# Lavish space trip and ancient oak removal spark public outrage



A recent space flight featuring Jeff Bezos' fiancée and several celebrities has attracted considerable criticism due to its timing and expense. The event, described by some observers as an extravagant "hen party in space," involved a group of high-profile individuals including singer Katy Perry, who, upon returning to Earth, nostalgically remarked: “I think this experience has shown me you never know how much love is inside you and how loved you are until the day you launch.” Critics have expressed disapproval of the spectacle, highlighting the contrast between the lavish nature of the trip and pressing humanitarian and environmental concerns on Earth. The group’s brief journey into space, viewed by detractors as a leisurely experience more akin to a rollercoaster ride, has sparked debate about the use of immense personal wealth—Bezos' estimated fortune stands at $199.5 billion—and the definition of what constitutes an “astronaut.” The event took place amidst heightened global challenges, leading some commentators to label the celebration as a wasteful exercise.

In a separate controversy centred in Enfield, North London, Toby Carvery, a national restaurant chain, has come under fire for its decision to permit the virtual felling of an ancient oak tree on a site steeped in historical significance. The oak, which dates back to at least 1605—the year of the Gunpowder Plot—stood as a living testament to centuries of British history. Notably, Guy Fawkes and his conspirators once sought refuge on the same grounds where the tree grew. Experts had estimated the oak had at least another hundred years of life remaining before the decision to remove it. The act has been described by some as "criminal damage," sparking calls for public protest through a boycott of the Toby Carvery chain, which operates 158 restaurants across the country. Critics argue that such a response would effectively communicate public displeasure and place financial pressure on the company, urging greater respect for historic and natural landmarks.

Both incidents have generated considerable public discussion, reflecting broader tensions around the values and priorities in contemporary society.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.blueorigin.com/news/new-shepard-ns-31-mission> - This URL supports information about Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket and its recent missions, including one that involved celebrities like Katy Perry. However, it does not specifically address the criticism or details of the event mentioned in the article.
* <https://abcnews.go.com/US/katy-perry-lauren-sanchez-set-travel-space-blue/story?id=119251145> - This URL highlights the participation of celebrities such as Katy Perry and Lauren Sanchez in a Blue Origin space flight, aligning with the article's descriptions of the event.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_Origin> - This Wikipedia page provides an overview of Blue Origin, including its New Shepard program and recent human spaceflights, which include the mission involving high-profile passengers.
* <https://www.businessinsider.com/blue-origin> - Business Insider's coverage of Blue Origin touches upon the company's activities, including space tourism and the impact of its missions, which can be linked to broader societal discussions about wealth and space travel.
* <https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestreptalk/2023/08/22/jeff-bezos-net-worth/> - Although not directly available, this URL typically discusses Jeff Bezos' net worth, which aligns with the article's mention of his estimated fortune of $199.5 billion.