a letter to the Society Leeuwenhoek described how he discovered his "animalcules" on teeth and in saliva.

He mixed plaque from his teeth with water and stuck it under the lens. 'There were many very little living animalcules... The biggest sort . . . had a very strong and swift motion, and shot through the water (or spittle) like a pike...' He studied samples from two old men who had never brushed their teeth and saw 'an unbelievably great company of living animalcules . . . the other animalcules were in such enormous numbers, that all the water . . . seemed to be alive'.

Leeuwenhoek was also the first to discover spermatozoa, an important find that fuelled the confusion over reproduction. One theory, preformationism, hypothesised that there was a 'homunculus', a tiny pre-formed human which then simply grew in size in the mother. But who had it first, the mother or the father? The microscope, far from clearing up the matter, made things worse. Both camps claimed to have seen the miniature human through the microscope. Some claimed to have seen it in the ovum whereas others, like Leeuwenhoek, thought they had glimpsed it in the spermatozoa. Rather misleadingly, in 1694 an image showing a human curled up in the latter was published by the Dutch microscopist Nicholas Hartsoeker. Although he said he had not seen it himself the impression was that he had, and the image of the microscopic human is still well-known today.

These are only some of the myriad of things which were studied under the lens, but each one of them, however bizarre they may seem to us now, were (believe it or not) pioneering steps in the seventeenth century.

-Archana Kapoor 12



What's New? Who was Jack the Ripper?

Might Jack the Ripper, the notorious murderer of late 19th century London, have been a woman? This is the theory which John Morris has put forward in *Jack the Ripper: The Hand of a Woman*, and it is highly original.

Over a period of three months in 1888, five murders were committed in London: the first in August and the last in November. They were all women and their throats, abdomens, or both had been sliced open. Three of the victims had their wombs as well as heart, kidneys and other internal organs removed.

Because of the horrific nature of the crimes it was generally assumed the murderer was a man. The only solid piece of evidence for this assumption was a letter believed to have been written by the killer in September 1888. Having declared his intention of killing all prostitutes in London the author signed it 'Jack the Ripper'. Of course, "Jack" was never accepted as the killer's real name, but the implication that "Jack" was a man stuck. "Jack" might have been Lewis Carroll or the Duke of Clarence (just two of many suspects) but whoever he was, he was a man.

However, in 2009 it emerged that the letter was a hoax – a journalist, and not the killer, had been the author. Now the Ripper could have been anyone and, as Morris argues, possibly a woman. In fact, Morris's most compelling point is that the removal of wombs *is* in fact a woman's crime. He looked at the 27 similar attacks committed worldwide from 1888: 'What I found was that in *every single case* the attacks were carried out by women'. The motive? To fix broken relationships and, in Lizzie's case, a marriage.

Mary Elizabeth Ann Hughes – or Lizzie – was married to the eminent surgeon Sir John Williams, but, unable to have children, their marriage ran into difficulties and Williams began a series of affairs. One lover was an Irishwoman Mary Kelly – the fifth and last victim of the Ripper. Williams' great-great nephew recently proposed that he was the Ripper, but Lizzie would have had much more of a motive. She must have feared that either her husband would leave her or that Kelly would provide the child Williams had always wanted (hence the symbolic importance attached to ripping out her victims' wombs). When she lost the financial support of her father her position became even more precarious. Killing her husband's mistress would have been the only way of saving her marriage. She would have been in a perfect position to pick up basic female anatomy but first had to see if she was capable of murder.

Her first victim, a prostitute called Mary Ann Nichols, was in effect a "trial-run". Her second, Anne Chapman, was successful – the womb, unlike Nichols, was removed. Her third, Elizabeth Stride who "only" had her throat slit would have been a cover-up as Stride had told Lizzie where to find her intended victim, Mary Kelly. But her information had been wrong. The fourth victim, Catherine Eddowes, *sometimes went by the name of Mary Kelly*; the bizarre nickname cost her life. It was in November that Lizzie finally found her target: Kelly's womb, heart and other internal organs were ripped out.

If Lizzie was responsible, her actions didn't save her marriage. Two years later she was living in Wales with her father whilst her husband, who had retired unusually early, was in London. Morris assumes Lizzie suffered a nervous breakdown and confessed to her husband, prompting him to retire from medicine. The hard evidence for his theory is lacking, but there was an interesting find in Williams' correspondence. Whilst the 1888 letter might not have been genuine, Morris believes that another was, reading, 'Thank you for the forgiveness and for keeping my secret ... you are the centre of my world'. Also worth noting is the mysterious woman's clothing found in Kelly's fireplace – clothes which the victim had never been seen wearing. That same night a reliable witness known to the police spotted a woman near the murder scene who, she claimed, was dressed in the very clothes Kelly had worn the day before.

The evidence is circumstantial (a point Morris admits) and there are quite a lot of assumptions. However, by opening up the case in this way he leaves us with food for thought, particularly his point that the nature of the Ripper's crimes has firmly been shown to be that of a woman's



What's New?

The Music Hall

Rachael Gillibrand explores a new type of entertainment.

Entertainment in the early nineteenth century had been a very formal affair – operas and theatre for the wealthy, or simple singing with the family for those less fortunate.

However, these more refined pastimes were soon swept aside by the outbreak of music hall culture in the 1860's. Comprising of more bawdy acts, previously unheard of outside the travelling fairs, the music hall offered a comic commentary on working class life.

The boom of the music hall was so rapid that, by 1870, 31 halls were established in London and another 384 throughout the country. Although considered a little tawdry for members of the upper-classes, the affordable nature of the music hall attracted vast audiences from the middle and working classes.

This large turn out to music hall variety shows had, in turn, a vast impact on the notion of 'celebrity' in the Victorian era. Until this point it had been the place of the nobility, the church and the scholars to be revered, but now the music hall provided, quite literally, the perfect stage for talented performers to gain widespread public recognition.

Perhaps one of the most famous of those performers was George Leybourne, a well-known 'Lion

Comique' of the mid-nineteenth century. The 'Lion Comiques' were a group of young men, whose act saw them assume the role of the era's landed nobility. They sang satirical songs about the upper-most echelons of society, poking fun at those who could afford to 'live the high life'.

Leybourne's performance of 'Champagne Charlie', originally premiered in August 1866 at the Princess Concert Hall, Leeds, is particularly characteristic of this. It tells the tale of a young gentleman who would only drink champagne – "I only drink champagne! For Champagne Charlie is me name, champagne drinking is me game, there's no drink as good as fizz, fizz, fizz, I'll drink every drop there is, is, is!"

As the 1800's progressed, the popularity of the music hall soared and the heightened revenue was spent on improving the venues. Stages were raised, lighting techniques improved, chairs were fixed in the stalls, and the now established stars began to demand better pay for their performances.

This was the age of the classier 'Palaces' and 'Empires', which, for all their soft furnishings and higher-brow entertainment, had lost the gaudy charm that had originally attracted visitors to the halls.

It soon became clear that the popularity of the music hall could not last forever. After a half century

of success, it was beginning to be outdated by more fashionable forms of entertainment. Despite a number of attempts to revive it, the music hall eventually gave way to more modern pursuits such as cinema or radio and, by the time of World War Two, it had all but vanished from the streets of Britain.

Yet even without a physical presence, the jovial atmosphere of the music hall has remained a persevering part of British culture. Many famous artists have been inspired by music hall acts, such as *The Beatles*, who merged their ground breaking rock and roll sound with more traditional music hall comedy, for example in 'When I'm Sixty Four'. Similarly, rock band *Queen's* witty, anecdotal lyricism is vastly reminiscent of the music hall genre, particularly seen in their 1974 hit 'Killer Queen'.

Overall, it seems safe to say that this pioneering, and at times slightly risqué, genre of entertainment still lives on today. The legacy of the music halls is a quintessential part of British heritage, converting stuffy and stayed practices into the satirical British comedy which we know today. The Victorian music halls may have undergone a great number of changes throughout their time and, even though they may no longer showcase their acts from behind a red curtain, their influence certainly remains a prominent force in 21st century television and radio.

-Rachael Gillibrand



Travel: The Intriguing Dichotomy of Dublin

What hits you almost as soon as you leave the airport is how modern Dublin looks. The pristine white metal of the 'aerfort', with its glass hamster tubes connecting terminals one and two, is matched by the new motorway leading to the city itself.

Entering Dublin from the north side, the banks of the Liffey are replete with noughties frontages; nice looking apartments and offices. The Celtic Tiger has made an indelible mark on the place, but it wasn't difficult to peel back the layers of economic prosperity to discover its older self.

I've never visited a city as conscious of its own heritage as Dublin. For all its modernity, it has in equal measure an obsession with the past, particularly the 19th and 20th centuries. At the top of the main thoroughfare stands a statue of Charles Stuart Parnell, the Irish Party leader, and at the bottom lays a statue of Daniel O'Connell, the man who gave Ireland's Catholics emancipation.

The city continues in much the same vein, filled with dedications to the men of the 1916 Easter Rising and the rest of Ireland's revolutionary canon. It proudly displays its battle scars, from the General Post Office; the grand

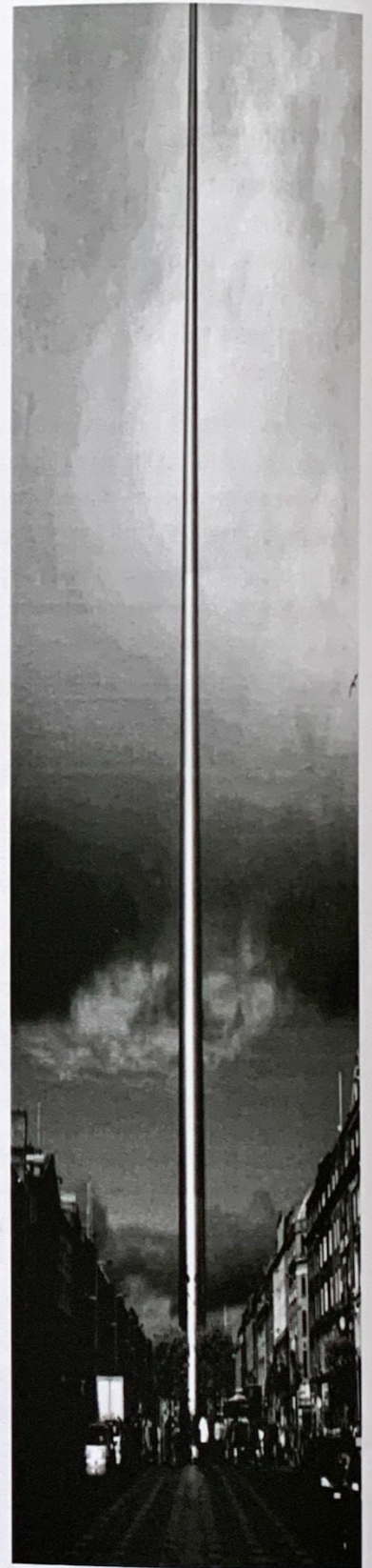
neoclassical structure that acted as headquarters for the 1916 revolutionaries, to the many small

monuments and plaques scattered across the city. Dublin castle seemed uninterested in its years as a multi-purpose medieval fortress, instead focussing on its role in the handover of power to the Irish Free State in 1922. A number of the Dublin's streets and bridges have been renamed to reflect a strong gratitude to Irish freedom fighters.

But perhaps the greatest tribute was to be found in Kilmainham Gaol, the complex where many rebels were imprisoned and executed. Its imposing atrium with its tiny cells, the dank, crumbling corridors, and the stonebreaker's yard where the executions took place, provided a bleak counterpart to the more celebratory attitude to Irish history displayed across the city.

Overall, Dublin seems to achieve an intriguing dichotomy. It plays host to droves of tourists in a debonair fashion, and revels in its new found affluence, but is also overwhelmingly preoccupied with how it got there. It can be more or less summed up with a survey of O'Connell Street: the 400ft Spire of Dublin, a beacon of success, standing between the statues of Ireland's heroes.

-Richard Ross





Review: 'The First Grader'

The start of September always signifies the fast approaching beginning of term, and the annually recurring problem of the unshakable feeling that you should be preparing in some way for the upcoming academic year. Though year after year I promise myself that I will get a head start on reading, time and time again this brings only failure, and *'The Age of Extremes'* is shunned aside and replaced with *'Fifty Shades of Grey'*, lighter beachside reading. However, more recently I have found that historically based films are the perfect halfway, allowing you to inform yourself of the historical periods you're about to embark on, while avoiding spending hours labouring in the shelter of the library. Whilst revising for HIST1210, the film *'Thirteen Days'* concisely told the story of the Cuban missiles crisis in a mere 145 minutes. *'Dangerous Liaisons'* was more entertaining in nature, thus less helpful in consolidating my knowledge of pre-revolutionary France for HIST1300, yet it nevertheless succeeded in sparking further interest in the module. Whilst I'm not suggesting replacing essential and extensive reading with films, I do believe that watching films can provide the stepping stone between not holding a pen for three months of holiday, and reading books thicker than *'Harry Potter'*.

This coming academic year one of the modules I've chosen is HIST2430, 'The History of Africa since 1900'. There are numerous films relating to this vast period, including blockbusters such as *'Blood Diamond'*, *'Hotel Rwanda'* and *'The Constant Gardener'*. I thought for the purpose of this article I might draw attention to a lesser known film, *'The First Grader'*.

Though GB mania, triggered to an all-time high by the Olympics this summer, tends to overlook our violent past, it cannot be overstated that British imperialism caused some of the most harsh and devastating treatment of those living within the colonies. Amongst these were the Kikuyu in Kenya. The Mau Mau Uprising was the rebellion of a mainly Kikuyu group who were opposed to British colonial rule. The movement was forcibly subdued and the rebels placed in British detention camps. *'The First Grader'* tells the true story of an ex-Mau Mau freedom fighter and survivor of the detention camps, Maruge. At the age of eighty, Maruge is desperate to learn how to read and write when the Kenyan government offer the chance of 'free primary education for all'. The movie follows the struggle he and his teacher, Jane Obinchi, face against parents and officials who believe that education resources should not be wasted on an old man.

The film successfully highlights the controversial issue and moral dilemma of whether education is the right of children, but 'wasted' on old people. As a veteran of the struggle for Kenyan independence, Maruge believes it is as much his right to learn as any child, and the film undoubtedly conveys the importance of education. Indeed, Maruge went on to speak in front of the United Nations about the need for free primary education in September 2005. Watching Maruge's struggles later on in life was an interesting perspective when considering the effects of British colonial rule fifty years prior. Furthermore, the film was shot on location in Kenya, and the children in the film had never seen a television before being recruited for shooting. The children are a central focus to the film as they are representative of the future of Kenya, and their participation was heart-warming and genuine which came across perfectly in the film. I would highly recommend this film to anyone interested in the history of contemporary politics of Africa.

-Izzy MacSwan

Kimani Maruge in a mathematics class



The Debate:

YES -Becky Stead

London 2012. After seven years of intense preparation, controversy and heartache, the Olympics have been and gone. And for all the Olympic-sceptics out there and the scores of people willing the Games to fail, the success of those two weeks is hard to dispute. With over two hundred nations competing in fifty three different events and a record haul of sixty five medals for Team GB, the numbers speak for themselves.

But the question on everyone's lips now the Games have drawn to a close is "can the London 2012 Olympics really make a difference? Can our Games leave the lasting legacy the Committee has been hoping for?"

Since its earliest preparations, the slogan of the London 2012 Games has been to "inspire a generation", hoping to generate positive drive and determination to succeed among young people. Prior to the games, many would have scoffed at the suggestion; asking how can a sporting event have such a lasting effect on anyone.

Yet something peculiar occurred. Millions of patriotic Britons turned out in force, enthusiastically waving their Union Jacks and proudly singing the national anthem. Crowds gathered in local parks and town centres to gaze at the big screens broadcasting British Olympic success to the world. Families have picked up their cobweb-covered bikes and taken to the streets in true Wigginsian style.

Great Britain caught Olympic fever. The overwhelming positivity flowing from the Olympic Park and the Games lifted the nation, brought smiles to the faces of the surliest locals, and even fashioned something vaguely recognisable as summer weather.

Only time will tell if anything concrete and long-lasting will come from the London Olympic Games, and there will always be those who criticise. The Olympic spirit probably won't eradicate world poverty, or solve the international economic recession. It might not create a new generation of Olympic superstars ready to take on the world, or stamp out the social ills of a struggling nation. But if London 2012 inspires people, young and old, to achieve something for themselves, to live their life with a smile on their face and a spring in their step, then the London 2012 Games will have created an outstanding legacy



Will the Olympics leave a positive legacy for Britain?

Lizzie Scourfield-

NO

Before I begin, let me get this straight: I loved the Olympics. I was absorbed from the opening ceremony. And not only did I cheer and shout at my TV like millions of others, but even spent 9 days in the oh-so-flattering purple and red volunteer uniform with a big smile on my face, telling spectators where the nearest toilets were and what court the Murray match was on.

I thought the Olympics were brilliant, and I'm sure I wasn't the only one who was genuinely sad to say goodbye to them as I watched the (slightly bizarre) closing ceremony.

However, sadly this doesn't mean I necessarily think this glory will continue. Only days after the games had finished and the news is already ditching the Olympics glow and returning gloomily to economic uncertainty. The repetitive "news" items on my local 'Look East' showing primary school children hobbling over a hurdle has equally left me feeling pretty unconvinced.

After all, what is even really meant by an 'Olympics legacy'? Does it mean nationwide prosperity? Does it herald a new generation of Olympic athletes, prepared to smash all the world records and finally knock Bolt off his podium? Does it mean a wider participation even in casual sport? Tackling the growing obesity problems and improving our health? As far as I can see, there is no clear goal, and the words 'inspire a generation' are sounding a little too vague.

London 2012 was a huge success, there's no doubt about it. I'm happy to believe that at the time, large numbers of Brits felt a new burst of patriotism, pride, and, yes, inspiration. Personally, I'll never forget standing on Henman Hill and hearing a crowd of people sing the National Anthem as Murray was given his Gold on the big screen. But as much as I hate to say it, I think that's just about as far as it went, and I that British people just love jumping on a bandwagon.

Maybe a few more people did pick up a sport. Maybe for some it was the source of inspiration they needed. But I don't see it lasting. It truly was an incredible summer of sport, but a lasting legacy? Well, I'd love for Britain to prove me wrong.

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