

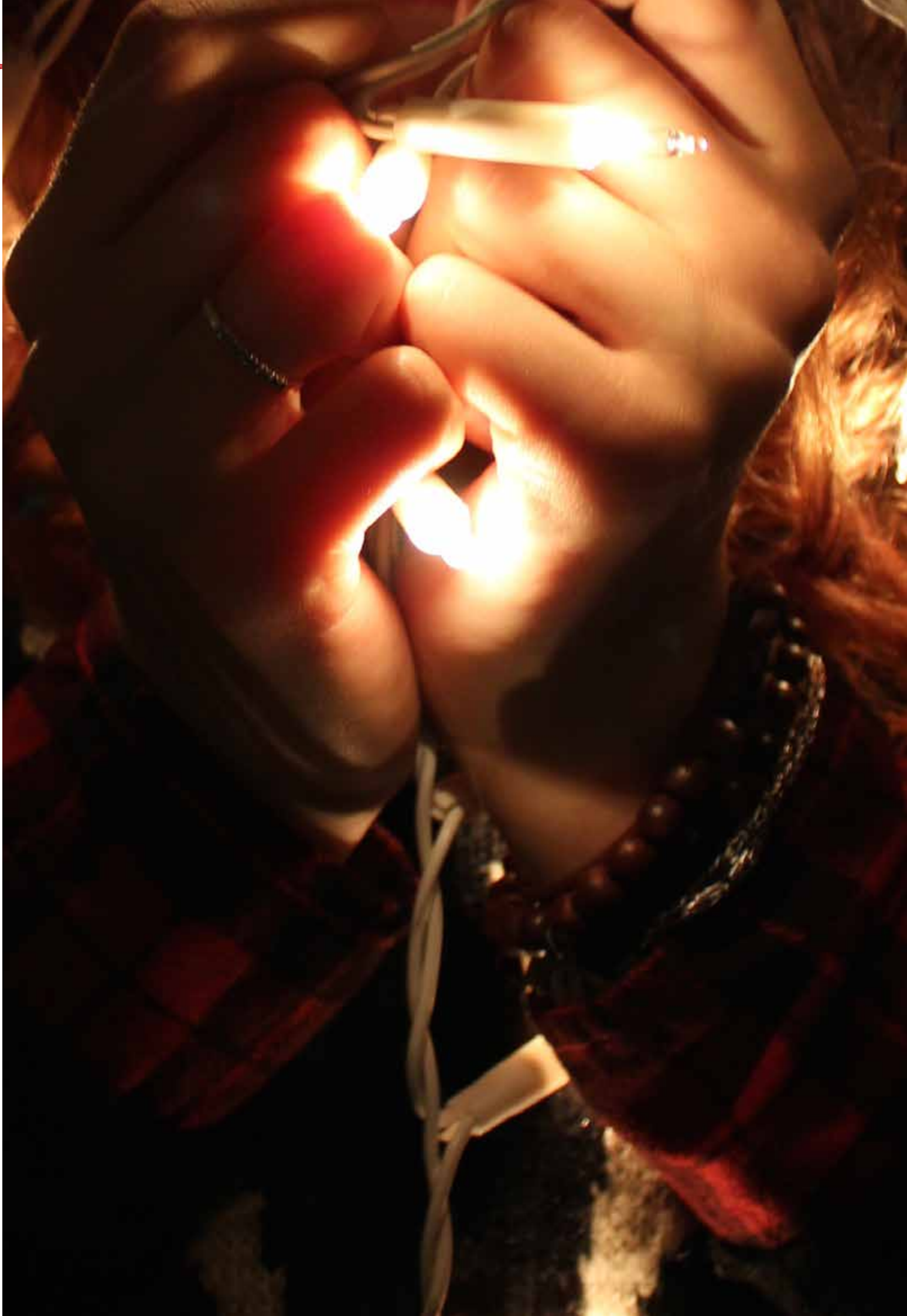
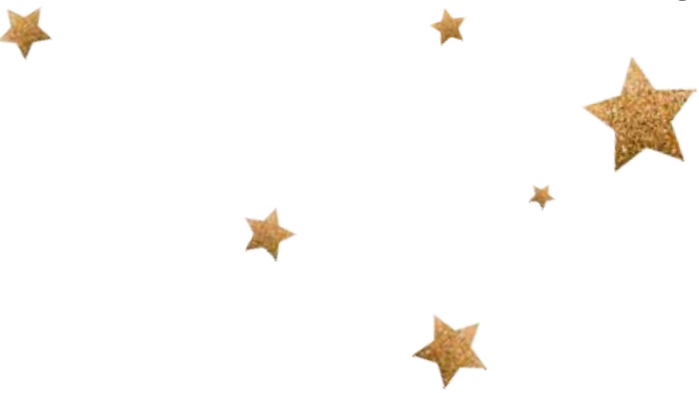
PHOENIX

2014-2015 | issue 2

*Old Fashioned Dragon Slaying | Impossible Conversations:
“It is a truth universally acknowledged...” | A Three-Course
Christmas Dinner | The Meaning of Indefatigable | Koen
Sebregts’s Best Christmas Present Ever | All We Want for
Christmas | The Christmas film you should watch this year*

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letter from the editor

Dear readers,

Exactly one year ago, Phoenix was reintroduced to the members of Albion. To commemorate this event, a Christmas issue was made to celebrate both aforementioned feat and the coming festivities. Being big fans of tradition, we thought it a good dea to continue making a Christmas-themed issue.

So here it is, our 2014 Holiday Extravaganza! We gathered articles that we hope bring you warmth and joy during the moments you take a little time for yourself. For example, you can read about the Christmas dinner the Phoenix-committee prepared, with recipes you can easily try out at home. Or visualise yourself Christmas shopping while reading our reports from different locations in Europe. You can also read Koen Sebrechts' article on the joys of seeing his PhD publicised as a book, and our interview with Paul Franssen, who tells us all about his hobbies and Christmas plans.

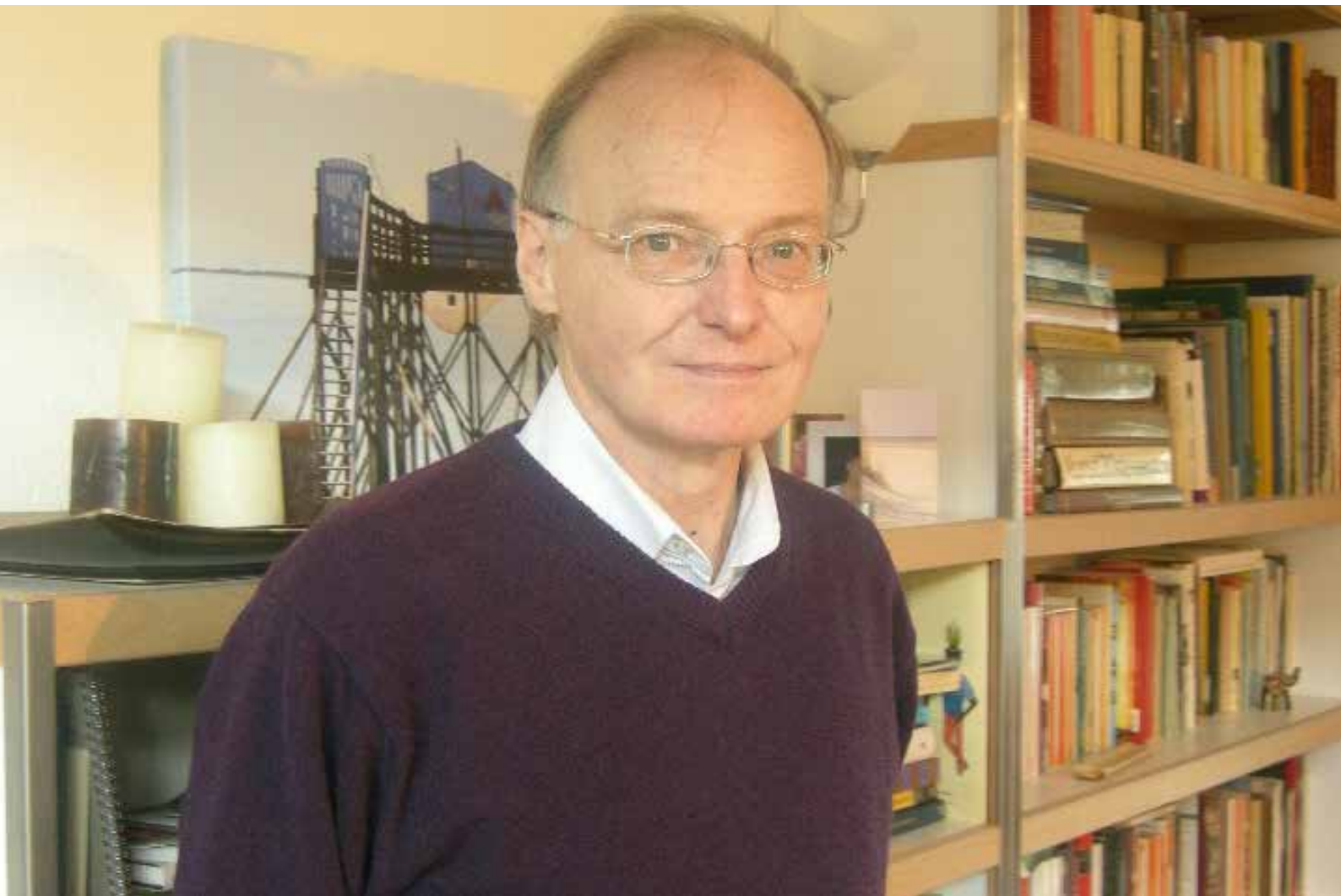
In this issue, we would also like to introduce a new feature: Impossible Conversations. The idea is that two authors, who are unrelated to each other and lived in different eras, speak to each other about their novels, ideas and lives. The first trial features a discussion between Jane Austen and J. K. Rowling, known to us all through their legendary literary heritage. We hope you enjoy reading this article!

All that is left to say: we hope you enjoy your holidays (and vacation). I know I will be trying to urge myself to do some preliminary work for all the tests that are waiting for me post-NYE. So I hope all the Christmas food will be enough fuel for me to get me through this.

A very merry Christmas!

Marijn Brok
Chief Editor





Tea Time with Paul Franssen

“You accepted that one of the consequences of studying English was that you would become a teacher”

On a cold December afternoon two of our committee members meet each other at the corner of some street in Utrecht; this is the street where Paul Franssen lives. There is no need for us to ring the bell, because our host has already seen us through the window. After he lets us in and we sit down, he makes us some tea. “My brother gave me this tea.”

by Kiki Drost

What did you study yourself?

“Well, English of course! I also took a minor in Norwegian, one in art history and one in Old Norse. I studied here in Utrecht. I’ve been in Utrecht for 41 years. I came here as a student and never left. I’m from Brabant and I wanted to study in Nijmegen, but I was placed in Utrecht. I was disappointed at first, but I’ve never been sorry afterwards. Utrecht has been very good to me.”

Have you always wanted to teach?

“In those days, in the 70’s, when you started English you expected to be a teacher. You accepted that one of the consequences of studying English was that you would become a teacher, but it was not something I always envisioned. I was appointed as a research assistant in 1979, and got a tenured position in 1987. My love for

Book	That depends on what day you ask me, one that I enjoyed as a child and still enjoy is Gulliver’s Travels by Jonathan Swift.
Film	Oh dear, I don’t really get round to watching films a lot
Music	I like both classical music and pop. I tend to have a preference for Bach, Beethoven and John Dowland.
Animal	I think I like dogs.

English must have been due to my secondary school teacher. Back in those days there was no reading list, and he really directed my attention to a lot of English works. All the literature I read in those days was English! And some American stuff as well.”

Do you have any hobbies?

“Yes, I used to have a hobby. I still have, I just don’t get round to doing it anymore. I used to play the classical guitar. I was pretty good. Someone once told me I was at the level of a second year conservatory student. But at some point you have to make a decision and channel your energy into one or two things, rather than three or four. The guitar looks at me sometimes asking ‘Why don’t you play me anymore?’ I’m just really busy with other things.

Students sometimes think all we have to do is teach but actually teaching is only a part of what I have to do. I also have to do administrative things and research of course. I’ve written a proposal for a book about Shakespeare as a literary character for Cambridge University Press and it was accepted last week! I also do some amateur theatre occasionally. I’ve been in ‘Kerstavond van mevrouw Klein Sprokkelhorst.’”

Do you have any other plans for Christmas?

“We’re not going to do anything very special. We’ll go to Limburg for a weekend. It will all be very calm this year, just me and my wife, maybe some family. And of course we’ll have a Christmas tree!”

When we’re all out of questions and have taken some pictures it is time for us to go home. Paul urges us to take one more piece of speculaas for on the road, and then we leave his warm house to face the cold December afternoon. Paul, thank you once again for your hospitality!



Rebel Transformation

This year, the cinema has already seen a lot of blockbusters and *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1* does not seem to be an exception. Though not as enticing as its action-packed predecessors, it still is filled with strong acting by Jennifer Lawrence and an emotional script. It seems this film would not have been here had *Mockingjay* not been split into two separate films. It fills in some of the gaps by drawing up a background against which all the action in Part 2 will take place. The film focuses on Katniss' transformation into the symbol of the rebellion in Panem. However, she struggles with the kidnapping of Peeta, her feelings for Gale, and the demands of Alma Coin, president of District 13. What makes this film special is the moments when Lawrence gets to act out the emotional stages Katniss is going through. It serves as a perfect prologue for when the real action will break loose.

by Marijn Brok



Lionsgate New Line Cinema

Old-fashioned Dragon and Orc Slaying

Last week I caved and went to see the *Hobbit*. Half the family joined, except for my mum, who has been saying since part 1 that it is absolutely ridiculous that they made three part film out of such a tiny book. And that is true. It is ridiculous. But entertaining nonetheless: the *Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies* is packed with almost continuous action and the public seems to like it.

I sat through the entire film entertained. There was no boring moment and if you liked the *Lord of the Rings* you will definitely enjoy this film as well (if only for the countless LotR references). There is plenty of the classic massive warfare where somehow with one single stroke a dozen orcs fall at the time. Legolas even pulls off his signature “use the bad guys’ animals against them move,” which I definitely enjoyed.

It is the film the first two parts have been working towards and the Battle of the Five Armies is definitely worth sitting through the Desolation of Smaug (the *Hobbit 2*). Added bonus is that the film seems to integrate some of the *Silmarillion* therefore adding some additional background to the original *Lord of the Rings* stories. And if all this has not convinced you yet: Stephen Fry is absolutely brilliant in this film. Just his character was worth my money.

by Astrid Nieuwets



Impossible Conversations

Joanne and Jane on publishing, being a female writer and Christmas



What if two authors, completely unrelated to one another, could have a conversation? What would they see? What would they say? How would they feel about each other? In Phoenix, we would like to introduce a new feature, in which we let two authors from different eras have a (imagined) conversation. In this first feature, we let Jane Austen and J. K. Rowling meet up.

by Judith Schoonwater and Kiki Drost

JA: "It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single writer in possession of a good story must be in want of a publisher."

JK: "Such a shame that it doesn't work the other way around. Publishers want stories that sell, yet are sometimes still unable to recognize those."

I laugh; there is no longer any bitterness there. The woman sitting opposite of me briefly nods, a minimal movement. She either doesn't understand what I am referring to, or doesn't consider it humorous.

"Manuscripts are thrown on one big heap and only the first pages, if the paper is lifted at all, are read. Instant excitement seems necessary. Gradual scene-setting in the first chapter is dangerous for a first-time novelist. It is important not to forget we are not yellow journalists. We do not need to hover over our character as an annoying beetle, trying to catch sentences we might misconstrue. We need to stay true to our characters, whoever they may be. Even if that means no impressive swordfight in the first paragraph."

JA: "But you as a woman must be aware of the disadvantages a female writer faces; indeed any woman who is fortunate enough to have an encouraging family should be aware that she is in an advantageous position! It seems not the publishers place to object any works written by females, as long as her family consents to her writing."

I can't help but look at this woman who seems so wild in her opinions, violent even. This being acts as if she is in no way aware of her surrounding or simply has not the energy to concern herself with formalities.

JK: "Thankfully it is not much of a problem anymore. Nor should it be. What's so wonderful about the art of writing is that physical strength is taken out of the equation and, thus, women can write just as beautifully and be just as poignant as men can."

As I say this Jane shifts in her chair and straightens her back. She appears proud, and so she should be. Looking at her, she appears simultaneously childlike and ancient. Ancient not only as a result of the promenade dress she is wearing – surely worn out to see and be seen – but also because of the look in her eyes, which comes across almost too wise in the slightly chubby round face.

"I agree with you that a supporting family is of great importance, not only for writers, but for anyone really. There was a time when that support seemed gone and I had to make do. I am prouder of my years as a single mother than of any other part of my life. Though, I must say, it is nice to have large family gathering at Christmas again."

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single writer in possession of a good story must be in want of a publisher.

JA: "Yes, sharing a Christmas dinner with family is a happy occasion. At Christmas every body invites their friends about them, and people think little of even the worst weather. The gaieties the season generally bring are a necessity to every heart to overcome the long cold winter months."

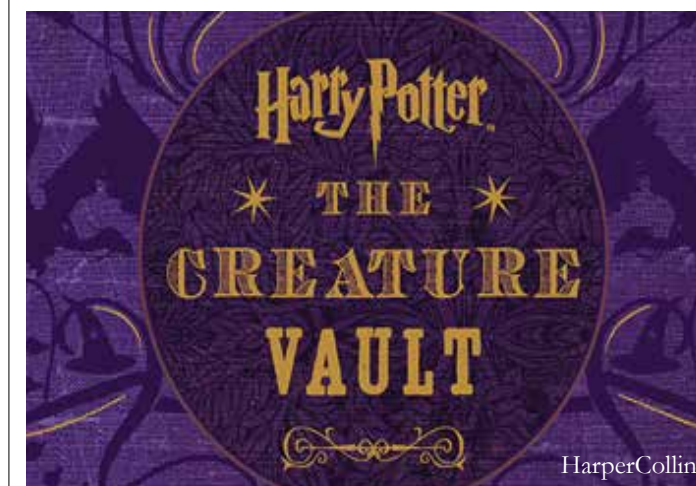
Miss Rowling seems not to be aware of my amazement, how this strange and bewildering woman appears to be separate from her surroundings; the ease with which she considers her own past misfortunes! Any attempt to reason with her would likely only increase my own confusion. Her manner varied so from my own, yet I feel warmth towards her.

"Indeed, I hope you shall enjoy your Christmas and give my love to your family."

A grateful and understanding smile formed on her lips and I could not be but pleased that I should have been the one to have caused it. Despite Miss Rowling being quite extraordinary I had grown fond of her and wished her all the happiness I could think of. I bowed slightly as an answer to her smile.

JK: "Merry Christmas!"

A Very Rowling and Austen Christmas with:



Jody Revenon's *The Creature Vault*. Gorgeous and terrifying concept art for the Harry Potter films shows you how much more scary these films could have been. If you are a fan of art books and Harry Potter: treat yourself this Christmas!

Don't have that much money to spend this Christmas? No worries. J.K. Rowling has announced to release 12 additional background stories of *Harry Potter* during the 12 days leading up to Christmas. One of the stories is even rumoured to be centred around everyone's favourite platinum blond nemesis Draco Malfoy.



Emma Approved is a new, innovative adaptation of Jane Austen's *Emma*. It is the video diaries of Emma herself and you can watch the episodes for free on YouTube. The series was much anticipated after the huge success of the *Lizzie Bennet Diaries* (a *Pride and Prejudice* adaptation) and the creators have extended the Jane Austen reinvention to now also include *Welcome to Sanditon* after Austen's unfinished novel *Sanditon*. Once again, treat yourself this Christmas holiday and why not with some innovative and modern adaptations of your favourite classics, and that all for free!

Phoenix Serves... A Christmas Dinner

Last Christmas we gave you our hearts, so this year, you'll have to settle for food. And not just any food: Phoenix is serving you a three-course meal featuring beef, mushrooms and alcohol for under €8 per person, and all that without resorting to pasta! In true Christmas spirit we had the –almost– complete committee sit down in fashionable Christmas sweaters and surrounded ourselves with candles, lights and garlands. It is now up to you to find the most Christmas-y spot in your house, take a seat and allow us to introduce you to the art of creating a mouth-watering Christmas feast.

by Astrid Nieuwets



For our main course we turned to another well-known chef: Gordon Ramsay. Having two vegetarians in our company we improvised a veggie variant on the classic Beef Wellington.

Beef Wellington

Rating: ★★★★★
Reproducibility: ★★★★★

First off, we are students, there is no point in denying that. So instead of getting really expensive prosciutto ham we bought bacon slices. We refrained from using the cheapest wine though, instead of Mooi Kaap we bought a slightly fancier white wine: Settesoli Pinot Grigio (it was *in the Bonus*). We got the steak from the freezer section of the AH, to make sure we could actually pay for our groceries.

We prepared most of the Beef Wellington beforehand, doing all the work up to putting the pastry packed beef fillets into the oven. In preparing we noticed a few things. First off, you should be warned: the microscopic diced mushrooms baking in white wine will smell phenomenal. Try not to eat it all. (By the way, after frying your mixture will be called a mushroom duxelle.) While frying your mushroom, you can roast the steak in the oven and remove the larger bits of fat from the bacon slices. Instead of one large wrapping we made small parcels: one for everyone. If you do this, you'll need two sheets of puff pastry per beef fillet.



Ricotta Stuffed Mushrooms

Rating: ★★★★★
Reproducibility: ★★★★★

For starters we made ricotta stuffed mushrooms. We used a recipe of our good friend Jamie Oliver and it was a hit. Everyone loved them, and to boot this was really easy and quick to prepare. Once you are done with the ricotta and herbs mix you only have to scoop this into your mushroom hoods and pop the whole concoction into the oven. We served the mushrooms with an arugula and vegetable salad.

Veggie Wellington

Rating: ★★★★★
Reproducibility: ★★★★★

As not all of us eat meat we produced a vegetarian option as well. This basically consisted of a mini-quiche. Instead of beef and bacon you stuff your pastry with (for example) courgette, tomato, bell peppers and of course some of that delicious mushroom duxelle. For adhesive structure, mix some cooking cream with eggs and pour this over the vegetable stuffing. Then fold the packages like you would do with an original Wellington. Bake for 20 minutes at 200°C.



With our Wellingtons we served a side of roasted potatoes with spinach and we made a salad from the arugula and left-over stuffing from our Veggie Wellingtons.





Salted Almonds & Caramel Sauce Brownies

Rating:



Reproducibility:



You might not believe it, but it is remarkably easy to make something seem really fancy. Even if it is really just 1-2-3 brownie mix. Not even the mix where you have to add any substantial ingredients – nope, the ‘just add water’ variety. Put in a little extra effort and before you know it you have improvised caramel sauce, salted almond brownies. Caramel sauce is actually really easy to make. Be sure you pay attention the entire time, because sugar burns quite easily. Heat the sugar and make sure not to stir it, just lift the pan to shift the concoction from time to time to keep from burning. When it has turned to an amber-coloured liquid there are two options. You can either add butter and stir that through until completely melted. Or, like we did, add cream straight away. Be sure to remember though that anything cold you will throw to the (very hot) liquid will bubble up very rapidly. Once the cream is stirred through, you have your caramel sauce. As an extra treat we fried and salted some almonds. Stir the almonds through the sauce and pour over the brownies for a seemingly fancy, yet effortlessly classic brownie.



Scroppino

Rating:



Reproducibility:



In true student tradition alcohol took to the stage for our final dish. A classic Italian cocktail: scroppino. It is really simple to make. Just pour the Prosecco and vodka and top off with sorbet ice. We chose mango, but lemon is a good choice too! You will be serving a wonderful drink to end a hopefully equally wonderful night.

For extra fancy: serve these cocktails in proper glasses with a sprig of mint on top.

Recipes

Phoenix (Budget) Tips

How to make this three-course meal without a single drop of tears, sweat or blood.

It is always during the process of preparing the food that you realise you could have saved yourself so much trouble. We are that past-you, and we are here to tell you what we found out during our preparations. Some we might have already mentioned, but we will still list them for convenience sake:

- ★ Use the inside of your ricotta stuffed mushrooms for your beef wellington stuffing.
- ★ If there are any leftovers from your veggie wellington stuffing, toss it in your salad. We found that courgette, tomato, pepper bells, cauliflower and white wine smouldered mushrooms make for a great addition to our envisioned arugula salad.
- ★ The veggie wellingtons are not very stable, if you want to make them in small packages like we did, use a muffin tin to make sure the packages keep their shape.

- ★ Puff pastry sticks better with water, so dab a bit of water between two sheets of pastry and then push the sheets together with a fork.
- ★ If you are going for the vegetarian main as well, use the yolk of one of the eggs for the quiche mix to glaze your Beef and Veggie Wellingtons.
- ★ When serving a larg(er) group: these recipes allow you to do a lot of the work beforehand so that when time comes you just have to put the mushrooms or wellingtons in the oven. The same goes for the brownie and its caramel sauce, you can make all of it ahead of time.
- ★ If it is Christmas: get Christmas poppers. Even better if they are musical.

The recipes for our delicious cooking adventures can be found here: [Mushrooms](#) | [Beef Wellington](#) | [Potatoe sidedish](#) | [Scroppino](#)





Yorick in Ireland

Yorick is a fourth-year student of English Language and Culture. This year he is spending one semester abroad in beautiful Ireland. For roughly four months University College Cork and its beautiful fairytale campus were his home.

I was sat in the plane, looking out of the window. Rolling green hills occasionally occupied by happily grazing sheep was the first view of the country I would be spending a semester in, and I remember feeling like Holly (Hilary Swank) in P.S. I Love You. I left behind my friends and family a while ago, but the full realisation of what would come after the plane landed hadn't come to me yet. I was afraid that I wouldn't be able to make friends, that I would long for home and that I would regret leaving behind everything I knew.

Two weeks later that was completely gone. The people in Ireland are incredibly open, proud of their country and glad to help anyone who asks for it. Cork enjoys a multitude of colleges, all blessed with programmes for international students, so the city was filled with young students with different nationalities. On top of that Cork is filled with beautiful parks and has a vibrant city centre, and the campus of UCC (University College Cork, red.) is gorgeous. Needless to say making friends should have been the least of my worries, and before I knew it I called scores of lovely people

my friends. After a month I had happily settled in and merged with the local lifestyle: going to the pub, enjoying live music and clubbing occasionally switching it up with a house party or a weekend visiting another Irish cities. (Studying is obviously not high on the list of priorities when studying abroad.) Of course I would occasionally long for an Albert Heijn around the corner or some other music than guitars and fiddles, but in general I simply felt at home in Cork.

Time has flown by, and my time here is coming to a close now. In three days I'll be leaving for Utrecht again, and my time here has left me with a mixed feeling of sadness and happiness. When I look back at all the things I have accomplished I am happy that I decided to leave everything behind, but sad that I have to leave all of my new home behind again. I'm actually looking forward to cycling over the cobblestones by the Dom, cursing at the rain. You might think me strange, but Irish drizzles simply don't cut the cake. For now I'll enjoy the last few days in the pubs, thinking of the wonderful time I had here in Ireland.

by Yorick Burgers

Syme in Scotland

Syme graduated from the university of Utrecht in 2014. He now continues his masters in St. Andrews and documents his adventures abroad for Phoenix. This issue he tells us what he has learnt through his abroad experience.

So, I survived the first semester and now I have a two month Christmas holiday which will be both boring and stressful. Boring, because St Andrews is a ghost town at Christmas, Stressful, because the second semester will be insanely busy and that stuff needs preparing. Of course, the holidays are also about reflection on the past year. Here are the six most important life lessons I've learnt so far:

- ★ Utrecht is a really good university. We've all done it, saying the department/faculty/university have no idea what they are doing. However, the teachers at the English department have done a pretty good job in preparing me for this master, when I compare myself to my fellow students. Do not think that those arrogant Oxbridge or Ivy League students receive better tuition, because they do not. Well maybe they do, but Utrecht isn't so bad. Really, it is not.
- ★ Golf is awesome. It's one of the most fun sports I've ever played. Calling it a sport is debatable, but it does exhaust you without turning you into a sweaty, red-faced being so that gives it a solid advantage over most other sports. And it's extremely difficult. That makes it more annoying that all these rich, lazy, old people are good at it.
- ★ Scotland is whisky heaven. Of course this is nothing new, I just want to make you jealous. Same goes for Deep Fried Mars Bars.
- ★ Daylight is precious. Sunset at 3 pm, are you kidding me?
- ★ St Andrews is a ghost town with Christmas. I thought it would be nice to stay here and experience a nice Scottish Christmas. Worst idea ever, since I am about the only person staying in St Andrews over the holidays (except of course my incredibly annoying Romanian housemate – please don't tell her I called her that). Luckily, my dad is coming over (my mum has to work), but then: all but three restaurants/pubs are closed on Christmas Day. And those three are only open in the afternoon. For ridiculously exorbitant prices.
- ★ The class system is very much alive in England. It is kinda scary, actually. The amount of money your parents have determines the quality of the education you get as a child. Two of my housemates come from the same region in Northern England, yet one of them has a posh accent, whereas the other one has a solid rough Northern English accent. Their difference? The former went to an expensive private school. It makes you wonder.

by Syme van der Lelij



The London Christmas Special

It seems too ridiculous to visit London for a day just to buy these silly things.

But for us, this is where the holiday spirit starts.



Two years ago, I learnt through various media that Harrods had a special collaboration with several fashion designers planned for their Christmas windows. Several sketches showed Disney princesses in gowns designed by the likes of Donatella Versace, Elie Saab and Oscar de la Renta. I could not miss this convergence of my two favourite things, so I told my mom. She proposed to go on a one-day shopping trip. The excuse “to see the Christmas windows” seemed a bit preposterous; so we devised an even worse one: we were going to buy a lot of Christmas tea to endure the cold, festive days. A tradition was born.

So it happened that on a Saturday this year, I found myself yet once again in Christmas-decorated London, waiting for Harrods to open its doors. Long gone were the windows with fashionable Disney nostalgia, but I longed for something else. The department store’s food halls are filled with treasure to my mother and me (my father tags along to keep my mother from overspending). For us, the area with coffee and tea is the most magical. So many different brands and sorts of tea, it is mind-blowing. Equally exciting is the hall with ready-to-take food to be viewed. It sheds light on a different eating culture, and gives inspiration for our

own Christmas dinner. What makes this outing so special, is to see the crowds of people these rooms attract. We Dutch often like to spend as little as possible on good food, but it seems the British have a bottomless wallet.

This is exactly the case with Fortnum and Mason. Close to Piccadilly Circus, this very traditional store offers a wide assortment of luxury goods. It is so extraordinary because there are the two floors of high quality food products, ranging from tea, coffee and confectionery to an exclusive wine area. It is very hard to resist all the different offerings of tea, and I cave when I see a special wedding blend, to commemorate William and Kate’s wedding. The same goes for hot chocolate, with added tastes like orange and caramel. Similarly, my mom goes nuts for their Blue Stilton and (of course) their Christmas tea blend. It seems too ridiculous to visit London for a day just to buy these silly things. But for us, this is where the holiday spirit starts. All the decorations, people brimming with Christmas plans, the foods, the drinks, the sense of getting a taste of what a London Christmas might be like. Every year, we try to visit different stores to break out of this slur. But every year, we find our joy in returning to what makes us think Christmas is special.

by Marijn Brok



Marijn Brok

This year I’d like to find a **Grammy-winning album by Jennifer Lawrence**, because she indeed can sing. But all I want for Christmas is, even though I have never watched Sons of Anarchy, **Charlie Hunnam picking me up on a motor cycle in full biker gang set-up**, just to piss off my mom.



Judith Brinksma

This year I’d like to find a **new wallet** under the Christmas Tree, because I get the feeling I’m losing significant amounts of change with the one I have now. But all I want for Christmas is **Thomas Brodie Sangster**.



Stanzy Kersten

This year I’d like to find a **winning lottery ticket** or **multiple bottles of wine** under the Christmas tree. But all I want for Christmas is **Niall Horan featuring a Christmas sweater and several kittens**.



This year I’d like to find an **around the world plane ticket** under the Christmas tree. But all I want for Christmas is **Liam Payne, Harry Styles and/or Zayn Malik sans Christmas sweater**.

Astrid Nieuwets



This year, I would like to find **no broken Christmas decorations** under the Christmas Tree, because my cats left them alone. But all I want for Christmas is **Kate Bush**.

Kiki Drost



This year I’d like to find a **year’s supply of hair dye** under the Christmas tree (because it’s expensive and it rhymes). All I want for Christmas is **Taylor Swift (preferably in Victoria’s Secret outfit)**.

Simone Schoonwater



The Best Christmas Present

by Koen Sebregts



When you ask people what they want for Christmas the reply is rarely “something you made yourself”. Although some people genuinely appreciate it when someone puts time and creative effort into a gift rather than money, most would be somewhat disappointed to hear “I know you wanted an iPad, but instead here’s a scarf I knitted myself”. Similarly, the best Christmas presents are generally not the ones you buy yourself. Although there is the upside of getting exactly what you want, the lack of surprise destroys an important element to the whole experience. It may therefore appear odd that my Best Christmas Present Ever combines both undesirable attributes, in that it is not only something I’m getting myself, but also something I made myself.

It’s not a knitted scarf, though; it’s a book. It’s a paperback with my name on the cover, containing seven chapters totalling 317 pages, all of it my brainchild – except, of course, where I build upon the work of others, as lovingly detailed by the 386 references at the end. The book contains my PhD thesis; in the Netherlands, it is quite usual for PhD theses to be published as proper books, with an ISBN and everything, rather than remaining in ‘manuscript’ state, as they often are elsewhere. Mine is #379 in the LOT Dissertation series, which collects a large number of the PhD theses produced at Dutch universities since 1998.

My thesis is on the phonetic variation found with Dutch *r*. Dutch appears exceptional in the number of different variants of *r* that are in use, even within what is generally regarded as the standard language: in fact, I distinguish no less than twenty of them. I collected lots of acoustic data (about 20.000 tokens from 400 speakers in ten cities in the Netherlands and Flanders), as well as ultrasound data in a small laboratory study. In the book, I describe the variation found in Dutch in great detail, while the ultrasound study reveals that Dutch coda approximant *r* (Gooise *r*-like variants) can be produced in two completely distinct ways (as either a retroflex or a bunched palatal approximant), and that the choice between the two does not depend on the onset allophones of the speakers. The thesis also develops a model of progressive sound changes to account for the origins, development and current status of Dutch *r*-variation, and argues for incorporating sociophonetic detail and diachronic evidence in phonological theory.

Writing the thesis was a long and arduous process. Anyone with a PhD will tell you this, but mine really took an exceptionally long

time. I did most of the research and wrote first drafts of most of the chapters in the period between 2001 and 2005, and then took another 9 years to finish the book. Why did it take me so long? Part of the reason is that for most of the last 9 years, I’ve had an almost full-time teaching job, and it’s simply very hard to work on a PhD as a side project. That can’t be the whole story, though, as I did manage to do some other research over the same period, and get some publications out. I think the main, more particular problem was that I just didn’t have a handle on how to best analyse the data, what kind of statistics to use, etc. It was only when I’d finally worked that out that other things also fell into place: the theoretical focus became clearer, and the separate chapters formed a more coherent whole. It then took me another two summers to come up with a pre-final draft and the best part of another academic year to turn that into the final manuscript, approved by my supervisors.

When that was finally done, this summer, I felt incredibly elated for a little while, but the tension returned quickly, as the thesis was then submitted to five external examiners (the reading committee), all senior academics (four of the five have to be full professors), who also have to approve (preferably unanimously) the manuscript as “good enough to defend” (at the PhD ceremony). After their approval, you go into another few worrisome months, as the manuscript has to be made publication-ready, and you have to make arrangements for the actual defence ceremony (with all kinds of forms to be filled in before all kinds of tight deadlines).

So yes, when the receptionist at Trans 10 sent me an email in early December telling me that I needed to come pick up five boxes full of copies of that book with my name on it, all finished and ready to be read (by the handful of people around the world interested in it), I felt as if Christmas had come early, and indeed that this was the best Christmas present ever, even though I had both bought and made it myself.

PS If you also think that my book could be your best Christmas present ever, you are a sad person there is a limited number of copies available. But of course you can also read the whole thing online, as modern-day students are wont to do anyway.



Koen Sebregts’s PhD thesis can be found on his website:
koensebregts.nl

word of the board

Dear Albion members,

You probably already know me from the update you guys receive every two weeks. Those updates always make me feel a little closer to my dear members. My work as Albion’s secretary has been extremely joyful to me; it already feels like I’ve been doing it for years.

As I’ve told you so many times before in the updates: I can’t stress enough how much me and my fellow board members love the incredible amounts of people we get to see at our activities. It’s amazing to see that our and our committees’ hard work pays off. I personally can’t wait to join the ReisCie on the big trip to Newcastle as I’m a huge Geordie Shore fan. Guilty pleasure that is, indeed.

Since I’m already telling you about my Geordie Shore addiction, I might as well tell you a little bit more about myself. Watching series is not the only thing I do, I also love reading and doing a little dancing and having a drink with my awesome roomies. What’s keeping me busy this block is my bachelor thesis on Oscar Wilde’s *The Importance of Being Earnest*. I wish you guys all the best luck this year and I hope to see as many of you as possible at our activities, parties and trips!

Much love,

Nadine van Kerkhoven
Secretary 2014-2015

The Pronunciation of Lieutenant:

What's up with that?



Every year, new students join the ranks of Albion. They quickly become friends during the introduction activities, but actually meeting them is quite hard sometimes: they tend to be rather shy. Interviewing them about their bookcase seems the perfect way to introduce them to you. In this issue, we talk to Nynke Hartvelt about her favourite literature, the kind of novel she would like to write, and the weird sound of the word lieutenant.

by Simone Schoonwater

What was your favourite book growing up?

I loved Eragon by Christopher Paolini. I went to the library more times than I can remember, until I finally bought a copy (which I have autographed now, ha).

What is your favourite book now?

Well, that's an impossible question. I really enjoy Joe Abercrombie's books, which are gritty, dark fantasy novels, but right now I'd say Scott Lynch's Gentleman Bastard series, especially the first part, The Lies of Locke Lamora.

What is the last book you read for 'fun'?

That'd be The Brothers Cabal by Jonathan Howard, the fourth in his series about necromancer Johannes Cabal. It's written with really dark humour and doesn't take itself all too seriously, which is fun to read, a bit like Terry Pratchett or Neil Gaiman. I read it somewhere in October.

Which book are you most ashamed of reading?

Twilight...

Which book are you most ashamed of for not reading it (yet)?

I haven't read anything by Jane Austen or Charlotte Brontë. Actually, I haven't read that many classics at all, and I usually lovingly refer to a quote by Mark Twain: "A classic is something that everybody wants to have read and nobody wants to read." Except Dracula by Bram Stoker, which is awesome.

Which are/is the book(s) you have only read halfway or even less?

I almost always finish books, but I gave up halfway through in Gone by Michael Grant. I read it in Dutch and it confirmed my aversion against anything to do with mutants in Young Adult books.

If you could recommend us one of your books, which one would it be?

Please read the two Kingmaker, Kingbreaker books by Karen Miller! I feel they are not so well known, which is a shame, because they are really great! They have fantastic characters and a really interesting world.

What, for you, is the ultimate page limit of a book before you decide against reading it?

I don't think there is one... I was a bit daunted by The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Larsson, but I read it in two days. I had a bit of trouble with A Game of Thrones though, but that was more because of its long-windedness than the word count (I apologise to all the fans). Besides that, anything goes, really. Most books I read range from 400-600 pages, I think.

indefatigable | adjective

able to work or continue for a very long time without becoming tired | incapable of being fatigued : untiring <an indefatigable Santa Claus> | in 'de fa ti ga bil i ty noun | in de - fat i ga ble ness noun | in de fat i ga bly adverb

If you were to write a book, what would it be about?

I'd write a fantasy novel concerning the safety of the use of magic while trying my hardest not to accidentally plagiarise any of the books I have read. Starring would be the most sarcastic people you will ever meet. Also, politics. I love politics, except actual, nowadays politics.

Which author have you read the most books by and why?

John Flanagan, I think, because I have read his entire Ranger's Apprentice series, which are 12 books. They are easy to read, they are actually children/young adult books, but I love them. If anyone has read them too, I want – need – to talk to you!

What is your favourite English word and why? Your least favourite?

My favourite would be "indefatigable," because I heard it in a song by Steam Powered Giraffe, and Steam Powered Giraffe is marvellous. My least favourite... hmm, I think "lieutenant," not because of the word itself but because of its pronunciation, because what is up with that?

Are you Team Lit or Team Ling?

Team Lit! Although I can only judge this by one and a half block. I like linguistics more than I anticipated though, but I just love literature too much.

What is your favourite movie adaptation?

Besides the obvious answer "Harry Potter," it's a tie between No Country for Old Men by Cormac McCarthy, of which the Coen brothers made a fantastic film, and One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey.

What is your least favourite movie adaptation?

Eragon. That was just horrible. I do not wish to discuss it further.

Which book are you really looking forward to/are you planning to buy next?

I think the next books I am going to buy (or put on my wish list for Santa, haha) will be (children's) books about young Jack Sparrow by Rob Kidd, because I simply love of Pirates of the Caribbean to bits. So either that one, or Assassin's Creed: Unity by Oliver Bowden. Although I still want a really pretty box set with all the Harry Potter books, too.



Calendar

December

- 21

Dickens Festival

Deventer
- 22

Christmas holiday
Shack closed

January

- 5

End of holiday
Shack open again
- 6

Monthly Drinks: Happy New Year edition

Mick O'Connells
- 12

Study Afternoon

to be announced
- 15

New Year's Dinner

De Nieuwe Kerk
- 23

Albion Skiing Trip

Valfréjus, Savoie, France.
- 26

Reflection Week
Shack closed

February

- 1

End of Albion Skiing trip

Valfréjus, Savoie, France.
- 2

End of reflection week
Shack open again

But this is not all! For other fun activities in February, be sure to keep an eye on our Facebook page and the website, which holds a caldendar with all the Albion events, parties and trips.



Newcastle upon Tyne

Another trip to look forward to: Albion will be living among the Geordies from April 8th to April 15th.

Christmas Horoscopes

Find out what will be waiting underneath the tree of stars for you this Christmas.

Aries
March 21 - April 19, Fire
If you play all your cards right you might just find your Romantic Comedy dream partner this Christmas. So hope for the best and who knows; with any luck, by next year – you'll be going out with Hugh Grant or Julia Roberts!
Christmas film: Bridget Jones' Diary

Taurus
April 20 - May 20, Earth
You are a bit indecisive this Christmas. Brownies for desert? Or maybe ice cream? Should you wear a pretty outfit for the Christmas family dinner or your ugly Reindeer sweater? Why not avoid making a hard choice and just do it all!
Christmas film: The Nightmare before Christmas

Gemini
May 21 - June 20, Air
You can either have the best Christmas ever, or the worst one. Make sure you keep control over your own happiness this December! Don't let other people spoil your Christmas!
Christmas film: How the Grinch Stole Christmas

Cancer
June 21 - July 22, Water
You are a kind and generous person and you try your best to please your loved ones this Christmas, but don't overdo it. Christmas is not just about them; it is about you as well. Make some time for yourself and have fun!
Christmas film: The Muppet Christmas Carol

Leo
July 23 - August 22, Fire
You shall have a good Christmas this year. Enjoy the holidays but don't forget to plan ahead for next year! Try to take that positive vibe with you into the New Year.
Christmas film: Babe

Virgo
August 23 - September 22, Earth
Your Christmas is very busy. All those plans you have are of course very enjoyable, but don't take it too far. Don't let your busy schedule distract you from what really matters!
Christmas film: Home Alone

Libra
September 23 - October 22, Air
There is a lot going on and you worry a lot. Don't let your worries spoil your Christmas. This is the perfect time to put everything into perspective. Try to focus on the positive aspects of your life and enjoy the most wonderful time of the year!
Christmas film: Gremlins

Scorpio
October 23 - November 21, Water
It is time to let your true feelings out of their Christmas boxes. Love is just around the corner, but it will stay there if you do nothing. Tell that special person how you feel. If you can't say it at Christmas, when can you, eh?
Christmas film: Miracle on 34th Street

Sagittarius
November 22 - December 21, Fire
Your Christmas will rock this year! The stars hide countless possibilities for you this December. Enjoy your holidays and remember; the sky is the limit!
Christmas film: The Family Stone

Capricorn
December 22 - January 19, Earth
Don't allow your academic responsibilities to take charge over your life. Essays are important, sure, but there are other things in life as well. Start focusing on those things and you might even find love this December.
Christmas film: Scrooge

Aquarius
January 20 - February 18, Air
You find yourself in a positive spiral this Christmas. You know what you want and go for it. Just take care and don't let yourself disperse.
Christmas film: Love Actually

Pisces
February 19 - March 20, Water
Your Christmas could be a strange one. Between all the eating, working, reading and sleeping it might become unclear what is real and what are dreams. Try to take enough rest to avoid weird scenes.
Christmas film: The Polar Express

by Kiki Drost

Committee
Judith Brinksma, Marijn Brok, Kiki Drost, Stanzy Kersten, Simone Schoonwater, Noël Vermeulen & Astrid Nieuwets

Albion
Nadine van Kerkhoven, Pleuni van Laarhoven, Syme van der Lelij, Yorick Burgers & Nynke Hartvelt

Images
Syme van der Lelij | Astrid Nieuwets | Marijn Brok | Kiki Drost | Fiona de Both | The Guardian | Blastr.com | Lionsgate | New Line Cinema | HarperCollins | Pemberley Digital

With special thanks to:
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Rectification issue 1: On the ISO flowchart it did not become entirely clear that the fourth year of stufl has never been a given. So if you are currently studying and receiving stufl, you will not get that fourth year as it has always been meant for your masters (for which you will no longer get stufl).

Want to contribute to Phoenix?
We are currently accepting pieces of creative writing and poetry. and photography, just drop us a line at albionphoenix@gmail.com.



“There is nothing in
the world so irresistibly
contagious as laughter
and good humor.”

Charles Dickens
A Christmas Carol

