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The Cambridge Union Society
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“Fantastic speakers and topical debates to begin our 200th Anniversary”

- The Lent 2015 Termcard is released to press
 - The Cambridge Union turns 200
- Guests include Sarah Palin, Stephen Fry, Jon Snow, Germaine Greer, Stephen Sondheim, Sir Quentin Blake.

The Cambridge Union is excited to announce its Lent 2015 line-up. We hope that members will have as fabulous a term at the Union as ever. Please see the attached termcard for full details at this link: http://issuu.com/cscreative/docs/cambridge_union_lent_2015_online_te

President **Amy Gregg** comments: “The Union team has worked extremely hard over the past months to put together a termcard that is packed with fantastic speakers and topical debates to begin our 200th Anniversary. With one of the best line ups of social events in recent history too, including our Bicentenary Ball, there’s something for everyone at the Union this term.”

Debates and Forums

The term kicks off with our first debate on Thursday, ‘**This House Would Welcome the Return of a Labour Government**’, featuring **Polly Toynbee, David Lammy MP, Hilary Benn MP, Lembit Opik and Crispin Blunt MP**. As we enter an election year, we ask whether the Labour Party deserves to be returned a majority in Parliament.

Our Week 2 debate, ‘**This House Believes Capitalism has Failed the Third World**’, features **Judge Richard Posner**. With the continued and increasing investment in developing regions around the world, the Union asks whether the global business community has exploited those in long term need in pursuit of short term profit.

Our Week 3 debate, ‘**This House Would Disestablish the Church of England**’, tackles one of the pressing constitutional issues of our generation. We are delighted to welcome speakers including **Rev. Canon Giles Fraser, Stephen Fry and Bishop Tim Stevens**.

Week 4 features the motion ‘**This House Believes Space Exploration is Worth the Cost**’, which will place the necessity of space exploration in the context of other pressing global issues.

In Week 5 we ask whether ‘**This House is Overworked and Undersexed**’, as Valentine’s Day approaches. The debate will welcome current and former Oxbridge comics (including **Ivo Graham and Adrian Gray**), a professional comedian (**Liam Williams**), and an ex-star of Made in Chelsea and Celebrity Big Brother (**Ollie Locke**) to discuss their sex lives...What could possibly go wrong?



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Our Week 6 debate, **'This House Would Bring Back Grammar Schools'**, questions the continued existence of grammar schools in the UK, and whether they should not just be tolerated, but allowed to expand once more.

Our Week 7 debate is **'This House Would Legalise the Sex Industry'**. The sex industry has split feminism and politics alike, with successive governments failing to legislate on it fully either way. The Union asks whether it is time to legalize an often forgotten industry. The actress **Sarah Solemani** (Bad Education), **Josh Brandon**, the highest paid male escort in the UK, comedian **Miranda Kane**, and **Inna Shevchenko**, the leader of FEMEN, will all offer their opinions.

Week 8, **'This House Believes Israel is a Rogue State'**, tackles the Israel/Palestine crisis which has existed since Israel's formation. We are delighted to welcome **Professor Norman Finkelstein** amongst other leading experts.

The term draws to a close with the Presidential Debate, **'This House Supports the Cuts to Legal Aid'**. Across the past two years, Legal Aid has seen huge funding cuts. The Union asks whether the changes are an assault on access to justice, or a necessary limit to a system that has ballooned excessively. The Union will feature outgoing President, Amy Gregg, as well the Minister for Legal Aid, **Jonathan Djanogly MP**.

Our **Bicentenary Debate** will take place on Saturday 7 February. The Union will play host to a series of high profile speakers to debate a motion on the Cambridge Union itself: **'This House isn't What It Used to Be'**. This will be a chance for resident and non-resident members to engage with the Union's long and prestigious history, celebrating the old as well as the new. Speakers include **Ken Clarke MP, Lord Michael Howard, Baroness Mallalieu, Lord Turner, Baroness Hayman, and Sir Peter Bazalgette**. Other former Officers will be attending as honoured guests; including Vince Cable, Lord Lamont, Andrew Mitchell, Bernard Jenkin, Lord Justice Jackson, Lord Justice Bean, Sir Christopher Greenwood, Robert Harris, and many more.

On March 6th, the Cambridge Union will host all the prospective parliamentary candidates for Cambridge in our **Parliamentary Hustings**, allowing the candidates to be questioned by members of the public and students alike in 'Question Time' format.

Speakers

We have an exciting speaker line-up this term, which is revealed in full on the termcard. Some of the highlights are set out here.

Germaine Greer will speak on January 26th. Germaine Greer is an Australian theorist, academic and journalist. She is regarded as having been one of the major feminist voices of the mid-20th century, and her ideas and views on women's liberation have created controversy ever since her book 'The Female Eunuch' became an international best-seller in 1970. She identifies as a Marxist and anarchist.

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Theo Paphitis will speak the following day. Theo Paphitis is a British retail magnate of Greek Cypriot origin. He is best known for his appearances on the BBC business programme *Dragons' Den* and as former chairman of Millwall Football Club.

Sir Quentin Blake will speak on February 25th. He is one of the country's best loved illustrators and children's authors. His drawings have featured in *Punch*, *The Spectator* as well as the works of Michael Rosen, Elizabeth Bowen, and, famously, Roald Dahl. He won the international Hans Christian Andersen Award in 2002, the highest recognition available to creators of children's books, and was appointed the inaugural British Children's Laureate in 1999. By 2006, had illustrated 323 books, of which he had written 35.

Eva Clarke will come to the Union on February 2nd. She and her mother are the only Holocaust survivors of their family, 15 members of whom were killed in Auschwitz. Eva was born in Mauthausen Concentration Camp. If the gas chambers had not been blown up on 28th April 1945 and the American Army had not liberated Mauthausen three days after Eva's birth, neither would have survived. Eva and her mother returned to Prague in 1948; in the same year they emigrated to the UK. Eva has lived in Cambridge since 1968.

Sarah Palin will address the Union this term. An American politician, she is the youngest person and first woman to have been elected as governor of Alaska, a position she held between 2006 and 2009. During the 2008 Presidential election, she became the first female Republican to be nominated for the Vice Presidency, running alongside John McCain. More recently, she has provided political commentary for Fox News, sold over two million copies of her book *'Going Rogue'* and has starred in her own reality show, *'Sarah Palin's Alaska'*.

Simon Amstell is speaking on March 10th. He is an English comedian, television presenter, screenwriter and actor, lauded by the *New York Times* for his ability to 'take a social norm and gently mock it until it seems utterly ridiculous'. He is best known for his biting humour on musical quiz show *'Never Mind the Buzzcocks'*. He starred in his own sitcom *'Grandma's House'* and is also known for his stand up. To date he has won two British Comedy Awards and has been nominated for a BAFTA.

Jon Snow will appear on March 13th. Jon Snow is an English journalist and presenter, and the longest running presenter of Channel 4 news. He is one of the most successful journalists active today, having won five Royal Television Society Awards for his reporting, presented the award-winning documentary *'Sri Lanka's Killing Fields'* and turning down an OBE. In 2014 alone, Snow has gone head-to-head with Russell Brand, travelled to Gaza during the recent conflict to report from the ground and interviewed Kit Harrington, who plays the other Jon Snow on TV's *'Game of Thrones'*.

Stephen Sondheim will speak on February 17th. Stephen Sondheim is one of the world's most celebrated composers and lyricists. He wrote the lyrics for *West Side Story*, and has since composed *Sweeney Todd*, *Company*, *A Little Night Music* and *Into the Woods*, among many other musicals. He has won an Oscar, a Pulitzer Prize, an Olivier Award, eight Grammys and eight Tony Awards, more than any other composer. He will be joining us by videolink for an interactive Q&A with audience members.

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Other speakers include **Reggie Yates**, **James Cracknell**, **John Cooper Clarke**, **Miranda Richardson**, **Cedric Villani**, **Moazzam Begg**, **Bonnie Tyler**, **Emily Brothers**, and **Lord Hope**.

Ents and other

We are excited to present our Ent's line-up for Lent 2015. This includes the annual **Superbowl Party**, the **Itchy Feet Valentines Ball**, **ArcSoc's 'Saturate' Cabaret** on and a **RAG Bop**. We will also witness our much-anticipated **Bicentenary Ball**, 'A Night in History'.

By Max Twivy
Head of Press, Lent 2015

