

UniLife

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Issue 4 Volume 9

Lauren defies odds to graduate



Message from the President

The start of a new year is often a time for reflection, both personally and professionally.



Visiting the Occupational Health Service



Meeting first-year Physics students backstage at Stargazing Live



With Dara O Briain and Brian Cox at Stargazing Live

For the University, this is also a key point in our Planning and Accountability cycle, when we assess our performance and review our future plans.

2011 was a very challenging year for our University, with many changes taking place within UK higher education, as well as the uncertainty which comes with the much wider and ongoing global economic crisis.

We took the very difficult decision to raise the level of fees for home undergraduates to £9,000 from autumn 2012. It remains to be seen how these changes to the funding regime will affect student choices across the higher education sector.

A huge amount of work took place last year, and is ongoing, to ensure that our students have the experience that they expect and deserve here at Manchester. We know that there are some areas where we need to improve the student experience and we continue to work hard on these.

We remained one of the most popular universities in the UK in terms of student applications. We recruited more international students than any other UK university and attracted a large number of students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Partnerships with commercial organisations grew and we continued to build impressive new buildings and improve existing ones, in spite of the dramatic decline in Government funding for capital projects.

Our staff and students won many prizes and accolades. The New Year's Honours list included knighthoods for Professors Andre Geim and

Kostya Novoselov for their Nobel Prize winning work on graphene, and a CBE for Professor Mel Ainscow for services to education. Dr John Stageman, a member of our Board of Governors, was awarded an OBE, and a number of our alumni, honorary graduates and others associated with the University also received recognition.

The relatively healthy financial position of the University meant that we could launch a major investment initiative to recruit new academic staff and to support existing staff. On the other hand, our research income remained largely flat, though the increased diversity of research income was welcome.

Looking back over the 'highs and lows' of 2011 then, our progress could be considered 'satisfactory' – particularly given such turbulent times. But I am not content to settle for 'satisfactory'.

'Satisfactory' is not sufficient if we are to achieve the ambitious goals described in Manchester 2015 and reiterated in our most recent Strategic Vision for 2020.

So, what do we need to do raise our game in 2012 and beyond?

It's not feasible to simply 'do more', or for our staff to just 'work harder', when we know that many are already stretched. Much better to ask ourselves questions such as: "Is our research internationally competitive and will it influence our academic fields or wider society?" "Do we offer too many undergraduate and postgraduate courses and are they competitive or distinctive?"

These are difficult questions I know, but in some areas we need to consider what we should stop doing, or do less of, but do it much better.

These are the questions which will be asked at two key conferences taking place over the next couple of months, one with senior University staff and the other with our Board of Governors. The outcomes of these events will enable us to set our plans for the coming year, with a key focus being on the development of our Strategic Plan for 2020.

We must focus on quality rather than quantity, whether it is in undergraduate or postgraduate education; research and innovation; or our activities in social responsibility. We must seek to invest time and funding in those areas and activities where we already are, or can aspire to be, truly distinctive.

It may be difficult to tell in advance which particular areas of research, funding submissions, undergraduate courses or social responsibility activities will be successful. But we must critically evaluate each of these, and then take those difficult decisions about which should continue and which should be stopped, reduced or radically changed.

So, my New Year's resolution for the University is this. We must be far more rigorous in assessing quality, focus on areas of excellence and distinctiveness and, like so many personal resolutions at this time of year, decide what we should stop doing.

An amazing graduation journey



Lauren Thompson at her degree ceremony

A disabled student who was told she would never walk or talk again took her first unaided steps, to the cheers of her fellow students, when she collected her 2:1 degree in Criminology.

Lauren Thompson, from near Lytham in Lancashire, was forced to abandon her degree in 2006, after she was almost killed as a passenger in a serious car crash at the beginning of her third year.

Despite enduring brain injuries, a month in a coma, a year in a wheelchair and mobility problems with her arms and legs, the determined student restarted her studies in 2010.

Still experiencing serious disabilities, she picked up her degree in a moving ceremony at the Whitworth Hall in December.

Lauren said: "I was very emotional when I received the degree as not very long ago I thought it was something which was beyond me.

"But I wouldn't have done it without the help of everyone at the School of Law, Sam Ward from the Disability Support Office and my family.

"It was amazing to be able to walk for my degree ceremony at one of the best universities in the country."

So determined was Lauren to complete her degree, she studied law books as part of her rehabilitation programme.

She added: "It was hard work, and because everything takes so much longer for me to do, I didn't really have that much time for a social life.

"But it was worth it: I really love the subject and one day I'd like to take a Masters degree in crime, law and society."

Lauren's tutor, Senior Lecturer Dr Jon Spencer, said: "Lauren is an absolute inspiration to any disabled – or for that matter, non-disabled – person. She just doesn't know when to give up.

"Her degree is an amazing achievement and reflects her immense gifts."

Major grant wins for culture partners

The Manchester Museum, Whitworth Art Gallery and Manchester City Galleries are celebrating after winning major grant funding from Arts Council England (ACE).

The trio is one of only 16 major museum partners across the country to win a slice of the three-year, £116 million grant.

The Manchester Museum and Whitworth Art Gallery will also rejuvenate some of their most popular exhibiting spaces, thanks to a £4 million grant to help 36 cultural centres across the country from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Wolfson Foundation.

The Museum will receive £140,000 for Nature's Library, an extensive renovation and a complete redisplay of the Museum's historic Birds and Insects gallery. The gallery has been virtually untouched for 25 years and Nature's Library will see a comprehensive redisplay.



The Whitworth will receive £250,000 for the renovation and extension of the Whitworth's Exhibition Galleries, part of a larger, £12 million project which will transform the Gallery over the next two years.



News

Jodrell star show leads to discovery of new planet

page 5



Research

Smart way to save lives

page 11



Feature

Valuing older people

page 15

Contents

- 2 Message from the President
- 3 News
- 11 Research
- 15 Social Responsibility Flagships
- 16 What's On
- 20 Whitworth Art Gallery

Front cover by:
Chris Foster

Japanese honour

Professor Amin Rostami from the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science has been awarded the Fellowship of the Japanese Society for the Study of Xenobiotics (JSSX).



Professor Rostami with the President of JSSX, Professor Kenichi Inui.

Poet one of Irish Times top five

A collection of poetry by a creative writing lecturer based at the University has been named as one of the top five books of 2011 by a group of writers in the Irish Times.

'Of All Places' by Co-Director of the Centre for New Writing Dr John McAuliffe, received the accolade following rave reviews of the book.

Head of English and American Studies Dr Hal Gladfelder said: "This is a great honour for John as a poet, for the Centre for New Writing, and for all of us in English and American Studies."

Lost Shostakovich sonata enjoys UK premiere



Professor David Fanning and Marc Danel

A little known Shostakovich violin sonata fragment was heard for the first time in the UK at a special University performance.

The hauntingly beautiful six-minute unfinished section - which came to light after the composer died - was played by violinist Marc Danel, from the University's resident string quartet, the Quatuor Danel, accompanied by Professor of Music David Fanning, a leading authority on Shostakovich, one of the 20th century's most celebrated composers.

The lost sonata fragment, discovered at the Russian State Archives for Literature and Art, was first performed in Russia in 2006.

Marc Danel said: "This really is a very beautiful piece of music, and I regret very much that Shostakovich did not complete it. We don't really know why that is the case.

"I naturally wonder if one day a composer may be able to complete it, but that must be the decision of the Shostakovich family."

Queen honours our distinguished researchers

Three University academics were named in the New Year's Honours list.

Professors Andre Geim and Kostya Novoselov, who demonstrated the remarkable properties of wonder material graphene, were knighted, while Professor Mel Ainscow, Co-Director of the Centre for Equity in Education, in the School of Education, was awarded a CBE for services to education.

Mel, previously a head teacher and local education authority inspector, explores connections between inclusion, teacher development and school improvement.

Andre and Kostya were awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 2010 and graphene - the world's thinnest, strongest and most conductive material - is considered as having the potential to revolutionise materials science.

President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell said: "I was thrilled to hear that our academics had been named in the New Year Honours list. I am hugely proud to have such eminent academics at our University."

Challenging Christmas for graduate team

It was a starter for ten for a team of four Manchester graduates as they took part in a special Christmas edition of University Challenge.

Running during December on BBC2 and hosted by Jeremy Paxman, the usual teams of students were replaced by teams of graduates from some of the country's top universities.

The University of Manchester team was made up of our Chancellor Tom Bloxham, TV presenter and poker player Liv Boeree, art critic Waldemar Januszczak and writer and broadcaster Steve Hewlett.

Despite winning its first round match against the University of York, the intrepid team did not progress any further in the competition, as it notched up the lowest winning score.





Professor Brian Cox in the Jodrell Bank control room

Jodrell star show leads to discovery of new planet

Science history was made by the return of the hugely-popular BBC show 'Stargazing LIVE' when it led to the discovery of a new planet.

Amateur star spotter Chris Holmes made his out-of-this-world discovery after watching the BBC's astronomy extravaganza, broadcast live from Jodrell Bank, while looking through time-lapsed images of stars on Planethunters.org

The website hosts data gathered by Nasa's Kepler space telescope, and asks volunteers to sift the information for anything unusual that might have been missed in a computer search.

Experts reckon the star – dubbed SPH10066540 – is about the size of planet Neptune in our own Solar System.

Amazed Mr Holmes told the BBC: "I've never had a telescope. I've had a passing interest in where things are in the sky, but never had any more knowledge about it than that. Being involved in a project like this and actually being the one to find something is a very exciting position."

Hosted by Professor Brian Cox and comedian Dara O Briain, Stargazing LIVE was back by popular demand with an information-packed jaunt across the cosmos watched by more than 10 million people over three nights.

Brian and Dara interacted live with the audience, calling on a starry collection of the country's finest astronomical minds – including Jodrell Bank's Dr Tim O'Brien, the show's scientific consultant – to explore the majestic wonders of the skies above Britain, while showcasing breathtaking images from the world's most powerful telescopes.

The following day school children across the country got the chance to put their questions directly to Professor Cox with a live, interactive lesson from the Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre.

Manchester's dazzling history comes to life

A German prisoner of war who played in goal for Manchester City with a broken neck and the story of how Scott of the Antarctic signed the Manchester Museum guest book, are just two of the intriguing tales you can find out more about at the Manchester Histories Festival.

The ten-day festival, which begins on 24 February, features more than 80 events across the region, including the amazing chance to climb 280ft to the top of Manchester Town Hall's 134-year-old clock tower, as well as a family cycle ride alongside penny farthings and other vintage cycles starting from Bolton and Stockport.

You can also hear about the anarchic 19th century street gangs with brass-tipped clogs and soaped-down fringes, Turing's work on the Enigma Code and why hundreds of Sioux Indians set up camp on the banks of the Irwell in Salford.

To see the whole programme, visit:



www.manchesterhistoriesfestival.org.uk



or visit Facebook or
Twitter @mchrhistfest



Pharmacy education centre awarded new NHS contract

A new contract between the NHS and the University has secured the future of the Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (CPPE).

NHS North West signed up to the contract with the University, safeguarding the organisation's future funding.

Based at the University, CPPE offers continuing professional development opportunities for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians providing NHS services in England.

Managers and leaders suffer from 'expectation gap'

Many of the changes that leaders and managers think are most important for success are currently not being delivered by their organisations, research by the Centre for Educational Leadership (CEL) has shown.

CEL conducted a survey of over 100 people at the 2011 Annual CIPD Conference and Exhibition, asking delegates about the importance of various aspects of their organisation's performance and leadership in the areas of strategy, operations, human resources, management, leadership and culture.

Those who took part were also asked which of these aspects their organisations were currently delivering effectively. A research report written from the feedback showed that the gap between expectation and delivery was often quite wide.

Anita Connell, Leadership Development Consultant at CEL said: "It is clear that organisations know what they need to do, yet there is a gap between what is needed and what is being achieved."

The full results of the survey can be found at:



www.cel.manchester.ac.uk/news_and_events

Lecturer sees fruits of his labours

A retired University lecturer has returned to East Africa to see the skills of two of his former students put to good use.

Dr Pete Mann, who is an Honorary Fellow at the University's Centre for Organisations in Development, is acting as a mentor for a UN programme to train personnel in peacekeeping operations.

The scheme was devised by his former MSc student Heather Langdon and took place at the new UN logistics base in Entebbe, Uganda. Heather studied for her MSc through a distance learning programme while working with UN peacekeeping operations in the Congo and Sudan.

Dr Mann also paid a visit to Kenya to his former student Sammy Gitau – whose story hit the international headlines in December 2007 when he graduated from the University.

The former Kenyan slum child found a University prospectus leaflet in a dustbin and after a monumental struggle achieved his goal to gain an MSc in the 'Management and Implementation of Development Projects' programme.

Sammy continues to work with the local resource centre he helped found in Mathare slum outside Nairobi. He also works with an NGO mediating ethnic tensions arising between communities in the Nairobi slums.



Left-right: Sammy and Pete

Dr Mann said: "It's humbling to be in the shadows of people you've taught who retain a deep commitment to integrity and decency in the face of overwhelmingly adverse circumstances."

"And it's gratifying to know the University is playing its part internationally in re-affirming and underpinning those values."

Hunt is on for the next Alan Turing

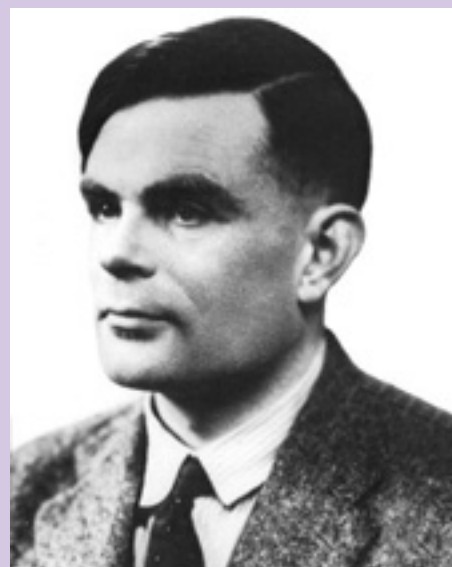
2012 marks the centenary of the birth of Alan Turing and Manchester is one of the focal points of an international programme of events commemorating his life and work.

Our involvement includes the hunt for the next Turing, with a fiendish code-breaking competition for school children organised by the School of Mathematics, where Turing helped develop the earliest stored-program computers.

More than 70 teams from schools across the Northwest have signed up to the Alan Turing Centenary Cryptography Competition, sponsored by leading travel search site Skyscanner, and open to Year 7-11 pupils all over the country.

To crack the competition, entrants must follow the story of Mike and Ellie – two children who get caught up in the search for the missing 'Turing Treasure' – solving a series of cryptographic challenges as they go.

Dr Charles Walkden, from the School of Mathematics said: "You don't need to be an expert mathematician or a computer programming whizz to take part, you just need to be good at problem solving and thinking logically."



Teams of up to four can register on the competition website:



www.maths.manchester.ac.uk/cryptography_competition_2012

Students spend time giving something back



Kind-hearted students gave almost 1,000 hours of their time to help local communities during a special week long celebration of volunteering.

Over 160 students took part in Operation Impact and got involved in all manner of activities.

At a local primary school, students created an eco-garden to help pupils learn about biodiversity. While at a sheltered accommodation, they created vegetable plots for residents to grow their own food. Others renovated a scout hall for the scout group's centenary celebrations.

All of the students are part of the Manchester Leadership Programme and Lindsay Gilbert, Head of Volunteering and Community Engagement said: "Students in Manchester can often get a bad press, but they are an important part of the community.

"Events like this show that they are just as keen as the long-term residents to demonstrate their pride in the city."

New place to moot

Three judges, two QCs, students and lecturers opened a new facility for students in the School of Law when they took part in a mock legal case.

The state-of-the art mootting room – which almost exactly resembles a law court – will be used by law students to practice legal skills as part of their training.

Mock trials – or moots – involve two teams who try to persuade judges to support their case by demonstrating knowledge of case law, statutes and legal principles.

Michael Rawlinson QC and second-year Law student Aarti Sreenivas competed against Nicholas Braslavsky QC and fellow second-year Dalton Hale at the new facility in front of Judges

Gilbart, Roddy and Stewart and a packed audience of local judges, legal practitioners, students and University staff.

Ramesh Pani, President of Manchester's award-winning Mooting Society, said: "The new mootting room has made a massive difference to the student experience, with people clamouring to get in there. It really elevates the whole process when performing in such an environment."



Education revamp



A new Undergraduate Hub has been opened in the School of Education.

The Hub brings together most of the School's undergraduate teaching and administrative staff in one place in the Ellen Wilkinson building. It also features revitalised teaching rooms, new meeting rooms and seating areas.

The Hub was opened by third-year student Nicolas Rogers (pictured above) and Dr Chris Davies, Associate Dean for the Faculty of Humanities.

University partners awarded MRC fellowship scheme

The Universities of Manchester and Liverpool have been awarded funding to support the North West MRC Fellowship scheme in Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics.

The scheme provides research training leading to a PhD degree for up to 12 fellows. Research training is provided by both universities and industrial partners in the scheme provide access to specialists and latest technologies.

Get involved in medicine

A team from Nowgen is playing a part in a €7 million European project to involve patients and the public in pharmaceutical processes.

The Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) aims to create a patient-led consortium to develop the 'European Patients' Academy on Therapeutic Innovation' (EUPATI).

Dr Bella Starling will lead Nowgen's work on the project and said: "The overall aim is to ensure patients and members of the public across 11 European countries, including the UK, are well-informed about innovative medicines and can actively take part in the process."

Building futures

An engineering student from Rwanda has become the first Alan Gilbert Memorial Scholar to study here at the University.

Engineering Project Management student Joseph Murenzi was selected for the scholarship, which is awarded to the most outstanding student from Africa in each academic year.

Joseph is one of 12 students who have been welcomed to the University as part of its Equity and Merit Scholarship programme. This programme ensures that talented students from developing countries have the chance to study for life-changing Masters degrees which are not available in their home nations.

Many of the students will be gaining knowledge in areas where there are skills gaps in their home country, like microbiology, law, electrical engineering, virology, educational leadership and school improvement.

Joseph said: "The knowledge I will get from here will contribute to the development of my country and all of Africa."

Speaking about the University's inaugural President and Vice-Chancellor, Joseph said: "Alan Gilbert was a great man, a man who believed in change via education, a man who believed in development via education, the pioneer of the Equity and Merit Scholarship scheme. To be the first scholarship holder is a great pleasure for me."

Upon completing his Masters training and returning to Rwanda, Joseph will be responsible for a substantial project to build a new international airport.



Joseph Murenzi

To find out more about the Alan Gilbert Memorial Fund visit:

www.manchester.ac.uk/alumni/giving/alangilbertmemorialfund

Dickens's Christmas classic available on iBookstore

An exquisite handwritten edition of Dickens's 'A Christmas Carol', kept at John Rylands Library is now available on the iBookstore.

The manuscript, written by little known Manchester artist Alan L Tabor, was digitised using state-of-the-art technology by specialist photographers at the Library.

Tabor wrote the entire text by hand and decorated it with medieval style illustrations. His widow donated the manuscript to the John Rylands Library when he died in 1957.

The title is the latest Rylands addition to the ground-breaking 'eBook Treasures' series, which enables iPad, iPhone and iPod touch users to explore rare works from UK collections in ultra high-definition.



Dr Mike Sanders, Senior Lecturer in 19th century writing, said: "It's very appropriate that 'A Christmas Carol' inspired a Manchester-based artist to create this stunning work, because it was during a visit to Manchester that Dickens first got the idea to write the story."

Scans shed new light on Worsley Man

Scans of the head of the 2,000-year-old Worsley Man from the Manchester Museum collection have raised further questions about his violent demise.

The head, found in a well preserved state in a Manchester peat bog in 1958, was scanned at the radiology department at the Manchester Children's Hospital.

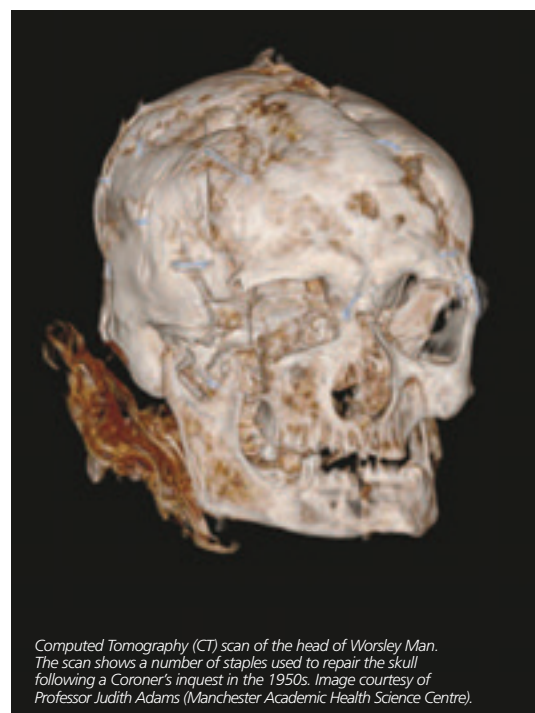
The results will allow a team of medical and archaeological experts from Nottingham Trent University and Manchester's Professor John Prag and John Denton to investigate his injuries in greater detail and compare them to those of Lindow Man, whose whole body was found preserved in a peat bog in 1984.

When Worsley Man was first discovered, the head was initially thought to be that of a modern murder victim. The police investigated and a

Coroner's inquest ruled that the head was ancient. The head shares a similar pattern of injuries to those suffered by Lindow Man: blows to the head, garrotting and a slit throat.

Museum Curator of Archaeology Bryan Sitch said: "Only the head of Worsley Man was found so it seems this unfortunate individual was beheaded and the head placed in the bog. The head was of huge significance to the native people in Northern Britain at that time.

"His injuries are very similar to those of Lindow Man, so it will be very interesting for the team to investigate them further. Good quality scans such as these allow work to be done without running the risk of damaging the head. He is, understandably, very fragile."



Computed Tomography (CT) scan of the head of Worsley Man. The scan shows a number of staples used to repair the skull following a Coroner's inquest in the 1950s. Image courtesy of Professor Judith Adams (Manchester Academic Health Science Centre).

Exceptional awards



Professor Rod Coombs; Andrew Spinoza; Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell; Kay Hincley; Anil Ruia; Professor Martin Humphries

Two people who have made an exceptional contribution to the work of the University were awarded the Medal of Honour in December.

Kay Hincley and Andrew Spinoza received the award after being nominated for their involvement with the University over a number of years.

Kay is a philanthropist whose role as the first patron of scientific Egyptology enabled the University to establish the KNH Centre for Biomedical Egyptology, opened in 2003 in the Faculty of Life Sciences.

The Centre has achieved international renown for its unique interdisciplinary research and training programmes in biomedical and scientific aspects of Egyptology.

Journalist and marketing expert Andrew has served as Chairman of The University of Manchester Alumni Association from 2005 to 2011.

He has chaired the 'Your Manchester Fund' overseeing many grants to projects which benefit students on campus. He has also been involved in the 'Opportunity Manchester' fund which supports students from areas of Manchester where there is traditionally a low participation rate in higher education.

Manchester making a difference

The impact of some of the best community-university partnerships across Manchester have been celebrated at the Manchester Beacon's first Recognition Awards ceremony.

Three of the 12 winners were from our University and another entry was commended by the judges.

The winning entries were:

- New partnerships: 'University in the Community' – Support 4 Progress and the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Emerging partnerships: 'Wriggling Rangoli' – GM Development Education Trust and the Manchester Immunology Group
- 'Climate Change Testimonies' – Virtual Migrants, Manchester Refugee Support Network, the Research Institute for Cosmopolitan Cultures and The School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Sciences
- Commended: 'Community Liaison Group' – Community Liaison Group and the School of Psychological Sciences

The Manchester Beacon includes The University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University, the University of Salford and the Museum of Science and Industry.

To find out more visit:

www.manchesterbeacon.org

Even though the 2012 Olympic Games are taking place in London, their impact is being felt right here in Manchester. Between now and the event this summer we'll be highlighting the different ways in which the University is getting involved with London 2012.



The University has been awarded the Inspire Mark by the London 2012 Inspire programme for an event which aims to get local school children involved with the 2012 Olympic Games.

More than 360 children from 12 local schools will take part in 'Sport and Culture United' at the Armitage Site in Fallowfield in March.

Over 100 student volunteers will get involved in the event which aims to help local youngsters try physical activity, as well as raising awareness of the different cultures of those countries taking part in the 2012 Games.


Katy Young, the University's Sport Development Officer, said: "We want to develop a greater understanding amongst young people in our local communities about the history and values of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games.

"It is also an opportunity for our student volunteers to get involved and develop essential skills that will enhance their employability."

The London 2012 Inspire programme recognises innovative and exceptional projects that are directly inspired by the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

And the event has encouraged different parts of the University to come together to organise the event, including staff from SPORT, Careers and Employability, Widening Participation, the International Society and the Students' Union.

Find out the latest about the Olympics from the London 2012 blog at:

 london2012.com/blog

Oldest surviving house safeguarded

An outstanding historical site has been given protection by Heritage Minister John Penrose following the discovery of Britain's earliest surviving house there by a team of archaeologists from the Universities of Manchester and York.

On the advice of English Heritage, the early Mesolithic site Star Carr in North Yorkshire is being made a scheduled monument for its rarity and archaeological importance.

The house, discovered in 2010, dates to at least 8,500 BC – when Britain was part of continental Europe.

The research team unearthed the circular structure next to an ancient lake at the site, which archaeologists say is comparable in importance to Stonehenge. They also excavated a well-preserved 11,000-year-old tree trunk with its bark still intact and the earliest evidence of carpentry in Europe.

John Penrose said: "The diversity of finds on offer at Star Carr and its history which goes back to 9000 BC are unequalled in British archaeology and it remains one of the most important Mesolithic sites in Europe."



Star Carr, image courtesy of estate of Alan Sorrell

Smart way of saving lives in natural disasters

Smartphones could help save hundreds of thousands of lives in the aftermath of a disaster or humanitarian crisis.

Software developed by computer scientists could help aid workers to quickly and accurately locate missing people, rapidly identify those suffering from malnutrition and effectively point people towards safe zones simply by checking their phones.

It is hoped this new technology, the REUNITE mobile and web platform, developed by Dr Gavin Brown and his team Peter Sutton and Lloyd Henning, from the School of Computer Science, could not only save lives but could also ease the financial and emotional burden on aid organisations.

In the aftermath of a major disaster, aid workers will be able to upload and share interviews with survivors who are looking for their families and other information with other aid workers working both centrally and in other affected areas.

The web users would be a trusted network able to access the information via an encrypted uplink, which addresses any issues of confidentiality.

Dr Brown also created software called 'Where's Safe', which quickly identifies safe areas for people to go to in the event of a natural disaster or terrorist attack, and HeightCatcher – an innovative tool which can quickly calculate infants who are suffering from malnutrition and work out what quantity of fluids they need.

Dr Brown said: "Our results have demonstrated that mobile intelligent systems can be deployed in low-power, high-risk environments, to the benefit of all involved.

"We believe the refugee aid community will be a strong beneficiary of such technology over the next few years."



Image reproduced courtesy of MEN

Scientists developing breast cancer treatment test

University scientists are developing a test that will help identify patients who will benefit from a new breast cancer treatment, thanks to a £180,000 Breast Cancer Campaign grant.

Doctors have begun clinical trials to test brand new breast cancer drugs called Notch inhibitors. However, there's currently no way to identify which patients will respond to these drugs prior to treatment.

Dr Keith Brennan, in the Faculty of Life Sciences, aims to change that. He said: "Researchers have discovered a key breast cancer development molecule called Notch, which can be targeted by the newly developed Notch inhibitor drugs. Unfortunately, there is no reliable way of identifying Notch in patients' tumours, which would tell us who is likely to benefit from these drugs. What is needed instead are 'surrogate' molecules which are easily detected and will indicate Notch's presence."

£2 million grant for brain study

University scientists have been awarded £2 million to explore the brain processes involved in 'semantic cognition' and the different ways in which it can break down in various neurological conditions, such as stroke and dementia.

Semantic cognition concerns the mental processes that allow humans to code the meaning not only of words but also store knowledge about objects and the world.

The team, led by Professor Matt Lambon Ralph in the School of Psychological Sciences and

Professor Geoff Parker in the School of Cancer and Enabling Sciences, has won a Medical Research Council award, to map out these brain systems and model semantic cognition to mimic both normal and neurologically-impaired function as well as the impact of direct interventions.

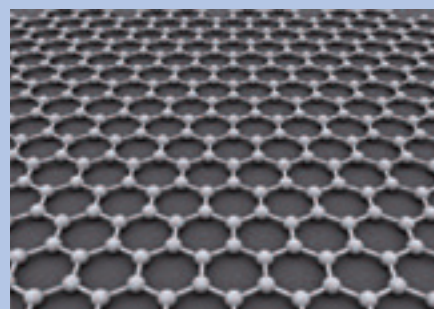
Graphene reveals its magnetic personality

Scientists have shown that organic matter can behave like a fridge magnet.

Dr Irina Grigorieva and Nobel Prize winner Professor Sir Andre Geim used graphene, the world's thinnest and strongest material, and made it magnetic. The research could prove crucial to the future of graphene in electronics.

The team 'peppered' non-magnetic graphene with other nonmagnetic atoms like fluorine, or removed some carbon atoms from its 'chicken wire' structure. The empty spaces, called vacancies, and added atoms all turned out to be magnetic, exactly like atoms of, for example, iron.

This new function could prove important for applications of graphene in electronics.





Nuclear power's role in fighting climate change

Nuclear power could contribute significantly to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the UK but this would lead to considerable impacts on natural resources and the environment, a research consortium's report claims.

SPRIng's research into the sustainability of nuclear and other electricity options in the UK shows that nuclear power could make a significant contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2035.

However, that would require a huge expansion of nuclear, constituting 35% of the electricity mix by 2035, almost double the current contribution.

Given that most current nuclear power stations are due to close in this period, this scenario seems unfeasible, the authors, led by Professor Adisa Azapagic, claim.

At the same time, expansion of nuclear power would worsen other sustainability aspects, including depletion of natural resources, ozone layer depletion, toxicity and health impacts from radiation.

Professor Azapagic said: "Our report shows that if energy consumption can be reduced significantly, nuclear power is not essential for meeting the UK climate change targets. If, however, the consumption of energy continues to grow as it has in the past, the role of nuclear power becomes much more important in meeting climate change targets."

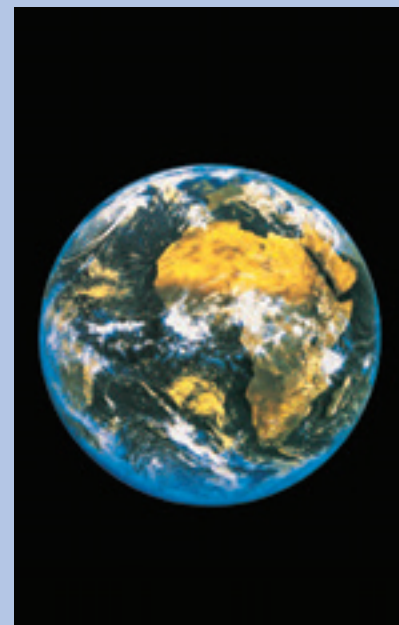
£1 million drug treatment study launched

University researchers have been awarded £1 million to investigate the effectiveness of the Department of Health's 'Payment by Results' (PbR) schemes in the treatment of addiction.

PbR links clinical healthcare pay to performance by using patient experience and clinical outcomes instead of being paid a set amount for a given procedure.

The team, led by Dr Michael Donmall, a Reader in Health Sciences, and Professor Matt Sutton, Professor of Health Economics, say the research will deliver a robust assessment of this approach to the care of problem drug users, in work that has key national policy implications.

Researchers discover particle which could 'cool the planet'



Scientists have shown that a new molecule in the earth's atmosphere has the potential to play a significant role in off-setting global warming by cooling the planet.

In a breakthrough paper published in 'Science', Dr Carl Percival and his team in Atmospheric Chemistry report the potentially revolutionary effects of Criegee biradicals – invisible chemical intermediates that are powerful oxidisers of pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide, produced by combustion, and can naturally clean up the atmosphere.

Although these chemical intermediates were hypothesised in the 1950s, it is only now that they have been fully detected.

Accelerated career for physicist

Dr Darren Graham from the School of Physics and Astronomy has beaten off competition from over 400 applicants to be awarded a prestigious EPSERC Career Acceleration Fellowship.

Darren was one of only 43 outstanding early stage UK researchers to be granted a fellowship and a cut of a £36 million investment fund to develop his potential as a scientist.

Darren, who is applying advanced laser and accelerator-based experimental techniques to the challenges of energy, said: "I am thrilled and looking forward to working within the Photon Science Institute and the School of Physics and Astronomy over the next five years."

Human skull study causes evolutionary headache

Scientists studying a unique collection of human skulls have shown that changes to the skull shape thought to have occurred independently through separate evolutionary events may have actually precipitated each other.

Researchers at the Universities of Manchester and Barcelona examined 390 skulls from the Austrian town of Hallstatt and found evidence that the human skull is highly integrated, meaning variation in one part of the skull is linked to changes throughout the skull.

The Austrian skulls are part of a famous collection kept in the Hallstatt Catholic Church ossuary; local tradition dictates that the remains of the town's dead are buried but later exhumed to make space for future burials. The skulls are also decorated with paintings and, crucially, bear the name of the deceased. The Barcelona team made measurements of the skulls and collected genealogical data from the church's records of births, marriages and deaths, allowing them to investigate the inheritance of skull shape.

The team, who reported their findings in *Evolution* and included Dr Chris Klingenberg from the Faculty of Life Sciences, tested whether certain parts of the skull changed independently, as anthropologists



have always believed, or were in some way linked. The scientists simulated the shift of the foramen magnum (where the spinal cord enters the skull) associated with upright walking; the retraction of the face, thought to be linked to language development and perhaps chewing; and the

expansion and rounding of the top of the skull, associated with brain expansion. They found that, rather than being separate evolutionary events, changes in one part of the brain would facilitate and even drive changes in the other parts.

Award success for chemical engineers



Two academics have received awards for the quality of their research into sustainable chemical engineering.

Dr Constantin Theodoropoulos and Professor Colin Webb from the School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science were presented with the 2011 IChemE Innovation and Excellence Award for Bioprocessing.

They received the award for their work to convert glycerol, the main byproduct of biodiesel production, now suffering a worldwide surplus set to grow as demand for biodiesel grows. Their team has found that a bacterium, *Actinobacillus succinogenes*, can convert glycerol into succinic acid, used in a variety of products such as medicines, food flavours and plasticisers.

National trial for heart disease drug

Researchers have been awarded £430,000 to lead the national trial of a drug that removes excess copper from people with diabetes, resulting in improved function of the heart.

Initial studies have shown that the drug trientine, which only costs a few pence per tablet to produce, can prevent major diabetes-related complications.

In patients with diabetes, excess copper accumulates in the tissues and the research team has already shown that this leads to damage in the heart. Trientine sticks to the excess copper and allows it to be safely removed from the body, preventing further damage and even allowing damaged heart muscle to regenerate.

Around 240 patients with type-2 diabetes will participate in the trial at the MRI, Salford Royal Hospital, the University Hospital of South Manchester and St Thomas' Hospital in London.

The research team is being led by Professor Paul Bishop, from the School of Biomedicine who said: "We expect it will take around six to eight years to get the drug fully approved for global use. By 2020, it is estimated that there will be around 300 million people with diabetes worldwide, and it is quite possible that many of them would benefit from treatment with this drug."

Investment in Ivan

A researcher from the Paterson Institute has been singled out as one of the most promising researchers in Europe.

Dr Ivan Ahel is one of just 22 young researchers selected to join the EMBO Young Investigators Programme.

EMBO is an organisation of leading life scientists that fosters new generations of researchers.

With 164 applications in 2011, the EMBO Young Investigator Programme is highly sought after, for its prestige and for its comprehensive array of benefits, which include networking, training, mentorship by EMBO Members and funding.

The programme targets young scientists within four years of establishing their first laboratories and aims to support their promising careers.



Dr Paul Irwing

Phone therapy provides chronic pain relief

Talking therapy provided over the phone can have a positive impact on people suffering from chronic widespread pain compared to usual care provided by their GP, new research has shown.

Patients who received a short course of cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) over the telephone from trained therapists reported that they felt "better" or "very much better" at the end of a six-month treatment period, and also three months after it ended.

The Arthritis Research UK-funded trial, led in Manchester by Dr John McBeth in the School of Translational Medicine, is the first to use telephone-delivered CBT for people with chronic widespread pain.

Men are from Mars, women are from Venus

Men and women have such different personalities they could be from Mars and Venus – as the hotly-debated book claims – according to research carried out at Manchester Business School.

Analysis of 10,000 men and women, published in the Public Library of Science One Journal, revealed that women show more warmth, sensitivity and apprehension whereas dominance, assertiveness and emotional stability are more typically male characteristics.

Previous research has claimed that average personality differences between men and women are small but research by Dr Paul Irwing and colleagues revealed that each sex shares a distinct set of characteristics, with just 18 percent of men having a typically female set of traits or vice versa.

Dr Irwing, who worked with Tom Booth from the Psychometrics at Work Research Group and Marco Del Giudice from the University of Turin, said: "It was a really surprising finding. The conventional view,

and my own view, was that there would have been much greater overlap, but actually there is an extremely large difference which clearly rejects the idea that there are only minor differences between the personalities of men and women.

"The new findings may explain why some careers are dominated by men, such as engineering, and others by women such as teaching and nursing. People self-select professions in which they will feel happy and satisfied and that is no bad thing."

Atom research tackles terror threat

Particle physicists, who usually study fundamental properties of the Universe in experiments at high particle accelerators such as the LHC at CERN, have found a new application for their research.

They are building a device that can detect heavy metals, as used, for example, in a small nuclear bomb, hidden away in a lorry or a shipping container.

The device is built in close collaboration with AWE (Atomic Weapons Establishment), a defence company from Berkshire.

Physicist Dr David Urner, who led the project at the School of Physics and Astronomy, explains that the device is based on tomography using elementary particles called muons that are produced by cosmic rays.

Valuing Older People

The University has announced six 'flagship' projects which really show the difference its staff and students are making to local, national and international communities. Here we take a look at the Valuing Older People programme.

While the UK's population is ageing, research has shown that in Manchester, 25 per cent of older residents are socially isolated*.

Back in 2003 a city-wide group of organisations, services and residents formed the Valuing Older People Partnership (VOP) to improve engagement and equality for older people. By 2005 a Manchester Ageing Strategy had been developed.

"People have tended to move out of Manchester as they get older, seeing it as a place for young professionals," says Esme Ward, Head of Learning and Engagement at the Whitworth Art Gallery and Manchester Museum. "The strategy seeks to enrich city life for older people and enhance their social networks. Culture has a key role in this."

The University solution

In 2009 the Manchester Museum and Whitworth Art Gallery joined the VOP.

"Many people think what we do is for children and families, but, we're working to improve our links with older people and reflect their voices in what we do," Esme says.

We've developed a programme called 'Valuing Older People' which features social and imaginative activities which people can take part in."

The 'Museum Comes to You' programme, which takes items from Manchester Museum into residential homes, day units and community centres, is a great example of these activities.

"It introduces the Museum and its collections to new people, and we get to bring their stories back with us," says Curator of Community Exhibitions Andrea Winn.

"The 'Manchester box', which relates to our political, social and industrial heritage, is particularly effective in reminiscence sessions: one lady told us all about meeting her husband on a day out at Belle Vue.

"We also take out boxes on our temporary exhibitions, and living snakes and reptiles – we've even wheeled a stuffed tiger out!"

"At the Whitworth we visit local community centres and run courses linked to our collections," says Adult Programmer Ed Watts. "One participant, who'd been socially isolated for seven years, went on to teach her own salsa class!" The Gallery also hosts daytime talks, workshops and courses with organisations like the Workers Educational



Association, and is currently working with Johnnie Johnson retirement housing to create an electronic 'app' "by older people, for older people."

"Our work in this area is growing all the time," Esme says. "In 2011 we piloted an intergenerational event for grandparents and children with Manchester Art Gallery, which was our busiest weekend of the year, and the Museum, MOSI and Royal Exchange Theatre launched a successful Cultural Champions' scheme with older people.

"We've just received initial support from the Heritage Lottery Fund to develop a volunteering programme, 'Improving Futures,, which aims to engage socially isolated residents."

In 2010 Manchester was the only UK city, of just eight worldwide, to be awarded Age-friendly City status by the World Health Organisation. The first national conference on the arts and older people was held in the city the following year, with the University's work prominently featured.

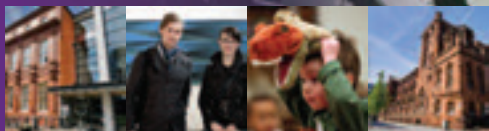
"Manchester Museum has been invited to join the European Learning Museum project, and there'll be more opportunities to share best practice internationally when Manchester hosts a Europe-wide older learning conference in 2013," Esme says. "As cultural organisations this work is invaluable in diversifying the communities we engage with, and recruiting older participants to pilot, evaluate and advocate our activities."

Valuing Older People:

www.museum.manchester.ac.uk/
andrea.winn@manchester.ac.uk

www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk/
ed.watts@manchester.ac.uk

*VOP 2009



What's On

Centre for New Writing

Our unique events bring the best-known, contemporary novelists and poets to Manchester to discuss and read from their work. Everyone is welcome, and ticket prices include a complimentary glass of wine or soft drink.

Tickets can be purchased from Quay Tickets on 0843 208 0500 or www.quaytickets.com, or the Martin Harris Centre box office on 0161 275 8951 (2 - 4pm on weekdays only). You will find details of our events at:

Website: www.manchester.ac.uk/arts/newwriting

Online journal: www.themanchesterreview.co.uk

The Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama
 Bridgeford Street, Manchester M13 9PL
 0161 275 8951/8950
 email boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk
www.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre

Chaplaincies

St Peter's House Chaplaincy

Mondays 5 -6pm, £1.50 per session

Rush Hour Choir

Open to all staff and students, no singing experience necessary. Come along and relax by singing in a group. New members always welcome.

Sunday, 11am Holy Communion

12.45pm Lunch (1st Sun)

Sunday, 6.30pm Evening Worship (term-time only)

FOYER 10am - 5pm, weekdays

12.15pm Wednesdays Eucharist

An area where students and staff can relax and meet friends.

A tea/coffee machine is available.

RC Chaplaincy Avila House

Mass Times (term-time only)

Sun, 7pm (in the Holy Name Church)

next door to the Chaplaincy

Mon, Tues, Thurs and Friday, 5.30pm in the Chaplaincy Chapel

Weds, 1.05pm in the Chaplaincy Chapel

The Jewish Student Centre and Synagogue

Hillel House, Greenheys Lane

0161 226 1139

Email Rabbi Mati Kos: rabbikos@mychaplaincy.co.uk

Muslim Chaplaincy

South Campus Mosque, McDougall Centre

Jammat (Group Prayer) Daily

Juma Prayer Friday 1.15pm

Honorary Imam: Imam Habeeb, h_chatti@hotmail.com

North Campus Mosque,

Basement of Joule Library, Sackville Street Building

Jammat (Group Prayer) Daily

Juma Prayer Friday 12.30pm

The role of Volunteer Muslim Chaplain is to provide pastoral support, guidance and a listening ear to Muslim staff and students

Chaplains' email: a.sami99@yahoo.co.uk,
assia_shah61@yahoo.co.uk

John Rylands Library (Deansgate)

EXHIBITIONS

Kindle until Sun 29 April

Nicola Dale presents her new installation Kindle - thousands of unwanted book pages transformed into candles, covering every surface of the Library's Map Room.

Thurs 16 Feb - Sun 1 July

St Bartholomew's Day 1662: The triumph of bigotry and the birth of toleration

This exhibition commemorates the 350th anniversary of the events of St Bartholomew's Day 1662 - a turning point in the history of religion in England which saw approximately 2000 ministers expelled from the Church of England.

EVENTS

Tue 7 Feb, 12 - 1pm

Happy Birthday Mr. Dickens! Collection encounter

Explore Dickens' relationship with fellow writers such as Elizabeth Gaskell and take the opportunity to see signed letters, first editions and contemporary serials such as Household Words.

Thurs 9 Feb, 6 - 8pm

Happy Birthday Mr. Dickens! The Signalman

Prepare to have you spine tingled by Altay Lawrence's atmospheric reading of Dickens' short story The Signalman.

Wed 22 Feb, 1 - 3pm

Whimsical Wednesday: Decorative Paper-cutting

Paper-cutting is an art that has developed in different styles across the globe, from 6th century China to modern-day Germany. Discover this intricate art for yourself and create your own masterpiece!

Thurs 16 Feb, 12 - 1pm

Tour and Treasures

Enjoy a closer look at material from the Library's world famous collections and find out more about this magnificent building with one of our curators.

For further details of our events, please our website:

<http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/deansgate/events/>

Public opening hours

Mon 12-5pm, Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 12pm-5pm

Reader opening hours

Mon-Wed 10am-5pm, Thurs 10am-7pm, Fri-Sat 10am-5pm

FREE ADMISSION

The John Rylands Library

150 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 3EH

0161 306 0555

email jrl.visitors@manchester.ac.uk

www.manchester.ac.uk/library

Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre

Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre offers a great day out for all the family. Come and explore the planets using our model of the Solar System. Find answers to the wonders the Universe, listen to the sounds of the Big Bang and discover what the scientists are researching 'Live' in our interactive Space Pavilion. The glass-walled café offers spectacular views of the iconic Lovell telescope and fantastic homemade cakes!

Wed 22 Feb, 7.30 - 9pm, adults £7.50, concs £5.50

Lovell Lecture - In search of the Northern Lights

Dr Jim Wild

The aurora borealis or "northern lights", those mysterious dancing lights in the night sky, have captivated observers since ancient times but what causes these beautiful displays in the polar sky? Call 01477 571 766 to book.

Wed 22 Feb, 7.30 - 9pm, £20 per session/£50 for all three

Black Holes! No need to be afraid

This is the first in a series of evening tutorials run by Professor Ian Morison. The talk will explain what Black Holes are, how we can discover them even though they cannot be seen and how Stephen Hawking has shown that they are not totally black. Guests are advised to bring along personal telescopes. Call 01477 571 766 to book.

For more information and prices please visit our website

Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre

Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 9DL

01477 571 766

www.jodrellbank.net

The Whitworth Art Gallery

EXHIBITIONS

Air Pressure until 12 Feb

This multi-media installation explores the clash between traditional farming life Japan and the technology and economy of international travel.

Dark Matters: Collections Exhibition until April

Highlights from the Whitworth's outstanding collection, dealing with ideas of darkness and shadow. A diverse array of works by artists such as Rembrandt, Paula Rego, Rachel Whiteread, JMW Turner and Francis Bacon are included.

Cotton: Global Threads Wed 11 February - Sun 13 May

A new exhibition, COTTON: Global Threads tells the global story of the production, consumption and trade in cotton.

Idris Khan: The Devil's Wall Fri 24 Feb - Sun 13 May

This is the first UK showing of Idris Khan's new installation The Devil's Wall, which draws inspiration from rituals and practices of the Hajj, the pilgrimage to Mecca that is undertaken by millions of Muslims each year.

ADULT EVENTS

Fri 24 Feb, 6.30pm, free

Talk and book signing with Lucy Siegle

The One Show presenter and Observer journalist Lucy Siegle is author of To Die For: Is Fashion Wearing Out the World? Booking essential

Sat 25 Feb, 1 - 5pm, free, drop-in

Walking the Warp Manchester

New movement performance choreographed by Professor Anne Wilson, with young dancers at the Lowrys Centre for Advanced Training.

Every Thurs, 8.30 - 9.45am, Free

Yoga

A fantastic way to start your day.

Please bring your own yoga mat.

Sat 18 & Wed 15 February, 1 - 3pm, £5

Crafternoon Tea

Monthly social art and craft workshop. Enjoy a cuppa and try your hand at art and craft techniques.

Every Tues, 11am - 12.30pm, Free

Tuesday Talks

Each Tuesday, leading artists and curators offer an insight into contemporary art practice.

Sun 19 Feb, 12.30-1.15pm, Free

Performance by RNCM students

Enjoy music and art together.

Sat 25 Feb, 7.30 - 10.30pm, Free

After Hours

Enjoy a decidedly sophisticated evening in the Gallery for the last After Hours of the year. Take in a variety of performances from music to poetry, whilst indulging in some festive treats.

FAMILY EVENTS

Mondays from 13 Feb onwards, 10.30 - 11.30am or

11.30am - 12.30pm, Free

Toddlerstastic

Hands-on workshops for under 5s and their grown-ups.

Booking is essential: 0161 275 7450

Every Sun, 1.30 - 3.30pm, Free

Colourful Sundays

Drop-in creative workshops

Sun 12 Feb, 12.30 - 3.30pm, Free

Up-Cycling

Turn old fabric into new, exciting things to take home.

Sun 19 Feb, 12.30 - 3.30pm, Free

Creative Customising

Bring your own cotton t-shirt, top or bag and customize them so they become your favourite fashion items.

Tue 14, Wed 15, Thurs 16 & Fri 17 Feb, 1.30 - 3.30pm, Free

Fabric Relief Printing

Bring your family to meet a print artist and enjoy experimenting with relief printing onto fabric and create your own artworks to take home.

Wed 29 Feb, 10.30 - 11.30am, Free

Art Baby

Drop-in creative workshops.

Booking is essential: 0161 275 7450

Opening hours

Monday to Saturday 10am - 5pm, Sunday 12 - 4pm

Entry to the Gallery is FREE

Whitworth Art Gallery
 Oxford Road, Manchester

0161 275 7450

email: whitworth@manchester.ac.uk

www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth

The Manchester Museum

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

Unearthed: Ancient Egypt, until 6 Sept

Calling all budding archaeologists. We need your help! Visit Unearthed: Ancient Egypt so you can travel back to the 1920s and enter the storeroom of our Egyptologist, played on film by Terry Deary, author of Horrible Histories and Egyptian Tales.

Grave Secrets:

Tales of the Ancient Nubians, until Mar

An exhibition of bone specimens and artefacts excavated during the Archaeological Survey of Nubia (1907-1911).

The Museum Allotment, until Autumn 2012

Our allotment has been inspired by our new Living Worlds gallery which shows how we can all shape the future by the choices we make.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Most activities are free and drop-in. Some activities may need to be booked on the day and may cost up to £1.50. All ages

Mon 13 – Fri 17 Feb, 11am – 4pm

February Half Term - Unearthed: Ancient Egypt

Dress like an ancient Egyptian and make bracelets, headaddresses or amulets.

Fri 24 Feb, 11am – 12pm

Magic Carpet: Manchester

Storytelling and activity session for under 5s and their families/carers.

Sat 25 Feb, 11am – 4pm

Big Saturday: Manchester

Activity session for under 5s and their families/carers. Part of Manchester Histories Festival.

TALKS, TOURS AND WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS

Every Tues and Thurs, 12-1pm

Tours of the Vivarium

Book on ManchesterMuseumVivarium@gmail.com, free, 13+ Monthly tours in Spanish and French.

Wed 8 Feb, 1 – 2pm, Free

Tour of Grave Secrets: Tales of the Ancient Nubians

An exhibition of bone specimens and artefacts excavated during the Archaeological Survey of Nubia (1907-1911).

Thurs 23 Feb, 6 – 8pm, free

Climate Change Question Time

With experts from the University of Manchester and other leading research centres, you can send your questions in advance to museum@manchester.ac.uk or bring them along on the night. Book on 0161 275 2648

Sat 25 Feb, 12 & 3pm, free

Eight Lions and an Umbrella

This Museum urban safari is an exploration of Manchester's heritage as a Northern Leontopolis (City of Lions) and an introduction to Survival French. Book on 0161 275 2648

Sat 25 Feb, 2 - 4pm, £3

Museum meets: Urban Naturalist

A programme of friendly, practical workshops for adults run by leading naturalists. From wild food-foraging and composting to bird song and insect identification, explore biodiversity on our doorstep.

Wed 29 Feb, 1 – 2pm, free

The Confucius Institute talks on China

This series of talks features speakers with specialist knowledge of China who cover diverse topics from literature to politics, art, recreation and economics.

Thurs 1 Mar, 6 – 8pm, £6/£4 concessions

Scott of the Antarctic and Manchester: the untold story

with Dr Max Jones, author of The Last Great Quest and editor of the Oxford World's Classics edition of Scott's last Journal. Part of Manchester Histories Festival. To book visit www.manchesterhistoriesfestival.org.uk Book events on 0161 275 2648

Opening hours

Open: Tues-Sat 10am - 5pm

Sun-Mon (and Bank Holidays) 11am - 4pm

FREE Admission

The Manchester Museum

Oxford Road, Manchester

0161 275 2634

www.manchester.ac.uk/museum

The Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama

Thurs 9, Fri 10 & Sat 11 February, 7.30pm

Of Mice and Men

A new piece of theatre inspired by John Steinbeck's classic novella

Sat 11 Feb, 8pm

Gabriel Minnikin

Singer, multi-instrumentalist, songwriter and producer

Thurs 16 Feb, 1.10pm

Walter Carroll Lunchtime Series - Quatuor Danel Lunchtime Concert

One of the wackiest and wickedest compositions for string quartet, matched against the genial mastery of mid-period Haydn.

Thurs 16 Feb, 2.30pm

Quatuor Danel Seminar: 'Masters of Composition'

Seminar: 'Masters of Composition'

Fri 17 Feb, 1.10pm

MUMS: Contemporary Works

Join us for the first of our free Lunchtime Concert series

Fri 17 Feb, 7.30pm

Quatuor Danel Evening Concert

Weinberg's colossal six-movement Sixth Quartet was the audience choice at the Quatuor Danel's ground-breaking complete cycle two years ago.

Sat 18 Feb, 7.30pm

University of Manchester Symphony Orchestra

The Symphony Orchestra returns with Ravel's infamous Shéhérazade - but with a twist - a rare performance with tenor soloist Timothy Langston.

Wed 22, Thu 23 & Fri 24 Feb, 7pm

UMDS Festival Show: What's Wrong With Angry?

With seven shows over four weeks, the MIFTA's is the biggest event of the Drama Society's calendar and this year will be bigger and better than ever!

Thurs 23 Feb, 1.10pm

Walter Carroll Lunchtime Concert Series - Jeremy Huw Williams (Baritone) with Richard Whalley (Piano)

Beethoven's, An die ferne Geliebte, Op.98, will be followed by Six Songs of Old Japanese Wisdom by Richard Whalley, and the English première of Twilight

Fri 24 Feb, 7.30pm

Psappha

The University of Manchester's Contemporary Ensemble in Residence

Mon 27 Feb, 6.30pm

LITERATURE LIVE: Gregory O'Brien, Rebecca Perry and Rachel Connor

The latest event in the Literature Live series, with Gregory O'Brien, Rebecca Perry and Rachel Connor

Thurs 1 March, 8pm

Jonny Sweet

Named best newcomer in the 2009 Edinburgh Comedy Awards

Thurs 1 March, 1.10pm

Walter Carroll Lunchtime Concert Series - Clare Hammond (piano)

Acclaimed by the Daily Telegraph as a pianist of "amazing power and panache".

Sat 3 March, 6 & 7.30pm, Sun 4 March, 2pm

MANTIS Spring Festival 2012

Part of the New Music North West Festival 2012. MANTIS returns to the John Thaw Studio Theatre for 3 concerts of electroacoustic works.

Sat 3 – Sat 10 March

New Music North West Festival 2012

Festival showcasing the musical brilliance and diversity which we all have on our doorstep here in the North West. See website for details of individual performances.

The Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama

Bridgeford Street, Manchester, M13 9PL

0161 275 8951

email boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk

www.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre

Gig Guide

Manchester Academy 1, 2 and 3

Mon 6 Feb

Mastodon - £17.50 Adv

Wed 8 Feb

Hyro Da Hero - £8.50 Adv

Thurs 9 Feb

Brand New - £20 Adv
OVER 14s ONLY

Wed 15 Feb

Kerrang! Tour sponsored by Relentless featuring: New Found Glory + Sum 41 + Letlive + While She Sleeps - £20 Adv

Thurs 16 Feb

Melissa Etheridge
RESCHEDULED DATE - ORIGINAL TICKETS VALID - £30 Adv

Fri 17 & Sat 18 Feb

Kaiser Chiefs - £25 Adv
OVER 14s ONLY

Fri 24 Feb

Spiritualised - £17.50 Adv
RESCHEDULED SHOW

Tickets from

Students' Union, Oxford Road

Piccadilly Box Office @ easy Internet Café (c/c)
0871 2200260

Royal Court (Liverpool) 0151 709 4321 (c/c)

Students' Union

Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL

0161 275 2930

www.manchesteracademy.net

International Society

Visit some of the most beautiful and interesting locations around England, Scotland and Wales. There are visits taking place almost every weekend throughout the year.

DAY TRIPS

Sat 11 Feb

North Wales visiting Colwyn Bay, Caernarfon and a ride on the Welsh Highland Railway to Beddgelert

Sun 12 Feb

Stratford-upon-Avon

Sat 18 Feb

York and the Yorvik Viking Festival

Sun 19 Feb

Warwick Castle

Sat 25 Feb

Oxford (with guided walking tour)

Sun 26 Feb

North Lake District visiting Grasmere and Keswick

Sat 3 March

Central Lake District visiting Coniston, Ambleside and Windermere

Sun 4 March

Yorkshire Dales visiting Ingleton Waterfalls Walk and White Scar Caves

Sat 25 to Sun 26 Feb

Bath (with a visit to Stonehenge)

Sat 3 to Sun 4 March

Edinburgh (with guided tour)

Tickets are available from the International Society office on Oxford Road and also from University House on the Salford University campus. For more information, please visit our website.

Opening hours

Mon-Fri 9.30am – 7pm (during term time)

Small World Café opening hours

Mon-Fri 11am – 3pm

327 Oxford Road (next to Krobar)

0161 275 4959

email int.soc@anchester.ac.uk

www.internationalsociety.org.uk

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27 FEBRUARY – 11 MARCH 2012

To celebrate FoodonCampus and The Manchester Museum will be hosting a

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on Friday 2nd March 2012

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or visit **www.meeting.co.uk**

*when paying by an internal account code (except Chancellors Hotel & Conference Centre)

Cotton's unexpected rich tapestry



Yinka Shonibare, MBE, *Boy on Globe 4*, 2011

It is the most everyday of fabrics, yet cotton has a rich and colourful history which has had a huge impact on the world.

The production of cotton spans centuries and continents and was the catalyst for some of the most important moments in modern history. It also exposes a multitude of ethical sins.

The Whitworth Gallery's new exhibition, 'COTTON: Global Threads' tells this story, giving a global history of the production, consumption and trade in cotton. It shows how cotton's history touches on economics, science, technology, slavery, fashion and popular culture.

It features new commissions by contemporary artists including Yinka Shonibare and Lubaina Himid, as well as more historic pieces from the late Middle Ages.

The exhibition is also part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad programme 'Stories of the World'.

'COTTON: Global Threads' will also showcase a three-year programme of activity with young people, who have worked to develop an interactive space featuring video games and fashion.

A varied programme of events, lectures, performances and film screenings will accompany the exhibition, including 'action weaver' Travis Meinhoff taking up residence in the Gallery.

'COTTON: Global Threads' runs until 13 May 2012.

For more information visit

www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth

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