



YOUNG ARCHER

A tale of two universities

University of Kent student Hamish Hallett, a former Martin Primary School pupil, has just started an exchange year studying politics at Mount Allison University in New Brunswick, Canada. Here, he reveals how uni life is very different over there. **It is my first time in Canada, and I love it here. I'd been to the US for a summer camp but academically I wanted to experience a different country.**

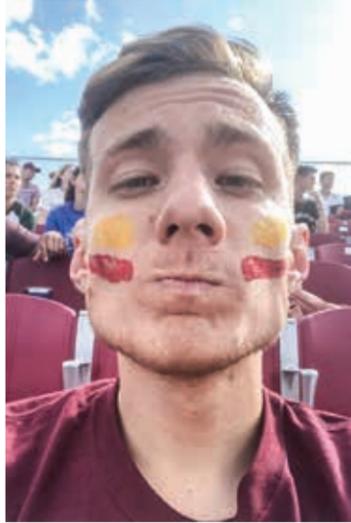
Most British universities have a week called Freshers, which in the view of the tabloids is all about a bunch of drunken 18-year olds. In Canada, there is a stark contrast. The drinking culture is very controlled, which you can say is a positive or a negative. I'm still trying to figure that out.

Different drinking cultures

Here they don't want to encourage binge drinking and we are advised to have just one drink per hour. 17-year-olds are studying here in this Canadian province where the drinking age is 19, so I understand the precaution. As a 21-year old, almost 22, however, it seems a bit babyish to me. Having said that, some student residences are stricter about it than others.

Community life

Also, I've noticed a difference between individualism and collectivism. When I was in halls at the University of Kent, it was great fun and I made lots of friends in my first year but most of the time you



On exchange: Hamish Hallett

are weekly meetings, weekly residency activities and lots of chances to learn about your residence. It is all about a community of students all together as one.

Finally, everyone in this university has been accommodating, and here I'm not saying Kent was not helpful, but I can see a notable difference. It could be a Canadian thing, so who knows!



Campus: Mount Allison University in New Brunswick.

had your own space and time to yourself.

In Canada it is very people-based with lots of interaction. My university here smashed home the idea of each residency being a 'family'. There

Don't forget, university can be a nerve-racking time, and if you are worried about it, talk to someone. You are not alone! Be safe, and you will have 'the best time of your life'.

FUN and MUSIC for BABIES and TODDLERS in N2 on **TUESDAYS** and **THURSDAYS** at 10am



with
LIVE ACCOMPANIMENT
ON VIOLIN AND GUITAR
at EAST FINCHLEY BAPTIST CHURCH,
Creighton Avenue



<https://www.facebook.com/teddybearsmusicclub>
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or text 07836 284538

Why I love Long Lane Pasture

Review by Leo Wiseman, aged eight

Long Lane Pasture's wildlife is stunning, from peacock butterflies to toxic caterpillars. Even though it is right by the main road you forget that in a minute. You are instantly greeted by the noise of crickets and birds.

You might think the web in the photo looks like a normal spider's web. But no! These are spiders' nests with hundreds of tiny spiders inside being protected by their caring mothers. Recently the pasture has also seen Wasp Spiders which are quite rare. They look like wasps, with black and yellow stripes, to keep predators away.

Do you get your blackberries from supermarkets? In the summer you can get the tastiest, juiciest and sweetest blackberries in Long Lane Pasture for free (but you can give a small donation). You can also volunteer to help at Long Lane Pasture. Young people can help with jobs like seed collecting, and surveying the wildlife, including in their various ponds. I hope to see lots of you there. So come along and decide for yourself what you think. Find out more at www.longlanepasture.org



On the web: This intricate construction was spotted at Long Lane Pasture.

A decade of dance at academy

By Diana Cormack

This month the London Academy of Gymnastics and Dance (LAGAD) celebrates its 10th year of providing gymnastics and dance to children and adults in local schools, church halls and community centres.

Ballet meets gymnastics

It all began in 2009 when Royal Ballet School trained teacher and qualified gymnastics coach Jessica Shenton, then the mother of two young boys, took over her former ballet teacher's adult classes. These became a successful north London 'dancing mums' daytime group.

Then Akiva School in Finchley Central came looking for an after-school gymnastics coach, with subsequent school enquiries and bookings leading to the academy being born.

Jessica says she loved what she was doing and never planned for this to become a business. It was great fun and she wanted to provide a high quality service that was enjoyable, well organised and offered a developmental pathway.

In 2011, a team of elite gymnasts looking for a new home approached Jessica to take them under her wing. So a not-for-profit separate elite programme for Rhythmic Gymnasts evolved, from which gymnasts have been selected to represent the country at national and international events.

Established success

Now with five full-time staff, 50 freelancers and an office in Muswell Hill, LAGAD boasts a team of high quality, experienced coaches offering London-wide OFSTED and British Gymnastics registered

programmes after school and at weekends seven days a week.

Jessica still loves coaching and is proud of the success of

still doing ballet classes with us 10 years on and hundreds of children have learnt how to do cartwheels, handstands and



Photo Ian Harding

the rhythmic gymnasts but she told *The Archer*: "Perhaps the biggest success of all is that we have ladies in their 70s and 80s

headstands. To see that smile, pride and sense of achievement written all over their faces when they first do it is my highlight."

PARENT & BABY/CHILD ACTIVITIES

- **Baby & U baby massage.** Contact Ruth at babymassagewithruth@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/babyandubabymassage
- **EF NCT meet** Tuesdays 2.30pm at The Old White Lion. Contact eastfinchleynct@haringeynct.org
- **Musical Tots:** 10.45 Tue at The Angel, N6, Weds The Old White Lion and Fridays The Five Bells N2. Katemusicaltots@facebook.com

- **Phoenix Cinema activities,** Bringing up baby screenings, Weds, 11am; Kids Club, Sat, 10am; Toddler Time, Tues, 11am. Full details from box office on 020 8444 6789.
- **Stepping Stones/Teddy Bears' Music:** music and fun for 0-3s, East Finchley Baptist Church Tues and Thurs 10am. Liz 07836 284538.