

# unilife

The free magazine for The University of Manchester

## A grand job for Chris



# Message from the President

This month, a joint message from the President and Vice-Chancellor and the Chief Executive of Manchester City Council, explains why a strong connection between our University and the City of Manchester is so important.

For any university, an important question is what makes it distinctive amongst the many universities in the UK, and even more across the world?

For The University of Manchester there are a number of answers to this question. I tend to use three words to try to briefly summarise what we are about – excellence, accessibility and impact. There are of course many other defining features. I want to focus here on one of these – our location.

Manchester is an ambitious and progressive city, with a phenomenal history of change and a great future full of opportunity. It is acknowledged as the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution and a major engine of growth in the 19th, and the first half of the 20th century.

Today, Manchester is a thriving city thanks to the strength of its civic leadership, real ambition, great local pride and, as many acknowledge, a 'can do' attitude.

There is much to celebrate in Manchester – it is a city of new investments, diverse culture, world class sport; is the new home of much of the BBC; has an

excellent airport and major new transport connections in the future.

The University operates on an international scale, but our location and our very strong relationship with Manchester are also huge assets. Our links with the City of Manchester and Manchester City Council in particular, have breadth and depth. We work closely together on education and skills training, health, employment, environment, enterprise and business investment, infrastructure, transport and economic growth.

The City was instrumental in securing financial support for our National Graphene Institute, and we are now working together to identify further funding for commercialisation of discoveries from across the University, and on a range of other projects.

The commitment of the City to the University is also notable in the recent launch of an initiative to make Manchester a city of science and innovation – to build on its strong reputation in culture, music and sport. We are also working together on plans for the long term development of our North campus.



Speaking to school students at our National Science and Engineering Week Fair

I am a member of the Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), which includes prominent figures from local industry and the leaders of councils of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

My senior colleagues and I work with our counterparts in the City, and Sir Howard Bernstein (Chief Executive of Manchester City Council) now chairs the Manchester Academic Health Science Centre (MAHSC) which brings together the University with our partner hospitals.

Corridor Manchester is a very successful partnership between the University, Manchester Metropolitan University, the Central Manchester NHS Foundation Trust and the City which collaborates on many issues including the environment along the Oxford Road corridor and the Manchester Science Park, which is home to companies including University spin-outs.

Our future success will depend on many factors. Our location in Manchester is certainly one of them and is clearly a distinguishing and highly valued feature of The University of Manchester.

**Professor Nancy Rothwell**  
President and Vice-Chancellor



Discussing our heritage with Professor John Pickstone

## Contact us

### News and story ideas

Mikaela Sitford  
tel 0161 275 2112  
email [uninews@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:uninews@manchester.ac.uk)  
[www.manchester.ac.uk/staffnet/news](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/staffnet/news)  
Deadline 15 May 2013

### Events and listings information

Philippa Adshead  
tel 0161 275 2922  
email [unievents@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:unievents@manchester.ac.uk)  
Deadline 15 May 2013

### Ads

Ruth Middleton  
tel 0161 275 2922  
email [uniads@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:uniads@manchester.ac.uk)  
Deadline 15 May 2013

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Meeting First Aid Co-ordinator Janet Makin

**T**he relationship between The University of Manchester and the City of Manchester, indeed Greater Manchester as a whole, is critical to our future economic success.

Manchester is a vibrant, enterprising and ambitious City. Having a world class research University at the heart of it is a critical part of our asset base and creates the platform for growth. The University operates at the highest levels with business and governments and with other leading institutions around the world.

The University is a major local employer and a major contributor to the local economy in its own right with nearly 40,000 students and more than 10,000 staff.

It is also a source of extensive international links, with students from over 180 countries, which contributes to the diversity of the City and its connections to international organisations and markets.

But perhaps more important than any of these factors, is the University's role as a key driver of economic growth throughout the region.

Under its current leadership, the University competes strongly on the international stage, drawing on skills and talent from all over the world. The City too must compete internationally to succeed.

The City has been transformed over the past few years. Our economic base is stronger and more diversified than ever before. Once the manufacturing and production centre for the North of England, we are now strong in commercial and professional services, technology-based sectors, advanced materials, life sciences, media and culture.

These have driven physical change in the City centre and beyond, as well as the skills and employment base of the wider region. Manchester is one of the UK's few engines of national growth and achievement.

But like all cities, we face challenges to maintain and enhance our position in the future. As the global market continues to change we have to become even smarter; investing as much in people as we do in infrastructure. Continuing to

work collaboratively with global institutions like our University is at the heart of our economic strategies.

The University produces some of the world's leading research. The quality of academic research is a key factor in where businesses choose to invest. One of the biggest challenges the UK, and indeed Europe, is now facing is how to commercialise academic excellence to continue to drive new growth in the future. The City and the University want to be at the forefront of this agenda, working with our partners throughout the region and, by building on our innovative past, continue to work very hard to leverage our current and growing intellectual and human capital for growth.

This collaboration is not just important for the City and the University and the people who live, study and work here. It is crucial for the region and the UK as a whole.

**Sir Howard Bernstein, Chief Executive, Manchester City Council**



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Chris Livingston.  
Photo by Jill Jennings.



The orrery from the side

## New Co-Director at Dalton

The University has appointed Professor Melissa Denecke as Co-Director of the world-leading Dalton Nuclear Institute to work alongside the Institute's Director Professor Andrew Sherry.

Professor Denecke, an international expert in the different chemical forms of actinide elements such as uranium, comes from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology Institute for Nuclear Waste Disposal where she was a department head.

The Institute has also appointed Professor Mike Smith as its Professor of Welding Technology. Professor Smith has over thirty years experience as a structural integrity expert in industry and joins the University from EDF Energy.

## ...and a multimillion pound boost for nuclear research

The University's Dalton Nuclear Institute has won funding worth £6.5 million for seven new research projects, the Government has announced.

The funding – announced by Business Secretary Vince Cable as part of the new UK Nuclear Industrial Strategy – will be used to develop new technologies for the construction, operation and decommissioning of nuclear power stations.

Thirty-six projects for research into new nuclear technologies, worth £31 million in total, were awarded across the UK.

Professor Andrew Sherry, Director of the Dalton Nuclear Institute said: "We are looking forward to working collaboratively with our nuclear industry partners on the development of innovative technologies which will have a real impact for the UK in current operations of the existing reactor fleet, decommissioning and waste management."

## A clockwork orrery

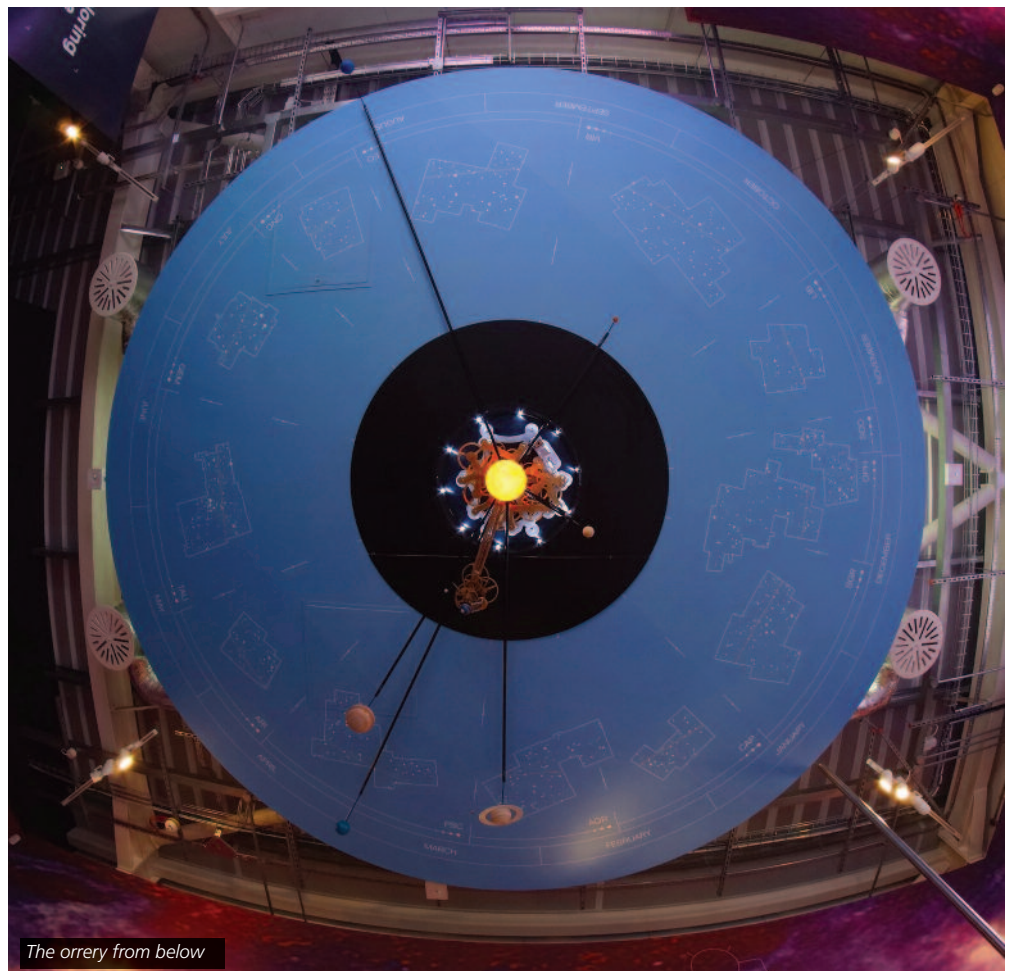
Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre has announced the arrival of its newest exhibit – a beautiful and unique mechanical "orrery" – a moving model of the Solar System.

At five metres in diameter, the orrery is believed to be the largest of its kind in the world and includes a complex system of 52 brass gears that ensure that the planets orbit around the Sun at exactly the right rate in relation to each other.

Installed in the gallery space of the Discovery Centre's Planet Pavilion, it can be driven by a large winding handle, allowing visitors to orchestrate the motion of the planets themselves.

Dr Teresa Anderson, Director of the Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre, said: "We've been planning this exhibit for almost two years so it's wonderful now to see it in place. It's completely bespoke and unique to Jodrell Bank."

Dr Tim O'Brien, Associate Director of the Jodrell Bank Observatory, added: "This is one of those rare occasions when doing lots of calculations results in the creation of something that is immediately appealing to everyone, regardless of their level of familiarity with physics."



The orrery from below



Chris Livingston (left) and Stores Manager Noel Ogden

## Exemplary support for vulnerable students

The University has had its Buttle UK Quality Mark for Care Leavers in Further and Higher Education renewed at 'exemplary' level.

Buttle UK is a charity which helps children and young people in need, including young people who have been in care, to shape their own futures.

Its assessment panel commented that the University's work was extensive, and that we had an excellent grasp of the barriers faced by looked-after children and care leavers.

Director of Social Responsibility Julian Skyrme, who worked to introduce the kitemark to the University, adds: "It's an old and important adage that you can judge an organisation by the way it treats its most vulnerable people.

"The team has gone to considerable efforts and I am delighted we have been independently commended for this important work."

## A grand job

The University has now helped 1,000 long-term unemployed people into work at the University and elsewhere in just two years, as Chris Livingston from Whalley Range took the tally into four figures.

Chris is the 1,000th person to be helped into employment through the University's unique leadership of The Works, an employment and skills centre established by the University in 2011 to equip

unemployed local people with the skills which make them attractive to employers.

Chris, 48, who now works in the School of Physics and Astronomy Stores, said: "I am absolutely delighted. My friends and family have noticed a real difference in me and they're really happy for me."

Father-of-three Chris had previously worked for more than a decade as a metal finisher at a company supplying car parts, but

was made redundant in 2009 due to the recession, and had been out of work ever since.

The University's Assistant Director of Human Resources Steve Grant said: "The Works is a part of the University's wider ambition to support communities in Manchester. We recognised that there was a gap in the support available to unemployed people and decided that, as a major employer in the region, we could make a difference."

## Sweet success!

Kaffeination Ltd – the innovative energy sweet company founded by Manchester Business School graduates – has swept the board at the Rice University Business Plan Competition in Texas, the largest competition of its kind in the world.

The company took first prize in the Shark Tank Presentation round, first prize in the Best Company Showcase and third prize in the Best Elevator pitch.

Team members Matthias Schmid and David Reetz studied on the MSc Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship degree programme at Manchester Business School.

The idea for the energised gummies, UPs SolidEnergy, came when the co-founders were sitting at their desks revising. After several coffees, a bag of sweets was lying next to an



The Kaffeination team and their award

empty cup and they wondered why there wasn't a product on the market which combines both sweets and caffeine.

The company has also won the University's annual business start-up competition Venture Further 2012 and the European final of The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) International Business Plan Competition, which allowed the

team to compete against 41 other finalists from across the globe in this latest win.

Co-founder David said: "It's thanks to the MBS enterprise team and their support with producing our business plan for the Venture Further competition that we have been able to achieve what we have."

## Shami Chakrabarti visits University



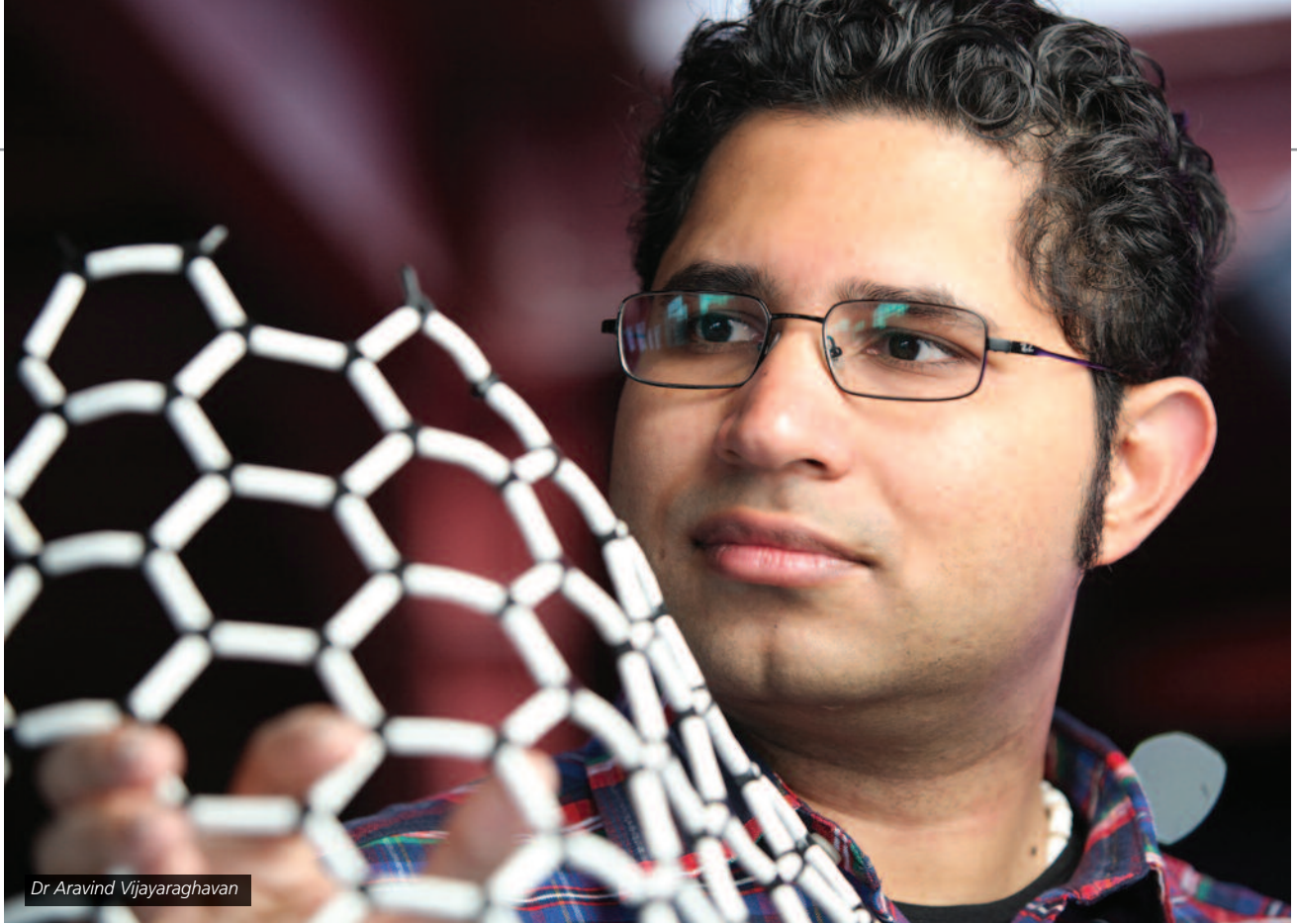
One of the nation's leading civil liberty campaigners Shami Chakrabarti paid a visit to the University's School of Law.

The Director of Liberty, which campaigns to

protect rights and freedoms, met staff and students at the School's Legal Advice Centre, gave a talk and took part in a question and answer session.

Chakrabarti, a well-known contributor to TV and radio programmes including Question Time, Newsnight and the Today programme, has written, spoken and broadcast widely on the importance of the post-World War II human rights framework as an essential component of democratic society.

In February, she was judged to be one of the 100 most powerful women in the UK by Woman's Hour on BBC Radio Four.



Dr Aravind Vijayaraghavan

## Manchester celebrates Museums at Night

Museums at Night is the annual event that sees museums and galleries stage late night happenings and this year Manchester is doing it with the help of über-artist, Richard Wentworth.

Manchester won the right to host Wentworth through Connect 10, a national competition voted for by the public to connect 10 artists with 10 venues and Manchester's "night" stretches across a whole weekend and the whole city.

Wentworth will be mining the rich depths of our Victorian collections as well as inviting local collectors – ordinary folk who collect beer cans or pop memorabilia - to share their own. From this, he will curate an "exhibition in a night" that shows the weirdness and the wonderfulness of the things that people collect - a Mancunian cabinet of curiosity.

Events will be at Manchester Museum and Manchester Art Gallery on Thursday 16 May and at Whitworth Art Gallery on Friday 17 May.

For more information visit: [www.creativetourist.com](http://www.creativetourist.com)



Richard Wentworth

## Explaining the wonders of graphene...

**A** graphene researcher who has encouraged more than 20,000 people to learn about the amazing potential of the wonder material has won this year's Joshua Phillips Award for Innovation in Science Engagement at the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI).

As part of the award Dr Aravind Vijayaraghavan, from the School of Computer Science, will be this year's Science Communicator in Residence at the Manchester Science Festival.

Aravind has worked tirelessly to promote the importance of graphene to school children and adults, using simple hands-on activities, games, models and videos to explain how graphene can change the future.

## Labs shortlisted for sustainability awards

The University has been nominated for four awards at the S-Lab Conference, which highlight best practice amongst key players in higher education, public sector and commercial laboratories.

S-Lab stands for Safe, Successful, Sustainable Laboratories.

The University has been shortlisted in four of the 10 categories. The winners will be announced at the S-LAB Conference in June.

For more information see: [www.effectivelab.org.uk](http://www.effectivelab.org.uk)

## Reality bites

Manchester Museum has been shortlisted for a Museums and Heritage Award thanks to its pioneering Virtual Object Handling project, which allows visitors to 'handle' ancient artefacts without actually touching them.

The Museum – the first in the world to harness new haptic technology – is in the running for the innovations category.

The winners will be announced at a glittering ceremony later this month, hosted by TV personality Sue Perkins.



Museum volunteer Shaun Bennett

## Red letter day for team SCARLET

The University's SCARLET project – which uses augmented reality to bring to life the rare books and manuscripts at the John Rylands Library – has won an award for innovation in higher education.

Augmented reality (AR) layers information such as audio or computer graphics over real objects. SCARLET investigated the use of AR to enhance students' use of special collections materials in libraries.

The team was presented with an Education Innovation Conference and Exhibition (EICE) Award by technology journalist Spencer Kelly, of BBCclick.

Dr Jackie Carter, Learning and Teaching and Social Science Data manager at the national data centre MIMAS, based at Manchester, said: "This is an enormous accolade. A hearty congratulations to the team here at Mimas and across the University."



Dr Jackie Carter accepts the award from Spencer Kelly of BBCclick

## New funding to better lives through volunteering

Manchester Museum is celebrating a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant of £528,700 for a ground-breaking volunteer and learning programme, in partnership with the Imperial War Museum North.

'Inspiring Futures, Volunteering for Wellbeing' is a three-year project to create opportunities for more than 200 volunteers to learn new skills and engage with collections and visitors at the Museum and partner venues across the city.

The programme will focus on young people aged 16-25, older people and ex-service personnel.

Volunteer Shaun Bennett, who joined the In Touch Volunteer Programme at the Museum in September 2007, can testify to the impact of such an opportunity: "After being made redundant I became very de-motivated and depressed, losing my self-respect and confidence. But once I was accepted on the In Touch course, I didn't look back.

"As the course progressed I could not wait for the next session. At last my life was getting back on track. There are so many activities I enjoyed and the training I received helped me gain back my

confidence in my personal life and prepared me for my role as a volunteer."

Shaun proved himself to be an excellent volunteer, supporting the subsequent In Touch courses and was responsible for the introduction of the Egypt handling table through links forged with the Curator of Egyptology. In December 2008, Shaun was employed as the Museum's Visitor Services Assistant; he was later promoted to Supervisor of the Front of House Team.

Shaun says: "The programme changed my life and I have witnessed the positive impact it has had on many of my fellow volunteers.

"In the current climate, programmes like these are more important than ever. They can provide people with improvements in health, family, social and in my case, work."

Museum Director Nick Merriman says: "Improving Futures will have a significant impact on the organisations it involves, transform the lives of those we engage and create a lasting legacy for heritage volunteering."

## Former UN chief recalls times of conflict

Former United Nations chief and academic, who let the world know about genocide in Darfur, has published a book on his experiences.

'Against A Tide of Evil', has been published to coincide with the 10th anniversary of Darfur, by Mukesh Kapila, Professor of Global Health and Humanitarian Affairs (pictured).

It documents his time as the head of the United Nations in the Sudan and experience of humanitarian crises and ethnic cleansing in Iraq, Rwanda, Srebrenica, Afghanistan, Iraq and Sierra Leone.

Professor Kapila said he hoped it could help prevent further human suffering: "The story is about the challenges and problems I faced in confronting this most heinous of crimes against humanity."

Professor Kapila was the Head of the UN in Sudan and now works in the Humanitarian Conflict and Response Institute and the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences at the University.



# Golden opportunity to help

**D**r Rachel Watson wasn't planning on mentoring a University colleague, Dr Sarah Cotterill, but she's very glad she did by taking part in the University's Manchester Gold scheme.

Manchester Gold is a programme whereby members of academic, technical, administrative or secretarial staff volunteer to be career mentors to colleagues. The aim is to help mentees think about and achieve their career and personal development aims.

Manchester Gold established more than 50 partnerships in 2012.

Rachel, Senior Lecturer in Dermatology at the Institute of Inflammation and Repair, mentored Sarah, a Research Fellow at the Centre for Biostatistics, last year.

"It seemed surreal at first," Rachel recalls. "But in fact it was a lovely experience.



Sarah Cotterill (left) and Rachel Watson

"It was very interesting – we have a natural urge to give others advice, but you're not telling people what to do next, you are helping them with their own decision-making process.

"It was satisfying because it really clarified for Sarah what she wanted from her University career.

"And it was refreshing not to be thinking about yourself all the time."

"It was really helpful," says Sarah. "Rachel had a different perspective on a few things and challenged me, which really helped me think about my

situation. And practically, she directed me to sources of formal and informal help."

Sarah is about to mentor someone herself "to give something back" and learn new skills.

Mentors and mentees meet four to five times between April and December and both attend supporting workshops. This takes around 15-20 hours.

For more information visit: [www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/manchester-gold](http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/manchester-gold)



# Meet...

**Stephanie Lee**  
Undergraduate Recruitment and Widening Participation Manager

**What is the best part of your job?**

Working with young people, helping them to realise their potential and sharing this with a dedicated and enthusiastic team. When you read positive feedback from young people, teachers and parents, you know that you are helping to make a difference.

**What is the hardest part of your job?**

Meeting young people who didn't get the best advice when making decisions, especially if they are in a situation where they have closed some doors. However, we can work with these students to offer them support and identify another pathway to help them achieve their ambitions.

**Which teacher inspired you the most at school?**

Mr Rees, who taught me to play the oboe, gave me confidence and always challenged me to go that bit further.

**What is your proudest moment?**

Moving to Vienna after I graduated – I didn't speak very much German and the week before I went I still had nowhere to live. However, I'm very glad that I took the plunge as it helped build my confidence and got me into teaching – without which I wouldn't be doing the job I'm doing today!

**What's your favourite karaoke song?**

I'm quite partial to 'I Know Him So Well' and alternate between being Elaine and Barbara – but in the living room rather than in public!!

**What's your favourite film?**

I grew up when the 'Brat Pack' dominated the movie scene so I have a soft spot for films like 'Pretty in Pink' and 'Stand by Me'.

**What is on your iPod?**

Quite a few things I won't mention here! If I leave my iPod on random shuffle you might have Elgar's Cello Concerto followed by Kylie topped off with Kings of Leon.

**Your bookcase?**

French and art books, my subjects at university, and detective fiction such as the C J Samon's Shardlake series.

**Your TV?**

British, American and Scandinavian detective dramas like Morse/Lewis, Criminal Minds and The Killing.

**Who would you invite to your dream dinner party?**

Prince for the music, Michel Roux Jr for the food, Rhod Gilbert for the laughs, Graham Norton for the gossip – and the Welsh Rugby Team!

**How do you like to spend your time when you're not working?**

Walking, running and reading. I like to get outside as much as possible.

**What three things would you need if you were stranded on a desert island?**

A 'What To Do If You Are Stranded On A Desert Island' manual as I like to be prepared! Also my phone and a wind-up charger.

**What's your biggest vice?**

Definitely chocolate and probably some of my music taste too!

**How would you like to be remembered?**

As someone who cared about others and hopefully made a difference.

**Tell us the secret to life – in six words.**

Never give up, always keep going.

**If you could have any job in the world, what would it be?**

If I had to choose something different to what I'm doing now – maybe manager of Swansea City.





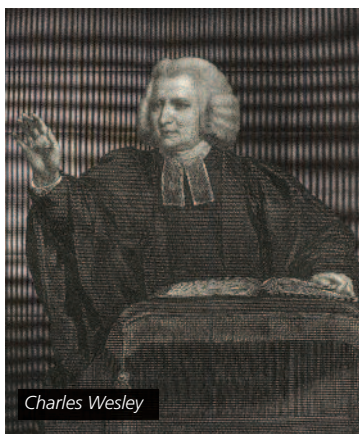
## Life's tough for middle monkeys

University researchers observing monkeys have found that those in the middle hierarchy suffer the most social stress. The findings could be applied to human behaviour, such as those working in middle management.

PhD student Katie Edwards and colleagues at the University of Liverpool spent nearly 600 hours watching female Barbary macaques at Trentham Monkey Forest in Staffordshire.

After monitoring one monkey over a day and recording all incidences of social behaviour, they analysed its faecal samples for stress hormone levels.

Dr Susanne Shultz, from the Faculty of Life Sciences, oversaw the study: "Our research found that monkeys in the middle of the hierarchy were the most stressed as they are involved with conflict from those below them as well as from above."



Charles Wesley

## Letters of "Hark the Herald" composer published

The private letters of the composer of some of the world's most popular hymns have been published, revealing a rare glimpse into the birth of Methodism.

The collection of Charles Wesley's letters are edited by Dr Gareth Lloyd of the John Rylands Library and Professor Kenneth Newport of Liverpool Hope University.

The Oxford University Press edition is the first of two volumes containing all 700 surviving letters of the preacher, who co-founded Methodism with his brother John, written over sixty years from 1727 to 1788.

## Cancers in the young halved

Teenage and young adult cancer deaths have almost halved in the last 30 years, according to University researchers.

The number of teenagers and young adults dying from cancer in Britain has fallen from around 580 per year in the mid-70s (1975-77) to around 300 today (2008-2010).

Professor Jillian Birch, from the Institute of Cancer Sciences and Cancer Research UK, said: "We've made great progress in helping more teenagers and young adults survive cancer, and today over 80 per cent will beat the disease."

## Space telescope challenges understanding of the Universe

Europe's Planck space telescope, which Jodrell Bank Observatory scientists helped build, has compiled the most detailed map of the post-Big Bang Universe ever recorded and thrown up anomalies that current physics cannot yet explain.

The data also provides the best evidence yet to support the standard model of cosmology, dates the Universe at 13.82 billion years and refines our knowledge of the Universe's composition and evolution.

The Planck satellite telescope, a flagship mission for the UK Space Agency, has produced the most accurate values yet for the ingredients of the Universe, with normal matter – the things we see and feel around us – making up just 4.9% of the Universe's density (mass and energy) and dark matter contributing 26.8%, nearly a fifth more than previously estimated.

Professor Richard Davis, who led the University's Planck team, said: "The information extracted from Planck's new map provides excellent confirmation of the standard model of cosmology with unprecedented accuracy and sets a new benchmark for our knowledge of the ingredients of the Universe."

Professor Richard Battye, from the Jodrell Bank Centre of Astrophysics, said: "The data is broadly consistent with the standard picture that has emerged over the last 20 years, but there are also a number of tantalising hints that there is something missing in our understanding. It will be fun trying to figure out what is going on."



## Funding boost for graphene research projects

Two funding grants worth more than £5 million have been awarded to University graphene researchers.

Professor Peter Budd is leading a £3.5 million research consortium focussing on using graphene in membranes that could bring desalination plants, safer food packaging and enhanced disease detection closer to reality.

Professor Robert Dryfe is heading up a £2.2 million project into graphene batteries and supercapacitors for energy storage. The research will explore ways of addressing the limiting factors of storage for personal devices.

Both grants are funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).

## New heart surgery ratings website

Patients can now examine their heart surgeon's and hospital's outcome data before deciding where to have their operation, thanks to a new website designed by Manchester experts.

A team from North West E-Health, a partnership between the University, Salford Royal Foundation Trust and NHS Salford Clinical Commissioning Group, teamed up with the Manchester Academic Health Science Centre and the National Institute for Cardiovascular Outcomes Research to design The Blue Book Online.

The ultimate aim of the new website is to help patients make informed choices about their care and boost transparency about the quality of their potential surgery.

The website is at: <http://bluebook.scts.org/>

## Fish fins offer new insight into evolution

**A**n unusual fossil fish that has fins behind its anus could have implications for human evolution, according to Dr Robert Sansom from the Faculty of Life Sciences.

Dr Sansom identified the paired fins of *Euphanerops*, a fossil jawless fish that swam in the seas around 370 million years ago. The find makes the fish one of the first vertebrate to develop paired appendages such as fins, legs or arms.

He says: "It's not clear why the fins are positioned so far back on the fish. However, they do show that our early vertebrate ancestors tried out lots of different body plans before settling on two arms and two legs. If they hadn't, then our bodies would have looked very different!"



Professor Wendy Thompson, Dr Joanna Cobb and Dr Anne Hinks at work

## Hope for young arthritis sufferers

**U**niversity scientists have identified 14 new genes which could have important consequences for future treatments of childhood arthritis.

Dr Anne Hinks, Dr Joanna Cobb and Professor Wendy Thomson at the Arthritis Research UK Epidemiology Unit, looked at DNA extracted from blood and saliva samples of 2,000 children with childhood arthritis and compared these to healthy people.

Principal Investigator Professor Thomson said: "This study brought together an international group of scientists from around the world and is the largest investigation into the genetics of childhood arthritis to date."



David and Victoria Beckham

Photo by: PictureGroup / Rex Features

## 'Punch and Judy politics' inaccurate

The Punch and Judy politics image of Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) is not an accurate one, according to a University linguist.

From his analysis of randomly chosen PMQs sessions, James Murphy says a significant minority of opposition MPs speak politely at the sessions.

When David Cameron and Gordon Brown were at the helm, he finds, backbenchers in the governing party were polite 80 per cent of the time, while the figure for those in opposition was 16 per cent – much higher than anticipated.

"PMQs is known for its knockabout adversarial style, but this is only true up to a point," he said.

## Beckhams 'getting posher'

David and Victoria Beckham have changed the way they speak to sound less working class, according to a study by University linguistics students.

Using YouTube videos from before and after the high profile couple's 2007 move to America, one team found that Becks was less likely to drop his 'H's and use cockney sounding vowel sounds.

Another team found that Posh was nowadays more likely to pronounce the 'L' at the end of words such as 'all'.

According to the students from the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures, in her days with the Spice Girls, she would have made 'all' sound like 'aw'.

From the videos that Charles Boorman and Alix Roberts

studied, Becks dropped his 'Hs' 80 per cent of the time before his move to the US. After the relocation, the figure fell to 20 per cent.

From the analysis of Posh by Naomi Proszynska and James Pickett, she pronounced her 'l's only 25 per cent of the time aged 23 in 1997, a figure which nearly doubled to 46 per cent of the time by age 38 in 2012.

## World's largest study of food allergies gets underway

People with severe allergies to nuts and other foods are to benefit from a new worldwide study spearheaded by the University.

The €9 million project will see the University work with the world's leading experts in the UK, Europe, Australia and US.

Professor Clare Mills, from the Allergy and Respiratory Centre of the University's Institute of Inflammation and Repair, said: "This is a massive research project which will have far-reaching consequences for consumers and food producers.

"The evidence base and tools that result from this will support more transparent precautionary 'may contain' labelling of allergens in foods which will make life easier for allergy sufferers as they try to avoid problem foods."

Up to 20 million Europeans suffer from food allergy. The research will also help to provide advice on nutrition for pregnant women and babies.



Professor Claire Mills in the lab

## Survey charts emergence of new class system

The traditional view of a Britain made up of working, middle and upper class people is no longer accurate, according to one of the largest studies of its kind.

The Great British Class Survey of 161,000 people, has charted the emergence of a new class system comprising seven groups in Britain, blurring the conventional boundaries between the 'middle' and 'working' classes.

It was led by BBC LabUK, and leading sociologists Professor Fiona Devine of the School of Social Sciences and Professor Mike Savage from the London School of Economics.

- To take the class test visit: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-22000973](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-22000973)

# Investing in Success

Investing in Success is a £1 million initiative to boost staff development. It has resulted in a fascinating array of projects which show just how passionate our people are about their work here at the University. Unilife throws the spotlight on some of the success stories so far...



## Giving something back

The Investing in Success fund came along at just the right time for Denise Fieldhouse – she had been looking for examples of staff volunteering at the University and in her own words: “I saw a gap.”

Staff Development Advisor Denise, who has been working at the University’s Directorate of Human Resources for 11 years, knows from personal experience as a governor at her children’s school that volunteering can bring new skills and a sense of achievement to take your career path to a new level.

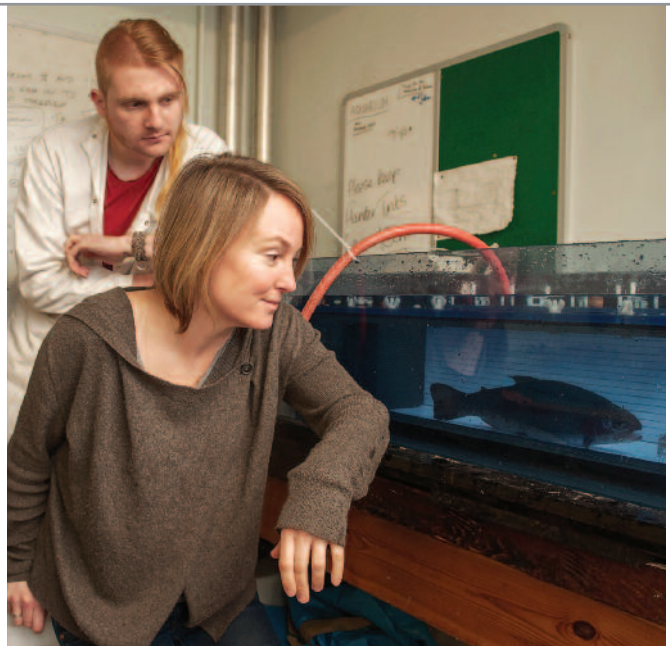
But while she could see that many academics had been able to take up volunteering as part of their research, or identified an opportunity while doing their research, there were fewer Professional Support Services staff in that position.

“When the IIS funding came out, I saw it as an opportunity to look at volunteering being embedded in staff development for the PSS,” she recalls.

“It’s not only good for boosting staff morale and retention, giving people newfound skills, confidence and enthusiasm, it’s also good for the University’s agenda in social responsibility.”

Denise is investigating volunteering opportunities for teams with a company that can source such events – and Registrar, Secretary and Chief Operating Officer Will Spinks’s senior management team will be the first to take part. She’s also looking at volunteering opportunities for individuals, linked to the PDR system, to ensure it is strictly linked to their personal and professional development.

For herself, the project gives Denise the chance to work on something at a strategic level: “I am enjoying meeting different people both outside and within the University. I’ll be happier still when I can evaluate the first pilot activities.”



## In the swim

The exciting opportunity to study live fish and other aquatic vertebrates, such as salamanders and frogs, in realistic environmental conditions in the lab has been made possible with an IIS grant to bring a water flume respirometer up to scratch.

Dr Holly Shiels, Senior Lecturer in Life Sciences, who made the successful bid, is very enthusiastic.

“Our undergraduate students can now investigate whole animal in-vivo physiology, movement and energetics, in a non-invasive manner,” she says. “They can see how animals respond to changes in water speed, oxygen levels, temperature and aquatic acidification.”

The water flume, essentially a tank the size of a dining-room table, creates a closed environmentally-controlled respirometry system.

Studying whole animal responses has great appeal for many biology and zoology undergraduates, who spend much of their degree investigating lower levels of biological complexity.

“The environmental control features of the swim flume appeal to a growing number of our students who are concerned with global environmental challenges,” says Dr Shiels. “They can gain undergraduate experience that could prepare them for job opportunities in water and food security and ecosystem services.”

The water flume respirometer, worth £20,000, a gift from retiring colleagues at the University of Birmingham, needed refurbishing and upgrading.

“Not only our undergraduates, but also our postgraduates benefit from this functional kit. We can provide research projects where students gain niche training in non-invasive whole animal in-vivo biology.”

Her research focus is on cardiac physiology in ectotherms, using physiological approaches to understand how hearts survive environmental change.

As Programme Director of the Biology degree, Dr Shiels says: “The demand for this sort of project is overwhelming. I’ve had a waiting list of students trying to arrange a project a year in advance.”



Hannah Barrett at the Winter Olympics Village, Vancouver

# Widening horizons

Last month, UniLife highlighted the work of the Study Abroad Unit, through which the University offers many students from all disciplines the opportunity to spend time in another country, studying or working.

As Director for Student Experience Dr Tim Westlake says: "My hope is that these opportunities for our students expand and that as many of our students as possible can take advantage. From my experience running the Erasmus Programme, they can be life changing."

For details contact Dr Caroline Whitehand on: 0161 275 3041 or email: caroline.whitehand@manchester.ac.uk

Here UniLife throws the spotlight on two more student and staff experiences.

## Hannah Barrett BSc Geography with International Study



**Studied at the University of British Columbia, Canada 2011-2012**

My year abroad was the best part of my degree and an experience that I will never forget. It really enhanced my degree and exceeded all my expectations.

I enjoyed being able to learn about a range of new topics

taught from a different perspective and experiencing the way of life at a Canadian university. I also had many opportunities to travel within British Columbia and the USA.

It was a hugely valuable experience which has helped me gain a range of skills that will surely benefit me in the future. I made friends with people from around the world and learnt lots about different cultures.

## Karen Badat, Senior International Liaison Officer, Directorate of Student Experience



**Studied abroad while at Queen Mary College University of London 1983-86**

As part of my undergraduate degree, I went to Minsk in

Belarus (then the USSR) in 1983 for six months; Toulouse in France in 1984 for 12 months; and St Petersburg in Russia (then Leningrad in the USSR) in 1986 for four months.

In Russia, I studied language at the universities and in France I worked as an English Language teacher in an Institute

for French Teachers of English. I also found work teaching privately and enrolled on a course in parapsychology (most of which went completely over my head).

I loved everything about the experience. I had the chance to do things I would never have had the courage, or the opportunity to do at home such as presenting a weekly show on the radio!

My experiences abroad have been some of the most significant in my life. They opened my eyes and my mind in a way that books had only partly been able to do. They shaped my politics, my attitudes, my opinions and my appetites.

Absolutely and wholeheartedly recommend studying abroad to anyone – I can't think of a single negative!



Karen (left) and her friends in St Petersburg

# University College revisited...

**I**n October's UniLife we unveiled the University College, which offers undergraduate students the chance to satisfy their curiosity about the world beyond the boundaries of their course.

**The growing collection of courses draws on the best teaching talent from across the University. The second semester has just begun, so how is it going? And how was it for the College's first students?**

Academic Director Dr Peter Lawler is pleased with the progress so far. "The courses we have run have all been well received and a couple of them, like British Sign Language and Leadership of Learning, have been a run away success."

Innovation is at the heart of a University College course – and this can mean looking for expertise and talent in different places.

This semester the Library is leading on the Digital Society course and plans are in place for a course that will come out of the co-operation between the Library, the Museum and the Whitworth Art Gallery.

“ We felt like we were part of something that was new and exciting.

Nida Khalid  
Language, Literacy and  
Communication

"These institutions have highly academically trained staff who are very keen to teach, and using our cultural resources in the teaching process is a real innovation," said Peter.

Another focus is courses that take students out of the University, addressing key issues in society. A new course on ageing includes placements within the ageing community.

Julian Skyrme, the University's Director of Social Responsibility agrees that the College is closely connected to the wider issues of employability and social responsibility.

"Our University produces more graduates each year than any other institution. These professionals of tomorrow are going into keys areas of society such as medicine, law and engineering, and we have a responsibility to equip them with a sense of ethics and leadership.

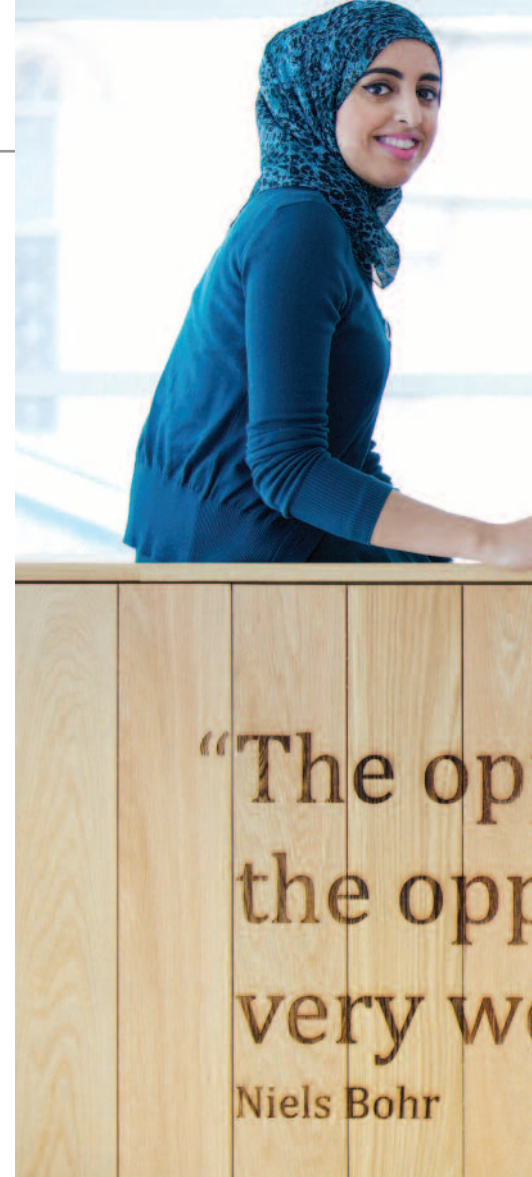
"University College courses offer us an exciting opportunity to shape our students. Courses that take students outside of their discipline area and out into the community can challenge their ethics, and they will carry what they learn with them into the rest of their working lives."

“ Standing at the front of a class, even if they are little children, is really intimidating so there's a great sense of achievement when you've done that a few times.

Harriet Jones  
Linguistics



British Sign Language tutor Sadia Grabham (right) and her students



## Leadership of Learning

The Leadership of Learning course has been a huge success and feedback such as 'the best course I've ever done' suggests that students enjoy being taken out of their comfort zones.

The main vehicle for learning on the course is a ten-week placement in a primary or secondary school, but it's not just about going into school to see if you like teaching. The course also looks at the wider skills of engaging with the community and understanding the cultural context of the schools.

Colin Mills from the School of Education is the academic lead for the course. "The course gives students valuable skills such as organising, mentoring, planning and observing, managing your time and, of course, relating to other people.

“ I enjoyed my placement so much and built such an effective relationship with the school that I have extended it and I'm still there! This course has built my confidence and I have gained some excellent leadership skills.

Linda Anderson  
Ancient History and  
Archaeology



posite of a fact is falsehood, but  
 oposite of one profound truth may  
 ell be another profound truth.”

(l-r) University College students Farya Khan, Nida Khalid, Harriet Jones and Karen Farrell

“ The experience was varied and challenging with everything from one on one with pupils to talking to 250 in a year group. It’s such a good idea to be able to step outside of your usual subject, it has a big impact because it’s something different and interesting.

Karen Farrell  
 Language, Literacy and  
 Communication

”

Colin adds: “Feedback from the schools involved suggests that the placements have made a real difference. Not only do students bring a fresh pair of eyes and the energy of youthfulness, they also bring specialist subject knowledge.”

Ancient History and Archaeology student Linda Anderson was placed at Flowery Fields Primary School in Hyde. “I taught a class of Year 5 pupils about Victorian archaeology, which linked in with their history topic for the term. The reward of seeing how engaged the children were in digging for artefacts confirmed how much I want to be a primary school teacher.”

Head teacher at Flowery Fields, Alvin Fell, is very positive about the experience. “It’s been great to be able to draw upon skills and abilities of students.”

### British Sign Language

The British Sign Language course has also been an early hit for University College. Tutor John Morley says: “The course is good for employability as it shows that a prospective employee not only has an awareness of disability issues, but that they have engaged with these issues as well.”

This course can also be seen as an antidote to the rest of academic life where much learning can take place in front of a computer. “This course gives students the opportunity to develop their kinaesthetic learning skills – they need to use their hands, their arms and their faces to communicate ideas and concepts to other people.”

### Signature Lectures

The University College’s Signature Lectures are also challenging their audiences, which include students and the wider community

The first Signature Lecture was by Nobel Prize-winning physicist Professor Kostya Novoselov about the history of graphite; in the second, President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Nancy Rothwell discussed her work on strokes.

Dr Lawler explains: “Here are examples of world-class researchers disseminating their knowledge to an intelligent but not specialist

“ The panel on my PGCE interview were very impressed with the placement experience. Back at the University, I really enjoyed working with students from different subjects like geography, maths, physics as well as English – it was quite a mix.

Farya Khan  
 Language, Literacy and  
 Communication

”

audience, encouraging them to discover how science and scientific method impacts on our lives.”

So is the College fulfilling its ambitious brief to engage students in debates outside of their discipline?

“We’re engineering what I call a double cultural shift. A shift amongst students to think beyond their own discipline, and a shift amongst staff to teach much broader student cohorts than they’ve done before.

“It is gratifying that staff are coming from every corner of the University with interesting course proposals and that students are responding enthusiastically.”

### Students go to Parliament to learn politics

The University is to deliver a new Parliamentary Studies module, approved and co-taught by the Houses of Parliament.

The project has the support of the Speakers of the House of Commons and House of Lords and will run from September 2013.

Delivered through a series of lectures and seminars by a high profile academic team from our Politics Disciplinary Area in conjunction with senior Parliamentary staff, it is designed to be of particular value to those considering a career in politics.

Professor of Public Policy David Richards from the School of Social Sciences says: "At long last, Parliamentary Studies can be brought into the 21st century by offering an original and innovative course giving students critically informed insights into the contemporary role of Parliament in politics, while also benefitting from the expertise of insiders' accounts of its working practices."

### Teens tackle sensitive subject

University students helped teenagers understand the dangers of the serious and growing public health problem Chlamydia with a thought-provoking workshop launched at Chorlton High School.

Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted infection mainly associated with 16-24 year olds. One in ten of this age group is thought to be infected, but most do not experience any symptoms and don't realise that they are carrying the infection. Untreated chlamydia can cause pelvic inflammatory disease, ectopic pregnancy, infertility and prostate and testicular problems.

Rebecca Lee, from the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, produced and presented the workshop for her final year undergraduate Masters project. She was helped by three second year MPharm student ambassadors, Syeda Ahmed, Julia Faulkner and Fatima Lunat, and supervised by David Allison.

During the workshop, the students tested for the spread of a starch solution representing Chlamydia, clearly demonstrating the spread of 'infection' throughout the class.

They also discussed ethical dilemmas and took part in a poster designing competition.

Dr Allison said: "Feedback from both the class teacher and the pupils was overwhelmingly positive. We hope to roll this activity out across a number of schools across the city."



Tamara Williams takes in the view

## Science on the beach and in the jungle

Three zoology students have been revealing what life is like on placement in two of the world's most exotic locations, as part of their studies at the Faculty of Life Sciences.

Rachel Kwok, Kathryn Machin and Tamara Williams have been blogging about their experiences in the Seychelles and the Ecuadorian rainforest.

Tamara is staying at the University's research station deep in Ecuador's rainforest, studying frogs as part of a biodiversity study. Her favourite time of day is the early evening:

"It's finally cool enough to be comfortable, and the nocturnal creatures begin their nightly cacophony of calls, while the setting sun paints the trees with an orangey incandescence. If you consider a tropical rainforest to be perfection then this is close."

Rachel and Kathryn are staying on different islands in the Seychelles. Rachel says: "Searching for new species was an amazing experience, and allowed us to see large parts of pristine jungle, away from manmade trails."

The valuable experiences the students are gaining as field scientists will enhance their final year studies and help boost their chances of gaining work in their chosen field after graduation.

You can read more about the students' adventures at: <http://manchesterscientistscastaway.wordpress.com/>

- To read about other experiences abroad, see the feature on the Study Abroad Unit on page 13.



Students and families enjoy the egg hunt

## Jolly good eggs!

Student volunteers spent their Easter holidays organising a Spring Egg Hunt and Egg and Spoon Relay Race for the local community.

The Ashburne Spring Egg Hunt – the first event of its kind at the University – was organised in partnership with a student residents association.

Twenty local families attended the event, despite the weather, at Ashburne and Sheavyn Halls of Residence in Fallowfield.

Student Community Rep James Mitchell said: "I really enjoyed the event! It was nice to be able to meet the local community and watch the kids have a good time!"



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



The Memory Book, March 5th, 2007, Al-Mutanabbi Street, Alex Appella, Cordoba, Argentina

# What's On

## The John Rylands Library (Deansgate)

### EXHIBITIONS

**Tony Dyson: A Hidden History of Gay Rights Campaigning** until 30 June

**An Inventory of al-Mutanabbi Street** until 29 July

**Burning Bright** until 23 Jun

**While Dreams Sleep** until 23 Jun

### EVENTS

Sat 11 May, 12-1pm, Free (booking recommended)

**Here Be Dragons! A Tour of the Library for Children**

Tues 14 May, 1-2pm, Free (booking essential)

**Burning Bright: Exhibition Tour**

Fri 17 May, 2.30-3.30pm, Free (booking essential)

**Explorer Tours: A Peek Behind the Scenes!**

Sat 25 and Weds 29 May, 12-1pm, Free

**The Body Stripped Bare**

Fri 17 to Sat 18 May, 5pm – 9am, Free (booking recommended)

**Night Falls – A Dr Who Adventure Family Sleepover**

Weds 22 May, 1.30-4pm, Free

**Whimsical Wednesday Workshop: Shadow Cutting**

Every third Thurs in the month, 12-1pm, Free

**Tour and Treasures**

For further details of our events, please visit our website.

FREE ADMISSION

Public opening times: Sun-Mon 12-5pm, Tues-Sat 10am-5pm

Reader opening times: Mon-Weds, Fri-Sat 10am-5pm, Thurs 10am-7pm

The John Rylands Library  
150 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 3EH  
Visitor/Event Enquiries: 0161 306 0555  
General/Reader Enquiries: 0161 275 3764

[www.library.manchester.ac.uk/specialcollections/](http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/specialcollections/)

## The Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama

### ESTIVAL 4-6 June 2013

Join the Music Society in the final week of term for our annual music festival. With nine concerts in three days, it's an action-packed three days of music making with daily lunchtime, beat-the-rush-hour and evening performances. Highlights of this year's Estival include the Grade-1-Orchestra, Wind Orchestra and Josh Asquith playing Weber's Bassoon Concerto.

The climax of the festival is where University of Manchester Symphony Orchestra will perform two newly commissioned works as well as Rachmaninov's Symphonic Dances.

For more information please visit our website.

The Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama  
Bridgeford Street, Manchester, M13 9PL  
0161 275 8951  
[email boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk)  
[www.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre)

## Whitworth Art Gallery

### EXHIBITIONS

**Beryl Korot: Text and Commentary** until 9 June

**Sublime: Watercolours of the Welsh Landscape** until 16 June

**Michael Landy: Four Walls** until 16 June

**Richard Long: Land Art** until 16 June

**Nancy Holt** until 16 June

**Callum Innes** until 16 June

### ADULT EVENTS

Every Thurs, 8.30-9.45am, £3 (booking essential)

### Yoga

Sun 12 and Sun 19 May, 12.30-1.15pm, Free

### Performance by RNCM students

Tues 14 May, 11-12.30pm, Free

### Talk with artist Nancy Holt

Weds 15 May and Sat 18 May, 1-3pm, £5 (booking essential)

### Crafternoon Tea

Fri 17 May, 12.30-2pm, £7 (booking advisable)

### Samuel John Peplow: A Scottish Modernist

Talk with grandson, Guy Peplow

Fri 17 May, 7.30-10.30pm

### After Hours: Museums at Night with Richard Wentworth

Sat 18 May, 1-3pm, free (booking essential)

### Alternative Camera Club

Sat 25 and Sun 26 May, 11am-4pm, £35 (booking essential)

### Weekend Course

Textiles: Innovation and Tradition

### FAMILY EVENTS

Every Sun, 1.30-3.30pm, Free

### Colourful Sundays

Every Mon, 10.30-11.30am or 11.30-12.30pm, Free (booking essential)

### Toddlerastic

Every Weds, 10.15-11.15am or 11.30-12.30pm, Free (booking essential)

### Art Baby

Tues 28 May, 11.30am-1pm

### Arty Picnics

Weds 29, Thurs 30 and Fri 31 May, 1-3pm

### Printing in the Park

For more information on our exhibitions and events, please visit our website.

### Opening times

Mon-Sat 10-5pm, Sun 12-4pm

### FREE Admission

The Whitworth Art Gallery  
Oxford Road, Manchester

0161 275 7450

Booking line 0161 275 7450

email whitworth@manchester.ac.uk

www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth

## Manchester Museum

### SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

All exhibitions at The Manchester Museum are FREE

### GALLERY REDEVELOPMENT

### Nature's Library now open

### EXHIBITIONS

**All Other Things Being Equal** until 2 June

**Looping and Linking** until 26 May

**Warriors of the Plains: 200 Years of Native North American Honour and Ritual** from 25 May – 3 Nov

### FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Most activities are free and drop-in, some activities may need to be booked and may cost up to £1.50, all ages

Every other Tues, 14 May, 10.30-11.15am, 12.30-1.15pm and 1.30-2.15pm, Free

### Baby Explorers

Sensory play for babies

Sat 25 May, 11am-4pm, Drop in

### Big Saturday: Warriors of the Plains

Mon 27-Fri 31 May: Half Term

### Nature's Library

Fri 31 May, 10.30-11.30am and 11.30-12.30pm, Free

### Magic Carpet: Warriors of the Plains

For under five's and their carers

### MUSEUM MEETS

Sat 11 May, 11.30am-12.30pm

### Looping and Linking: Herbarium Tours

Thurs 16 May, 6.30-9pm

### Museums at Night: Nature's Library

Sat 25 May, 2-4pm, £3 (booking essential)

### Urban Naturalist: Spring Wild Food Forage

Mon 27 May, 12pm (all ages)

### RNCM in the City

Tues 28 May, 5.30-6.30pm

### Manchester Museum Book Club

Tues 7, 14, 21 & 28 May, 6-8pm

### A Sustainable Future for Manchester

Thurs 30 May, 2-3pm

### Rock Drop: Geology identification session

Every Tues and Thurs (except school holidays), 12-1pm

### Tours of the Vivarium (live animals)

Every Weds and Thurs, 1pm

### Taster Tours

### Opening times

Open: Tues-Sat 10am-5pm

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

### FREE admission

The Manchester Museum,  
Oxford Road, Manchester

0161 275 2648

www.manchester.ac.uk/museum

Follow us on Twitter @McMuseum

www.facebook.com/ManchesterMuseum

## 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 of 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!

### EVENTS

Tues 28 to Fri 31 May, 11.30am, 12.30, 2.30 and 3.30pm, Free (5yrs+, booking essential)

### Science Shows

The science shows will explore the planets and our closest star – the Sun. Through interactive demonstrations we will look at what the sun is made from, how planets orbit and what it would be like to live in outer space.

### Opening times

10am-5pm

For more information and prices please visit our website

Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre  
Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 9DL  
01477 571 766

www.jodrellbank.net

## Gig Guide

### Manchester Academy 1, 2 and 3

Thurs 9 May **ALT-J** - £13.50 (Sold Out)

Fri 10 May **OMD + John Foxx And The Maths** - £32.50

Sat 11 May **CASH – No. 1 Johnny Cash Tribute** - £10

Mon 13 May **Then Jerico + Mike Marlin – Reprise Tour** - £19.50

Sat 18 May **The Postal Service** - £20 (Sold Out)

Sat 18 May **The Smiths Ltd** - £10

Sun 19 May **Gentleman's Dub Club** - £12.50

Mon 20 May **Bob Mould with Jason Narducy and Jon Wurster** - £19

Tues 21 May **The Skints** - £11

Thurs 23 May **Sleeping with Sirens** - £12 (moved to Manchester HMV Ritz)

Weds 22 May **Tribes** - £12.50

Weds 22 May **Watsky + Dumbfounded** - £8

Fri 24 May **Mumiy Troll + Moulettes** - £15

Sat 25 May **ASAP Rocky** - £17.50 (Sold Out)

Sat 25 May **District 3** - £17.50

Thurs 30 May **The Parov Stelar Band** - £24

Sat 1 Jun **Limehouse Lizzy** - £13.50

### 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.

Sat 11 May **North Wales visiting the Snowdon Mountain Railway, Swallow Falls and Betws-y-coed**

Sun 12 May **Whitby**

Sat 18 May **Lake District with a ride on the Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway, a cruise on Lake Windermere and a visit to the Lake District Visitor Centre**

Sun 19 May **Chester Zoo**

Sat 25 May **North Wales visiting Anglesey (with full day guided tour)**

Sun 26 May **Warwick Castle**

### Opening times

Mon-Fri 9.30am – 7pm (during term time)  
Mon-Fri 9.30am – 5pm (during vacation)

Small World Café opening times  
Mon-Fri 11am – 3pm

327 Oxford Road (next to Krobar)  
0161 275 4959

email int.soc@manchester.ac.uk  
www.internationalsociety.org.uk

## Chaplaincies

### St Peter's House Chaplaincy

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, Holy Name Church

Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri, 5.30pm

Chaplaincy Chapel

Weds, 1.05pm, Chaplaincy Chapel

### The Jewish Student Centre and Synagogue

07817 250 557

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

Chaplain's email:

assia\_shah61@yahoo.co.uk



Audrey Carter and the basalt statuette

## Tender touch

Our University is home to some amazing objects. Each month in UniLife we ask someone to share with us one of their favourite fascinating artefacts.

Handling this beautifully crafted basalt statuette of a woman dating back to 2000BC – and other objects, some 5,000 years old – is a real privilege for Manchester Museum’s adult visitors, and “just unbelievable” for their children.

That’s according to volunteer Audrey Carter, who delights in their reactions as she interprets objects on the handling tables.

Audrey, at 80, is a great example of a life long learner. After retiring from a long working life as a secretary, she did a degree, then an MPhil at the KNH Centre for Biomedical Egyptology. She then became a volunteer at the Museum three years ago. She also has a personal connection to the subject. Audrey’s grandfather was Thomas Carter, the cousin of Howard Carter, who discovered the tomb of Tutankhamen in 1922.

The statuette was probably part of a double statue with the woman’s husband.

It is dated to the middle kingdom by the style of the object which depicts

big ears, common to this time, and would be holding a tray of food for the deceased in the afterlife.

“Volunteering is a great experience for me,” Audrey says. “Meeting the public and other volunteers, and bringing Museum objects to life through the stories I can tell about them.

“And I can still learn and engage with the University, even though I am retired.”

Audrey is one of more than 100 dedicated volunteers who commit their time and enthusiasm to the Museum.

The volunteer programme continues to go from strength to strength, with a £500,000 Heritage Lottery Fund grant for ‘Improving Futures, Volunteering for Wellbeing.’ a three-year project will help 200 young and retired people and ex-service personnel to learn new skills at the Museum and partner venues across the city.

And with the likes of Audrey shedding light – and life – on such amazing artefacts, it’s a great benefit to us too.



The basalt statuette