



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

Development  
Alumni  
Relations &  
Events.



# Experiences OF UNIVERSITY LIFE IN THE

# 80s



ACCOMMODATION DEPARTMENTS SOCIETIES  
RAG AND PYJAMA JUMP UNIVERSITY LIFE  
THEATRE AND FILM STUDENTS' UNION  
SHEFFIELD GIVING BACK LIFE IN THE 80S





## Thank you

This magazine is the result of a request for memories of student life from alumni of The University of Sheffield who graduated in the years 1980 to 1989.

I wish to thank everyone who responded so generously with their time and sent us their recollections and photos. Just a fraction of the material appears here; all of the responses will become part of the University Archives.

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## Editor

It's been a pleasure to edit this publication. The eyewitness accounts of the range and quality of bands promoted by the Students' Union, the misadventures during RAG PARADE and Pyjama Jump and the various societies and sporting challenges that took place shows what a colourful experience it was to be a graduate of this institution during that decade. I hope you enjoy reading the magazine as much as I have enjoyed being a part of its production.

**Sarah Hopkins**  
(BA English Language with Linguistics 2003)

Alumni Communications Manager  
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Ranmoor Room 6S8.  
Paula Sandham  
(BA French and  
Spanish 1985)

# Accommodation

Halifax Hall was an all-girls hall of residence in those days, but of course many of us had boyfriends who would try to sneak in (and then out again the next morning!).

My then boyfriend gave up trying to slip out of the fire escape and decided that the best option was simply to brazen it out and leave down the main corridor and out of the front door. For several weeks this worked fine and he would happily pass the time of day with anyone he passed, including, on several occasions, the warden [Mary Sharrock] on her way to breakfast. She was a wonderful woman and quite a character. She eventually stopped him and asked if he'd be so kind as to join her in her study for a little word ...he was of course expecting a good telling off, but it was apparently by no means an unpleasant exchange. And she ended by giving him the benefit of some wonderful advice, which consisted of the unforgettable words,

**"Sex is also good in the daytime  
you know dear"!**

**Mary Wallace (née Trelfa)**  
(BA Geography 1981,  
MEd Training and Development 1999)



Halifax Hall.



Making toast in  
Ranmoor Halls,  
1982 - Room 6S12.  
Paula Sandham  
(BA French and  
Spanish 1985)



Professor  
Abdelkrim Khaldi  
(BEng Mechanical  
Engineering 1981)

Tapton was really the main centre of my social and study life during my time at Sheffield. There were the continually convivial shared meals in the large dining room twice a day (three times at the weekend), combined with the dressy formal meals (the men wore ties) once a term.

Evenings were often spent huddling many to a room over coffee and biscuits, or sometimes in one of the two TV rooms (the Falklands war caught our attention in my final year).

**Sue Jane Bird**  
(BA French 1982)



I studied at the University of Valencia (Spain) and I was an Erasmus student at the Department of Hispanic Studies in 1986/87.

I remember a film season that included black and white films (Doris Day, Rock Hudson, etc.) and the incredible concert-movie 'Stop Making Sense' by the rock group Talking Heads that made me become one of their biggest fans.

And Halifax Hall with its secret codes... dustbins outside the door!

**Angeles Rausell**  
(Erasmus Hispanic studies 1987)



I went to Sheffield in 1984 and as soon as I was welcomed into Stephenson Hall, it was clear that the Beer Race was a great tradition!

**The Beer Race was a drinking competition between Stephenson and Earnshaw Halls, that I believe dated back to about 1952.**

The format of the event was that each team of 20 had 80 pints on a table and that only one person could drink at a time. Any spillage would result in a fresh pint being added to the table. I seem to remember the whole event taking seven minutes! The venue would alternate each year between the two halls. Rumours of sabotage would always circulate where the home team would be accused of warming or chilling the beer to their own advantage!

Beer Race, Stephenson Hall.



Looking into bedroom window in Tipton Hall and one of his friends showing off his handiwork.  
Dean Gilmore  
(BEng Mechanical Engineering 1984)



Earnshaw Halls.  
Andrew Price  
(BSc Computer Science 1988)



Ranmoor House Party  
5K 1982.  
Martin Street  
(BSc Genetics 1982)

I have clear memories of the Pyjama Jumps, despite the consumption of vast amounts of alcohol. I was ENTS Chairman of Halifax so organising the ball and dancing with Les the porter until the early hours is another fond memory.

**We also created RAG floats - that was a long night, I fell asleep in the bath later that day.**

There was many a night when a fire alarm found you in the wrong place at the wrong time. The newsletters published by the various Halls were an amusing account of recent events and a good way to poke fun at people.

**Hilary Southwell**  
(née Church)  
(BSc Physiology 1988)

Another annual event on the Stephenson calendar was the Jung Ying Run. The event was held in the bar with teams of three or four. The first runner in each team would draw a number from a hat and when the race started, run to the Jung Ying Chinese take-away in Broomhill, order the dish corresponding to the drawn number, run back to the bar, eat it and down a pint, before tagging the next man to draw his own number. There were a few wildcards thrown into the hat that involved multiple bags of prawn crackers and curry sauce.

**Your team mates were always helpful in shoving ice cubes into your chow mein to make it easier to eat quickly!**

**Tim Blewitt**  
(BSc Mathematics 1987)



Sorby Halls.  
David Holmes  
(BA Business Studies 1984)

**Alastair Inglis-Taylor**  
(BA Latin 1986)



Residents of Tipton Hall  
Summer 1981.  
Chris Lowe (BDS Clinical Dentistry 1983)

Like most student accommodation, the flat was rather damp with only electric bar heaters for warmth (we boiled kettles to wash with and used to shower at the University). The lower part of the back door had rotted away and every night enormous slugs would slide under and explore the flat. When we remembered, we would leave a salt barrier across the bottom of the back door to discourage the slugs, but to limited effect. I remember frequently arriving back in the early hours, going to put the kettle on (for the essential hot water bottle) only to have to deal with the giant slugs that had found their way onto the kitchen counter. My room was at the front of the building but the slugs got there too, and I'd wake up to find silvery trails across the carpet.

This flat had one tremendous advantage: having moved in we discovered there was a cellar. Behind a door off the hallway a steep flight of stairs led down to a dark room (no electricity down there of course) which opened into another room. The second room was somewhat dodgy; there was a pile of bricks and rubble in one corner where the wall had caved in, and the large hooks (meat hooks?) hanging from the ceiling were rather creepy. However, the first room was a brilliant venue for parties and we made good use of it during the year.

**Some extension leads, baked spuds, a cassette player and plenty of beer - what more did you need?!**

**Sarah Caffyn**  
(BA History 1982)



Cellar Party 1980.

I was on the all-ladies K Floor at Sorby. The rooms had no sinks and only a small metal bed but we did have a cleaner who told us off when we used the white sheets for a fresher's week toga party. We all had to share a shower and wash room which overlooked Earnshaw, the men's Hall of Residence, and for over a month after we started there were no curtains at the full length windows, I don't think the Earnshaw lads were complaining!

Breakfast was toast grabbed from the downstairs dining hall on the way out to struggle up the hill and hope to catch the bus to Firth Hall. Usually Ranmoor Hall had completely filled the bus, so a joyous 20 min walk in the cold. Bus fare was ridiculously cheap. 4p.

We had three TV rooms at Sorby - yes there were only three TV stations then - and they were not to be changed. A big favourite was Thunderbirds on a Sunday lunchtime before trotting off to the dining room for a full Sunday lunch. We were well looked after food wise although there was a lot of stodge.

**The common room had one or two Pac-Man TV screen play stations and, apart from a bar manned by students, that was it for entertainment.**

Sorby had a hall ball Christmas 1981, Mari Wilson was the act and I remember it being great fun. She came and performed at the Union a year or two later as 'Just What I Always Wanted' was a big hit in 1983.

**Alison Mary Nowicki**  
(née Holdsworth)  
(BSc Biochemistry 1984)



Sorby Hall.





# Departments



The School of Clinical Dentistry in 1988.  
Katharine Ibberson (BDS Clinical Dentistry 1990)

## WEIRDEST EXPERIMENT WHILE AT UNI

We were studying the homing instinct of pigeons in our Psychology course, when our lecturer decided to illustrate this with an experiment using the students themselves! The students were divided into groups and each group was put into the back of a blacked out vehicle – four or six separate vehicles as I recall. We were then driven to various points around Sheffield where we were each led out of the back of the vehicle while wearing a blindfold, spun round several times and asked to point out magnetic north and also to point to where we thought the Arts Tower would be. The blindfold was then removed and we were asked to do the same again, only this time we were able to use visual clues – the position of the sun etc - in order to help our sense of direction. I'm not sure what the experiment ultimately proved - other than that a large number of students were very prone to car sickness!

We certainly got some funny looks from the people of Sheffield when we were led out of the back of blacked out Land Rovers and minibuses wearing blindfolds!

**Maxine Davies**  
(BA Psychology 1982)

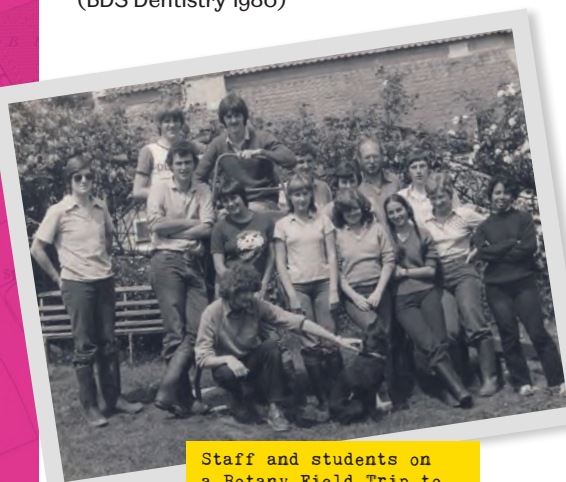


**1981**  
Department of Information Studies established

**1982**  
The Students' Union and the University take part in a 2,000-strong protest march against government cuts and funding

During the dental course, SUDSS (Sheffield University Dental Students Society) had requested a visit to the Theakston brewery, for which there was something like a two year wait. When the week finally arrived plenty of our year had put their name forward. Unfortunately the Professor of Restorative Dentistry, Professor Hampson, decided to table an examination for the following day, that you had to pass in order to be signed up for Finals. Perhaps not surprisingly everyone from our year withdrew except for myself and Peter Douglas. Peter was one of the drivers of the two minibuses, with ours breaking down en-route (creating fears of divine retribution for having made the foolish decision to visit a brewery rather than swot up for an important exam). We scrambled out of the minibus, randomly meandering away from the highway, down steep grassy slopes in search of help and advice to get the minibus going again, (there being no mobile phones in those days). We got it going again and eventually arrived in time for tastings, having missed the tour of the brewery. The first question we were asked was "Who is the driver?". Peter's hand leapt up faster than a panther who hadn't seen drink for 40 days. I'm sure I wasn't the only one thinking the driver would get first taste after all the stress. Unfortunately for him his enthusiasm was quickly crushed by the censorious master of the brewery declaring "No drink for you m'lady!". So only one person from the BDS year of 1980 got to taste the revered nectar of Theakston's Old Peculiar and other fine ales... Thankfully we both went on to pass Finals!

**Professor Graham Ogden**  
(BDS Dentistry 1980)



Staff and students on a Botany Field Trip to Norfolk, 16 July 1980.  
Alison Cox (née Staples)  
(BSc Botany 1981)



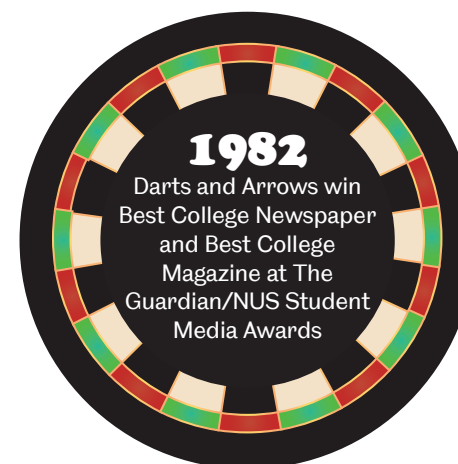
We at work in post-graduate room on the top floor of Mappin building.  
Dr Mohammad Azizul Islam  
(Aziz Islam)  
(PhD Geology 1981)

I studied English Literature at Sheffield 1986-1989. In our Finals 'take-away' paper, we were presented with about 16 questions, covering the syllabus and focusing on prominent authors and key texts. Not one question related to a woman writer or any body of theory looking at literature by women. Because this was a two week take-away paper, rather than a three hour examination, a group of students lobbied the Department and asked for an addendum to the examined questions.

Swiftly (to their credit) four additional questions relating to women authors/ key texts and/or feminist theory were added. I wrote a paper on Margaret Atwood (Surfacing), Fay Weldon (Praxis) and Alice Walker (The Color Purple).

**A BIG thank you to all the women in the class of '89 who took a stand and changed our Finals.**

**Rachel Driver**  
(BA English Literature 1989)



**1982**  
Darts and Arrows win Best College Newspaper and Best College Magazine at The Guardian/NUS Student Media Awards

I was the only female in my class, but that did not deter me, because I was doing what I enjoyed most.

**On one occasion, one of our lecturers took us on a field trip to see the Humber Bridge in Hull.**

It was close to completion in that year, and was opened to traffic in June 1981. It spans 222m and was the longest single-span suspension bridge in the world for 17 years until 1998. The road distance between Hull and Grimsby was reduced by nearly 80km as a consequence of this bridge. (See photo of my postgraduate class at Humber Bridge). This sparked my interest in bridges, and at one stage in my engineering career, I worked in the Bridge Division of an engineering consultancy in Wellington, New Zealand. That was an ambition fulfilled, thanks to Sheffield University!

**Caroline Mundy**  
(MEng Civil and Structural Engineering 1982)



Whilst on a psychiatry placement as a medical student in 1980 my friend Sue and I were having trouble locating the whereabouts of a building inside the old Middlewood Hospital.

**We were told that we had to meet in the Oedipus Complex**

and when we asked one of the nurses where we might find such a place were told "You're havin' a laugh love!" How could our respected tutors be so cruel! But we saw the funny side, and look back on this one episode of many with fondness.

**Dr Lyn Prosser**  
(MB ChB Medicine 1981)



University of Sheffield undergraduate Alina Nazareth Levy and the Fiat Mini Van she and Tom Levy drove from Sheffield to Israel for an archaeology project.

At the time, I convinced my girlfriend, Alina Nazareth, who was an undergraduate studying Microbiology at the University of Sheffield to accompany me to Israel to help map the site. Accordingly, I purchased an old Fiat mini-van for £250 in London with the idea we would drive to Israel and use the vehicle in the desert for our fieldwork. I built a wooden bed in the mini-van and we were ready to go.

**My supervisor, Professor Robin Dennell, handed me a shovel as a going away present and said I would never make it out of Sheffield.**

Indeed, it was snowing hard the morning we tried driving out of Broomhall Flats near the University where I was living at the time. The shovel came in handy that frozen Sheffield day and we were soon on our way. The mini-van took us over the Alps that winter and broke down just once in the former Yugoslavia on our way to the port in Piraeus, Greece.

Alina and I spent 10 days mapping the desert site (that a colleague and I called 'Shiqmim') using a hand-held Brunton compass and simple builder's level.

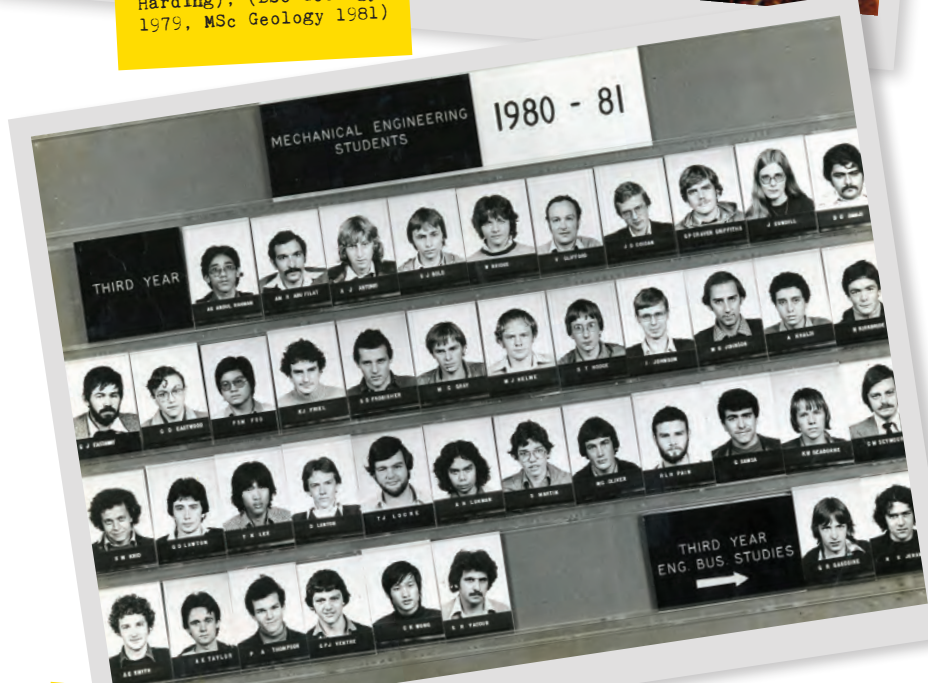
That was 40 years ago. Alina and I got married the following year and have been enjoying life's adventure together ever since – thanks to the University of Sheffield.

**Professor Thomas Levy**  
(PhD Archaeology & Prehistory 1981)





2nd Year Geology field trip to Arran. Alyson Sterland (née Harding), (BSc Geology 1979, MSc Geology 1981)



Class of 1980-81 Mechanical Engineering Students. Robert Jerams (BEng Mechanical Engineering 1981)

My time at Sheffield remains one of the happiest memories in my life; I was an undergraduate in the (then) Department of Physics and then a postgraduate student from 1988 to 1990 under Professor David Hughes investigating Halley's Comet.

### Peter Jalowiczor

(BSc Physics 1988, PG Dip Astrophysical Sciences 1989)



We were fortunate to be living at a time when many of the original thinkers in biochemistry were still with us and would come as guest speakers to the Sheffield University's student biochemical society.

### One such guest speaker was Fredrick Sanger (who discovered DNA sequencing).

In his lecture he described the chemistry of the technique. During the Q&A session one of the more incisive students asked him "how did you come to discover this chemistry?" to which Fredrick Sanger with typical humility replied "actually I made a mistake! One night I put the wrong reagent in the wrong reaction mixture, I couldn't understand the results at first but then I had to work it out"

### Dr Mehryar Behizad

(BSc Biochemistry 1980, PhD Biochemistry 1986)

## 1983

Departments of Greek and Latin replaced with Department of Classical Studies, which closed in 1987

The Octagon Centre opened

In my final year, I was appointed Orchestral Manager. As such, I was involved in organising the first concert in the newly opened Octagon Centre. The concert featured Beethoven's 5th, conducted by Professor Edward Garden (who, very sadly, passed away in September 2017). I loved playing in the orchestra under 'Teddy' Garden - he was such a warm and colourful character. I am ashamed to say that, following the Beethoven, I parodied his rehearsal technique in a regrettable cabaret evening; however, my antics were born of affection and I still apply his techniques as I conduct Beethoven today!

Later in my final year, my year group was the first to have its graduation ceremony in the Octagon Centre, which my claustrophobic mother optimistically referred to as the Oxygen Centre.

### Dominic Hawley

(BMus Music 1984)

# Societies

During my Masters degree I joined ENTS and became the Senior FXs person, responsible for creating all the posters that went up at events. Every week we did one for the disco and then a lot more for the Free Concert.

### John Lilley

(MEng Civil and Structural Engineering 1983)



The 24/25 hour sponsored roleplay was a new event in my first year. It was held on the night of Spiderwalk, when the Students' Union would be open all night. The first one was held in Sally's, in University House, but the event expanded in the following years and was held up in the Senior Common Room at the top of University House. It had great views across the city, with streetlights sparkling through the night, and the welcome dawn, coming after some 18 hours of gaming and chatting.

### Gillian F Taylor

(BA Ancient History and Archaeology and Prehistory 1988)



## CORONATION STREET SOCIETY

Some friends started a Coronation Street Society in 1979. As it was the first of its kind, the Society was invited up to the studios for the day (well before Granada started to capitalise and organise studio tours themselves), together with a journalist from The Sheffield Star newspaper to record the event.

### We met

Geoffrey Hughes (Eddie Yates), Chris Quentin (Brian Tilsley), Jean Alexander (Hilda Ogden), Johnny Briggs (Mike Baldwin) amongst others and had a drink in the Rovers Return.

We all did a conga down the cobbled street, the resulting picture of which featured in the newspaper the following day. I remembered that the studio sets were amazingly detailed, but really small in real life, it was a fab insight into TV production at the time.

### Maxine Davies

(BA Psychology 1982)



The Theatre Group presented Macbeth in June 1982. I did the costumes and props. Dominic Ganteaume (BA Law 1982)

I played in the final of the Universities Athletic Union which we won. The team beat Loughborough University 1-0. We played the Final at Alfreton Town FC.

### Nick Moglia

(BA Hons Business Studies 1981)



Sheffield University Soccer Club 1st Team, UAU Winners 1981.



# RAG and Pyjama Jump

The real success story of RAG was the Pyjama Jump. This pyjama party come pub crawl began in 1965 in one of the city night clubs. Every night club was booked and thousands of tickets sold: 3,000 in 1984, for example and 6,000 in 1987. The memories are indelible and often shaming.

## Steel City Scholars 2005



Pyjama Jump.  
Kathryn Robbins (née Smith)  
(BSc Chemical Engineering  
and Fuel Technology 1983)

We made a 1920s speakeasy, with a car outside. The car was built in advance in a back garden in Eastbourne Road, and was carried through the streets to Broad Lane car park to where the floats were being assembled.

**A team of six, wearing white strips of fabric tied around themselves for visibility, carried the cardboard sports car along Glossop Road.**

I popped into Hanrahan's bar and persuaded them to loan us an ice bucket for our speakeasy. It went home with someone afterwards, and was passed around. Hanrahan's were most surprised when I returned it a year later.

Unfortunately, it poured with rain while we were assembling our speakeasy on the back of the lorry. Everything cardboard got soggy and it was impossible to paint anything much. Three of us made a run out for chips, which were eaten sheltering under the lorry. An elderly couple living in the Broad Lane flats took pity on us, and invited us up to their flat, where we gratefully had cups of tea in the shelter of the walkway outside. They told us how grateful they were for all the money that RAG raised for local charities and how they had benefited from it. The old man told us that money raised for local hospitals was important and how his treatments had made things better for him. We politely declined when he enthusiastically offered to show us his colostomy bag. (We battled on with making our float, encouraged by Mark's cries of "Come on, team", and were rewarded with second place.)

## Gillian F Taylor

(BA Ancient History and Archaeology and Prehistory 1988)



## 1980

Departments of  
Computer Science and  
Applied & Computational  
Mathematics created from  
Applied Mathematics &  
Computing Science,  
established in 1967



RAG float building (all-night with  
a barrel of Wards).  
Tim Blewitt (BSc Mathematics 1987)

Friends from Sorby Hall. We were taking the bus to Pyjama Jump. I think this would be 1984. It is notable that we were on the bus because nowadays it would be cheaper to get a taxi but back then the bus fare was only 10p. Just by coincidence we are under a sign advising to go for a free dental check-up – also a sign of the times!

## Jo Kearsley (née Mace)

(BDS Clinical Dentistry 1987)

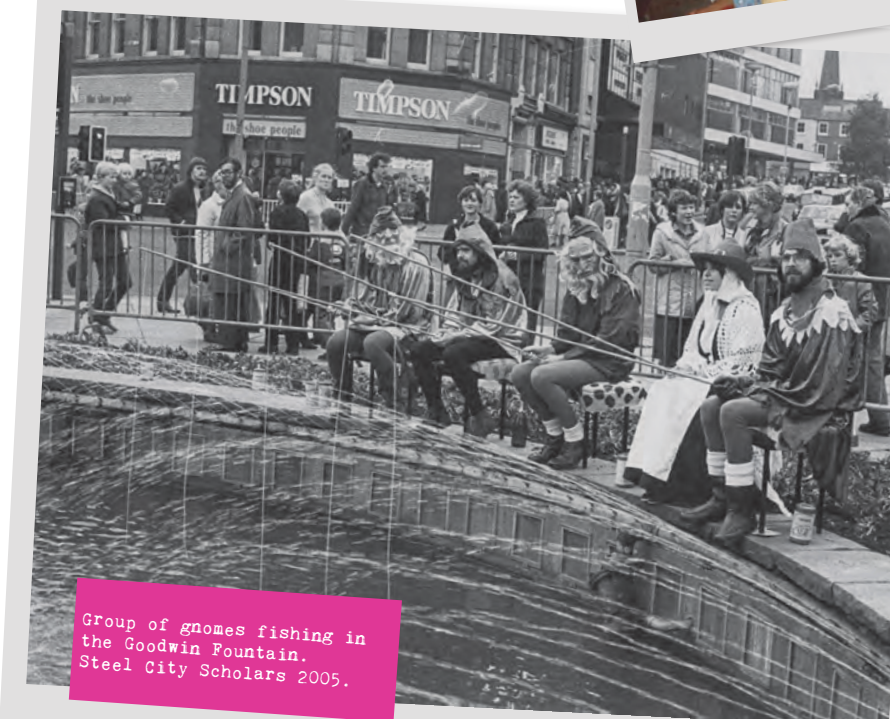


I set off with a friend on Friday lunchtime and we hitch-hiked all the way to Paris and back over a weekend as part of RAG week. We crossed the channel with a lorry driver (no such thing as the channel tunnel in those days) and camped at the side of the auto route. We had to stop off at official places like bus stations etc to get our card stamped to prove that we actually made it. The winner was the person who covered the most miles.

## Jo Kearsley (née Mace)

(BDS Clinical Dentistry 1987)

The sponsored hitch-  
hike in 1985 which was  
part of RAG week.



Group of gnomes fishing in  
the Goodwin Fountain.  
Steel City Scholars 2005.



Myself, Angie Donaldson (née Tyrrell),  
and now husband Steve Donaldson at  
Pyjama Jump 1986.

We met through living in Earnshaw and got married the year we graduated. We often started nights out at Hanrahan's for cocktail hour then we'd go on Pyjama Jump – down Glossop Road ending up in a night club in town. We'd also have parties back at Earnshaw after Pyjama Jump where a regular activity was to throw someone into the pond in the Quad.

## Angie Donaldson (née Tyrrell)

(BA English Language 1989)



# University Life

I remember Freshers' Week involved drinking a pint of Roger and Out (the world's strongest beer, sadly no longer available) in 3 thirds with a certificate for each. It was like a treacle and Guinness combination and you weren't allowed more than one pint!

**Katharine Ibberson**  
(BDS Clinical Dentistry 1990)

We returned to Sheffield in January 1984 to thick snow. One next door neighbour had a pair of mountain climbing boots with him, and another had a pair of skis but no boots. However, the climbing boots fitted on the skis, so we found an old bit of formica coated wood and flattened down the snow on the lawns of Crewe Flats on Oakholme Road, then all had a go at skiing on our 'piste'. For many of us it was a first taste of skiing, and was great fun, despite the one-size-fits-all boots.

**Alastair Inglis-Taylor**  
(BA Latin 1986)



Barry Nightingale's birthday when his entire room was taken outside onto the lawns at Sorby in 1980! Chris Wray (BA Accounting & Financial Management 1982)

When we were living at a house in Greystones we used to go to the Students' Union to take a bath. There was a row of baths there in cubicles. It was a real luxury to relax in the hot water between the black faux-marble partitions. The house in Greystones didn't have central heating and it could be very cold.

**At Ranmoor House, most people had no TV. There was a TV room, where you had to bargain with other students and agree which channel to watch.**

I remember watching Top of the Pops there, and Cagney and Lacey. I remember seeing the news there with reports of the Ethiopian famine that provoked Bob Geldof to organise Live Aid.

**Juliet Levy**  
(BA Accounting & Financial Management 1985)

I remember being in the Dainton Building for geology practicals or in the IBB, the Integrated Biology Building (now the Alfred Denny Building) for a botany practical. When we had a break some of us would risk life and limb to cross the elevated dual carriageway across to the Students' Union or to a little café that was situated in a small row in front of the then Hicks Building on Houndsfield Road. If you were lucky enough to get into this café you got a big white mug of tea and access to a flat oat cake. There wasn't much choice. I can't remember how much money these would have been but probably pence!

The main bulk of students headed to one of the formal eating areas within the Students' Union - huge canteen like spaces into which the campus masses would spill. The seats were long black (or navy) padded benches and these didn't encourage sitting around too much. The eating areas were spartan and almost hospital like and the 'Canteen Ladies' wearing white uniforms and appearing utilitarian. In the older Graves part of the Students' Union the smaller cafés were great for breakfast and a ubiquitous large mug of tea or coffee. Tea poured from a large aluminium tea pot which seemed to be always on the go.

**I also remember that in addition to tea and coffee, especially in the winter months, you could order a small glass of hot Vimto.**

This was very foreign to me coming from Northern Ireland as we didn't have the exotic delights of Vimto!

**Dr Aidan McMichael**  
(BSc Natural Environmental Science 1984)

I am very aware of belonging to a fortunate generation which was encouraged to widen horizons in the pursuit of knowledge, so the City Gallery, Sheffield Cathedral, student tickets to the Crucible, films in the Graves Building, a changing theatre programme at the University Drama Studio to see plays in foreign languages and generally treating culture as a part of my life and not just a luxury.

**Dr Juliusz Jan Buras**  
(MB ChB Medicine 1983)

At Sheffield University I studied a subject I loved and discovered a wider world. Happy memories are associated with Oakholme Lodge, Endcliffe Hurst and Halifax Hall. Friends and laughter, making decorations for the Hall Balls, midnight walks on fresh snow in the parks with fellow students, group expeditions to the University Drama Studio for a constantly changing selection of plays. RAG week was a singular experience in my first week, serendipitous trips to second hand bookshops widened horizons, and the Chocolate Soldier in Broomhill was a delicious highlight.

**Izabella Trojanowska-Buras**  
(BA French Language & Literature 1985)

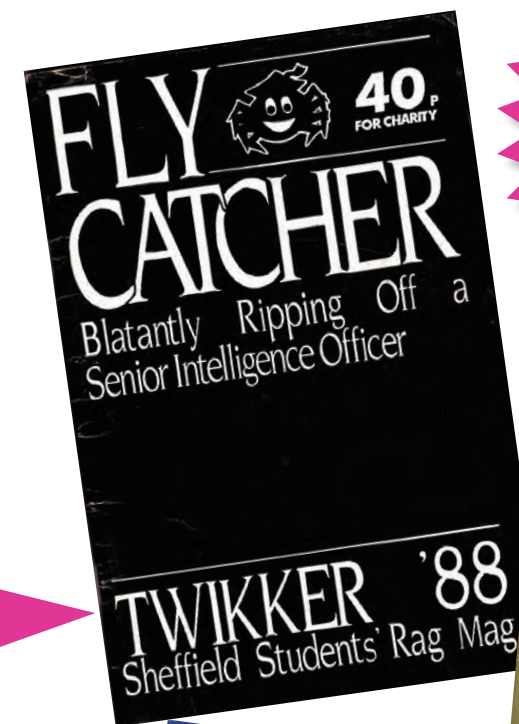
**1988**  
The Sir Henry Stephenson Building opened

I shared a house on Filey Street in Broomhall with three guys and a German student on her year abroad. It was a tip most of the time, but it didn't matter as it was so close to lectures. I used to pop home at lunch time to watch Neighbours, and usually someone else would turn up too. We went to the Union a lot, beer festivals and indy discos, and the real ale pub over Hanover Way, the Bath Hotel for last orders during the last half of our third year.

**At the end of term, my housemate Paul had a party in his first floor room, and literally brought the ceiling down, onto the lounge below**

- unbeknown to him, there'd been a slow leak from his radiator, so the lath and plaster ceiling below just relocated in one piece to cover up the dreadful 70s carpet! We'd all done our finals by then, and so everybody just picked their way round the rubble for the next couple of weeks before finally drifting off to bigger and better things!

**Sara Cox (née Cowan)**  
(BSc Zoology 1989)



**1988**

Twikker sold out so fast that appeals went out for people to return their copies so that they could be sold again



**1989**  
Applied Science Library built. This was built on the site of the Caledonia Works next to the Stephenson building with a Blackwell's Bookshop at ground level



# Theatre & Film

My best mate Nick Triggs and I were looking for something to get involved with at the start of our second year at Sheffield. I must have seen a poster saying that anyone interested in getting involved with the Theatre Group could meet up at the Theatre Group office in the Octagon Centre. Nick and I started with working on *The Crucible* in October 1985 where we helped out with lighting and set construction. That set us on a path to work on numerous productions in the next two years.

Theatre Group plays followed the same approach. Prior to the actual week of the show, all the rehearsals take place and all the planning of the set (plus any advance construction) and lighting occurs.

Then on the week of the show, we'd spend all day Sunday at the "get-in" where the production team worked incredibly hard to get the whole set built and lit in a day.

Back then not much was open on Sunday and lunch was either the pub next door to the theatre or sandwiches from the small cafe on the corner over the road. We were there until all hours. Monday was the technical rehearsal; Tuesday the dress-rehearsal and Wednesday was opening night. After the production closed on Saturday night it was time for the "get-out" - undoing everything we'd done and resetting the theatre for the next production - followed by a very late party with cast and crew!

**Paul Johnson**  
(BSc Computer Science 1987)

I took a very active role in the Sheffield University Theatre Group (SUTG).

I particularly remember the touring theatre production which was directed by Stephen Daldry and produced by myself. The production, put on by SUTG was entitled 'Ryvita' and toured three halls of residence (Tapton, Sorby and Ranmoor) together with Firth Hall.

I still have the review from Darts of the production. From it you will see that not only did we have Stephen's superb directing skills, but his mother - Cherry - also made a guest appearance and the then President of the SU - Steve Grabiner - was also encouraged up onto the stage! Darts gave the production a mixed review, but as well as being the first SUTG touring production, we all enjoyed the logistical challenge of touring theatre around the halls of residence in Broomhill and of course taking part in it, hugely!

**Adrian Francis Barrott**  
(BA English and Italian 1981)

## A Touring Theatre

**Ryvita: A Centenary Revenue by Theatre Group.**  
Steve Daldry directed, and Adrian Barrott produced this revenue as part of the University's centenary celebrations. It was the first Theatre Group to go on tour and included Sorby, Tapton, Ranmoor and Firth Halls.

The revue was a mixture of old and new material; there were a number of sketches that involved nearly the whole cast, such as "Twelfth Night" and "Clap Trap", both of which were very slick and well-executed. The latter sketch went a long way to revealing the true character of the team and I have reason to believe that there was some fun on and off stage.

There were some memorable solo performances by Les Hargreaves, Pete Louis and Cherry Daldry. The latter only appeared on Friday and Saturday nights, a great disappointment to those who missed her on the other nights. Her wonderful rendition of "Life Begins At Forty" even encouraged Steve Grabiner to join in the fun.

All in all, a praiseworthy production, though, as with all revues, it met with mixed success on tour. However, the essence of Theatre is playing to varied audiences, and most of the actors involved will have gained valuable experience by it.

Douglas Taylor



Pete Louis as Gloria Swanson



Members of the Alternative Productions Society receiving the 'Students on Stage Award', jointly sponsored in 1983 by Cosmopolitan magazine and Lloyds Bank.

Eddie Izzard on the left.

The judges were impressed by the group's 'eclectic and informal approach, and their prolific record in staging events, as well as their energy and imagination'.

Courtesy of Steel City Scholars.



A Midsummer Night's Dream programme.

Programme for the production 'A Short Sharp Shock for the Government', 1980. Isabel Novi (BA Spanish Language and Literature 1982)

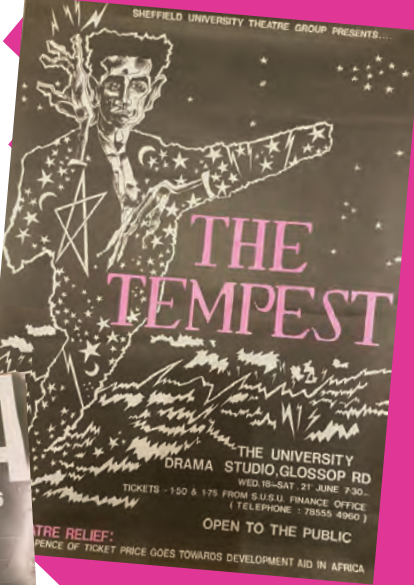


Possibly of most interest to more recent alumni was having Eddie Izzard at Sheffield at that time. I attach a snap of a programme for 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', in which he played Bottom. I also attended a show he wrote himself, called 'World War II (the sequel)'.

**Alistair Inglis-Taylor**  
(BA Latin 1986)



Another Country set. This production was deservedly a sell-out.





# Students' Union



## STUDENTS' UNION, GIGS & SPACE INVADERS

For me the highlights of being at university were not being at home, taking the first steps towards independence, and meeting people. The Students' Union (the Octagon Centre came along in 1983) was a highlight throughout the week but especially on a Saturday night for cheap beer, gigs, discos etc. I also went to gigs at City Hall and the polytechnic (as was). One of the rooms in the Students' Union had a Space Invaders machine – originally released in 1978.

### Raymond Cansick

(BA Accounting & Financial Management and Economics 1983)

The Students' Union Handbook 1982/3.  
Richard Mayson  
(BA Geography 1983)



In 1980, as far as I can remember, the Chinese students attending the annual Chinese New Year party mainly came from Hong Kong and Malaysia. I used to ride a motorcycle to school because it took more time to wait for a bus at Sheffield despite the low bus fare then.

### Chi-Wah Lee

(BA Accounting & Financial Management 1983)



We ran a club in the Raynor Lounge in 1987-88. There are photographs of me DJing.  
Simon Barratt  
(BSc Zoology 1988)

## Uncage your feelings



If you think 'Darts' is run by a left-wing clique, we don't cover enough football (!) or there hasn't been a good knitting pattern all term – you're probably right.  
So change it.

**DARTS MEETING**  
1pm Monday 9th Week  
6th Floor University House  
**All welcome, even footy hooligans**

Poster recruiting people to write for Darts.  
Sara Cox (née Cowan)  
(BSc Zoology 1989)

# Sheffield



An oddity: the Hole in the Road which used to define the city centre [1967-94].  
Jonathan Nettelfield  
(BA Geography and Economics 1972, PG Dip Business Studies 1973)

In 1980 Europe voted Sheffield to have the cleanest air. We liked the city, the Botanical Gardens, the Museum, the Park and the environment, the friendly people and the snow. I was also fascinated by the Hole in the Road.

### Dr Mohammad Azizul Islam

(Aziz Islam) (PhD Geology 1981)

When I visited Sheffield on the open day I knew it was the place I wanted to go.

**It was the mixture of new and old, urban and rural, faraway (but not so faraway), integration of students and local population, and change and opportunity – for the University, city and me.**

It was the heyday of the Socialist Republic of South Yorkshire and had cheap bus fares, bendy buses (long before London had them), the 'Hole in the Road' (Castle Square), Castle Market and the World Snooker Championships.

### Raymond Cansick

(BA Accounting & Financial Management and Economics 1983)

I have a cherished memory of a visit in late 1981 to a club in Sheffield City Centre which was known as Romeo's and Juliet's. It was two clubs in the same building, with slightly different themes. Romeo's had red lighting, and Juliet's had deep pink lighting and fringed lamps and was very romantic. The local young people on the dance floor were dressed rather attractively, the men all in baggy white shirts, the women in pinafore-type dresses, often in grey plaid, worn over white blouses.

Then there was Maximillion's, the sophisticated club I went to. I remember the first time I set foot there, it was quite early in the evening and nothing was really happening. The DJ was playing, 'I'll be sending forget-me-nots' and there were coloured squares on the dance floor that lit up from beneath, as in the film 'Saturday Night Fever' it was very glamorous.

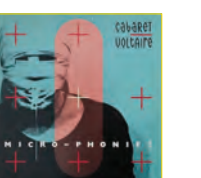
My friend took me to see The Stonehouse, a city centre pub, just to admire the amazing interior. It was a mock-up of a village square, with fake house-fronts clustering round the outside of the room. You felt as though you were in the open air. A lot of the Sheffield pubs at the time had Tiffany-style glass lamps and panels, which was a big look at the time.

### Juliet Levy

(BA Accounting & Financial Management 1985)



**1985/86**  
Bar One was refurbished and 'The Fox and Duck' in Broomhill was acquired the following year





# Giving Back

The University is committed to changing lives in Sheffield and beyond by championing access to education, undertaking vital medical research, and by making globally important discoveries.



Your gifts help current students through projects such as:

- \* Awarding scholarships to talented and promising students who otherwise would not have the financial resources to continue their education
- \* Providing Alumni Foundation grants to student clubs and societies for sport, drama, music, welfare and community projects. As you may remember, the huge range and quality of extra-curricular activities is one of the things that makes Sheffield so special
- \* Enhancing academic and student facilities across campus

## DONATE

### A history built on philanthropy

More than 100 years ago, the local people of Sheffield - captains of industry and factory workers alike - understood the tremendous impact that a University for Sheffield would have. So strongly did they believe in higher education as a force for good, that they raised £50,000 in penny collections (around £15 million today) to build a university in their city.

Their donations, both large and small, made an incredible difference. So can yours.

Thanks to our founders' incredible philanthropic support, our University is now an internationally-renowned seat of learning of which our students, staff, alumni, and the city, can be justifiably proud. And in order to continue making a difference to our students and to society, we need the support of alumni and friends like you.

Donations to the University of Sheffield are transformational. You can help invest in world-class research, provide first class teaching and learning facilities, and ensure that the brightest students, regardless of background or financial ability, are able to achieve their full potential and take advantage of the range of experiences a university education has to offer.

As a member of our community, you will already know what great opportunities a Sheffield education offers. Every gift to the University makes an immediate and significant impact on the lives of our students and on the world around us.

To find out more about how to make a donation please visit [www.sheffield.ac.uk/donate](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/donate)

## VOLUNTEER

Volunteering is a great way to stay connected with the University whilst making a huge difference to students.

Sheffield Alumni Volunteers offer an invaluable insight into life after graduation and provide a network for students who may not have friends or family who have attended university or are in their chosen career. Volunteering can also allow you to develop your own skills and expand your professional network too.

From mentoring students and giving career talks to providing a profile, there are plenty of ways to get involved.

[www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/volunteering](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/volunteering)



## REUNITE WITH FRIENDS

We organise reunions and events throughout the year on campus in Sheffield, around the UK and internationally, ranging from informal receptions to quizzes, formal dinners, class reunions and more.

A popular event is our Annual Alumni Reunion, which focuses on the anniversary years of 20, 25, 30 and 40 years. The Annual Alumni Reunion takes place on a Saturday in early September. We always try to send an official invitation to as many of our former students as possible, but unfortunately we are not in touch with all of our graduates. If you would like to be invited to attend your Reunion, please ensure we have up to date contact details by emailing us at [alumni@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@sheffield.ac.uk) or completing our online update form at [www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/update](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/update)



# Life in the 80s

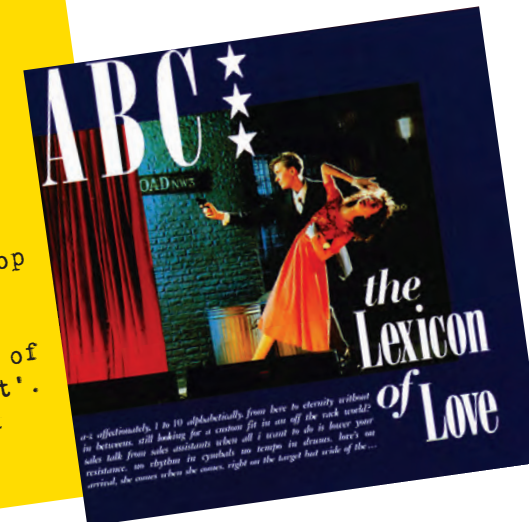


## 1. Ford Escort

2. Ford Fiesta
3. Vauxhall Cavalier
4. Ford Sierra
5. Austin Metro
6. Vauxhall Astra
7. Ford Cortina
8. Ford Orion
9. Vauxhall Nova
10. Austin Maestro

Top 10 Selling Cars

Our very own Martin Fry (BA English Literature 1979, Hon DMus 2012) shot to fame in the 80s with his pop band ABC. Their first album *Lexicon of Love* entered the UK album chart at number-one and featured four UK Top 20 hit singles, including 'Tears Are Not Enough', 'Poison Arrow', 'The Look of Love' and 'All of My Heart'. They went on to release a further 5 albums.



## Best selling singles of the 80s

*Do they know it's Christmas*  
Band Aid

*Relax*  
Frankie Goes to Hollywood

*I Just Called to Say I Love You*  
Stevie Wonder

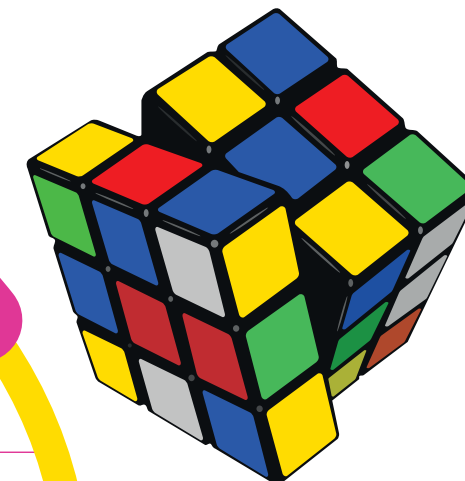
*Two Tribes*  
Frankie Goes to Hollywood

*Don't You Want Me*  
The Human League

*Last Christmas*  
Wham!

*Karma Chameleon*  
Culture Club

*Careless Whisper*  
George Michael



## No. of full-time students

1965 - 66: 4,707  
1970 - 71: 5,744  
1975 - 76: 6,955  
1980 - 81: 7,852  
1985 - 86: 7,618  
Today: 25,642



litre of petrol 28p



pint of milk 17p

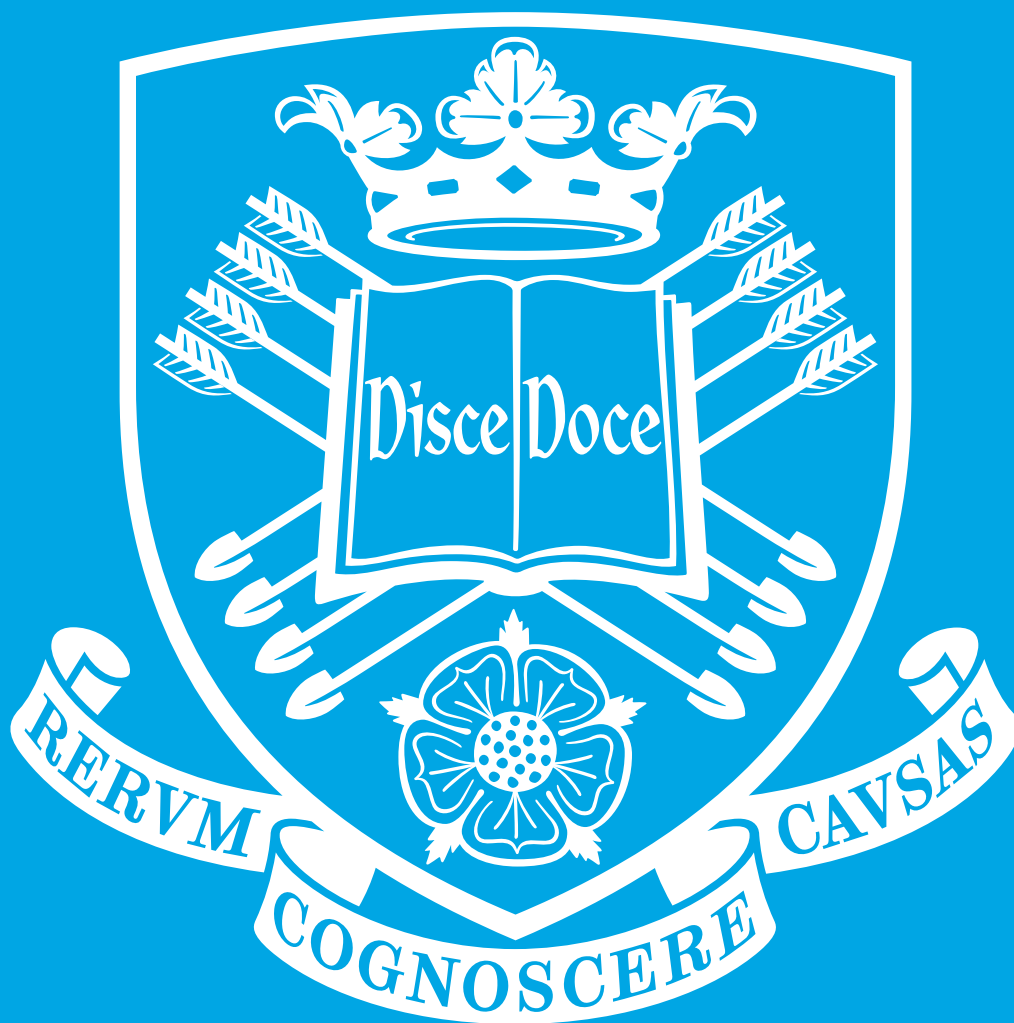


pint of beer 35p



loaf of bread 37p





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