

# The Lockdown Lowdown



Since COVID-19 entered the world stage as a pandemic, NUSCR's social life has been altered dramatically. Our local watering holes shut (long live the OG), our newly renovated tower closed, and our normal drunken revelry banned. As with the rest of the population, we have had to switch it up a gear; NUSCR took to the virtual pub, our new pub of choice – The Lockdown Arms. From quizzes to TV shows to online games, NUSCR has tried it all on our Tuesday night virtual pub seshes. Although not in chronological order – in true NUSCR fashion I am 2 pints down (and pretty drunk, I'm a huge lightweight) – these are the highlights of the Lockdown era.

## A Short Touch of Bristol

This was truly a legendary evening. Adorned in a red velvet dressing gown, on a leather armchair, whiskey in hand, in front of a blazing fire. The one and only Jacob Blackwell read to us the erotic tale that is "A short Touch of Bristol: A Romance" by Carbaretta Bartland. With Miss Estella Haynes assisting with the more high-pitched characters, Jacob enthralled us in the world of St James the Dismembered's practice night. Full of every innuendo you have ever laughed at on a ringing night and more, the words of this book touch you in all the right places. This evening's session was also recorded for any later pleasurable purposes.

## NUSCR on "TV"

NUSCR took part in our own personal renditions of the two famous TV shows, "Task Master", hosted by the almighty Chloe Marples, and "Would I Lie to You", hosted by NUSCR's finest, Jacob Blackwell. Would I Lie to you, for those uncultured enough to never have watched it, is somewhat based off of the concept of two truths and a lie. As it happens, yes, we would most definitely would try to lie to you. However, none of us appear to be very good at it. Among the revelations was one that stuck in my head in particular. Apparently, Estella likes to eat cat food when camping, who knew?

The Task Master evening was one of our best I believe. With Chloe taking the place of Greg Davies, and her lowly subordinate Nick taking the place of Little Alex Horne, each of us presented her excellency with a video of us completing a set task. From extreme housekeeping to most surprising item under a piece of paper, we came up with a lot of admittedly quite random answers. We took inspiration from the online sensation Tik Tok, from gymnastics and from the sheer weirdness that is our imagination. Cartwheeling, singing, and generally endangering ourselves onto the wall of fame (aka the NUSCR Facebook) we embarrassed ourselves enough for a whole decade. Not that we wouldn't usually do exactly that on a normal night out.

## Drag Bingo with Minty Vagine

The Fabulous Drag superstar that is Minty Vagine (Chris Gray) very generously decided to run our own bingo session. With prizes. Through 3 games, each of us rushed to get our hands-on balls of wool, aged PC games and the grand prize of toilet paper. As one of our first online sessions, Minty really started off this era with a bang (and two little ducks).

## A contemplative conclusion

Lockdown has changed the way we live our lives drastically, but it also gave us time to discover and reflect a little on ourselves. Personally, I determined that I am the boomer of the group – having many IT and camera problems over the weeks – though I have gotten better, I hope. Aside from an inability to creatively lie, NUSCR seem to have another fatal floor. We can't spell either; playing through games of online Pictionary many points were lost through misplaced "typing" errors.

Finally, everyone must agree that although lockdown has been a bore, the random quizzes are terrifically fun (even if only I will admit it). With restrictions easing across the country, I hope that

## The Lockdown Lowdown



sooner or later we will return to gather at the watering holes of Nottingham, drunken mishaps ensuing. COVID may have altered where we drink, but it won't ever change who we drink with.

**Fiona Kemm**