

UniLife

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Medal of Honour for our TV champions



This month, the President tackles the issue of communication – and how we can all work to improve our skills in this area.



Visiting the weather observatory on top of the George Kenyon Building

Universities are, by almost any comparison, complex organisations. As one of the largest and most diverse universities in the UK, Manchester is more complex than most.

In addition to our major activities of teaching, research and scholarship, and social responsibility, we also engage in commercialisation of some of our work; we host conferences; open some of our spaces to the wider public; contribute to policy at local, national and international levels and are the stewards of many historic and valuable artefacts, to name but a few aspects of our ‘every day functions’.

We have numerous stakeholders both within the University (our staff and students) and externally, including our alumni, the families of our students, funders, academic collaborators; our near neighbours, government, regulatory bodies and many international partners. This scale and complexity brings both advantages and disadvantages, and in particular the challenge of communication.

The content of communications, the media through which they are transmitted and the likely attention and interest they may attract, vary considerably between different audiences and at different times.

There is a great diversity even within the University, with over 10,000 staff and almost 40,000 students from 180 different countries, who may gain information primarily from written communications such as UniLife, verbal presentations, websites, lectures, social media or one-to-one discussions.

It is a real challenge for us to communicate effectively to any, let alone to all of these audiences. A senior colleague used to say that unfortunately it isn't the message that is sent which is important, but rather the one that is received. Frequently the two are not the same.

The purposes of communication are many. Sometimes it is essential to disseminate important (and occasionally urgent) information, but communication also serves to explain; to engage; to motivate; to educate; to interest and entertain; to challenge and to stimulate debate.

The most effective communication is always two-way. Yet all too rarely do we really engage in true dialogue or welcome honest feedback.



A tour of the Joule Library with Library staff

I was very taken by the comment of Sir Peter Medawar (Nobel Laureate in physiology and medicine), who said that every scientist can easily test his or her skill as a communicator, simply by addressing a group of nine-year olds – as their attention span is but a few minutes!

Hopefully our colleagues and students have slightly longer attention spans, but we can all improve our communication skills to our benefit – in our work and beyond.

An unfortunate feature of academic staff seems that we quickly lose the ability to communicate in plain English – and I'm sorry to say that scientists are usually the worst offenders. We not only lapse into jargon and acronyms, but also use complicated terms when simple ones will suffice and be better understood.

An eminent biologist, Gottfried Schatz recently wrote: “In science, simple and clear language in both spoken and written communication is not only a matter of style – it is also a matter of substance.” This must surely apply to areas outside science with similar validity.

Similarly, we often assume that ‘more is better’, such that filling the time available (worse still, running over), or using all the space or number of

words allowed, overloading with detail and cluttering with unnecessary facts, are common place.

The vast majority of the numerous grant applications I have reviewed suffered from too much information, too densely packed, so the key messages are lost – or at times, the reviewer just gives up!

Some of the best communicators I have encountered present rather briefly, recognising that delivery of a few key messages is more powerful and effective than a long and detailed dialogue. Though brevity is often difficult, as reflected in the quote ascribed to Mark Twain (and others): “I’m sorry this is such a long letter, I didn’t have time to write a short one”, it is important.

So, having said all this, I will go back to reading an excellent article on communication, stop without saying more, except that all of us with leadership or management responsibilities need to reflect on how frequently and effectively we communicate with our colleagues. I would welcome feedback from all colleagues on ideas for improving the effectiveness of communications within the University.

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



Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell with Michael McKenna, Tristan Burke, Luke Kelly, Paul Joyce and Stephen Pearson

Top honour for University Challenge winners

The four members of Manchester's winning University Challenge team, along with their coach, have received the University's most prestigious non-degree award, the Medal of Honour.

The award, also known as the Rutherford Medal, is bestowed on individuals who have made an exceptional contribution to the work of the University, the city or the region.

The Medals were presented to the team and their coach, Stephen Pearson, at a celebration event and dinner held in the Whitworth Building.

As part of the event, they took on a Challengers Team captained by Professor Rod Coombs, Deputy President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor. The team also included Letty Newton, General Secretary of the Students' Union, Will Spinks, Registrar, Secretary and Chief Operating Officer, and Janine Watson, Chair of the Alumni Association.

The newly-crowned Champions won a keenly-fought contest by 175 points to 85. The Champions team, led by Tristan Burke, included Paul Joyce, Luke Kelly and Michael McKenna.

After the quiz, which was attended by members of the University Challenge production team, the four Manchester team members received their Medals of Honour from the President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell. Team coach Stephen Pearson was also honoured at the event after leading a string of Manchester teams to success in the popular TV quiz.

Stephen, an alumnus and captain of the 1996 team which reached the University Challenge semi-finals, is a Faculty Team Librarian at the John Rylands University Library.

Since taking on the role of coach, Manchester has enjoyed an unparalleled run of success, including three victories in the last seven years.



News

Making a beeline for Whitworth Park

page 5



Research

Sandstorms in space

page 8



Feature

Manchester Access Programme

page 11

Contents

- 2** Message from the President
- 3** News
- 6** Olympic Games 2012
- 7** Research
- 10** Teaching, Learning and Students
- 11** Feature: Manchester Access Programme
- 12** What's On
- 16** Discover the Whitworth



*Front cover:
The University Challenge champions.
Photo courtesy of Craig Strong.*

News in brief

Digital archive revolutionizes research

More than 365,000 historic books are now available online, thanks to the University's Mimas research and information centre.

Mimas has teamed up with software firm Autonomy to provide the new archive, which features at least 300,000 books published in Britain before 1800, plus 65,000 from the 19th century.

This new platform gives UK academics access to vast amounts of digitized content across a wide range of disciplines.

This will revolutionize research in the UK by suggesting relevant content automatically and in real time.

Vic Lyte, Head of Technology Services at Mimas said: "It's easy for us to add new content as and when needed, and the system automatically works its magic by understanding concepts within the data and serves it up users according to what they are looking for."

Research centre secures £6.25 million

The Effective States and Inclusive Development Research Centre (ESID) has received £6.25 million to investigate what kind of politics help secure inclusive development.

ESID is jointly hosted by the Institute for Development Policy and Management (IDPM) and the Brooks World Poverty Institute (BWPI) in the School of Environment and Development.

For more information visit:
www.effective-states.org

Pharmacy spreads the word

Pharmacy student Katherine Alexander has been helping school pupils think about going onto university.

Katherine has helped to produce a workshop for Year 10 pupils, involving a range of fun-filled, but thought-provoking, activities related to studying at university.

The project is part of her final year undergraduate Masters project, supervised by Dr David Allison.

Students from Parrs Wood High School in East Didsbury were the first to take part in the workshop – and the feedback from students and teachers alike was positive.

It's hoped that the workshop can be delivered by students on the Manchester Leadership Programme and that it will be rolled out in schools across Manchester.

Funding boost for future students

This year's Your Manchester Fund telephone appeal has just come to an end – and has raised a fantastic £160,000.

When combined with existing donations and Gift Aid, the total amount donated this year stands at £300,000 over four years.

During the telephone campaign, current students called alumni to talk to them about their experiences here at the University, to see if they would be interested in donating to a variety of causes including scholarships for students from families with no experience of higher education.

Luke Monaghan, a BSc Mathematics student, received funding from the Opportunity Manchester scholarship and said: "I now have the confidence and belief that I will go far in life and have a great career that I only dreamed of as a child."

"As one of 17 children, I feel very lucky to have been given the opportunity to benefit from the full University experience without worrying about money."



Luke Monaghan

Gifts to the University range from reminiscent "Class Gifts" – for example donating £19.73 if you graduated in 1973 – to regular donations.

As well as financial donations from 1,500 alumni, the programme has seen more than 400 alumni offering to mentor current students, offer work

experience or deliver talks and lectures.

The Your Manchester Fund is run by the Annual Fund team in the Division of Development and Alumni Relations.

For more information visit:
www.yourmanchester.manchester.ac.uk/



Dalton plays host

A New Nuclear Build and Manufacturing (NNUMAN) programme has been awarded £4 million of funding from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council.

The funding will be used to research innovative manufacturing for the future of the UK's nuclear power supply.

The joint project, with The University of Sheffield, will see the training of the next generation of nuclear manufacturing scientists and engineers.

Professor Andrew Sherry, Director of the Dalton Nuclear Institute at the University, said: "Innovation in manufacturing technology for new nuclear build offers the UK a real growth opportunity."

In addition, representatives from the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute visited the Dalton Nuclear Institute recently.

They visited the Dalton Cumbrian Facility and National Nuclear Laboratory (NNL) Central Lab at Sellafield, where the host was Huw Morgan, NNL's Director of Strategic Development.

Making a bee-line for Whitworth Park

Youngsters got close to nature at the Wonderful Whitworth Wildlife Big Saturday last month.

The theme of the day was the bee – the symbol of the City of Manchester, and without which our rich industrial heritage would not exist, because of course, without bees there would be no cotton.

Flower and bulb planting, crafts and face painting were on offer – all aimed at showing people how important wildlife is to the local area.

The event was planned by The Manchester Museum's Senior Youth Board – a group of young people aged between 13 and 19 who volunteer at the Museum. It ran with the support of the Friends of Whitworth Park.



Celebrating Scott's centenary



Photo courtesy of Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge.

A leading expert on Scott of the Antarctic has given a lecture to an audience which included explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes and Prince Albert of Monaco.

Dr Max Jones, from the School of Arts, Histories and Cultures, spoke at the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge.

He also met the Duke of Edinburgh at a dinner to commemorate the centenary of Captain Scott's arrival at the South Pole in 1912.

Pictured, the Duke of Edinburgh with Dr Max Jones (far right), Professor Julian Dowdeswell, Director of SPRI, left, and Professor Tim Clutton-Brock.

Supporting D/deaf learners

More than 60 students from schools and colleges across the North West came to the University for a special day for D/deaf learners.

D/deaf is a term used in higher education to describe students who are deaf and use sign language, or who are deaf or hard of hearing, but have English as their first language and may lip-read or use hearing aids.

The day provided students with information about the range of support available to them both before they apply, and when they go to university.

Student Ambassadors from both universities supported the day, some of whom have been undertaking modules in British Sign Language (BSL).

The session was organised with the charity the Deaf Education Advocacy Fellowship (DEAF) and was a partnership between our University and Manchester Metropolitan University.



News in brief

Inside the world of life sciences

The Faculty of Life Sciences is opening its doors to the public next month to show local people, staff and their families all the amazing work which goes on in the Michael Smith Building.

Visitors will get the chance to look at the labs, use microscopes, handle bugs and take part in a sunflower competition amongst other things. Last year over 700 people visited the event.

The Community Open Day is taking place on Saturday 30 June between 11am and 3pm. There's no need to book and free car parking is available on the day.

To find out more visit:
www.ls.manchester.ac.uk/openday

DNA insights

Over 200 A-level students came to the University to find out about developments in genomic medicine.

Scientists from the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences and the Faculty of Life Sciences took part in the event – giving insights into their research and asking students to think about how they might use DNA technologies in the future.

The event was organised by Nowgen.

Spring successes

Cultural attractions in the City have received a £5.2 million funding boost this spring.

The Manchester Partnership, which is made up of The Manchester Museum, Whitworth Art Gallery and Manchester City Galleries, received the funding from the Arts Council England.

This spring has also seen The Manchester Museum and The Whitworth Gallery receiving nominations for a raft of awards and prizes:

- The Whitworth Art Gallery and The Manchester Museum
Long listed for The Clore Award for Museum Learning 2012
- The Manchester Museum
Living Worlds shortlisted for Museums and Heritage Best Permanent Exhibition Award
Exhibition Design category for the Design Week Awards
Long list nomination for the Telegraph Family Friendly Museum Award 2012.
- The Whitworth Art Gallery
Campaign for Drawing trailblazer award for 'Molecular Drawing – Join the Dots'.

Find out more about this event at:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vm92IVdHlw

With the countdown to London 2012 well underway, here is the latest University Olympic news.



Eye opening event

60 children from a local primary school held their own Olympic opening ceremony in the Whitworth Hall last month.

Trainee primary teachers studying at our School of Education used their skills in dance, drama, art and design technology to provide a colourful afternoon's entertainment.

The fun included a life-size bus and 60 local children dancing a brand new Olympic dance.

The event was also held to raise cash for charity Clic Sargent, which cares for children with cancer.

Chosen two to carry Olympic Flame

Two University students are among the 8,000 inspirational people who will carry the Olympic Flame during the Torch Relay.

Blaire Hannan will be the last person to carry the Olympic Flame on 22 May, for the one-mile journey from Benjamin Perry's pontoon at Redcliffe to the Millennium Square in her home town of Bristol.

Blaire, a first-year Speech and Language Therapy student, is part of the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme and a member of the Paralympic transitional squad for Sailing.

Commenting on the honour, she said: "It's a massive privilege to be part of the greatest sporting event in the world and represent Paralympic Sailing, but to get the rare opportunity to carry the flame by boat in the famous maritime city of Bristol, just makes it extra special."

Blaire suffers from a rare neurological and muscular condition called Dystonia, which has left her wheelchair bound. She was nominated in recognition of her work with Bristol Sailability, a voluntary organisation which enables young disabled people to experience water based activities.

Leila Hamrang will carry the flame in Fleetwood.

Leila, who is doing a BA in Learning Disabilities Studies, has been raising money for cancer charities and organisations since recovering from her second bout of leukaemia. The blood cancer was first diagnosed when she was 13 and the treatment included a bone marrow transplant donated by her younger brother; however she has been left with many side effects from her treatment.

Nonetheless her fundraising efforts have included abseiling down Quay House in Spinningfield, volunteering and she will also take part in the Race for Life on July 4 to support the Manchester Children's Hospital, CLIC Sargent, The Christie Hospital and Cancer Research.

She said: "It is a huge privilege for me to be a part of the 2012 Olympics because I know that I can spread hope for all those who are still fighting cancer, to all those loved ones that have lost their battle and are no longer amongst us, and those who have survived."





Sniffy about the city? Just take a deep breath

Whether it's the aroma of Boddington's brewing, curry simmering in Rusholme or just exhaust fumes from city centre traffic – Manchester is awash with aromas.

And according to University researcher Dr Victoria Henshaw, planners and architects should take the sense of smell more seriously when they are designing cities.

Victoria, who is based in the Manchester Architecture Research Centre, led a 'smellwalk' around Manchester to illustrate her point.

The event highlighted how odours influence city-dwellers relationship with the local environment.

Victoria said: "All of our senses – including smell – help us understand the world around us.

"Many people don't realize that the smell environments in cities are changing: pollution, for example, breaks down a smell as it travels through the air so that odours of vegetation are less likely to be detected.

"But it isn't until people lose their smell that they come to appreciate the important role and influence it has in our everyday lives.

"Unique combinations of scents are stored in the back of our memories for long periods of time, and they are frequently at the forefront of our consciousness when first visiting unfamiliar territory."

Dr Henshaw's smellwalks have revealed different cities can vary significantly, as well as the way that local people respond to the odours they detect.



Orangutans are no bird brains

Orangutans may be smarter than previously thought if a new study into the sophisticated way they build nests is anything to go by.

Manchester biologists spent a year observing and filming orangutans in Indonesia and found they apparently have complex knowledge of mechanical design and material properties.

The great apes build large, oval nests in tree canopies, but until now little was known about these nests.

Researchers led by Dr Roland Ennos, from the Faculty of Life Sciences, reported that the orangutans used particular branches for different parts of the nest. They also broke the branches in different ways depending on how they would be used.

"Orangutans chose strong, rigid tree branches for the structural parts of the nests that supported their weight, and weaker, and more flexible branches for the nest's linings," said Dr Ennos.

The research suggests that orangutans, like some birds, might possess engineering expertise.

Research in brief



Artists impression of red giant star by Anna Mayall

New media spurs change in Bollywood's India

India's Bollywood stars have turned to new media to be closer to their fans as part of a radical transformation of the industry.

In his new book, Dr Rajinder Dudrah, from the University's School of Arts, Histories and Cultures, describes how Bollywood megastars are amassing millions of followers on Twitter.

The book charts how they are now using social media to highlight public issues such as corruption. Rajinder argues that Bollywood is increasingly becoming a major source of Indian soft power – a state's ability to further its interests through cultural and social means.

He said: "This is in a country where many people still do not have access to telecommunications. What's amazing is that stars are using social media to approach difficult issues such as corruption, the caste system, and the role of women."

New Head for pharmacy

Professor Kay Marshall has been appointed Head of the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Kay is a fellow of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, and is joining us from the Bradford School of Pharmacy.

Her research interests include reproductive endocrine pharmacology, focusing on conditions such as dysmenorrhoea and the diagnosis and management of pre-term labour.

Kay (pictured) is an advocate of research-led teaching at all levels. She said: "I was profoundly influenced by the teaching of lecturers who were actively engaged with research, as their passion and enthusiasm for their subject was stimulating and engaging."



Sandstorms in space

University astronomers are part of a team which believes it has found the answer to the mystery of a powerful 'superwind' which causes the death of stars.

The team used a giant telescope in Chile to watch winds of gas and dust coming off red giant stars. Stars end their lives with a 'superwind', which is 100 million times stronger than the solar wind.

This wind occurs over a period of 10,000 years, and removes as much as half the mass of the star. At the end, only a dying and fading remnant of the star will be left.

The cause of this superwind has remained a mystery, but the team has now discovered that dust grains pushed away from stars grow and behave

like mirrors, reflecting starlight rather than absorbing it, remaining cool.

The starlight can push them out without destroying them at 10 kilometres per second, or 20 thousand miles per hour – the speed of a rocket. The effect is similar to a sandstorm.

Professor Albert Zijlstra, from the Jodrell Bank Observatory, said: "The dust and sand in the superwind will survive the star, and later become part of the clouds in space from which new stars form.

"The sand grains at that time become the building blocks of planets. Our own Earth has formed from star dust. We are now a big step further in understanding this cycle of life and death."



From airport security to eye disease

Iris recognition cameras used for airport security are helping to detect and prevent eye disease in children.

Ophthalmic consultants Dr Tariq Aslam and Jane Ashworth, from the Royal Eye Hospital, have used a customised iris recognition camera to check changes to corneas which may indicate sight problems in children with mucopolysaccharide disease (MPS).

Tariq and Jane ran a trial with 18 MPS patients and the results have shown a very strong link between the score given by the camera and the level of cloudiness in corneas checked manually by an ophthalmologist.

Research in brief



Dr Françoise Tisseur

Françoise's research adds up to maths prize

Dr Françoise Tisseur has been awarded one of the oldest maths awards – the Adams Prize which is given by The University of Cambridge.

The Adams Prize is named after the mathematician John Couch Adams and Françoise received it for her research into numerical linear algebra.

Françoise said: "The School of Mathematics has been very supportive of my research and I'm proud to be working in one of the biggest and best numerical analysis groups in the world."

Cleft lip and palate research to have worldwide impact

The largest ever research programme into cleft lip and palate will potentially bring huge benefits to patients around the world, according to University scientists.

The £11 million programme, called 'The Cleft Collective', will be led by our University and the University of Bristol.

Cleft is one of the most common congenital abnormalities in the world, affecting 1,200 children born in the UK every year.

Professor Bill Shaw, lead researcher for the Manchester team, said: "Even today, we neither know the cause of cleft, nor the best approaches to treatment."

"Here in Manchester we will be coordinating a nationwide programme of research in order to improve the treatments available and reduce the burden of care on children and their families."

The Healing Foundation charity will be providing £5 million towards the project, with additional funding coming from university and NHS partners.

Physics award

A particle physicist has won a prestigious prize for the quality of his research.

Professor Christian Schwanenberger won this year's Institute of Physics HEPP Career Prize in recognition of his outstanding contributions to particle physics.



Dr Sarah Haigh at work

Researchers let loo-se on energy project

Scientists are beginning work on a prototype device for harvesting energy and clean drinking water from human waste.

Researchers believe the technology could provide an inexpensive device for people in the developing world to generate clean water and energy.

The project is being funded by \$100,000 from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The team beat off competition from more than 2,000 other projects to win the funding.

Dr Sarah Haigh, from the School of Materials, said: "This technology will be particularly important for remote locations in developing countries and will have the added benefits of reduced pollution and lower waste disposal costs."

The research will be carried out by a team from Manchester, Imperial College London and Durham University and a prototype should be ready to demonstrate by 2013.

Creating a safer NHS

More than £6.2 million has been awarded to the University and NHS Greater Manchester to help make the NHS a safer place for patients.

The money will be used to come up with new ways of improving safety in hospitals, GP surgeries and in the community.

A University research team will develop a new internet-based tool to help improve diagnoses made by nurses and doctors in GP surgeries.

It will identify symptoms of cancer and rare diseases, which will help clinicians who are in any doubt about making a diagnosis.

Director of the Manchester NIHR Patient Safety Translational Research Centre Professor Aneez Esmail said: "Patient safety in



primary care is an important problem that is under researched and we are committed to developing innovations with our international and national partners to make the care that

patients receive from their general practitioners safer."

The money is a share of £13 million, which comes from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).

Roll over Lord Sugar...

A group of budding entrepreneurial friends have scooped a national prize for their clothing company – just six months after it was formed.

Students Justin Colver, David Zammit, Jack Boland and Marcus Rodert formed 'Uni&Co' in September last year and the business is already flourishing.

The team pitched its idea to 'Business Champions', a competition run jointly by accountants PwC and Bright Futures, a graduate recruitment consultancy.

The quartet's company triumphed after their business plan, presentation and T-shirts impressed the judges. Their prize includes business support for a year.

All proceeds from the business go to the School for Social Entrepreneurs charity.

One of the company's founders Justin Colver, a third-year Maths and Management student, said: "The whole experience was fantastic and definitely something I would recommend other students to get involved in. It is the perfect opportunity to develop many of the skills that employers are looking for such as building professional relations, negotiating contracts etc. Winning the competition was a great reward for the work we had put in



Uni&Co founders celebrate their win

throughout the year, especially as there were so many other very strong businesses that reached the final stage."

The team has also negotiated a contract to supply Manchester Business School with all of their branded T-shirts from the beginning of the new academic year.

Simon Reichwald, Director at Bright Futures, said: "The world is full of people with great ideas that they believe customers will want to buy, but it takes special types of individuals to stand up and make it happen."

To find out more about the company visit:

www.uniandco.com

In brief

Green activities turn to gold

Our Students' Union has had its green credentials recognised by winning an environmental award.

The University of Manchester Students' Union (UMSU) was named as a Gold Winner at the recent National Union of Students (NUS) Green Impact Awards.

Letty Newton, General Secretary of the Students' Union, said: "This signals the change that Manchester has undergone in the last twelve months.

"To get this award in such a short period shows how important this is to the organisation and demonstrates the commitment of the individuals who made this happen."

Awarding our excellent teachers

Our outstanding teachers have been recognised at this year's Teaching Excellence Awards.

Due to the high number of nominations this year, the judging panel decided to make seven full awards and nine additional commendations.

The awards recognise staff who have made a significant and sustained commitment to teaching and learning here at the University.

The awards were presented by Professor Clive Agnew, Vice-President for Teaching, Learning and Students, who said: "The quality was extremely high, reflecting achievement in all stages of student learning from outreach to research supervision with candidates demonstrating impact at all levels of the University."



Clive Agnew (far right) and Louise Walmsley (second left) with winners (left to right) Patrick Gaydecki, Rosmary Villegas, Ann Wakefield, Anil Day, Veronique Pin-Fat, Anna Goatman and Philip Keeley.

A taste of the business world

Psychological Sciences students who are looking for commercial careers took part in a special event to help them prepare them for the job market.

The Commercial Projects Programme for third year students in the School of Psychological Sciences saw students developing commercial ideas and presenting to a panel of experts from the business world.

Winners:

Ann Wakefield, School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work

Philip Keeley, School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work

Veronique Pin-Fat, School of Social Sciences

Patrick Gaydecki, School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Anil Day, Faculty of Life Sciences

Rosmary Villegas, School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science

Anna Goatman, Manchester Business School

Commendations:

Danielle Lyssimachou, Manchester Business School: Rebecca Bennett, School of Law

Christine Rogers, School of Psychological Sciences

Peter Martin, School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science

Joyce Tyldesley, Faculty of Life Sciences

Adam Ozanne, School of Social Sciences

Christopher Gibson, University Libraries

Jonathan Agger, School of Chemistry

Liza Alentaeva, School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures



Sixth formers enjoy a taste of university life.

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 Manchester Access Programme.

A recent report by the Sutton Trust showed that students from certain postcode areas, or whose families have lower incomes or no history of going to university, continue to be significantly under-represented at the UK's top universities.

Meanwhile, those from independent schools are nearly ten times more likely to progress on to leading universities than state school pupils who are entitled to free school meals.

Throughout Greater Manchester this latter category is significantly larger, suggesting that many students from less advantaged backgrounds could benefit from improved access to higher education.

Which is where programmes like the Manchester Access Programme (MAP) come into their own.

Through MAP, talented sixth-formers from backgrounds under-represented in higher education have the chance to visit the University and find out what studying at a top university looks and feels like.

MAP graduate Ashley Wallis, now a computer science student, said: "The things I enjoyed most were meeting like-minded people who also wanted to go to university, and getting an insight into university life.

"I wasn't sure whether I wanted to go to university but MAP made me realise what a great opportunity it was. I'm glad I came to Manchester as I've fitted in well and the course is even better than I expected; when I graduate I'm planning to develop computer hardware."

The University's Head of Undergraduate Recruitment and Widening Participation Julian Skyrme and his

team instigated the Manchester Access Programme (MAP) in 2005.

"Our aim was to give those facing the biggest barriers the sort of support and opportunities students from more privileged backgrounds simply take for granted," Julian says.

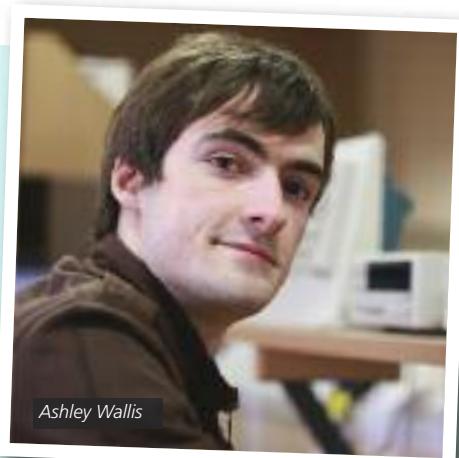
"At Manchester, we are committed to identifying and supporting talented people from our local communities who we know will succeed here, despite their educational and social background."

With its first intake in 2007, MAP now offers around 450 places a year to talented lower-sixth form students from less advantaged parts of Greater Manchester, who attend a state institution and whose parents didn't go to university.

Those taking part in MAP come onto campus once a month between February and October, taking part in a range of activities, from one-to-one guidance on their university application, to a three-day residential University Life Conference where they get to stay overnight on campus.

The programme also includes skills workshops with current students, subject masterclasses and a 1,500-word assessed assignment, undertaken independently under the guidance of a University academic.

Students come away with a portfolio of work, demonstrating their skills and knowledge, which the University uses when considering their applications for its undergraduate courses. Those deciding to apply to a different university receive letters of recommendation.



Ashley Wallis

By October 2011 over 1,000 local students had completed the Manchester Access Programme, with more than 50% going on to attend Manchester, and others progressing to institutions including Cambridge and Imperial College London.

MAP students now make up around 5% of our law and dentistry entrants, 7% of pharmacists and 8.5% of medics.

Such has been MAP's success, that the programme will be expanded by 50% by 2014.

Julian adds: "I'm proud that the scheme is clearly helping to level the playing field in who gets access to Manchester and that we are developing some of the leaders of tomorrow from within our local communities."

For more information visit:
www.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/map

What's On



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 5 May	North Wales visiting the Ffestiniog Railway and Portmeirion Village
Sun 6 May	Liverpool and Speke Hall's Tudor May Day Festival
Sat 12 May	Hadrian's Wall (with full day guided tour)
Sun 13 May	North Wales visiting Conwy Castle and Caernarfon Castle
Sat 19 May	North Wales visiting Anglesey (with full day guided tour)
Sun 20 May	Chester Zoo
Sat 26 May	Oxford (with guided tour)
Sun 27 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)
Sat 2 June	Alton Towers
Sun 3 June	Warwick Castle
Sat 9 June	Lake District (Windermere and Holker Hall's Garden Festival)
Sun 10 June	Peak District (Chatsworth House and its Summer Food Fair)

Opening hours

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

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

Centre for New Writing

Tues 8 May, 6.30pm, £10/£5

Colm Tóibín with Paul Durcan

Colm Tóibín and Paul Durcan will read from new work at Professor Tóibín's final Manchester event. Please note that this event takes place at the Anthony Burgess Foundation (see www.anthonyburgess.org)

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/martinhsrcentre

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

Sat 12 May

Badges Day

Brownies, Cubs and Scouts Badge day. For details about the day please visit our website. If you would like to book your group onto a badge day or discuss details further please call us on 01477 571 766.

Fri 18 May

Fascination of Plants day

Details coming to our website soon.

Thurs 31 May

Private Event

On 31 May part of the Discovery Centre will be closed to the public for a private event. You are still free to visit that day, but must book tickets in advance. Please call 01477 571 766 to book your admission tickets.

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

Mon 7 May **Howler, £9.50 Adv**

Tues 8 May **Friends, £9 Adv**

Tues 8 May **Reverend and The Makers, SOLD OUT**

Sat 12 May **The Cribs, SOLD OUT**

Tues 15 May **Delain We Are The Others Tour 2012 + Trillium, £13 Adv**

Sat 19 May **Newton Faulkner, £16 Adv**

Sat 19 May **Amon Tobin Isam, Live (Audio/Visual show), £25 Adv**

Weds 23 May **The Enemy, £15 Adv**

Fri 25 May **The Farm, £16 Adv**

Sat 26 May **The Smiths LTD, £10 Adv**

Sat 26 May **Glenn Hughes + Fish, £20 Adv**

Fri 1 June **Limehouse Lizzy, £12.50 Adv**

Sat 2 June **The Cureheads (The Cure Tribute), £10 Adv**

Sat 9 June **The March Violets, £15 Adv**

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

Music and Drama at Manchester

Thurs 3 May, 1.10pm

Walter Carroll Lunchtime Concert Series - Café Mozart presents: Haydn à l'anglaisee

Tues 8 May, 6.30pm

Colm Tóibín with Paul Durcan

Thurs 10 May, 1.10pm

Walter Carroll Lunchtime Series - Quatuor Danel Lunchtime Concert

Thurs 10 May, 2.30pm

Quatuor Danel Seminar: 'Inevitable Rifts'

Fri 11 May, 7.30pm

Quatuor Danel Evening Concert

Wed 23 and Thurs 24 May, 8pm

Edinburgh Previews: Ian Stirling and Hanks & Conran (Pigs in Blankets)

Wed 6 June, tbc

MUMS: FESTIVAL 2012

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/martinhsrcentre

Chaplains

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

Jamaat (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

Jamaat (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.samii9@yahoo.co.uk, assia_shah61@yahoo.co.uk



The Whitworth Art Gallery

EXHIBITIONS

Cotton: Global Threads until 13 May

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

Idris Khan: The Devil's Wall until 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.

Victor Pasmore: Transformations until 13 May

After building a solid reputation as a figurative painter in the 1930s, from 1948 Victor Pasmore shocked the art establishment in the UK by becoming one of the leading British artists working with abstraction.

ADULT EVENTS

Every Thurs, 8.30 – 9.45am, Free

Yoga

A fantastic way to start your day. Please bring your own yoga mat.

Sat 12 May, 1-4pm, Free event

Crafternoon Tea

Join us as Manchester Craft and Design Centre take over our popular Crafternoon Tea workshop.

FAMILY EVENTS

Mondays, 10.30 – 11.30am or 11.30am – 12.30pm, Free (booking essential)

Toddlerastic

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

Every Sun, 1.30 – 3.30pm, Free

Colourful Sundays

Drop-in creative workshops.

Opening hours

Mon-Sat 10am – 5pm, Sun 12 – 4pm
FREE Admission. Booking line 0161 275 7450

The 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 Sept 2012

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.

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.

Alan Turing and Life's Enigma, until 18 Nov 2012

Inspired by 1950s design and combining Alan Turing's notes with museum objects, this exhibition documents Turing's investigation into one of the great mysteries of nature: how complex shapes and patterns arise from simple balls of cells.

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

Sun 13 May, 11am-12pm

Cairo Chaos

With the esteemed poet Toot and Carboot and the terrifyingly talented magician, Watt the Heka. Open to mummies, daddies and young pharaohs. Part of Adult Learners Week.

Sat 19 May, 11am-4pm

Big Saturday: Patterns in Nature

Uncover the mystery behind the patterns found in nature and celebrate the first international Fascination of Plants Day with the help of scientists, hands-on plant research, craft activities and Museum objects.

Fri 25 May, 11am-12pm

Magic Carpet: Nature

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

Sat 2 June, 11am-4pm

Big Saturday: Manchester Anansi Spider

See the Anansi Spider story brought to life in a performance by the Men's Room Community Group and Royal Exchange Theatre. You can also see objects from the Museum's West African collections and make your own Anansi Spider to take home.

Mon 4 - Fri 8 June, 11am-4pm

June half-term: Living Worlds and Manchester Anansi Spider

Make sock pets and Anansi Spiders, inspired by our We Face Forward: Anansi Stories display and Living Worlds gallery. With Anansi Spider storytelling and activities Tuesday-Thursday

Opening hours

Open: Tues-Sat 10am-5pm
Sun-Mon (and Bank Holidays) 11am-4pm
FREE entry
The Manchester Museum,
Oxford Road, Manchester
0161 275 2648
www.manchester.ac.uk/museum
Follow us on Twitter @McrMuseum
www.facebook.com/ManchesterMuseum

John Rylands Library (Deansgate)

EXHIBITIONS

St Bartholomew's Day 1662: The Triumph of Bigotry and the Birth of Toleration until 1 July

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

Exploring Edo until 3 June

Edo is the ancient name for Tokyo. This small display offers a glimpse of rarely seen items, and is timed to coincide with the events and activities taking place during our Japanese month.

Binding Glory until 2 June

Celebrating the diversity of the Library's rich collections of historic and contemporary bindings. There are bindings on display dating from the 14th to the 21st century, and highlights include a binding made for Henry VIII and a William Morris Kelmscott Press binding.

EVENTS

Sun 6 May, 2pm - 4pm

Hauru No Ugoku Shiro - Howl's Moving Castle

Enjoy Hayao Miyazaki's animated fantasy *Howl's Moving Castle* with the original Japanese language soundtrack!

Wed 9 and Sat 12 May, 12noon - 1pm

Exploring Edo - Curator Tour and Collection Encounter

Discuss the themes of the display and take the rare opportunity to see exquisite items from our Japanese collections.

Thurs 10 May, 6pm - 7pm

Japan Through the Rylands' Collections

Mara Patessio's talk will get us closer to Japan by discussing items from the Library's Japanese collections.

Fri 11 May, 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Explorer Tour: A Peak Behind the Scenes!

Ever wondered where some of the Library doors and staircases lead to? Then this is the tour for you!

Sat 12 May, 11am - 12noon

Enchanting Tales

Join the Library's storyteller in one of our beautiful book-lined rooms, for tales of magic, mystery and mayhem!

Sat 12 May, 1pm - 2pm

Here be Dragons!

The walls and ceiling of the Library are full of strange and mysterious creatures - join our tour to seek them out!

Thurs 17 May, 3pm - 6.30pm

Glimpses of Nihon-koku

Explore the ancient art of Japanese calligraphy, take part in language taster sessions and more.

Thurs 17 May, 12noon - 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.

Fri 18 May, 5pm and Sat 19 May, 9am

Night Falls - A Dr Who Adventure Family Sleepover

Dare you stay in the Library overnight? Join us for our first ever sleepover, and take part in a Dr Who adventure night. Watch two fantastic Doctor Who episodes - *Silence in the Library* and *Forest of the Dead*

Wed 23 May, 1pm - 3pm

Whimsical Wednesday Workshop: Metalpoint Drawing

This session offers the opportunity to dip your toes into a creative activity, in a comfortable and supportive workshop.

Sun 27 May, 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Unusual Views: Library Tour for Photographers

An opportunity to photograph the Library building from spectacular viewpoints not normally open to the public! For further details of our events, please our website.

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.library.manchester.ac.uk/deansgate/events

The University of Manchester
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and Venues

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BACK BY
POPULAR DEMAND!

Training and Information Day for University Event Organisers

Wednesday 20th June 2012

9.15am – 3.00pm

The Conference Sales and Events team are running a training session for anyone who books meetings, conferences, events or accommodation on behalf of the University.

You will have the opportunity to see the University's principal venues and understand fully the services the University offers to support meetings and events with the chance to meet the teams involved and ask any questions.

**KEEP IT ON
CAMPUS!**




Hulme Hall, Victoria Park Campus



Chancellors Hotel and Conference Centre



Whitworth Building, Oxford Road Campus

The itinerary for the day	
Time	Programme
9.15am	Arrival tea/coffee with continental breakfast, welcome presentation and tour of Sackville Street campus venues
10.45am	Coach pick up to Oxford Road campus for tour of key venues
11.45am	Depart for Chancellors Hotel and Conference Centre for tour and lunch
1.30pm	Optional visit to the 'Taste Manchester' Central Processing Unit or The Armitage Centre
2.00pm	Depart for Victoria Park campus for tour and presentation from the conference sales and events team
2.55pm	Coach departure back to Oxford Road and Sackville Street campuses



Staff House Conference Centre, Sackville Street Campus

Book now to secure your place for this important training session at
www.manchester.ac.uk/kioc

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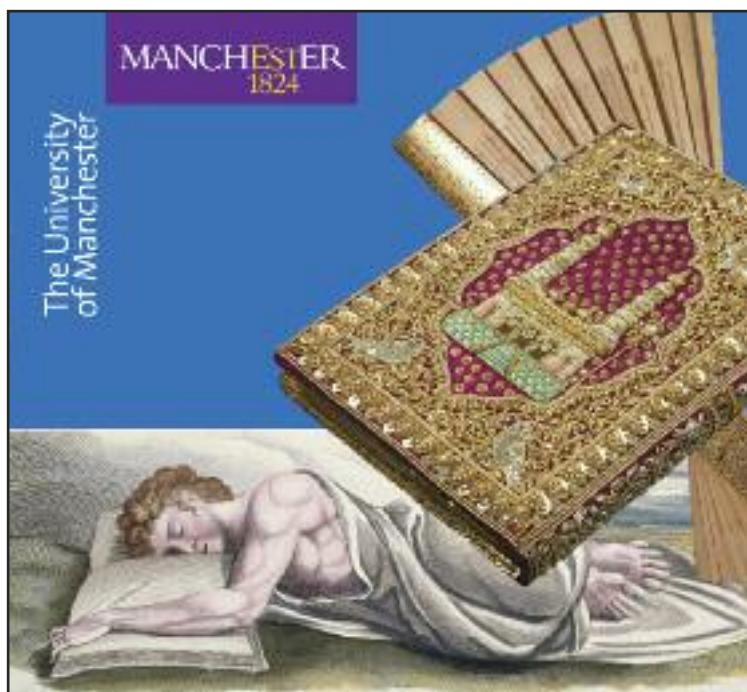
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Discover the Whitworth



We Face Forward

*The Hell of Copper 2008, Nyaba Leon Ouedraogo
Photograph courtesy of the artist*

A season of contemporary art and music from West Africa is being celebrated across Manchester's galleries, museums, music venues and public spaces this summer.

'We Face Forward: Art from West Africa' is part of the London 2012 Festival – the finale to the Cultural Olympiad.

The events will feature paintings, photography, textiles, sculpture, video and sound work, from a wide range of internationally acclaimed artists.

The music programme is being curated by Band on the Wall and The

Manchester Museum, and exhibitions and events will take place at The Manchester Museum and the National Football Museum.

A West African bus will tour creative workshops to communities around Greater Manchester.

'We Face Forward' takes place between 2 June and 16 September and is the first major collaboration between Manchester Art Gallery, The Whitworth Art Gallery and The Gallery of Costume at Platt Hall.

www.wefaceforward.org

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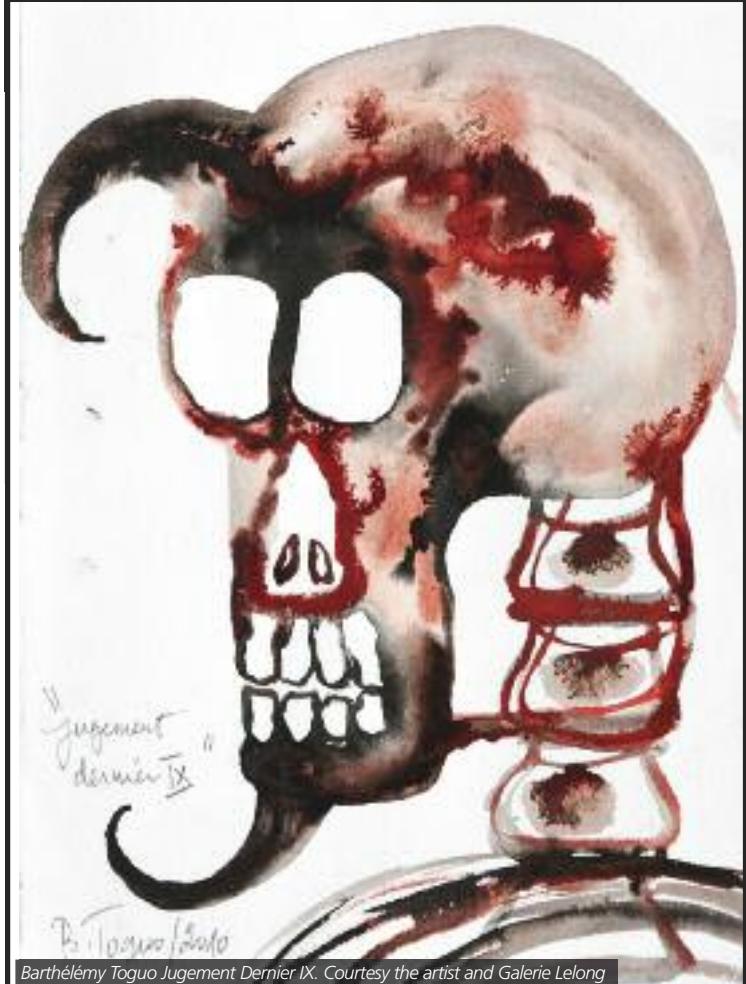
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Barthélémy Toguo Jugement Dernier IX. Courtesy the artist and Galerie Lelong

News Contact

News and story ideas
Internal Communications Office
tel 0161 275 2112
email uninews@manchester.ac.uk
online www.manchester.ac.uk/staffnet/news
Deadline 16 May 2012

Events Contact

Events and listings information
Philippa Adshead
tel 0161 275 2922
email unievents@manchester.ac.uk
Deadline 16 May 2012

Adverts Contact

Ads
Ruth Middleton
tel 0161 275 2922
email uniads@manchester.ac.uk
Deadline 16 May 2012

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