

unilife

The free magazine for The University of Manchester

Welcome to the Alan Gilbert Learning Commons



Students are at the very heart of our University. Our commitment to them is outlined here by the President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell and Professor Clive Agnew, Vice-President for Teaching, Learning and Students.

The definition of a university is 'a high level educational institution in which students study for a degree and academic research is done', according to the Oxford English Dictionary. Or 'an institution of higher education and research', if you prefer Wikipedia.

We could, of course, add that we also value social responsibility. But without our students we would not be a university. Indeed, students shape our character and influence our vibrancy and level of enquiry. They make The University of Manchester what it is.

Along with the whole English higher education sector, we are facing challenging times. We have a new and very different fee regime for home undergraduates; though contrary to popular belief not 'new money' to accompany it. The additional fees our students will be paying will barely cover the reduction in Government funding, most notably in the sciences. And even that assumes that student numbers will stay at about the same.

To meet our commitment to attract the best students irrespective of social background, we have introduced a generous bursary scheme and extended our outreach activities for students locally, both of which have major financial implications. It's pleasing to note that we are currently meeting, and often exceeding, our range of targets for students joining us from communities and families with no

tradition or experience of higher education, and those from lower socio-economic groups.

In addition to the new fee regime, further complexity has been added this year because the Government's previously imposed cap on all home and EU student numbers has been removed for any student who achieves A level grades of AAB or above.

Then, as we learnt when the results came out in August, the numbers of students attaining the top A level grades dropped for the first time in 20 years, so more students than usual failed to attain their predicted grades - yet it is these predicted grades on which universities make offers.

These complexities have put a great deal of pressure on our staff who have been dealing with admissions over the summer, and we are proud to say that they have risen to these challenges and have done a fantastic job.

Overall this year, we are likely to be close to our target on the combined home and overseas students, but the distribution of these students across academic disciplines has not been uniform. There was a national reduction in applications to Humanities subjects, which is of concern to us given the importance we place on these disciplines and on



our commitment to supporting a wide range of academic subjects. Even before numbers are finalised, we are initiating reviews of student demand and recruitment across the whole University.

It would be relatively easy to maintain student numbers by reducing entry requirements, since we receive many more applications than places (over 50,000 applications this year for around 8,000 places).

But we are committed to high standards and once our students join our University, we want them to complete their studies and have a great experience here.

It's likely that student expectations will be higher going forward, given the greater financial investment they are making, and they will consider their choice of degree and university ever more carefully.

Last week the first 'Key Information Sets' (known as KIS data) were published for all English

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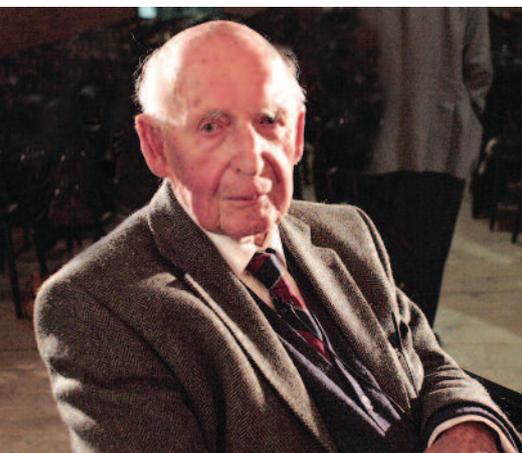
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At the Alan Gilbert Learning Commons

universities and included scores from the National Student Survey (NSS), outlining student satisfaction, information on contact time and assessment methods, along with data on student employment and salaries six months after graduation. Prospective students will be able to make direct comparisons between our programmes and those at other universities using an 'online KIS-widget'.

NSS is an important factor in student choices and our performance affects our position in the numerous UK newspaper university league tables. The University of Manchester has not done as well as comparable universities in the NSS for the past few years; last year the average overall satisfaction of our final year students was 79%.

Due to huge efforts by staff across the University, the score this year is much improved at 83%, which is a significant increase for a university of our size.

All areas of learning and student experience showed increases with the highest levels of satisfaction in learning resources (library and IT) and teaching. Many subject areas showed marked improvements - the School of Law improved by 17% points; while 14 degree programmes gained 100% levels of satisfaction.

We must now build on this success to achieve further improvements in student satisfaction, particularly in areas where satisfaction is lower and noting the importance students have attached to academic support and personalised learning.

We have already begun making major investments in recruiting more academic staff, improving facilities and enhancing communication. This is underpinned by a closer working partnership with students exemplified by our new University Student Charter.

As we write, plans are being finalised for the opening of the spectacular Alan Gilbert Learning Commons on Oxford Road, providing 1,000 study places for students 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Further major investments will be made this year and in the future in large teaching spaces, cross campus wifi, social spaces for students, more academic staff and employability projects including opportunities for international internships.

Despite the challenging external environment, our focus will continue to be on doing the very best for our students.

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

**Professor Clive Agnew,
Vice-President for Teaching, Learning and Students**



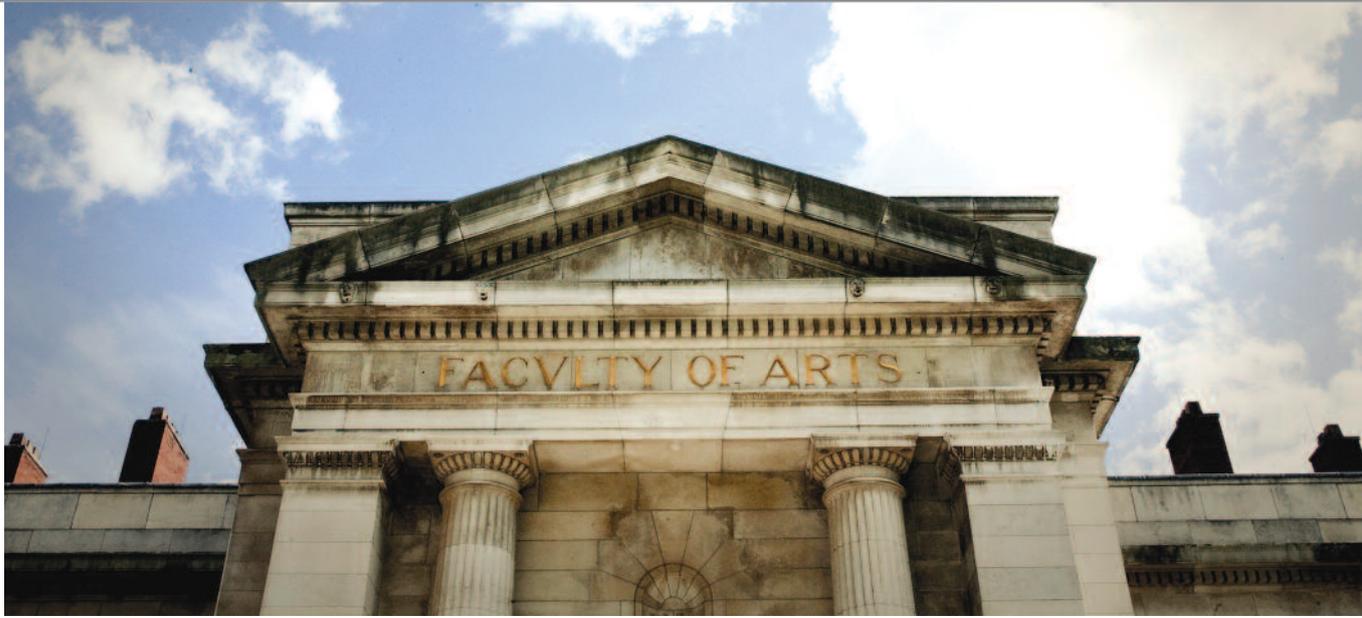
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New era for Manchester arts

Heading for the stars

The Jodrell Bank Centre for Astrophysics is collaborating with the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on two major radio astronomy projects – with more in the pipeline.

Jodrell Bank has a long-standing link to KACST, an independent scientific organization reporting to the King of Saudi Arabia and the Saudi Arabian national science agency and its national laboratories – and a number of PhD astronomy students from Saudi Arabia have studied at the University.

The two projects, originated by Manchester's Dr Clive Dickinson and Dr Yaser Hafez, and Dr Hamoud Alharbi at KACST, are the design, construction and implementation of a small radio dish in Saudi Arabia and the construction of an ultra-sensitive broadband polarization receiver on a radio telescope in South Africa, part of a larger project to detect gravitational waves from the early universe.

For more information see:
www.astro.caltech.edu/cbass/ and
www.kacst.edu.sa www.jb.man.ac.uk

The University has opened its new School of Arts, Languages and Cultures. Home to more than 350 staff and 6,500 students, it is one of the largest groupings of students, teachers and researchers in the arts and languages anywhere in the world.

The School was created from the merger of two former Schools: Languages, Linguistics and Cultures, and Arts, Histories and Cultures.

Head of School Professor Jeremy Gregory said: "The creation of the School is a tremendously exciting development for the place of the Arts within the University. I look forward to working with my colleagues in building on our already excellent reputation for teaching and research to make this one of the leading centres for the study of Arts and Languages in the world."

An eight-week programme of events has been put together to celebrate, reflecting the breadth and diversity of work across the School.

Many events are free and include everything from Language Taster Sessions to geotagging the 'Arts Quarter'. In addition, Clare Short delivered the Inaugural Humanitarian and Conflict Institute (HCRI) Annual Public Lecture, and the Centre for New Writing's new Professor of Creative Writing, Jeanette Winterson, will be joined in conversation by acclaimed American author AM Homes, later in October.

For details on all launch events visit: www.manchester.ac.uk/alc/launch



Assistant Curator of Fine Art Helen Stalker gives access to the Whitworth's collection for groups, which will include students at the new School.



Finishing touches are made to the Learning Commons

Tribute to visionary President as Learning Commons opens

Our world class 21st century study space named after the University's inaugural President and Vice-Chancellor, opens today (1 October).

The Alan Gilbert Learning Commons is designed to give students a focal point for learning, offering a stimulating and comfortable 24/7 environment for study.

Professor Gilbert, who led the 2007 Review of Undergraduate Education that recommended a learning commons be built, died just after his retirement in 2010.

He believed that "a university is a scholarly community. It exists to foster the disciplined pursuit of truth, whether by students seeking to master existing bodies of knowledge, or, in the case of a research university, by researchers driven to extend the frontiers of human understanding."

The Learning Commons is a tribute to that vision.

The building's construction from conception to design to construction was led by the Directorate of Estates and Facilities, and the building now boasts more than 1,000 flexible study spaces and an inspiring range of equipment and furnishings for individual and group study.

There's also 400 PCs, laptop charging lockers, 30 bookable group study rooms, Skype area and media

screens for presentation and group work. The wifi available throughout the building extends to the space outside.

It is also a building that is 'distinctly Manchester', showcasing the achievements and rich heritage of the University within its fabric. There are floor tiles engraved with the names of distinguished alumni, laser-etched solid-oak panelled walls bearing quotations from Manchester's and the University's great and good, chairs showing the names and achievements of our 25 Nobel Prize winners, and artwork on the walls and glazing of the group learning rooms that was selected from a competition open to all students. This was conceptualised and designed by Steve McCabe, a designer at the Communications and Marketing Division.

Managed by the University Library, a dedicated team of staff will provide guidance and support. The café just inside the main entrance is open to the public while the rest of the building is restricted to University students and staff only.

Jan Wilkinson, University Librarian, said: "The opening of the Learning Commons is a fantastic example of what can be achieved through collaborative work within the University. The facilities that have been created for our students are undoubtedly amongst the best in the UK and Alan Gilbert would be delighted to see his original vision fulfilled."

Awards and successes

Here's a quick round up of some of our successes over the summer.

The University has been nominated for two Times Higher Education awards, one for Outstanding ICT Initiative of the Year and one for Business School of the Year. The winners will be announced on 29 November. For full details visit www.the-awards.co.uk

Professor David Vaughan of the School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences has been elected as President of the Mineralogical Society of America, the largest such society worldwide and one with an international membership and profile.

Dr Holly Shiels, from the Faculty of Life Sciences, has been awarded the Physiological Society's 2012 GSK Prize Lecture, while FLS undergraduate student **Adam Keen** won the Society's Rob Clarke Award for best undergraduate poster presentation and **Basma Eid** won the Vascular and Smooth Muscle Physiology Poster Award.

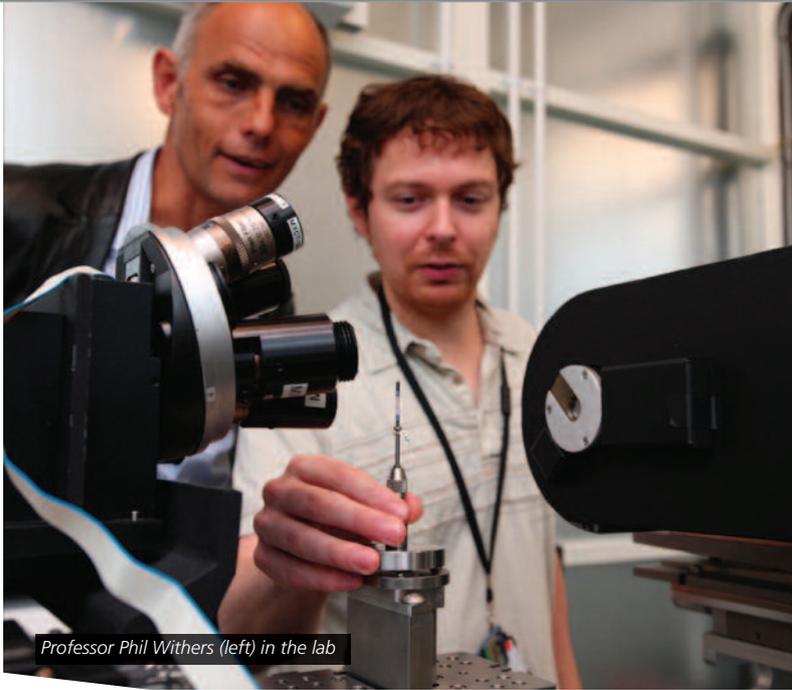
The University's SCARLET project is the joint runner up in the Association for Learning Technologists 'Learning Technology of the Year' award. SCARLET – Special Collections using Augmented Reality to Enhance Learning and Teaching – helps students working in the controlled conditions of library study rooms to access secondary, supporting materials and the growing mass of related digital assets.

The Michael Smith Building Green Team won the Gold 'Green Impact Award', while four labs in the building gained Green Impact Gold Awards and Arthur Nicholas, from the Faculty of Life Sciences Estates team, was given an Environmental Hero award for his sustainability work.

Peter Noyce, Professor of Pharmacy has won the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to the development of pharmacy policy and education.

Dr Richard Emsley, MRC Fellow and newly appointed Lecturer in Biostatistics in the Centre for Biostatistics, has been awarded an MRC Centenary Award, while **Dr Qing-Jun Meng**, from the Faculty of Life Sciences, has been awarded the MRC Centenary Early Career Award.

Dr Fred Cody, from the Faculty of Life Sciences, was named 'Best Teacher' at the Manchester Students Union Awards.

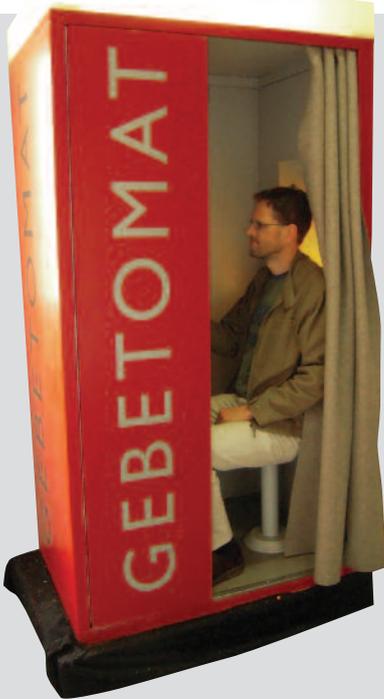


Professor Phil Withers (left) in the lab

BP invests in Advanced Materials

Our University has been chosen to lead a £64 million international research centre funded by energy giant BP.

The BP International Centre for Advanced Materials (BP-ICAM) will advance the fundamental understanding and use of materials across a variety of oil and gas industrial applications. Manchester will be its 'hub' while the University of Cambridge, Imperial College London, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will be the founding 'spokes'.



Pick your prayer

What is this person doing? He is praying (of course)!

The University is now home to the UK's first "PRAY-O-MAT," a specially converted photo booth created by German artist Oliver Sturm as part of a large, three-year research project on Multi-Faith Spaces.

The free to use machine, which featured on the BBC's Songs of Praise, offers more than 300 pre-recorded prayers and incantations in 65 different languages via a touch screen.

It is situated in the entrance to St Peter's House, Oxford Road, and anyone is welcome to have a try.

Teenagers tune in to Turing

High school students saw a new side to computer pioneer Alan Turing – and maths – at a workshop organised by the Manchester Museum and the School of Mathematics.

The year 10 and 11 students from St James Church of England School, Bolton, investigated Turing's little known research on morphogenesis and the maths behind how patterns and shapes are formed in the natural world, which he carried out whilst here in Manchester.

One youngsters enthused: "It was really interesting and I learned a lot about the work of Alan Turing and how important maths can be in biology."

The session was led by the School's early career researchers and used the Museum's 'Alan Turing and Life's Enigma' exhibition.

Organiser, Post 16 Science Coordinator Alexa Jeanes, explained: "PhD students deliver the majority of the programme so there are training and development opportunities for them while the pupils' contact with early career researchers gives them positive role models."



Schoolgirls examine a pine cone's pattern



The 'ask me' team at work

Behind the scenes at Welcome Week

Unilife wants to celebrate the hard work that goes into making our University tick. Here we take a look at how the Directorate of Student Experience took Welcome Week in its stride...

Welcome Week is the University's most important event of the year, helping eager students from all over the world to settle in to their new home.

In all truth, the Student Communications and Marketing Team's preparations for Welcome 2012 never actually began – they merely carried on from the previous year.

The task handed down was a simple one; to enrich the student experience by making new starters feel as welcome as possible, building upon the success of last year. No pressure, then.

The new Welcome Week website was a bold and ambitious project to provide a more fun and interactive online experiences. Thousands took part, browsing the Manchester Dictionary for enlightenment. Belting (Adj: very good).

'ask me' burgeoned into a large and complex operation, with banners, hoodies, t-shirts and giant lollipops to be produced. When a supplier suddenly confessed it couldn't supply thousands of 'ask me' badges after all, the heat was on. Phones were bashed and a crisis averted. But only just.

Then there was the President's welcome video to script and shoot. Wet weather on the day forced the President into the Library. "Can we just shoot



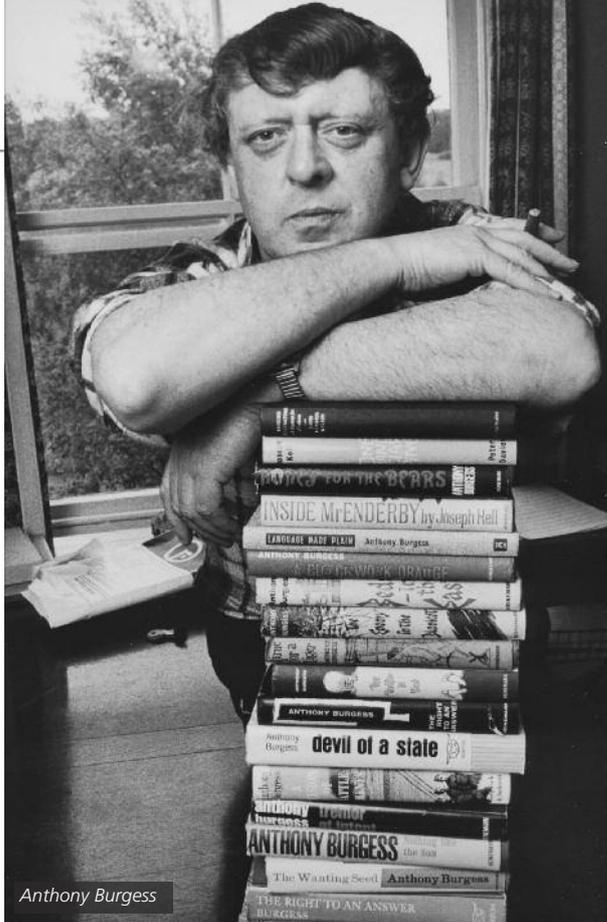
A student finds her way around campus

that again?" enquired the cameraman after a near perfect performance. A bold request, a moment of silence, followed by another near perfect performance.

As the start of term loomed, colourful banners sprouted from lamp posts along Oxford Road and Sackville Street, welcoming students to their new home – a perfect contrast to the famously grey skies of Manchester.

Then 'ask me' desks appeared, the Start of Year Fair tent arrived, thousands of excited, nervous, lost, happy, curious faces being helped, guided and assured, setting them up for a successful year ahead.

Next comes the evaluation; what did we do right, what could we do better? Perhaps a brief pause for reflection and, just maybe, a little celebration. And then things will carry on once more, towards September 2013.

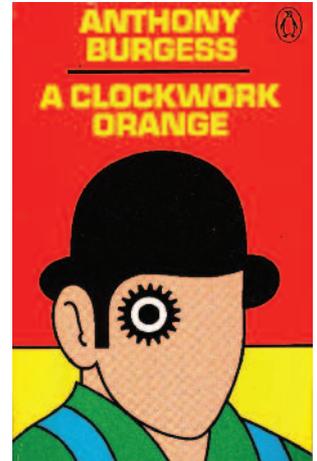


Anthony Burgess

Iconic novel clocks up half a century

The John Rylands Library is hosting an exhibition to mark the 50th anniversary of *A Clockwork Orange*, the controversial novel by Manchester-born writer and University alumnus Anthony Burgess.

The exhibition features rare and previously unseen books, photographs, manuscripts and film props, telling the story and examining the impact and legacy of the novel, which was an underground hit on publication in 1962 and went on to reach a global audience in Stanley Kubrick's 1971 film. The violence and sexuality in both the book and the film remains controversial and retains the power to shock.



Student site is million up

A personal finance website launched by two Manchester undergraduates has clocked up one million visits – making it one of Britain's most popular sources of impartial advice for students.

Owen Burek and Jake Butler, who have since graduated, launched savesthestudent.org in 2007 after thinking about ways to save cash during their first year of a geography degree. It was originally set up by Burek after he struggled to get to grips with his own finance and budgeting needs at University.

Five years later, the idea has mushroomed into a successful social enterprise with two full-time staff, and a 15-strong team of student and graduate contributors mainly from the University.



A dog's tale...

The colourful – and often controversial – history of dog shows and pedigree breeding is explored in a Manchester Museum exhibition curated by Professor Mick Worboys and Dr Neil Pemberton of the Faculty of Life Sciences and Dr Julie-Marie Strange of the Faculty of Humanities.

'Breed: The British and their Dogs' showcases the team's research, which shows how dog breeding reflects and shapes notions of national, regional, class and gender identity.

Dr Strange said: "We use the dogs to tell the story of Britain. The British are notoriously passionate about their dogs. We wanted to know when did that begin – when did we become a national of dog lovers?"

Dr Pemberton added: "We also look at other issues, such as how dogs are used by the police and why huge controversy met their first potential use, in the hunt for Jack the Ripper."

'Breed: The British and their Dogs' runs from 6 October 2012 to 14 April 2013.



Sir Bernard Lovell and his iconic telescope

Goodbye, Sir Bernard

The founder of the Jodrell Bank Observatory and creator of the iconic Lovell Telescope, Sir Bernard Lovell, passed away in August at the age of 98.

As a boy, Sir Bernard was more interested in cricket than his school work, but a visit to Bristol University sparked his passion for science and he went on to study physics there.

He first came to work at our University in 1936, but was called away to lead wartime work on airborne radar.

On his return to Manchester in 1945, he began to study cosmic rays using ex-military radar equipment which he set up in the University's botany grounds at Jodrell Bank, near Macclesfield.

At this new base in the Cheshire countryside, he helped to create a whole new branch of science - the study of the invisible Universe using radio waves.

But while the 76-metre radio telescope which bears his name is now an icon of science and engineering, when it was first conceived and built it was a controversial project. It ended up costing several times the original estimate due to various concerns, including its structural stability. Put simply, nothing like this had ever been built before.

All of this was forgotten when in 1957 the first act of the Mark I telescope, as it was then known, was to track the rocket that launched Sputnik I marking the dawn of the space age. It was the only

instrument in the world able to detect the early Soviet and American spacecraft and transmit instructions to them.

Renamed the Lovell Telescope to mark its 30th anniversary, today it remains at the forefront of research. It is central to the e-MERLIN array of seven radio telescopes across the UK, and later this year the international headquarters of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) – the world's largest telescope – will move to Jodrell Bank.

Sir Bernard lived near to Jodrell Bank, and even though he officially retired in 1981, he still visited the site until relatively recently. Outside of science, he carried on his family's love of music and cricket, and was a past President of Lancashire Cricket Club. His wife Joyce died in 1993 and he is survived by four of his five children, 14 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Dr Tim O'Brien, Associate Director of Jodrell Bank worked with Sir Bernard and knew him well. He said: "Sir Bernard's legacy is immense, extending from his wartime work, to his pioneering contributions to the new science of radio astronomy.

"He was dedicated to sharing his love of science with everyone young or old, he inspired thousands of people, whether they worked here or visited as schoolchildren. We owe him so much and will miss him greatly."

An online book of condolence can be found at: www.manchester.ac.uk/bookofcondolence/

Green light for sustainability

The Professional Services Unit (PSU) has funded the installation of new eco-friendly lamps in the plant growth facilities in the Faculty of Life Sciences, not only giving new research opportunities but also saving money and the planet!

Growing plants indoors meant a large heat-load generated by the fluorescent lamps, offset by air-conditioning to maintain the temperature. But discussions with the University Energy Team have led to the installation of LED tubes, reducing both the power consumption of the lamps and their cooling requirements.

Assistant Mechanical Energy Engineer Damian Oatway said: "To date, the upgrade will realise savings of at least £2,800 – that's 14 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent – per year."

Graduation hero

A Manchester graduate has given a leukaemia patient the chance of a new life by donating blood stem cells to him.

Sam White, 23, one of only a handful of people to be called upon twice by the blood cancer charity Anthony Nolan, went through the four-hour procedure while studying for his final year in modern languages.

The last Manchester student to graduate this year, Sam was second time lucky when Anthony Nolan said he was a match, after just four years. As donations are anonymous, he will find out if the young male patient survives next year.



Turing family visit

Alan Turing's nephew, the lawyer and ex-geneticist Sir Dermot Turing, visited the Manchester Museum's exhibition honouring his uncle.

For more information on Turing, and on the University's developing Heritage Project, see Heritage on the University web site home page, or www.turingmanchester.com

City lifestyle studied

Results from the largest health and lifestyle survey of cities and urban areas across Europe were presented at an international conference in Amsterdam in September.

The research examined and compared the health, life expectancy and lifestyles of the populations of 26 European cities, including Manchester, and found major differences, not only between cities, but within individual urban areas too.

The pan-European study, led in Manchester by Dr Arpana Verma, identified key priority areas for each city in the study that the researchers hope policymakers will address.



Meet...

Steven Whittaker Head of Reception Services, Manchester Business School

What's the best part of your job?

I'd say being part of the reception team here – we all get along really well. I get to meet people from all over the world and it's important to me to present a professional image of the School – we're the first port of call to all our visitors.

What's the hardest part of your job?

I suppose when there's an issue that needs resolving – it can be difficult to please everybody all the time, but we do our best, and I think most people appreciate that!

Which teacher inspired you most at school?

It was one of my teachers from primary school – Mr Wilson. He was my final teacher before I moved to secondary school and he really prepared us well for that challenge. I still see him occasionally and meet up with him socially with a few close friends.

What is your proudest moment?

Definitely becoming a father to my daughter Chloe.

What's your favourite karaoke song?

I have been known to attempt Bob Dylan's cover of 'Knocking on Heaven's Door' – you'd have to ask my friends if I make a good job of it!

If you could give any advice to your 16-year-old self, what would you say?

I would say to work hard and you'll reap the benefits – you can't expect things to just fall into your lap.

What's the one gadget you can't live without?

I'm not really into gadgets, but I do use my iPod a lot – they have changed the way we listen to music.

What's your favourite film?

The Oscar-winning 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest', starring Jack Nicholson.

What's on your iPod?

It's a real mixture – from Andreas Bocelli to Guns 'N' Roses! It goes from one extreme to the other!

Your bookcase?

I have lots of sports autobiographies – John McEnroe, Sir Alex Ferguson, Bobby Robson...

Your TV?

Definitely Match of the Day and 1970s Top of The Pops repeats – I have them on series link!

Who would you invite to your dream dinner party?

Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson, my dad, chat show host Michael Parkinson, Princess Diana, and comedian Tommy Cooper.

What law would you bring in?

I've been really touched by the Tony Nicklinson case (the locked-in syndrome sufferer who lost his legal case for a medical professional to legally end his life, and subsequently died a few days later) and I really think we need to look at creating laws around assisted dying. I appreciate it would need to be tightly controlled.

And what law would you repeal?

Well, as above, I feel very strongly about the letter of the law being followed rather than looking at individual cases more compassionately.

What's your favourite holiday destination?

I've recently been to the Greek island of Kos, and I loved it. The island, people and food are all great.

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

Only three? Well, a football to keep myself occupied, a photo of my wife and daughter and a boat!

What's your biggest vice?

Smoking, unfortunately.

How would you like to be remembered?

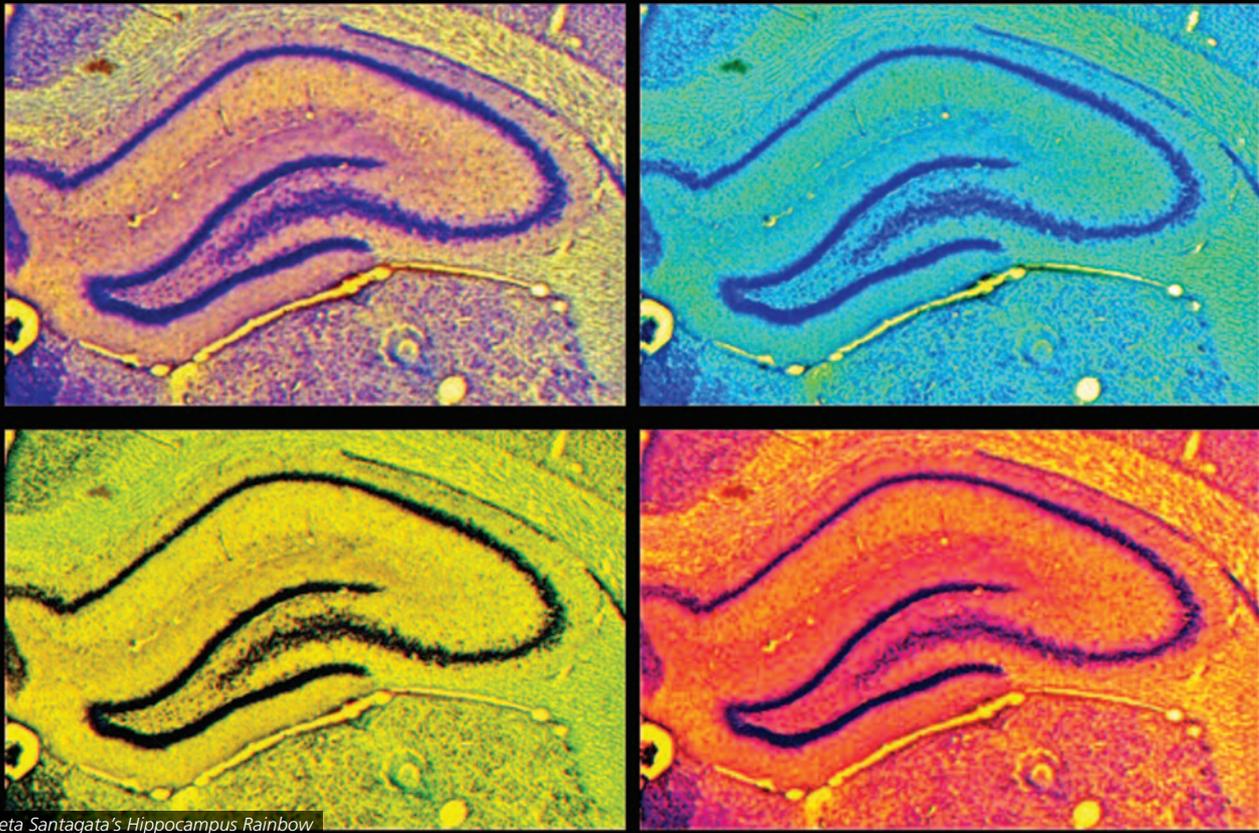
As someone who's fun-loving, caring and humorous.

Tell us the secret to life – in six words.

It's more than six words – always treat people how you'd like to be treated!

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

That's easy – professional footballer!



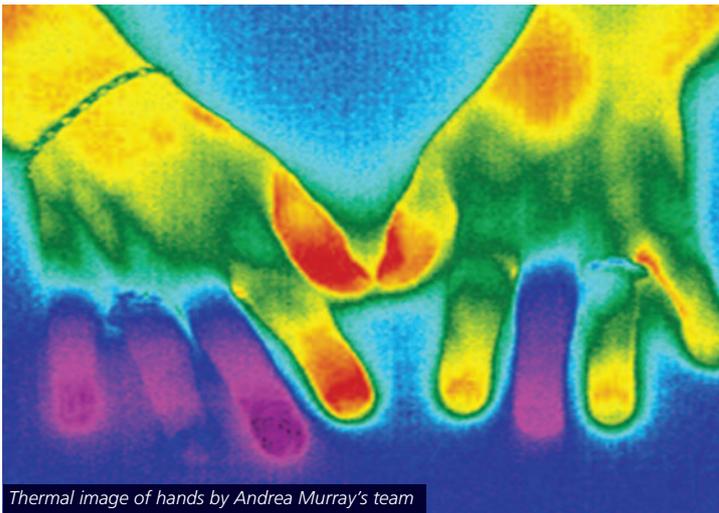
Greta Santagata's Hippocampus Rainbow

White coats...rainbow results

These are just some of the beautiful images submitted to the Biomedical Imaging Institute (BII) annual showcase.

Greta Santagata, from the Faculty of Life Sciences, won with 'Hippocampus Rainbow', which will appear on the cover of the abstract

book at this year's BII Annual showcase. The runner up was a team effort by Andrea Murray, Graham Dinsdale, Tonia Moore and Ariane Herrick, from the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences, and shortlisted were Phil Noonan (FMHS) and Nicholas Love (FLS).



Thermal image of hands by Andrea Murray's team



Phil Noonan's 3D images of a human head



Nicholas Love's image of a tadpole's brain and nervous system



Photo by Design Pics Inc / Rex Features

Arctic collapse dramatically increases global warming

Parts of Arctic Siberia are releasing ten times more carbon into the atmosphere than previously thought.

Writing in *Nature*, the scientists, including Dr Bart Van Dongen from the School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences, discovered that much more greenhouse gas is being released into the atmosphere than previously calculated, from an ancient and large carbon pool held in a permafrost along the 7,000 km desolate coast of northernmost Siberian Arctic – dramatically increasing global warming.

As the temperature climbs carbon, stored in vast ice walls along this Arctic coast called Yedoma, covering about one million km² (four times the area of the UK), is pouring into the Arctic Ocean in one of the world's most remote and desolate regions.

Dr Van Dongen said: "This research sheds light on a globally understudied area of the world, but one which has huge consequences for the entire planet."



Feeling better with meditation

A new study led by Dr Chris Brown has found that eight weeks of training in mindfulness meditation can help chronic pain sufferers to ease the burden of their condition.

The chronic and disabling pain symptoms of conditions such as arthritis and fibromyalgia are commonly related to mental health problems like anxiety and depression. This can make the pain symptoms worse and prevent sufferers from being able to live their life to the fullest.

Training in mindfulness meditation improved the mental health of the patients in the study, and this was related to improvements in their perceived level of control over their pain condition.

Wet weather delivers clean Olympic Games

The UK's appalling summer of weather could have had an unexpected benefit for Olympic athletes and spectators – it could have delivered one of the least polluted Games in history.

Dr Grant Allen, from the School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences, took part in a series of flights around London during the Games to monitor pollution levels. He found that the long periods of stormy weather and low pressure resulted in excellent air quality.



Nubian bones under the microscope

New life for Nubian bones

These bones – first unearthed nearly one hundred years ago in a race against time, as the water rose behind the newly-built Aswan Low Dam, then scattered around the globe to be overlooked, lost or damaged in wartime bombing raids – have found new life in Manchester.

Originally found in Nubia in 1907, they formed the basis of a fascinating virtual database for Egyptologists, having been rescued by a team led by the KNH Centre's Professor Rosalie David and Professor Norman MacLeod of The Natural History Museum.

Dr Jenefer Cockitt – who took part in the two-and-a-half-year transatlantic search for the remains – said: "I had a real eureka moment in Cambridge when I found a packet of 400 cards that recorded

the details of specific remains. Another high point was in America when we looked through thousands of photos that George Reisner had taken of the dig.

"It was hard work following the clues but so rewarding when we found what we were looking for. We began to feel that we knew the people behind the bodies and that we were giving them their voice again after all these years. "

Images, pathology and trauma descriptions and a dental survey of the bodies have now been put on the database, bringing them together for the first time since they were removed from the ground more than a hundred years ago and providing a significant tool for researchers looking at disease.

'Magic carpet' could help prevent falls

A'magic carpet' which can immediately detect when someone has fallen and can help to predict mobility problems has been demonstrated.

Plastic optical fibres, laid on the underlay of a carpet, can bend when anyone treads on it and map, in real-time, their walking patterns. These signals can then be analysed to show the image of

the footprint and identify gradual changes in walking behaviour or a sudden incident such as a fall or trip.

The imaging technology was developed at the Faculties of Engineering and Physical Sciences and Medical and Human Sciences and the Photon Science Institute.

Patients play their part

Nowgen is linking up with patients for a major European public engagement project which aims to inform and involve them in the medicines development process.

Nowgen is assessing the information needs of patients and members of the public, led by Dr Bella Starling, for the European Patients Academy on Therapeutic Innovation (EUPATI) - www.patientsacademy.eu/index.php/en/

Survey shows race bias

A survey of Liverpool's tiny population of black teachers has revealed a culture of racial prejudice and discrimination both in finding jobs and getting promotion.

The study, carried out by Professor Bill Boyle and Marie Charles, also details the harrowing experiences of some of the teachers as black pupils themselves.

The authors say that just 22 Liverpoolian teachers are from an Afro-Caribbean background, out of 4,192. The low figure which has remained stagnant for at least 27 years, say the authors, shows underrepresentation of Afro-Caribbeans from Europe's oldest black community in education and needs urgent action.



Susan Brown

Expanding horizons

Satisfying your intellectual curiosity is one of education's greatest, and most useful, pleasures. But what if that curiosity lies outside of your core academic subject?

Our new University College for Interdisciplinary Learning aims to help our students, and staff, to expand their intellectual horizons.

How would you like to explore a global issue you feel passionate about and take part in a worldwide debate by sharing your findings on YouTube? Or what about studying an entire course in complete silence?

These are just two of the opportunities available to our students as part of courses being offered by our new University College.

The ethos of the University College is to enable our students to explore subjects beyond the boundaries of their degree programme.

By taking a step away from their core subject areas, they can meet new people and investigate new disciplines and ideas.

As Academic Director Dr Peter Lawler says: "We are widening the curriculum to broaden the mind."

The idea for the University College first arose during a review of undergraduate education, which led to the development of a concept called 'The Manchester Matrix' – a combination of attributes which Manchester graduates should have acquired by the end of their time here.

Skills like critical thinking and global citizenship – much valued by employers looking to recruit the very best graduates. Students receive ten credits for each course they complete and this counts towards their degree.



Dr Peter Lawler

But the University College is neither a School nor a Faculty, it's a University-wide project and sits outside of the normal University academic structure.

"I think that this is the most exciting aspect," says Peter. "It will be tapping into areas that students think they are unable to study. Equally, we have lots of staff who would like to teach to a wider audience. The University College is an opportunity to do this."

One of the major challenges the University College concept faces is how to assess students who are studying courses which cross different subject areas and Faculties.

Professor Clive Agnew, Vice-President for Teaching, Learning and Students, explains: "We are aware that different disciplines assess in different ways. Therefore we need to have assessments that not only acknowledge this, but also encourage students at the same time."

Collaborating between disciplines and fair assessment also presents a challenge to course tutors. "Staff are excited and a little nervous, because it is a teaching challenge," says Peter. "Yet at the same time, it's also incredibly rewarding. For instance, how do I teach international politics to a room full of physicists in a meaningful way that is substantial and rigorous, but recognises that my audience is from a different academic background?"

The University College is being supported on a day-to-day basis by Louise Walmsley, Head of the Teaching and Learning Support Office, and her team. Louise said: "It's fantastic to see the launch of the College. Our team's role has always included a focus on the development of teaching and

learning policy and procedure so we're now looking forward to having a hands-on role in their implementation via the University College."

The College will also play host to the Manchester Signature Lecture Series – Nobel-Prize winner Professor Sir Konstantin Novoselov, and our President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell are among the first speakers in the Series.

So now that the first courses have been launched, Peter is looking for new courses to be developed: "The main thing we are looking for is innovative content."

Although it's early days for the University College it's clear that the future holds plenty of discussion and collaboration between students and tutors. "It's a case of one small step at a time. Ultimately the University College is about offering our students enrichment," said Peter.

What's on offer?

Delving into issues of global citizenship, social responsibility and cultural awareness, 'Becoming Global' gives students the tools they need to study these issues critically and reflectively.

Subjects covered include access to medicines around the globe and Fair Trade and the fashion industry.

"We want to give students the opportunity to explore issues that concern them," explains tutor Susan Brown. "They are encouraged to view issues from different perspectives and to challenge their own biases." Susan is based at the School of Education, while some elements of the course focus on the new Living Worlds exhibit housed at the Manchester Museum.

"Students are making real contributions to wider debates on global issues, which is why we are launching a Becoming Global YouTube channel. This will give our students the opportunity to share their work with a broader audience," Susan enthuses.

Other courses available include:

- Introduction to British Sign Language – a unique course taught in total silence
- Science and Humanities: Bridging the Two Cultures – shows how the two disciplines are deeply intertwined

As well as crossing subject boundaries, the courses aim to get students out and about and taking advantage of the amazing collections held at the Whitworth Art Gallery, the Manchester Museum, Jodrell Bank and the John Rylands Library.

"We want to encourage students to see what these amazing places do and to use their resources," says Peter. For example, the University Library is offering a course called 'The Digital Society', exploring how online technologies are fundamentally changing the ways we live and work.

If you are interested in finding out more about the University College contact Peter Lawler at peter.lawler@manchester.ac.uk or Patricia Clift-Martin at patricia.clift-martin@manchester.ac.uk

Visit www.college.manchester.ac.uk



Jane and Louise Wilson,
Atomgrad (Nature
Abhors a Vacuum), 2010
from 6 Oct-27 Jan 2013

What's On

Whitworth Art Gallery

EXHIBITIONS

Building on Things: Images of Ruin and Renewal until 6 Jan 2013

Jane and Louise Wilson from 6 Oct-27 Jan 2013

Hockney to Hogarth: A Rake's Progress from 6 Oct-3 Feb 2013

Aisha Khalid: Larger Than Life from 6 Oct-27 Jan 2013

ADULT EVENTS

Every Thurs, 8.30 – 9.45am, £3,
(booking is essential)
Yoga

Sat 6 Oct, 2pm, Free
Royal Northern College of Music
perform extracts from Stravinsky's **The Rake's Progress**.

Sun 7 Oct, 12.30 – 1.15 pm, Free
Performance by RNCM Students

MANCHESTER LITERATURE FESTIVAL

Sun 7, 7.30pm, £8/£6

Close-up Dave Haslam with Michael Chabon

Wed 10, 7.30pm, £10/£8

A Reading Life, Penelope Lively

Fri 12, 5.30pm, £6/£4,
Joe Dunthorne, Inua Ellams and Matthew Hollis

Fri 12, 7.30pm, £10/£8,
Canada, Richard Ford

Sat 13, 2.30pm, Free
Poets and Players, Leontia Flynn with Paul Caddick, Dave Lim and Michael Rodden

Sun 14, 2pm, Free
A Rakes Progress: Poetry, Kei Miller

Fri 19, 7.30pm, £8/£6
Swimming and Flying, Mark Haddon

For further details and to book tickets visit
www.manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk or
telephone 0843 208 0500

Tues 9, 16, 23 and 30 Oct, 11am – 12.30pm, Free

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

Sat 13 Oct, 7.30 – 10.30pm, Free
After Hours: Bunford and Kashiwagi...

Wed 17 and Sat 20 Oct, 1-3pm, £5 per session (booking essential)

Crafternoon Tea
Social art and craft workshop.

Sat 27 Oct, 1-3pm, Free
Alternative Camera Club
Join photo artists for talks and discussions.

Fri 26 Oct, 6.15pm, £6, (Students free with student ID)

Movie Nights: Whistle Down the Wind

FAMILY EVENTS

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

Art Baby

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

Toddlerastic

Sun 7 Oct, 1.30 – 3.30pm, Free
Grand Day out for Grandparents

Sun 14 Oct, 1.30 – 3.30pm, Free
Comic Creations

Sat 20 and Sun 21 Oct, 1.30 – 3.30pm, Free

Big Draw Luminosity

Tues 30 – Fri 2 Nov 1 – 3pm, Free
Writers' Skills

Every Sun, 1.30 – 3.30pm, Free
Colourful Sundays

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

Opening times

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 Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

Thurs 4 Oct, 1.10 pm, Free
Paisean

Fri 5 Oct, 1.10 pm, Free
MUMS Lunchtime Concert

Thurs 11 Oct, 1.10 pm, Free
MANTIS

Thurs 18 Oct, 1.10 pm, Free
Jeremy Young (Piano)

Thurs 25 Oct, 1.10 pm, Free
Lynsey Marsh (Clarinet) and Janet Simpson (Piano)

EVENING CONCERTS

Sat 13 Oct, 7.30 pm, £8/£6/£4
The Orchestra that Fell to Earth

Featuring The Penguin Café Orchestra

Wed 17 Oct, 7.30 pm, £12

Medea Trio
Swiss Ambassador's Award Winners 2012

Fri 19 Oct, 7.30 pm, £10/£5/£3

Psappha Contemporary Ensemble in Residence

Sat 20 Oct, 7.30 pm, £10/£5/£3
The Whitworth Hall

MUMS Symphony Orchestra

MANTIS AUTUMN FESTIVAL 2012
Sat 27 Oct, 6pm and Sat 27 Oct 8pm,
£7.50/£5/£3

MANTIS
A weekend of electro acoustic concerts.

Sun 28 Oct, 6pm and 7.30 pm,
£7.50/£5/£3

ENIGMA:

The Life and Death of Alan Turing

LITERATURE LIVE

Wed 10 Oct, 1 pm, Free

Waterstones Deansgate
Carcanet Poets with William Letford, Judith Jedamus and Evan Jones

Fri 12 Oct, 6.30 pm, £10/£8
Whitworth Art Gallery

Richard Ford: Canada

Mon 15 Oct, 1.10pm, Free
Stories from West Africa – a performance by Usifu Jalloh

Mon 15 Oct, 6.30 pm, £6/£4
Paul Forley and Deryn Rees-Jones

Mon 22 Oct, 6.30pm, £12/£7

Male Me: Imagination and Gender
Jeanette Winterson in conversation with acclaimed American author, A M Homes.

DRAMA

Tue 2 Oct, 7 pm, Free

Future Delivery: Presented by Fluxx

Wed 31 Oct – Fri 2 Nov, 7pm, £8/£5 (15+)
The House that Stank of Death

by David Isaac (Lunch Monkeys – BBC3) and Peter Slater (Ideal – BBC3).

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

Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre

Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre offers a great day out for all the family. Come and explore the planets in our interactive Space Pavilion.

EVENTS

Thurs 4 Oct, 7.30 pm, £10 (15+)

Alan Garner Lecture: The Cosmic Joke

Weds 10 Oct, 7.30 pm, £10
(booking essential)

Goosfest 2012: The Trials of Galileo by Nic Young with Tim Hardy as Galileo

22 – 26 Oct/29 Oct–2 Nov
Alien Half Term

Sat 27 Oct, 7pm, £12 (12+)

Girls Night Out (under the stars)

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

John Rylands Library (Deansgate)

EXHIBITIONS

Faces and Voices until 25 Nov

Fifty Years of A Clockwork Orange until 27 Jan

Please be advised that some of the images on display in this exhibition are not appropriate for viewing by younger visitors.

What the Dickens? until 21 Dec

EVENTS

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

Public opening times

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

Reader opening times

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

Gig Guide

Manchester Academy 1, 2 and 3

Mon 1 Oct

Machine Gun Kelly - £12.50

Weds 3 Oct

Soulfly - £15

The Midnight Beast + Unicorn Kid - £17.50

Axewound + The Smoking Hearts - £12.50

Thurs 4 Oct

Tonight Alive - £10

Fri 5 Oct

Dragonforce + Alestorm + Defiled + Cavorts - £17.50

Between the Buried and Me - £13

Chantel McGregor - £10

Cockney Rejects - £16.50

Sat 6 Oct

Marina and the Diamonds - £20

The Skints - £10

The Farm - £16

Mayday Parade - £12.50

Gallows - £13

Sun 7 Oct

FUN - £12.50

Anberlin - £11

Lower Than Atlantis - £10

Mon 8 Oct

Serj Tankian - £22

Thurs 11 Oct

And You Will Know Us By The Trail of Dead - £12.50

Nina Nesbitt - £8

Fri 12 Oct

Hugh Cornwell - £18

Foreign Beggars - £14

Sat 13 Oct

4Ft Fingers - £8

Hot Chip - £17.50

Toyah - £18

Sun 14 Oct - £12.50

Nada Surf

Mon 15 Oct - £11

Reckless Love

Tues 16 Oct - £12.50

Parlotones + The Chevin

Weds 17 Oct

Rick Astley - £15

Impericon Never Say Die! - £14

Thurs 18 Oct

Grizzly Bear - £19.50

Mark Temonti - £16

Big Boy Bloater - £10

Dan Le Sac + Friends - £9

Fri 19 Oct

Down + Orange Goblin + Warbeast - £17

Evile - £12.50

Gaz Coombes - £12.50

Sat 20 Oct

Bowling for Soup - £18.50

Nervana (Nirvana Tribute) - £10

MUK Record Label Launch Party - £6

Mon 22 Oct

My Darling Clementine - £10

Tues 23 Oct

Delilah - £12.50

Dog is Dead - £8.50

Wed 24 Oct

Alex Clare + SEYE - £15

NME presents Generation Next Howler + guests - £10

Thurs 25 Oct

Labrinth - £15

Mindless Self Indulgence - £15

Modulate - £10

Fri 26 Oct

Lacuna Coil - £15

Thingumabob + The Thingumajigs - £6

Sat 27 Oct

Guns 2 Roses - £10

Sun 28 Oct

Immortal Technique - £15

Damien Dempsey - £15

Mon 29 Oct

The Eighties Matchbox B-Line Disaster - £12.50

Tues 30 Oct

Owl City - £16.50

Weds 31 Oct

Everytime I Die - £15

Two Gallants - £12.50

Tickets from

Students' Union, Oxford Road

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(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 6 Oct

Oxford (with Guided Tour)

Sun 7 Oct

North Wales visiting Llangollen and Erddig

Sat 13 - Sun 14 Oct

Overnight visit to Edinburgh

Sat 13 Oct

North Wales visiting Anglesey (with full day guided tour)

Sun 14 Oct

Liverpool (with guided tour)

Sat 20 - Sun 21 Oct

Overnight Visit to Bath

Sat 20 Oct

South Lake District visiting Bowness-on-Windermere, Ambleside and Grasmere

Sun 21 Oct

Manchester Walking Tour

York

Sat 27 Oct

Alton Towers - Halloween Scarefest!

Sun 28 Oct

North Wales Castles visting Conwy Castle and Penrhyn 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@anchester.ac.uk

www.internationalsociety.org.uk

Chaplaincies

St Peter's House Chaplaincy

Mondays 5 - 6pm, £1.50 per session

Rush Hour Choir

Open to all staff and students, no singing experience necessary.

Sunday, 11am **Holy Communion**

12.45pm **Lunch (1st Sun)**

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

12.15pm **Wednesdays Eucharist**

Foyer open 10am – 5pm, weekdays

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)

Sunday, 7pm (Holy Name Church) next door to the Chaplaincy

Mon, Tues, Thurs and Friday, 5.30pm

Chaplaincy Chapel

Weds, 1.05pm 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.sami99@yahoo.co.uk, assia_shah61@yahoo.co.uk

Manchester Museum

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

Alan Turing and Life's Enigma

Breed: The British and Their Dogs

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Every other Tuesday, 2, 16 and 30 Oct,

12.15–1.15pm and 1.45–2.45 pm

Baby Explorers

Sensory play for babies

Sun 7 Oct, 12–4pm, free

Grand Day Out for Grandparents

Sat 13 Oct, 11am–4pm

Big Saturday: Dogs on Show

Fri 26 Oct 10.30–11.30 am and 11.30 am–12.30 pm

Magic Carpet: Cats and Dogs

Sat 27 Oct, 11am–3pm

Science Spectacular!

Sun 28 Oct, 1.30 and 2.30 pm

Polar: Explore

Mon 29 Oct - Fri 2 Nov, 11am–4pm

Half Term: Ancient Worlds

Mon 29 Oct, 11am–4pm

Meteorite Day

Tue 30 Oct, 11am–3pm

Brainstorm: Sight and Action

Wed 31 Oct and Fri 2 Nov, 12.30–1.30 pm and 2.30–3.30 pm

Mummifying Oranges

MUSEUM MEETS: MANCHESTER MUSEUM'S ADULT PROGRAMME

Sat 13 Oct, 2–3pm, Free

Manchester Weekender: Bunford and Kashiwagi...in the mix

Sat 13 Oct, 12–2pm

Manchester Weekender: Speed Chess

Weds 17 Oct, 1–2pm

The Confucius Institute talks on China:

Tues 23 Oct, 6–8pm

What a Dog Might Tell Us: On Photography, Perfectibility, and the Aesthetics of Breed with artist Jo Longhurst.

Sat 27 Oct - Sun 4 Nov, 10am–5pm

Growers' Gallery

Sat 27 Oct, 11am–12pm

The Building of Manchester Science

Sat 27 Oct, 2–4pm

Urban Naturalist: Clouds

Sat 27 Oct, 2–4pm

Sheep, Socks and Wire Woollies

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

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Dmitri Logunov with his Swallowtail specimens

Queen of butterflies

The University is home to some amazing objects. Each month in UniLife we will be asking a member of staff to share with us one of their favourite fascinating artefacts.

The biggest butterfly in the world is the Queen Alexandra's Birdwing (*Ornithoptera alexandrae*) – and The Manchester Museum has five specimens of it.

The size of a plate, with a wingspan of 25 centimetres, they fly high above the rainforest canopy in southeast Papua New Guinea.

When they were first sighted, they were mistaken for strange birds and 'captured' by native archers.

It's not hard to see why this amazing butterfly is one of the favourite artefacts of Dmitri Logunov, Curator of Arthropods at the Museum. And it's a hard choice to make – he looks after a collection of 9,200 Swallowtail butterflies.

There are three females and five males in the collection, the females are significantly larger than the males, but the latter are brilliantly coloured, with iridescent blue and green wings. The females are not so showy, and are brown with large cream spots.

These particular specimens date back to 1907 and still have the original handwritten labels attached. Originally, they were caught by the famous hunter AS Meek for avid collector Lord Walter Rothschild, who identified them as a new species and named them after Queen Alexandra, wife of Edward VII.

"They came into our possession in 1937 by the generous bequest of David Longsdon," says Dmitri. "This collection represents practically all known species of Swallowtails."

The species is listed as endangered, completely restricting their sale. However, they are highly valued

by keen collectors and have been known to fetch hundreds of pounds just for one specimen.

But there is a sting in the tail of these magnificent butterflies – they are poisonous, since the caterpillars take in toxins from the vines on which the females lay their eggs.

