

staffupdate

Exclusively for staff at The University of Manchester

WORKPLACE PENSIONS SET TO LAUNCH

We all know that we need to plan and save for our retirement. However, millions of people in the UK may not be saving enough for their retirement.

From 1 October 2012, the Government is making it easier for people to build up a pension pot. A new law will require all employers to begin automatic enrolment of eligible workers into a workplace pension scheme if they are not already in one.

Every member of staff will be contacted by the Directorate of Human Resources in early 2013 with further details. If you are already a member of a pension scheme (USS, UMSS, GMPF or NHS), you won't be affected by this change - **so you won't need to do anything.**

If the University enrolls you automatically in a pension scheme in response to the new law, both you and the University will pay into your pension - and the Government will help too, by giving you tax relief on your contribution.

To find out more about what enrolment into a workplace pension means for you, and the benefits of staying enrolled, visit:

- www.direct.gov.uk/workplacepension



REF PREPARATION

The submission deadline for the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014 will be in November 2013 and we will soon be entering our final year of preparations.

Staff eligible for the REF can complete the second REF Preparation Exercise on the MyManchester portal at: www.my.manchester.ac.uk under the Teaching and Research tab. The closing date is 15 October 2012.

Further information about our REF preparations is available from the University's website at www.rbess.manchester.ac.uk/ref

This includes the University's Code of Practice for the REF, including the policy for selecting staff for inclusion.

If you have any queries, or would like to receive information in an alternative format, please contact ref14@manchester.ac.uk

GOLD-PLATED PRIDE!

The University entry dedicated to Alan Turing won 'Best Public Sector Entry' in this year's Manchester Pride Parade.

More than 100 staff, students and friends took part in the festival which celebrates the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. They were presented with a magnificent plate, now on show at the Equality and Diversity Office.

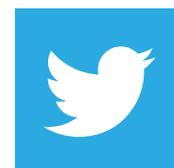
Organiser Paul Marks-Jones said: "Our turnout showed how the University is an inclusive place to work, study and visit. For our entry to win, beating the likes of the NHS, Salford Council and the Police, was an amazing bonus. And of course, we had a great time!"

And plans are already underway for our 2013 participation - email lg.bt@manchester.ac.uk to take part.

The LGBT group was relaunched in February 2010 and runs a confidential mailing list as well as organising different events and being consulted on policy development and review.



KEEP IN TOUCH WITH TWITTER



Staff can now keep in touch with what's going on around campus via Twitter.

The latest news, announcements, updates and events are now available – just follow us at [@UoMStaffNet](https://twitter.com/UoMStaffNet)

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Each month in Staff Update we publish a summary of the President's weekly message, for staff that don't have access to email or the internet at work.

9 August

The President welcomed BP funding of \$100 million (about £60 million) for a Centre for Advanced Materials, to be led by Manchester; as well as nearly £5 million from the Medical Research Council for a Centre for "electronic-Health", led by Professor Iain Buchan. She also mentioned £500,000 from a joint MRC/Technology Strategy Board initiative to help us progress promising discoveries towards clinical testing. She also bade a fond farewell to Sir Bernard Lovell, the remarkable man whose construction of the iconic telescope at Jodrell Bank made it a leading centre for astronomy research and inspired countless children and adults.

6 September

The President noted that we had fallen two places in the Shanghai Jiao Tong league table. She enjoyed a tour of the refurbished Students' Union, and had meetings with Lord Peter Smith, Leader of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, and Dr Paul Golby, Chair of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).



13 September

The President dusted off her Ask Me badge in preparation for Welcome Week, with international students already arriving - and even asking her pose for photos with them! They weren't the only photos she posed for - she is about to appear in Science Grrl, a calendar to fund projects to encourage girls and women to develop a science career.

She also enjoyed a tour of the Alan Gilbert Learning Commons and reminded staff that the research councils and other funders will soon be requiring us to make our research publications freely available through open access without readers having to pay a subscription to a journal, a principle the University supports.



OBITUARY

Professor Christopher S Potten (1940-2012)

Professor Chris Potten - the Paterson Institute for Cancer Research's first PhD student and a pioneer researcher into the disease - passed away on 3 August, following a battle with pancreatic cancer.

During his career - which included leading a Paterson Institute research team in Epithelial Cell Biology for 29 years; advising the European Space Agency; and working as a visiting Professor to several universities - he supervised 18 PhD students and ten MD students and published 400 papers and 11 books. He was also awarded a Life Fellowship from the Cancer Research UK, the International Marie Curie medal and Weiss medal.

Chris retired from the Paterson Institute in 2000, when he co-founded Epistem Ltd, which started with just five people but now employs 60.

He is survived by his wife, three sons and two step-daughters and will be sadly missed by them, former colleagues and students, and his many collaborators worldwide.

MAGNIFICENT SEVEN TAKE TO THE BEAT

Seven new security officers have joined the University's security team.

After a four-day induction, they are now out and about around campus.

One of the new recruits Chris High said: "The campus and the surrounding areas are huge! There are a lot of streets, buildings and areas to get to know - and remembering the names of my 80 or so immediate work colleagues is a task in itself.

"But everyone has made me feel very welcome and I am looking forward to the challenges of the new student year."

The seven are: Andrew Carr, Christian Rainford, Nancy Barnes, Mandla Nxumalo, Chris High, Phillip Kay and Les Edwards.



DOWN WITH CYCLE CRIME

Crime affecting University cyclists has decreased, with recorded thefts of bikes down by a third on the academic year 2010-2011.

This is due to the introduction of the overt marking scheme, which allows security officers to check bikes on campus, with the additional serial number also registered with Immobilise, which the Police use to check bikes that come into their possession.

It's also thanks to students and staff who have contacted security having witnessed someone acting suspiciously on campus and cyclists who have upgraded locks thereby making their bikes harder to steal.

During the forthcoming academic year the Crime Reduction team will be touring the bike racks on

campus to encourage people using poor quality cable locks to purchase the discounted 'D' locks. There will also be a promotional campaign to publicise the offer throughout campus.

The next round of FREE cycle registration dates can be found on the University's crime reduction website in the events section - www.estates.manchester.ac.uk/CrimeReduction/events/events.asp

HEY GOOD LOOKING, WHAT YOU GOT COOKING?

Christie's Bistro is now fully reopen after extensive refurbishment to its restaurant and main counter area. And there are new menus to go with the new look!

Visit its Facebook and Twitter pages at:



www.facebook.com/ChristiesBistro



www.twitter.com/ChristiesBistro

FREE LEGAL ADVICE

The School of Law Legal Advice Centre (LAC) has reopened and is currently booking autumn appointments.

Students from the School of Law give advice on a wide range of legal problems, under the supervision of qualified law staff and local practitioners. The aim is to offer a reliable service and also provide practical experience to the School's students.

All legal advice is given in the strictest confidence, in accordance with the Law Society

Code of Conduct, and complies with the professional standards applicable to any lawyer's practice.

Appointments, available to staff and their local friends and relatives, will run until Friday November 30.

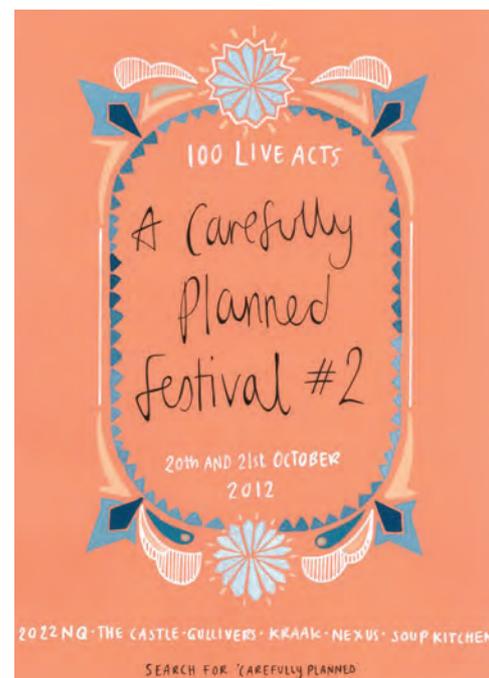
Contact free.legal@manchester.ac.uk, 0161 306 1264 or 0161 275 7976, or visit in person at the University Shopping Precinct, 10am - 4.30pm, Monday - Friday.

MUGSS HITS A HIGH NOTE

The Manchester Universities Gilbert and Sullivan Society (MUGSS) set the stage alight at the Buxton Festival Awards, winning three of the four youth categories.

Joel Fisher won best male voice, Rebecca Barry won best female voice and Ailsa Mainwaring won best female character, while Lisa Newall Smith and Seamus Begg were also named in the nominations.

MUGSS Musical Director James Hendry said: "They were all brilliant and I am so proud! I want to thank everyone who took part in the Festival, it was a truly great award winning performance. This is a brilliant society at the top of its game."



MAKING SWEET MUSIC

For University technician Adam Thomson, helping to organise a music festival in the Northern Quarter is a labour of love.

It's a good job - he and the team only made a profit of £4 at their debut, A Carefully Planned Festival, last year.

"We weren't trying to make any money - just bring together people who appreciate live music like we do and give bands a decent audience to play for in a nice venue - so we were really happy with £4," Adam laughs.

"I really enjoyed it and was pleased to have a bigger role, booking venues and coordinating all the bands this year."

This year's Carefully Planned Festival is twice as big with six venues and 105 bands.

Tickets for the event, on October 20-21, are £12.50 for the weekend or £7 per day.

See <http://acarefullyplannedfestival.wordpress.com/>

SIGN UP TO BE A SPORTS VOLUNTEER

A nation has been inspired by London 2012 and now we need your help to continue the Olympic legacy in Manchester. Local community clubs have experienced a massive influx of enquiries over the past few weeks as young people aspire to follow in the footsteps of their gold medal heroes.

If you coach a local sports team, help out at a local sports club or want to hear about volunteering opportunities in the city, then sign up to the Sports Volunteer Scheme. Active volunteers could receive funding towards coaching qualifications, kit and contributions towards equipment.

To register visit:
www.sport.manchester.ac.uk/sport-volunteer-scheme



SOCIAL WHIRL

As the nights draw in, check out the bright lights with the University of Manchester Staff Association (UMSA). Its organised events include:

Grease, at The Palace Theatre, Manchester, on Thursday 11 October, 7.30pm, tickets £17 each.

Disney On Ice presents Passport to Adventure, The Manchester Arena, Saturday 20 October, 2.45pm, tickets £15 each.

Peter Pan, The Opera House, Manchester, on Sunday 16 December 2012, 5pm, tickets £17 each.

► Complete the [UMSA online booking form](#) or contact lynn.howarth@manchester.ac.uk for further details.

ROSIE JONES

Alan Gilbert Learning Commons
Development Manager
The University of Manchester Library

Since joining the University just over a year ago, Rosie has had to hit the ground running as Development Manager for the new Alan Gilbert Learning Commons. Situated in front of the Main Library and just next door to the Students Union, this flagship building will have over 1,000 study spaces, offering a unique learning environment for our students. The project has been a collaboration between the Library and a number of University departments including the Directorates of Estates and Facilities, Teaching and Learning and IT Services, in consultation with representatives from the Students Union.

Rosie has been working on all aspects of the building's development, ranging from furniture selection, and the installation of digital screens, to arranging IT support and drafting building policies. Rosie says: "The last year has been incredibly exciting – I've learnt so much in so many different areas. It took some time for me to get to know the exact people around the University to liaise with, but I've loved every minute."

Rosie has been keen to ensure that students have been involved at all levels – and working groups have given invaluable feedback. She says: "I was impressed at just how much students wanted to be involved in the project, and this is something that will continue as use of the building continues to evolve. They've all been really enthusiastic – in fact, one student told me she's thinking of applying to do a PhD here so she can see how things progress!"



The building has been designed to harness the latest technology developments. Rosie says: "We want the learning spaces to be as clutter-free as possible – so students can connect appliances on desks, which means a lot less wiring on display. Soon there will be wireless internet access which will stretch from the Learning Commons as far as the Library entrance. We have the ability to 'power down' floors that are not being used, which is more energy efficient."

There are also some features which immediately mark the Learning Commons as distinctively Manchester – including quotes from Manchester luminaries etched into wooden panels. "Although a couple of other UK universities, and a number of North American, Australian and New Zealand universities have

learning commons buildings, ours is the only one currently that doesn't contain books," Rosie adds.

Rosie is now looking forward to the day-to-day management of the building – and the transition to offering a complete service to students. "I can't wait now to see students using the building, and I see it as a two-way learning process where we get to know what's working well, improving where necessary, and sharing this knowledge. We want to keep it new and fresh and we'll only be able to do this by listening to our students and understanding their needs and concerns."

You can follow the latest Learning Commons developments on the Library's Twitter feed, **@UoMLibrary** or www.library.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/projects/aglc



CONTACT US

If you have any news or story ideas, you can contact us via: uninews@manchester.ac.uk or 275 2112.

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