

# UniLife

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## Electrifying start to Manchester Science Festival



## Featured



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Legal Advice Centre

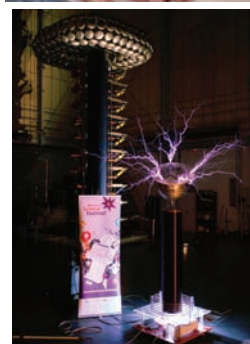
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Chris Foster

## Letter from the President



was bound to be the eventual result of trying to fund all higher education institutions on more or less the same basis, asking them to do more or less the same things, and allowing them all to offer competing programmes to rapidly-growing numbers of students with an ever-expanding range of intellectual aspiration, ability and educational backgrounds.

So he developed a complex system of essentially different kinds of institutions, ranging from two-year colleges to four-year institutions (offering undergraduate degrees but precluded from undertaking research or offering research degrees), to a "State System" able to undertake a much wider range of higher education and a research-intensive "elite" (the "California System") including Berkeley, UCLA and San Diego.

This model of highly differentiated institutional types, each supported by quite different funding arrangements, was not only copied widely in the United States, but has served as a blueprint for dynamic emerging higher education systems in China and elsewhere. Its genius is to offer very different cohorts of students educational environments suited to their particular levels of aspiration and ability, to fund very different missions and functions according to their real needs and (very importantly) to introduce funding and regulatory barriers to the kind of insidious "mission creep" that tempts all institutions, to take on research agendas for which many are not suited. "Mission creep" at lower levels of a higher education system comes at the great cost of diverting precious resources from the genuinely research-led universities that are trying to compete with the very best institutions elsewhere.

That is where the audacity of hope comes in! The difficult choices and severe institutional pressures that the forthcoming public funding situation in the UK will impose on universities will largely be wasted – and terribly wasteful – unless the Government uses the crisis to initiate a fundamental reform of the higher education system itself. I'm not talking about imposing social engineering on Oxbridge, but rather on supporting Cambridge and Oxford as supremely meritocratic institutions. I'm advocating the kind of concentration of research resources that will make it possible for the UK to sustain a few other institutions as cutting-edge research universities in a world where the "gold standard" is appreciating rapidly in value. I'm arguing for a highly differentiated funding model, less taxing on the public purse than what we have at present because it will be dramatically more efficient in providing very different cohorts of students with very different types of educational experiences.

Manchester will pursue its 2015 vision anyway, with good prospects of success despite public funding stringency. Pursuing so ambitious a vision is also the very best way to ensure that Manchester will be among the lead pack of world-competitive UK universities should a new Government have the courage to tackle the deep systemic problems of higher education as part of an enlightened approach to reducing public debt.

Professor Alan Gilbert  
President and Vice-Chancellor

With this edition of *UniLife* you will find a new, thoroughly revised version of the University's Strategic Plan. *Towards Manchester 2015* has been issued recently with the title, *Advancing the Manchester 2015 Agenda*. This version of the Agenda is unchanged in the breadth and vigour, and maintains the essential focus of the vision of making Manchester one of the finest universities in the world by 2015, and thereafter building on that achievement.

Looking forward to that evocative date, 2015 – a date that we have turned into a metaphor for the hopes and dreams of the new institution that emerged from the Manchester "merger" of 2004 – the University faces the sobering reality of having to prepare for a considerably more challenging external operating environment in the years ahead. In retrospect, however, we can simultaneously take pride in the good progress that has been made in the relatively benign operating environment that UK higher education has experienced since 2004.

It is with a mixture of serious apprehension as well as with "the audacity of hope" that I look forward at this mid point in our journey.

The reason for apprehension is clear. The relatively benign funding environment in which our new University has operated since 2004 is about to give way to something altogether more challenging.

I hope, audaciously, that in 2015 Manchester will be well on the way to weathering the public funding crisis that seems bound to break over UK higher education in 2011-12, when a new Government, whatever the party or parties it represents, will have no choice but to tackle robustly levels of public debt unprecedented in the UK in peacetime.

The storm will be hard to weather. Public funding austerity impacting on all UK universities is likely to endure for much of the decade after 2011-12, although the worst of it may be over by 2015 if really difficult decisions are taken soon after the 2010 General Election. What we don't know is how deep or how prolonged cuts in higher education funding will be, and whether they will fall equally on all universities. But we must work on the assumption that no university will escape extraordinarily challenging decisions about how to manage severe scarcity.

A major higher education crisis was emerging anyway. The rapid, sustained and intrinsically worthwhile expansion of the UK higher education system that has been going on since the 1960s was making the system itself unsustainable. At some stage in the foreseeable future policy-makers were going to have to undertake a root-and-branch review of the way UK universities are funded and regulated.

Higher education systems around the world have been dealing with issues such as institutional diversity, "mission creep" and differential funding models since Clark Kerr's brilliant re-thinking of the California system in the 1960s. With extraordinary foresight, Kerr understood that systemic mediocrity

## 'From molecule to metropolis' -Manchester Academic Health Science Centre opens for business

**The Manchester Academic Health Sciences Centre (MAHSC) has been officially launched following its designation earlier this year with the publication of its strategy, 'Partnership for the Patient: Bringing Benefit through Research, Education and Innovation'.**

The showcasing event for Manchester's health research focused on the theme of partnership, which is core to delivery of the MAHSC strategy and realisation of the vision to be 'a leading global centre for the delivery of innovative applied health research and education into healthcare'.

Speakers at the event, including MAHSC Chair, Sir David Henshaw, and MAHSC Director, Professor Alan North FRS, spoke about:

- The MAHSC partnership of The University of Manchester and six NHS Trusts.
- Partnership with the Department of Health, the Strategic Health Authority and other Government, regional and local stakeholders.
- Partnership with industry.

MAHSC covers the entire spectrum of activity from 'molecule to metropolis' embracing laboratory discovery right

through to NHS service innovation in the community. It will focus on five key health themes: cancer, cardiovascular disease, inflammatory diseases and repair, human development and mental health including neurodegenerative diseases. To support the delivery of health benefits in these areas MAHSC will also provide cross-cutting activities in technology, clinical trials and implementation of research findings into patient service.

MAHSC will deliver added value to the activities of its founding partners by developing:

- An integrated health system for improved and accelerated translational medicine.
- A strategic approach to funding proposals, investment in research, infrastructure, training and education across the partners.
- Harmonised processes and standard operating procedures.
- A single point of access for external partners and stakeholders.
- Cultural change responsive to research and the uptake of innovation within the whole community.

Sir David Henshaw, Chair, Board of Governors, Manchester Academic



Julian Hartley, Chief Executive, University Hospital of South Manchester with members of the MAHSC Board of Governors and guests at the launch.

Health Science Centre and Chair, NHS Northwest said: "The Manchester Academic Health Science Centre now offers us a real opportunity not only to drive forward the quality of healthcare for our local population through research and innovation, but to play our role on the global stage and attract the finest clinicians to our region."

MAHSC is a partnership between The University of Manchester, Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust, NHS Salford (Salford Primary Care Trust), Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust, The Christie NHS Foundation Trust University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust.

 [www.mahsc.ac.uk](http://www.mahsc.ac.uk)

## Top lawyer drops in on legal advice centres

**One of the country's best known lawyers came to Manchester last month last month to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the University's first Legal Advice Centre and to mark the opening of a second free legal advice clinic in east Manchester.**

The new clinic on Ashton Old Road, Openshaw will be staffed by students from the University's School of Law under the supervision of legal practitioners and coordinated by an administrator funded by New East Manchester and employed by the 'Manchester Settlement' which was founded by the University in 1895, still with strong links today.

The *pro bono* clinic, is a collaboration with New East Manchester and the charities LawWorks North and Manchester Settlement in association with The College of Law. The Centre is sponsored by Clifford Chance LLP and Barlow Lyde and Gilbert LLP.

The new clinic is an addition to School of Law's existing free legal advice work: The Legal Advice Centre has been giving legal advice to the public since it opened in November 2000.

Speaking at the event, Director and solicitor at the Legal Advice Centre Dinah Crystal OBE said: "We are delighted to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of the Legal Advice Centre by playing host to the distinguished barrister and supporter of *pro bono* Michael Mansfield.

"We are also delighted to launch this venture in East Manchester which will allow our staff and students and local lawyers another opportunity to participate in clinical education and more importantly to put something back into the local community.

Mansfield who spoke about his work and new book, has been involved in some of the country's most high profile legal cases. He represented the 'Guildford Four', Stephen Lawrence's family and Barry George at the inquest into the death of Jill Dando. He also represented Mohamed al-Fayed at the inquest into the deaths of his son Dodi al-Fayed and Diana, Princess of Wales.

His book, *The Memoirs of a Radical Lawyer*, was published last month.





## In brief

### University backs world cup bid

The University is backing Manchester's bid to be a host city for the world's greatest football tournament.

England is bidding to host the FIFA World CupTM in either 2018 or 2022, and Manchester hopes to be named as one of the host cities.

The President and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Manchester, Professor Alan Gilbert, has written to FIFA President Sepp Blatter to express his support for the Manchester bid.

He said: "As a truly international and multi-cultural university, with students from 180 different nations studying here, we would value the opportunity to welcome teams and supporters from around the world to our city.

Professor Gilbert said: "Manchester is synonymous with football, and here at the University of Manchester hundreds of our staff and students take part in matches every day of the week, from five-a-side kickabouts to our highly competitive student teams.

To find out more visit the web address below.

[www.manchesterworldsport.com/site/pledge-gallery](http://www.manchesterworldsport.com/site/pledge-gallery)

## "Need not greed", say Nobel Prize winners

**Some of the world's leading names in science and ethics - including two Nobel Prize winners - have challenged society to rethink attitudes to the commercialisation of scientific knowledge in a 'Manifesto' published last month.**

The renowned group of 50 signatories is led by moral philosopher Professor John Harris and Nobel Prize winning biologist Professor Sir John Sulston, both from the Institute for Science, Ethics and Innovation (ISEI) at The University of Manchester.

Nobel Laureate and Chair of the Brooks World Poverty Institute at The University of Manchester, Professor Joseph Stiglitz, is also among the signatories.

The 'Manchester Manifesto' calls for a reassessment of the current system of patents and intellectual property regulated by national and international laws.

According to Professors Harris and Sulston, the system is in desperate need of change because it excludes poorer people from access to essential medicines and expertise.

They both say profit should not override the needs of the public despite it being currently the primary



Professor Sir John Sulston and Professor John Harris

reward for research and development.

Professor Sulston received a Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 2002 and was a key member of the Human Genome project team. He chairs ISEI.

He said: "It shocks many people when they realise that even our genes fall under intellectual property law.

"Genes are naturally occurring things, not inventions, and part of humanity's rich heritage.

"We cannot restrict essential research into diseases such as cancer to only those who can afford to pay.

"The current method of managing innovation and intellectual property has an adverse effect on many impoverished people- especially in the developing world.

## Manchester lecturer was Mozambique election observer

**Senior Lecturer in Politics, Andrew Russell, has recently returned from Africa where he was part of the Commonwealth Observer Group in last month's Presidential, Parliamentary and Regional elections in Mozambique.**

The invitation to join the Commonwealth Election Observer team came because he runs the Politics MA in Democracy and Elections and much of his research concerns youth engagement; Mozambique, has a young population (according to the UN the life expectancy is only 42). These were to be the fourth multi-party elections since the end of the civil war in the early 1990s.

Andrew Russell was the only academic and the only British person in the team which was led by Ahmad Kabba the former President of Sierra Leone and included politicians and civil society leaders from 10 other countries.

Andrew said: "International observer groups are invited by the host nation to ensure that its elections meet internationally recognised standards of democratic openness and fairness. As the group arrived in the capital, Maputo; the first week was dominated by collecting evidence from political parties, NGOs, the media, election officials and the international community on background to the elections.

"The second week saw the team deployed to various regions of the country. I was sent to Tete, the north-eastern province of Mozambique. Life here is often harsh although economic and political development had ensured a proliferation of



bicycles, motorbikes and cell-phones."

On election day Andrew sped between 16 polling stations in urban and rural settings. He said: "Queues outside stations were often hectic, but crowds were mostly well-natured despite the blistering sun. Some aspects of the process were clearly held in high regard although the count itself will forever be the longest night (and most of the next day) of my life."

Their report is currently with the Mozambican authorities and is available from the Commonwealth website. Andrew added: "Overall this was a fascinating experience; a chance to see academic issues impact in reality and to apply accepted standards of democratic development to a very different part of the world."



### Made in Africa: portrait of an Ife ruler

A new display launched at The Manchester Museum showcases the sculpture of an African King.

On loan from the British Museum, Ife head is a portrait-like brass cast of the Oni (King) of the Ife kingdom. A powerful, cosmopolitan and wealthy city-state in West Africa, Ife lies in what is now modern southern Nigeria. It flourished as a political, spiritual, cultural and economic centre in the 12th-15th centuries AD, and was an influential hub of local and long-distance trade networks.

Ife head will be at the Museum until 14 February, when it will return to the British Museum and star in their exhibition Kingdom of Ife: Sculptures from West Africa.

# Scientists celebrate 30 years of prestigious prize

The University recently played host to former winners of the Weizmann Prize for Biochemistry as they celebrated the 30th anniversary of the prestigious award.

The Weizmann Prize for Biochemistry is awarded annually to the best final year undergraduate in Biochemistry at the University. It is named in honour of Dr Chaim Weizmann, a former Manchester academic known as "the father of industrial fermentation".

Dr Weizmann was a Reader in Chemistry at Manchester when he became famous for discovering how to use bacterial fermentation to produce large quantities of organic chemicals.

Weizmann later became the founder of the state of Israel. He was elected as its first President in 1949, and served until his death in 1952.

Weizmann also founded the Daniel Sieff Research Institute in Israel, since renamed the Weizmann Institute of Science,



now one of the world's top-ranking multidisciplinary research institutions.

Former Weizmann Prize winner, now Vice President and Dean of the Faculty of Life Sciences, Professor Martin Humphries said: "We are very proud to mark 30 years of such an important award. I was honoured to win the award back in 1980, and as a consequence I have always felt a direct association with Chaim Weizmann. I want to thank Weizmann UK for their continued support of our undergraduate programme.

"I am particularly pleased that the Faculty of Life Sciences has now developed a number of strong research links with scientists at the Weizmann Institute, and I hope these links will expand and flourish.

Professor Humphries was joined by 13 other former Weizmann Prize winners from across the world including leading neuroscientist Professor Michael Hutton, who gave a lecture on his research into the causes of frontotemporal dementia (FTD).



## Exonerated death row prisoner shares his experiences

**An American death row prisoner whose murder conviction was quashed after seven stays of execution visited The University of Manchester in October to talk about his experiences to a packed lecture theatre in University Place.**

In 1985, John Thompson, from New Orleans, was convicted of first degree murder and an attempted carjacking three weeks later. The 24-year-old father of two was placed on death row in Louisiana's notorious Angola prison contemplating the prospect of death by lethal injection.

Nearly 600 University staff, students and members of the public attended John's spellbinding presentation to hear how just days before he was due to be executed, having exhausted all his appeals, new evidence which cast doubt on his conviction was uncovered which had been deliberately withheld at his trial. The disclosure was enough to also raise concerns about John's murder conviction and, at a retrial in 2003, the jury acquitted him of murder.

John, who founded the charity Resurrection after Exoneration, which helps the increasing number of men being exonerated by new developments in DNA analysis, was accompanied on his visit by lawyer Emily Maw. Emily spoke about her work as Director of Innocence Project New Orleans, which works to reverse miscarriages of justice in Louisiana and Mississippi.

The visit had been organised by Dr Helen Middleton-Price, Director of the University's Nowgen. Earlier this year, Helen spent three months working on sabbatical for the charity Reprieve in New Orleans, which represents prisoners on death row in the southern states of the USA. John and Emily's presentation, which took place in University Place on October 13, was chaired by Mark George QC, a well-known Manchester human rights lawyer. The visit resulted in substantial media coverage, including interviews with The Independent and BBC Breakfast.

For more information please contact Helen at [helen.middleton-price@cmft.nhs.uk](mailto:helen.middleton-price@cmft.nhs.uk)

# Show me the mummy

**Professor Rosalie David has helped unveil the life, times and even the face of an ancient Egyptian mummy in the BBC N Ireland documentary 'Show Me The Mummy: The Face Of Takabuti'.**

Takabuti (pictured), one of the Ulster Museum's most beloved exhibits, took her second ever boat trip across the Irish Sea to Manchester's KNH Centre for Biomedical Egyptology, where Professor David carried out a series of tests.

They included a CT scan in the hope that a detailed X-ray of Takabuti's skeleton could reveal her age, her diet and whether she had any diseases, and also shed more light on the mummification process. A small camera with minute forceps attached was then delicately inserted inside the body to collect samples of internal tissue for close analysis, while a sample of her hair was taken for carbon dating.



Professor David, at the Faculty of Life Sciences, said: "Our research specializes in applying scientific methods to examining Egyptian mummies, which preserve evidence of disease, diet, lifestyle, lifespan, status and religious practices. Minute samples taken from the inside of the mummy were examined microscopically for evidence of disease; the teeth were studied; and tiny pieces of the hair were analyzed to see if it had been dyed or if she was a natural blonde."

Professor David was one of a crack team of top scientists and historians that pieced together the remarkable history of the mysterious Takabuti, first brought to Belfast from Egypt in 1834 by a wealthy young man named Thomas Greg who had bought the mummified remains at a 'mummy market' in Thebes (now Luxor). On his return home he donated the mummy to the Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society. Takabuti then went to the Ulster Museum.



## Iain's Excellence

Iain Hagan is among leading life scientists from 16 countries who have been made members of the European Molecular biology Organisation (EMBO).



EMBO elects new members annually on the basis of scientific excellence and this year's elected members represent a broad cross-section of researchers from all fields of molecular biology ranging from evolutionary to computational biology, neuroscience and plant science.

Iain is Senior Group Leader in the Cell Division Group at the Paterson Institute for Cancer Research at the University.

## Mutant gene

**Scientists have revealed how a mutant gene that causes a connective tissue disease resulting in dwarfism does so by significantly affecting the inside of cells - opening up new therapy strategies that involve drugs already under development.**

In disorders such as many forms of dwarfisms or brittle bone disease, mutations in genes for extracellular matrix proteins were thought to exert their pathogenic effects because of resulting defects in extracellular matrix. But Dr Mike Briggs, Professor Ray Boot-Handford and their team in the Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell-Matrix Research have shown in a series of recent papers that they also have significant effects inside the cell.

Professor Boot-Handford, at the Faculty of Life Sciences, explains: "The mutant genes cause stress in the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) of cells responsible for bone growth.

"The increased ER stress caused by accumulation of mutant protein inside the cells disrupts the cellular processes required to produce efficient bone growth and results in dwarfism."

The study, funded by the European Union, US National Institutes of Health and Wellcome Trust and published in open access journal PLoS Genetics, triggered ER stress in normal cartilage cells and achieved the same effects as in the naturally occurring disorder caused by the mutant extracellular matrix protein (type X collagen) thus showing that the intracellular stress response was at the heart of the disorder.

Professor Boot-Handford adds: "Manchester discovered type X collagen 30 years ago and we were the first to describe the complete human gene sequence; subsequently, we were one of the first to describe mutations in type X collagen that lead to the dwarfism (metaphyseal chondrodysplasia type Schmid). Now we understand much more about the mechanism by which the gene affects the growth of the skeleton."

## Architecture's impact on Belfast's Troubles

**The stubborn persistence of sectarian attitudes in Belfast can be partially blamed on everyday urban features which would be uncontroversial in cities less blighted by conflict, a study has found.**

Dr Ralf Brand, from The University of Manchester, discovered that buildings, fences, parks, footbridges and even a playground can influence the location, intensity and duration of bitter conflict between Catholics and Protestants.

However, Dr Brand's study also found examples of where architecture can help to heal the wounds of the Troubles.

As part of the study, Dr Brand handed out disposable cameras to community workers, teachers and other locals to photograph areas which they felt were trouble spots - giving a revealing picture of the city's problems.

The project - which also examined the architecture of Beirut, Amsterdam and Berlin - was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Dr Brand, who is based at the School of Environment and Development, said: "There's no doubt that great strides have been made in Northern Ireland, politically, but in terms of the urban fabric, considerable problems remain.

"Our study shows that in areas of conflict, there are very few neutral features in a city.

"In other words, we have seen many examples of how architecture can inadvertently make things worse. But the good news is that architecture can also make an important contribution to the resolution of conflict.



He added: "Every city is different with different problems and solutions.

"But in Belfast, a fence can be tempting to throw a stone over it simply to prove how tough you are and that that can trigger a sort of arms race.

"Some of the heavily fortified structures, such as police stations and some peace walls - though needed - can reinforce tensions by their mere appearance. It's obviously too simplistic to just to dismantle them.

"We even found a park in north Belfast which had been divided with a wall, mainly to separate young people from the two adjacent neighbourhoods."

## Study launched into professionalism in pharmacy



**Researchers have been awarded a grant by the Pharmacy Practice Research Trust to investigate patient-centred professionalism among newly registered pharmacists.**

Dr Ellen Schafheutle and research fellow Sarah Willis, in the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, have been given the £30,000 grant as part of the Trust's Professionalism in Pharmacy Practice research programme.

The aim of the study is to understand and clarify how professionalism develops in pharmacists' early careers - their first two years - and to consider the implications of this development for the delivery of quality patient-centred care.

In particular, the research team will explore early career pharmacists' perceptions about professionalism, its relation to patient-centred care and its development in pharmacy training and practice. The views of support staff and tutors involved in preregistration training will also be sought.

Dr Schafheutle said: "We have already gained some insight into how professionalism is learnt among undergraduate pharmacy students, and work experience seemed to play an important role.

"However, little is known about the influence of the workplace and early years of practice on recently registered pharmacists' professionalism. The research grant will enable us to explore this with those who are key players in this early period of practice and professionalism."



# Swine flu study will help understand needs of at-risk groups

**People with asthma and other respiratory conditions are to take part in a Government-funded study to explore their needs, behaviour and concerns in the wake of the swine-flu pandemic.**

The University of Manchester research will examine what information people with chest conditions and their families need about the virus and what concerns they might have about their susceptibility and perceived risks of complications.

Professor of Nursing Ann-Louise Caress, who is leading the study, said: "People with respiratory problems are at greater risk of developing complications of swine flu but if take-up rates for seasonal flu are indicative then only 45% of individuals are likely to get vaccinated.

"There is a need to raise awareness of the current pandemic but this must be balanced against the associated risks of creating undue anxiety, particularly among at-risk groups. Previous behaviour-focused public health initiatives regarding respiratory viruses, which employed a range of media and approaches, have met with mixed success, while a survey conducted shortly



after the current pandemic was declared found that 62% of those studied were not undertaking recommended preventative measures."

The researchers will survey a minimum of 200 patients with a clinically diagnosed, long-term respiratory condition along with 200 of their family members. The volunteers will be asked questions in a 30-45 minute telephone interview along three main themes:

- What information people with chest problems and their family members want regarding swine flu and who they want it from.

- Whether people with chest problems and their family members have any worries and concerns about swine flu, and what these are.
- Whether people with chest problems and their family members are doing anything different in their daily lives because of swine flu.

The study, which is funded by the National Institute for Health Research on behalf of the Department of Health, is being run by a team from the University and the University Hospital of South Manchester at Wythenshawe and is part of a national swine flu research programme.

## Call for ban on alcohol-industry sponsorship of sport



**The alcohol industry's sponsorship of sport should be banned and replaced with a dedicated alcohol tax modelled on those employed by some countries for tobacco, says a Manchester scientist.**

Writing in the latest issue of the international journal *Addiction*, Dr Kerry O'Brien called on governments to outlaw the practice, citing his highly publicised 2008 study that showed alcohol-industry sponsorship of elite and community sport was associated with hazardous drinking among sport participants.

Dr O'Brien, who wrote the editorial with his co-researcher, Dr Kypros Kypri, from Newcastle University in Australia.

Dr O'Brien, who is based in the School of Psychological Sciences, said: "Sport administrators are sending mixed messages to participants and fans when, on the one hand, they embrace and peddle alcohol via their sport, while on the other they punish individual sport stars and fans when they display loutish behaviour while intoxicated.

"Sport is not only being used by the alcohol industry to encourage drinking among sportspeople and fans, it is also the primary vehicle for alcohol-industry marketing to the general public."

In place of industry sponsorship, the researchers suggest that governments use the proceeds of alcohol taxation to sponsor sports via independent bodies.



## Research funding coup announced

**The University's Faculty of Humanities has bagged two out of nine Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) funding awards.**

Poverty and Development experts Professor David Hulme and Dr Khalid Nadvi have been awarded ESRC grants worth £57,000 and £89,000 respectively to lead research networks under the ESRC's new 'Rising Powers, Global Challenges and Social Change' programme.

Both are based at the School of Environment and Development where Professor Hulme is Director of the Brooks World Poverty Institute and Dr Nadvi is a Senior Lecturer at the Institute for Development Policy and Management.

Jared Ruff, Senior Research Manager for the Faculty of Humanities said: "We are delighted with these awards- it's great news for the Faculty and The University. Our standing as a major world class centre of research in this area no doubt helped our cause immensely."

"Both projects are now well placed to access more substantial and longer term ESRC investment so it was important that we did well in this competition."

Dr Nadvi's Project, will develop a research agenda on how public and private actors in China, India and Brazil are challenging our understanding of globalization.

Professor Hulme's project looks at the emerging powers below the fast growing developing economies known as Brics - such as Brazil, India and China.



## Biomedical Imaging Institute celebrates its first year

**The University's Biomedical Imaging Institute celebrated its first year of existence with its first annual showcase event last month. The event, which was held in The Egg in the Core Technology Facility on the main campus was a great success, with approximately 100 attendees from across the University plus the BII's International Advisory Panel and representation from industry.**

Professor Geoff Parker, summarised the progress and the success of the Institute since its formation in 2008. The morning and afternoon scientific sessions were introduced by the University's Associate Vice Presidents for Research – Professors Matt Lambson Ralph and Chris Taylor – who commented on the value added to the University's research portfolio by the Institute and

congratulated the BII members for their increasing levels of scientific impact.

The scientific sessions focussed largely on the activities of early-stage researchers, providing evidence of the broad activity covered by the Institute in schools and research groups across the University.

The day was drawn to a close by the award of the Biomedical Imaging Institute Annual Poster Prize, which was judged by the International Advisory Panel. The award of £500 towards attendance at an international scientific conference was made to Mark Dobbs from the Imaging Sciences Research Group for his poster on the development of methods for measuring kidney perfusion using magnetic resonance imaging.

## Mobile technology to improve health

**The University is to help establish an m-Health Innovation Centre in Manchester, which will act as a UK focus for this area.**

It has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with GSMA, an association which represents the interests of the worldwide mobile communications industry. The goal of the GSMA's m-Health initiative is to foster innovative mobile applications and services in healthcare that will focus on promoting healthier lifestyles and early intervention.

Hosted by Manchester Informatics at the University, the Manchester m-Health Innovation Centre will conduct multidisciplinary research, bringing together researchers, healthcare organisations and industrial partners to conceive, develop and evaluate mobile health innovations.

A major focus will be on citizen-led health and wellbeing, using mobile technology to enable people to play a more active role in determining their own health, providing a more personalised and responsive interface to public services.

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The initiative recognises that innovative health products are important because

they can help reduce the cost of healthcare as well as create new growth opportunities for the mobile industry.

The centre in Manchester will encourage innovation by: providing a forum for collaboration and sharing ideas; providing in-depth analysis of the market for m-Health; signposting key opportunities; conducting pilot trials; organising community-building events; providing m-Health education and training; and offering online resources and one-to-one services to support the emerging m-Health community.

Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell FRS, Deputy President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Manchester said: "We very much value the opportunity to work with the GSMA to translate our innovative ideas into practice. Sustainable health and wellbeing represent a major challenge for society worldwide, and the transformational potential of mobile technology in promoting innovative citizen-led health initiatives provides exciting opportunities."

The Manchester m-Health Innovation Centre will work on a variety of health and wellbeing projects



which can utilise mobile technology including 'assisted living applications' for example prompting patients, such as people with psychotic disorders, to record the medication they are taking, their symptoms and their mood in real time via their mobile phone.



# Wiser OWL learns to unravel doctor talk

**A new Internet language developed by computer scientists in Manchester will enable computers to unravel the complex terminology used by experts such as doctors, engineers and life scientists, and understand what they really mean.**

OWL 2, which was developed by an international team led by computer scientists from The University of Manchester and Oxford University, is a language like the HTML that makes up most of the web pages we use.

But OWL 2 is different because it is designed to enable computers to understand and interpret the contents of its pages rather than just display them for the benefit of humans.

One of the first and most important applications for the new language is in helping computers to understand and analyse specialised medical terms.

"OWL 2 enables computer programs to interpret these terms in a much more human-like way, for instance reasoning that if a fracture is located on a

bone which is part of a leg then that fracture is a fracture of that leg, said Bijan Parsia of the School of Computer Science.

"It may sound simple to make this connection to us, but it's a great leap forward that computer programs will be able to reason and make connections in this way."

A good example of the scale of the problem facing medics and computer scientists is the NCI Cancer Thesaurus that has swollen from 20,000 medical terms in 2004 to over 50,000 terms today.

As new terms are being added all the time, ensuring that all these terms are described, updated and linked together correctly is a mammoth task for humans.

However, by using OWL 2 definitions can be written in such a way that computer programs can tirelessly update these terms, enriching the structure of the Thesaurus and pointing out where there are errors.

 <http://owl.cs.manchester.ac.uk/>

# Triple grant success for medical researchers

**University of Manchester researchers looking at potential new therapies for pre-eclampsia and fetal growth restriction have been awarded £2.4 million.**

Pre-eclampsia – a group of conditions that result in high blood pressure in expectant mothers – can be fatal, while fetal growth restriction, where the baby does not grow properly in the womb, results in a greater risk of death or handicap.

The five-year programme grant from the Medical Research Council has been given to Professor Colin Sibley, Dr Sue Greenwood and Dr Mark Wareing in Manchester's Maternal and Fetal Health Research Centre based at St Mary's Hospital, together with collaborators in Cambridge, Harwell and Alberta.

Professor Sibley said: "Pre-eclampsia and fetal growth restriction are diseases with many different causes and are the most dangerous pregnancy complications. There are currently no treatments available other than Caesarean section or inducing labour.

"Some of the causes of the conditions are similar to those in other conditions, such as cardiovascular disease and cancer, and our research will



determine whether the same drugs that are useful in those diseases can be used in treating pregnancy complications."

A further £220,000 has been awarded by the MRC to fellow Maternal and Fetal Health Research Centre scientists, Professor John Aplin and Dr Lynda Harris. Their research will focus on an enzyme called MMP-12 and whether blocking its actions may be a therapeutic intervention in complicated pregnancies.

Meanwhile, Dr Stuart Pickering-Brown and Professor David Mann, in the School of Translational Medicine, have been awarded £1 million of a £4.5 million programme grant by the Wellcome Trust and Medical Research Council to identify genetic risk factors in motor neurone disease.

Working with colleagues at King's College, London, the Manchester researchers will investigate a gene called FUS – known to play a role in motor neurone disease – in dementia patients with frontotemporal lobar degeneration (FTLD).

Dr Pickering-Brown said: "Recent research on motor neurone disease and frontotemporal dementia has shown that RNA-processing proteins are deposited in degenerating nerve cells and that rare mutations in three known genes, including FUS, cause a genetic form of these diseases.

"Using these discoveries, our team will model key aspects of the human disorders in transgenic mice to allow us to explore fundamental disease mechanisms and identify new therapeutic targets."

# Town planning award puts lecturers on the map

**Architecture lecturers Drs Andrew Crompton and Frank Brown have been awarded one of town planning's most prestigious awards.**

The Michael Breheny Prize went to the researchers based at the University's School of Environment and Development in recognition of their work on fractal environments.

The academics argue that urban designers should create complicated fractal environments as they are better places to live. Humans, they say, are pre-adapted to live in a fractal environment where complex objects such as trees and rocks repeat themselves.

Non-fractal environments, such as car parks, London's Docklands development, business parks and pine plantations feel alien and oppressive.

Dr Crompton said: "We're delighted to receive this award – it's a real honour. One application of our work is the Welsh town of Portmeirion, which was made famous by 1960s cult television series *The Prisoner*. Sir Clough Williams-Ellis built the village to prove a beautiful site could be developed in a natural way."

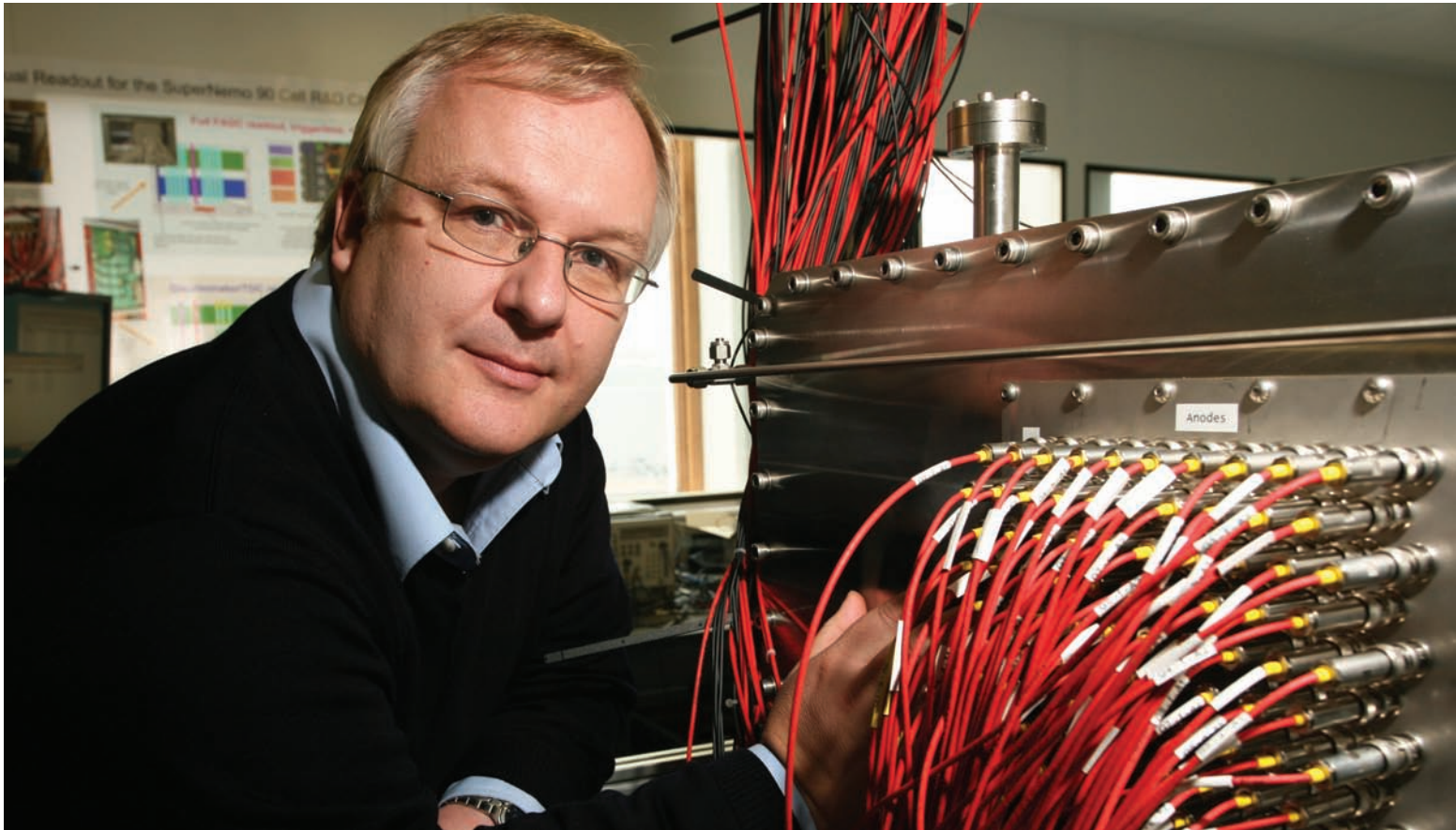
# Weeds could help feed the world

**Plants that cope better with changes in the environment – giving greater crop yields in the face of global warming – could be developed following a study into the weeds in the cracks in pavements.**

Dr Giles Johnson and his team at The University of Manchester have identified a protein that helps plants 'track' the environment and increase their capacity to photosynthesise (capturing light energy through the leaves which enables them to grow). This protein is produced according to the expression of a particular gene.

Some plants, including important crops, are less able to track their environment and are thus unable to cope with environmental changes. But if the team is able to help plants to respond to changes in their environment by traditionally breeding or genetically modifying them, crop yields could be increased, especially in vulnerable land.

The study was published in *Plant Physiology* last month.



# Stefan's Search

Searching for a particular particle is a complex and time-consuming endeavour. It can take years. And it may not even exist. But to win the race to find it would be tremendously exciting. Yet perhaps it would be even more exciting to discover that it didn't exist after all.

This enigma is at the heart of Professor Stefan Söldner-Rembold's work. The particle in question is the Higgs boson, named after the Edinburgh scientist who proposed it and believed to be responsible for giving elementary particles mass. Stefan's search is based at the Tevatron proton-antiproton collider at Fermilab, close to Chicago, currently the highest energy particle accelerator running in the world. He has just been elected by his fellow-physicists to the prestigious post of Spokesperson for the Dzero experiment, one of the two large experiments there.

In this context, Spokesperson means a great deal more than merely acting as the front man. His responsibility is to lead the project and carry executive authority over all aspects of the Dzero Collaboration. He oversees the work of 550 scientists including 150 graduate students from 89 institutions and 18 countries. Between them, the scientists publish a refereed journal paper every week – and he has to read

them all to make sure that they are up to the standard required.

Stefan is well-prepared for the responsibility. He was for two years the Physics Coordinator of the Dzero experiment at the Tevatron, and before that he worked in a similar position at a big experiment at CERN.

"I am very honoured to be elected as Spokesperson," he says. "We are doing complex and exciting work. The Dzero experiment has been running for nearly 25 years. One of the highlights is the discovery of the top quark – the heaviest elementary particle – about ten years ago. To make these discoveries we have to collect a huge amount of data, which takes a lot of complex analysis, since many of a lot of the processes we're looking for are extremely rare."

Among them, the search for the Higgs particle is, one might say, the Holy Grail of particle physics. Understandably, the scientists do not care to use

that analogy, although Stefan did enjoy the movie of Dan Brown's *Angels and Demons* on a flight back from the US recently, despite its scientific shortcomings.

The search has the potential either to see evidence for its existence or to exclude it – and there is healthy competition with CERN to be the first to do that. "We don't know what its mass will be," Stefan says. "We know the range, but is it there as predicted? It will be very exciting if we find it, but even more exciting if we discover it's not there after all and there is something else that's unexpected." (Rather like the Holy Grail?).

For the uninitiated, the scale and complexity of the enterprise is hard to grasp. The Tevatron ring is located on restored prairie land west of Chicago and has a circumference of four miles. The 5000 ton Dzero detector inspects about 10 million collisions per second – selecting about 100 collisions per second for recording, corresponding to about 300,000 gigabyte of data per year. And





only one collision in  $10^{12}$  could reveal a Higgs boson, but they all have to be analysed.

"We expect to be taking data until the end of 2011," says Stefan. "Hopefully, we will find something by then – or not."

He is certainly a man with a mission and a passion for his work. He even has an apartment on the site and spends more time there than he does at home in Greenfield.

But he is never out of touch. "With so many people involved from institutions worldwide, we do everything by video," he explains.

When in Manchester, he also works on a project designing a new large detector called SuperNEMO to discover another very rare process - neutrinoless double beta decay. If it exists it can be used to measure the tiny mass of the elusive neutrino.

He comes originally from Munich, where he was born in 1960. "As a boy, I was absolutely fascinated by the moon landing," he says. "Also, my grandfather used to show me how the Earth revolves around the Sun using a globe and his torch. I loved it."

Not surprisingly then, he was determined to study Physics – "I wanted to do something difficult." He went to Bonn University – "Like Manchester, an institution strong in particle physics". Then on to the Max Planck Institute in Munich for his PhD. "I was lucky, because I got the chance to do something at the frontier, to work on fundamental research."

In 1996, he got his Habilitation – a sort of second PhD and a qualification for an academic position at a German university – at Freiburg, leading to a prestigious Heisenberg Fellowship, comparable to a Royal Society University Research Fellowship.

That enabled him to spend six years moving around the world of particle physics – and he ended up at CERN and then Fermilab.

He first came to Manchester as a student from Bonn for a short visit to work with Manchester physicists on a CERN experiment and he always stayed in contact since then. He was delighted to get the opportunity to come to Manchester permanently – "This University has an excellent reputation for particle physics and brings together theory and experiment."

Graduate students in his group spend a year at the Tevatron, working alongside the international brigade of scientists. Indeed, the Manchester group on Dzero consists currently of two professors, one Royal Society University Research Fellow, one Royal Society Newton Fellow, three research assistants and five graduate students.

Stefan is only the second person from a non-US institution to be elected Spokesperson – and also the second from this University. His colleague Terry Wyatt held the post from 2004-2007.

He enjoys life in Manchester. He and his wife, Ana, also a physicist (she teaches at Oldham Sixth Form College), met at the Max Planck Institute. With their teenage daughters Isabella and Daniela, they live in Greenfield, in the same neck of the woods as his colleague, Professor Brian Cox.

"For me the moors are extremely exotic," he says. "I love the hills and the countryside." But he does miss his ski-ing and regular opera-going, which he was brought up with in Munich.

The good news is that they have another physicist following in their footsteps – Isabella is just about to start her university career, reading Physics at Imperial College London.

## Name

Professor Stefan Söldner-Rembold

## Position

Professor of Particle Physics  
The University of Manchester

Spokesperson of the Dzero Experiment  
Fermilab, Chicago, USA since 2009

## Education and Qualifications

Habilitation in Physics, University of Freiburg,  
1996

Dr. rer. nat. (PhD), Technical University  
Munich, 1992

Diplom-Physiker, University of Bonn, 1987

## Career History

2007-2009  
Physics Coordinator of the Dzero Experiment

2003-2008  
Lecturer/Reader, The University of Manchester

1999-2003  
Heisenberg Fellow (German Research  
Foundation, DFG) based at CERN, Geneva,  
and at Fermilab, Chicago

2000-2001  
Physics Coordinator of the OPAL Experiment  
at the Large Electron-Positron (LEP) Collider  
and Scientific Associate at CERN

1996-1999:  
Privatdozent (Lecturer), University of Freiburg

1994-1996:  
Wissenschaftlicher Assistent, University of  
Freiburg OPAL Experiment, CERN

1992-1994  
Research Associate, University of Freiburg  
ZEUS Experiment at the electron-proton  
collider HERA, DESY, Hamburg

1987-1992:  
PhD Research Fellowship  
Max Planck Institute for Physics, Munich:  
Deep inelastic muon nucleon scattering at the  
E665 Experiment, Fermilab

# Students mobilise for Operation Impact



**Neighbourhoods across south Manchester have been spruced up after hundreds of students embarked on a huge volunteering project.**

More than 200 students – all enrolled on the University's Manchester Leadership Programme (MLP) – descended on areas of Moss Side, Fallowfield, Rusholme and Victoria

Park armed with bin bags and paint brushes, in order to make a difference to residents. The volunteers have vowed to keep returning to the area to make sure it stays in a good condition.

Operation Impact is a large scale volunteering initiative in partnership with Manchester City Council. During the week-long 'blitz' the

students helped to transform local eyesores by creating a new community garden, a usable school playing field and transforming local streets.

More than 40 students began the week in Moss Side clearing a park which had become overgrown and used by fly tippers. The University's Volunteering and Community Engagement Team will now ensure that the project is sustained by providing regular volunteers.

Others painted and tidied an alleyway in Victoria Park, to create a tranquil community space for local residents, whilst another group tidied up streets and alleyways in Fallowfield Brow.

Lindsay Gilbert, Head of Volunteering and Community Engagement at The University of Manchester, said: "These events enabled our students to make a positive contribution to the areas they live in and we're delighted to have worked with the City Council to make a difference."

Councillor Paul Andrews, Manchester City Council's Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services said:

"Students across Manchester are an important part of the community and events like this show they're just as keen as residents to demonstrate their pride in the city."

Local resident Temipope Yussuff who lives in Victoria Park said: "Thank you to all the students for all the hard work cleaning our alleyway, painting the gates and making it look good for everyone that lives here. We really appreciate what you have done here."

MLP is a credited unit that has been developed to help University of Manchester students understand the importance of leadership that embraces social, economic and environmental sustainability. The MLP includes voluntary work within the community.

Janet Melling, an MLP student said: "Volunteering on Operation Impact has been fantastic. We have really seen a visible result from all our hard work. It has been great volunteering alongside other MLP students as well as making such a positive contribution to the community."

## Moonwatching in Manchester

**Astronomers from the Jodrell Bank Centre for Astrophysics headed out into the streets of Manchester to show passers-by close-up views of the Moon and the planet Jupiter.**

About 250 people took the opportunity to use one of the Jodrell telescopes to study craters on the Moon and see the four largest moons of Jupiter. The vast majority had never looked through a telescope before.

The event took place in late October but Jupiter will be visible for several months - it appears like a bright star in the southern evening sky.

The event was part of the International Year of Astronomy's (IYA) Moonwatch week, during which a Jodrell Bank Jodcast video was shown on the BBC Big Screen in Manchester's Exchange Square.

The International Year of Astronomy marks 400 years since Galileo first used a telescope to look at the Moon and Jupiter. It is also 40 years since the Apollo 11 astronauts landed on the Moon.

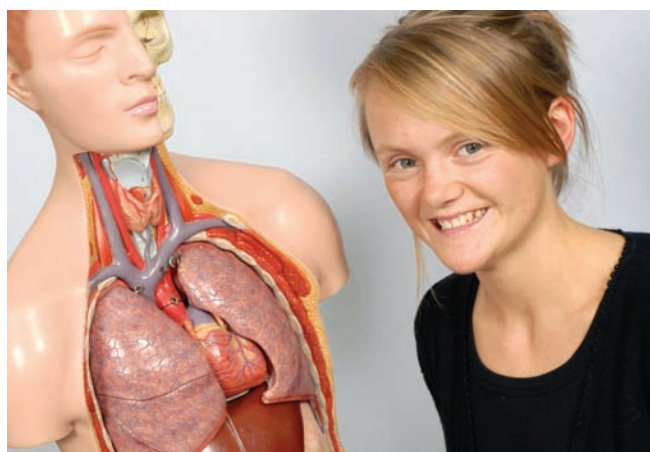
## Award for rising star of science

**A young scientist in the Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell-Matrix Research has won a prestigious award which recognises her efforts to bring science to the public.**

Ceri Harrop has included and presented a short television series, presented a radio show and is an ambassador for her subject in the national EPSRC-funded New Outlooks In Science & Engineering (NOISE) campaign, as well as founding and chairing the Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell Matrix Research (WTCCMR) public engagement committee.

The Society of Biology's 'Science Communication Awards', sponsored by Pfizer, recognise research-active bioscientists from UK universities or institutes who make an outstanding and consistent contribution to communicating science to the public.

Ceri, who won the award's 'New Researcher' category, said: "The taxpayers, or charity donors, fund our research. It is public money and they have a right to know what we are doing with it. Plus I don't think we give people enough credit - they are



interested in health, the environment and other science issues and we, as scientists, should make research accessible to the public.

"Secondly it's both highly rewarding and enlightening to take your research to a different audience. It gets you away from the lab bench, and helps you see your work from a different perspective."

The Faculty's Vice President and Dean Professor Martin Humphries, who nominated Ceri, said: "In Manchester, we

are dedicated to employing staff and producing graduates who are not only outstanding professionals but also informed, ethically aware, socially responsible citizens. The WTCCMR has responded to this challenge by elevating public engagement activity to a high priority, and over the last few years we have assembled a large network of lab staff and academics who now see PE as a core aspect of their job. Ceri has played the principal leading role in driving these developments."





## Sport volunteers give back to the community

**A team of 25 student volunteers recently organised and officiated a very successful netball and football tournament for 16 local schools at the Armitage sports centre. The volunteers were on the Sport Volunteer Scheme or the Manchester Leadership Programme (MLP) and for many of them it was their first experience in volunteering.**

Kirsty Hutchison, Volunteering and Community Engagement Manager said, "The tournament is a great way for MLP students to help fulfil their volunteering commitment. The students had a rewarding time interacting with the

children and teachers, as well as building on key skills such as teamwork, initiative and negotiation."

The Sport Volunteer Scheme is extremely popular and allows students to volunteer their time in the community with sports-related activities such as coaching an after-school football team or building a website for a local hockey club. David Jones, a final year Chemist, describes his volunteering as "a way to give something back" and in return for his hours helping local children play football, the University has supported his FA Level 1 coaching qualification.



## Student reps

**Two local beneficiaries of the Manchester's widening participation work were recently nominated to represent the University at a high profile national conference organised by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT).**

Amarpreet Kaur (right) has recently applied to Nursing and Midwifery at Manchester through the University's Manchester Access Programme (MAP). She is currently in her upper sixth year at Whalley Range High School. Sara Zaheer (left) is a former pupil of Whalley Range High School and Loreto College, and has recently begun studying Medicine at Manchester having completed MAP in 2009.

Neither of the students' parents had benefitted from higher education and they spoke to delegates and senior Civil Servants about the difference MAP had made to their aspirations and confidence. Targeted as bright local sixth formers from underrepresented backgrounds, students on MAP are mentored, undertake campus-based activities and complete an extended academic assignment worth 40 UCAS points towards entry to Manchester.

Julian Skyrme, Head of Undergraduate Recruitment and Widening Participation, accompanied them and said: "Both Amarpreet and Sara did themselves, their School and College and their families proud in speaking so persuasively about their learner journeys into higher education. At a time when there is an increased focus on social mobility and fair admissions to leading universities, it was particularly timely that Sara spoke about how the programme's targeting and special admissions processes were key to her being able to enter Manchester and fulfil her aspirations to become a doctor".

## Lunch with the neighbours

**The University hosted an event last month offering previously homeless people the chance to explore employment opportunities in the Oxford Road area.**

Organised by the Corridor Manchester Partnership and Business in the Community, the workshop entitled 'Lunch with the neighbours' was for previously homeless people who are now settled and job ready.

Those who attended are taking part in Prince's Trust schemes which give support to young people in developing key workplace skills. The workshop's aim was to give an overview of The University of Manchester and its partners as employers.

Steve Grant, the University's Assistant Director of Human Resources (seconded to Corridor Manchester), said: "This was an excellent opportunity for the University, other employers and agencies to present

the opportunities available to people in the Oxford Road area. We hope that this will be the first of many successful events which will improve the prospects of local people."

Also represented at the event were Aspire, Business in the Community, Greater Manchester Employer Coalition, Jobcentre Plus, Manchester Metropolitan University, Pathfinder.

Corridor Manchester is the first partnership of its kind in the UK. It brings together Manchester City Council, The University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University and the Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to build on the partners' investments in the 243 hectare area running south from St Peter's Square to Whitworth Park along Oxford Road, Manchester. The partnership is committed to generating further economic growth and investment in the knowledge



economy for the benefit of the city region.

There are 55,000 people currently employed in Corridor Manchester, which is 25% of the city's workforce.

*Pictured at the event from left are Yoras Kabtimer, Daniel Kinsey, Steve Grant and Jorge Correia.*





# Manchester Science Festival

**Manchester Science Festival 2009 ran from 24 October to 1 November and included more than 150 exciting science, engineering, technology, engineering and maths - mostly free - events for families and adults in venues across Greater Manchester, including the University campus**

The Festival brings together universities, organisations and key cultural partners from across the region. It is coordinated by the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI) and is supported by the Northwest Regional Development Agency and Siemens.

Here is a taste of just some of the events held on campus during the week:

## 1 Off To Electrifying Start

To mark the start of the week-long festival, engineers at the National Grid High Voltage Laboratory at The University of Manchester used a Tesla Coil to put millions of volts of electricity through the Festival's star shaped logo.

Huge sparks of electricity flew out of the edges of the star and into the Festival banner, looking for the quickest route to the earth.

## 2 Take a walk with Turing

A campus walk was brought to life by actors playing the parts of luminaries of the past, Ernest Rutherford and Alan Turing. Manchester Tourist Guide Chris Norwood devised the walk to explore what the giants of the past have contributed to the pioneers of today.

Chris has worked with professional actors from the 24:7 Theatre Festival and a script writer.

In Rutherford's case the character used golf balls and a plum pudding to demonstrate the scientific breakthrough that he and his colleagues made in relation to the nature of the atom. Alan Turing asked people on the walk to take the Turing test.

During the walk, Chris also introduced the pioneering work that goes on in these fields at The University of Manchester today.

The walk began at Manchester Museum and wound its way to relevant locations around the University campus.

Professor Steve Furber from Computer Schools dropped in on one of the walks to chat to the actor playing Alan Turing.

The walk was supported by Corridor Manchester.

## 3. Lecture offers insights into pioneering research

Leading researchers from the University" Professors Andre Geim, Steve Furber, Dame Nancy Rothwell and Robin Marshall gave the audience some exciting and inspiring insights into their work at a special lecture during the Festival attended by more than 200 people.

The Bright Ideas lecture at University Place launched the Royal Society 350th Anniversary 'Local Heroes' events programme in the North West.

Professor Geim, who discovered the world's thinnest material in 2004, gave a rare insight into his pioneering work and possible future developments in the field of graphene research.

Professor Furber is ICL Professor of Computer Engineering in the School of Computer Science. He is currently spearheading the SpinNaker project, which is aiming to build a computing system that incorporates one million embedded ARM processors and mimics the human brain's biological structure and functionality.

Professor Rothwell, Deputy President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor at The University of Manchester, currently oversees a research group of about 20 scientists. Her current research focuses on the role of inflammation in brain disease.

Professor Marshall is Emeritus Professor in Physics. His recent research includes studying electron proton collisions, preparing for ATLAS at CERN in Geneva and astro-particle physics.

The individual lectures were followed by a general discussion on where current research in life sciences, computer technology, particle physics and nanotechnology is heading, and prospects for the future.

## Engaging Manchester's public in debating childhood obesity

A fascinating public debate into childhood obesity in England was held in the John Rylands Library as part of the Festival. Nowgen – A Centre for Genetics in Healthcare, organised the event to



### Film gives new insight into nine-year-old's asylum victory

**A documentary made by two Masters students as part of their course was screened at the Imperial War museum last month.**

'Displaced' gives new insight into the emotive story of a nine-year-old boy, Tony Lola, saved from deportation to an uncertain future in his native Congo. It follows his plight surviving imprisonment in his native country, and that of his mother Mireille.

Staff and pupils at Didsbury C of E primary - where the youngster is a pupil - organised a high profile campaign to help him.

Manchester students Ella Cummins and Charli Allen followed Tony and his mother Mireille and campaigners to the doors of the Home Office, where they handed in a petition to ministers. The filmmakers also caught on camera the moments following the news that they had finally won their battle to stay.

Their work was one of five films to be screened at The Imperial War Museum made by students as part of their MA course in War, Culture and History at The University of Manchester.



Tony Lola

Ella Cummins said: "I think that the film provides us with a fantastic example of a community coming together, which is something that we sadly don't see very often anymore.

"We felt that asylum was one of the most contentious topics in Britain today and realised that asylum seekers are not given a voice very often. The course for me was a vital bridge between a

degree in history and a career in the media.

Course Director Dr Ana Carden Coyne said: "The MA in History, War and Culture reflects the intellectual challenge of truly grasping the serious impact of war on peoples and cultures. Film is a powerful way to express this - and our students find the course life-changing."

### Talking pictures

**Last month, Michael Winterbottom, the renowned British film director, came to The University of Manchester to speak to students on the LEAP course, British Culture through Film. Students from Screen Studies also attended.**

The Blackburn-born director answered questions on *24 Hour Party People*, one of the set films on the LEAP course, and talked about his many other films, including *Welcome to Sarajevo* and *In this World*. He also spoke about his current project, a film set in 1930s Palestine. There were many fascinating insights into the film-making process, along with some interesting anecdotes.

It provided a great opportunity for students to talk face-to-face with the director of one of the films they study, and to hear more about the colourful characters involved in the Manchester music scene of the time.



explore attitudes towards this serious health issue which has gained increasing focus in recent years.

The audience discussed wide-ranging issues with an expert panel, and electronically voted on key questions throughout the evening. Possibly the most controversial finding was that, 22% of the audience said that obese people, rather than taxpayers, should pay for their treatment on the NHS.

Led by Dr Chris Steele, GP from ITV's *This Morning*, the panel of experts included Dr Catherine Hall, paediatric consultant, from Manchester's Biomedical Research Centre, Professor Andrew Hill, obesity psychologist from The University of Leeds, and Vicki Swinden, Founder of *Fat is the New Black*.

Dr Hall researches childhood obesity and has recently involved young obese people in developing a regional obesity service tailored to their needs. Her presentation discussed the link between obesity and genetics. "We now know that the condition can be a result of the interaction between environmental factors and a genetic predisposition. 84% of overweight children have a family history of obesity and there is more to it than just eating too much and exercising too little."

As well as the general public, the audience included members of University staff, NHS staff, local city councils, NHS Direct and the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE).

Commenting on the event, Nowgen's Director of Public Programmes, Bella Starling said: "These debates provide a valuable forum for a range of voices to be heard and a variety of opinions to be expressed. Sharing dialogue ensures public views contribute to medical research."

# What's On



## Music and Drama at Manchester

Thursday 10 Dec, 6.30pm

### Poetry Reading with James Fenton

James Fenton has worked as political journalist, drama critic, book reviewer, war correspondent, foreign correspondent and columnist.

Thursday 10 Dec, 1.10pm

### The Dessibelles Vocal Trio - Songs from Bulgaria

Thrilling crunchy Bulgarian harmonies and fiery beats.

Friday 11 Dec, 7.30pm

### The University of Manchester Big Band

Thursday 17 Dec, 7.30pm

### MUMS Celebrates Christmas

Manchester University Music Society Celebrate Christmas

Thursday 17 Dec, 1.30pm

### Quatuor Danel Lunchtime Concert

A rich and dramatic five-movement masterpiece from the late years of the Soviet Union, by Shostakovich's favourite pupil of the 1960s, Boris Tishchenko.

Friday 18 Dec, 7.30pm

### Quatuor Danel Evening Concert

Another meeting of early Haydn and mature Mozart, this time followed by the last and darkest of Tchaikovsky's three quartets, with a deeply felt funeral slow movement at its core.

### The Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama Bridgeford Street, Manchester M13 9PL

0161 275 8951/8950

email [boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk)

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

## Jodrell Bank

Throughout the year you can view the telescope from many angles on the Observation Pathway, take a Journey to Mars or tour the Solar System in the 3D theatre. You can also discover the history of Jodrell Bank in the small indoor exhibition area or take a walk in the tranquil setting of the 35 acre Arboretum.

Saturday 12 Dec, 7-10pm

### Geminid Meteor Shower Party

Watch the Geminid meteor shower and use telescopes to view the planets, weather permitting. Talks and 3D presentations are included in the ticket price, along with soup, roll and hot drink. Tickets are limited. Adults £10, Children £5. SOLD OUT

Tuesday 1 to Wednesday 23 Dec

### Christmas at Jodrell

Visit Jodrell Bank, take a journey to Mars and then enjoy a two or three course Christmas lunch. <http://www.jodrellbank.manchester.ac.uk/visitorcentre/vents/2009/christmas.html>

Please call 01477 571339 to book tickets or to get further information.

### Jodrell Bank Observatory Visitor Centre

Macclesfield, Cheshire

01477 571339

[www.manchester.ac.uk/jodrellbank/viscen](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/jodrellbank/viscen)

## Chaplaincies

### St Peter's House Chaplaincy

11am Holy Communion

12.15pm Bible Study

12.45pm Lunch (1st Sun)

6.30pm Evening Worship (term-time only)

FOYER 10am – 5pm

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 Chaplaincy

Mon, Wed, Fri, 6pm in the Chaplaincy Chapel

Tues, Thurs, 12.15pm in the Chaplaincy Chapel

### The Jewish Student Centre and Synagogue

Hillel House, Greenheys Lane

0161 226 1139

Email [rabbiiy@hotmail.com](mailto:rabbiiy@hotmail.com)

[www.rabbiiy.com](http://www.rabbiiy.com)

### Muslim Chaplaincy

South Campus Mosque, McDougall Centre

Jammat (Group Prayer) Daily

Juma Prayer Friday 1.15pm

Honorary Imam: Imam Habeeb, [h\\_chatti@hotmail.com](mailto:h_chatti@hotmail.com)

North Campus Mosque, Basement of Joule Library,

Sackville Street Building

Jammat (Group Prayer) Daily

Juma Prayer Friday 12.30pm

The role of the 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](mailto:a.sami99@yahoo.co.uk),

[hbm1411@hotmail.com](mailto:hbm1411@hotmail.com), [assia\\_shah61@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:assia_shah61@yahoo.co.uk),

[hawwah@hotmail.com](mailto:hawwah@hotmail.com)

## International Society

### WINTER TRIPS

Sat 5 Dec

### Lincoln's Christmas Market

Sun 6 Dec

### Lake District visiting Keswick Traditional Christmas Market

Sat 12 Dec

### Chester Zoo Frost Fair

Sun 13 Dec

### Yorkshire Dales visiting Bolton Abbey and Skipton's Medieval Market and Castle

### 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](mailto:int.soc@anchester.ac.uk)

[www.internationalsociety.org.uk](http://www.internationalsociety.org.uk)

## Gig Guide

### MANCHESTER ACADEMY 1, 2 and 3

Wed 2 Dec - £15 Adv

### The Tragically Hip

Wed 2 Dec - £17.50 Adv

### Julian Plenti

Thurs 3 Dec - £12 Adv

### Buddy Whittington & Aynsley Lister

Fri 4 Dec - £10 Adv

### The Doors Alive (A Tribute to The Doors)

Fri 4 Dec - £10 Adv

### The Lancashire Hotpots Xmas Cracker

Sat 5 Dec - £12.50 Adv

### Hollywood Undead

Mon 7 Dec - £12.50 Adv

### Reggie Watts

Tues 8 Dec - £10 Adv

### Frankmusik

Weds 9 Dec - £15 Adv

### Monster Magnet

Thurs 10 Dec - £10 Adv

### Electric Six

Fri 11 Dec - £15 Adv

### Skin

Sat 12 Dec - £5 Adv

### From The Jam Aftershow

Sun 13 Dec - £10 Adv

### Set Your Goals

Mon 14 Dec - £11 Adv

### Goldie Lookin Chain

Weds 16 Dec - £18.50 Adv

### Michael Schenker Group

Thurs 17 Dec - £6.50 Adv

### Heaven's Basement

Sat 19 Dec - £10 Adv

### Amplifier

### 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](http://www.manchesteracademy.net)

## Centre for New Writing

Monday 7 Dec

The Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall, 6.30pm, £5/3

### Martin Amis Public Events: Literature and Ageing

In these hugely popular public events, Martin Amis and guests discuss how literature faces up to major issues of the day.

Thursday 10 Dec

The John Rylands Library Deansgate, 6.30pm, Free

### Poetry Reading with James Fenton

James Fenton has worked as a political journalist, drama critic, book reviewer, war correspondent, foreign correspondent and columnist.

Website: [www.manchester.ac.uk/arts/newwriting](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/arts/newwriting)

Online journal: [www.themanchesterreview.co.uk](http://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](mailto:boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk)

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





## The Manchester Museum

As well as our permanent galleries, the Museum has a varied programme of temporary exhibitions.

### The Evolutionist

Who was Charles Darwin and what's all the fuss about his theory of evolution? All will be revealed during our Darwin Extravaganza. Part of *Darwin 200* which is a national programme of events honouring his scientific ideas and their impact.

### After Life

As well as discovering the ancient Egyptians' beliefs about the after life, find out about some personal reflections, and potential options, for funerals and remembrance today. The *After Life* exhibits are displayed within the Ancient Egypt gallery.

### Made in Africa: Portrait of an Ife ruler

Be awed by this sculpture of an Ife head, on tour from the British Museum. The Kingdom of Ife was a powerful, cosmopolitan and wealthy city-state in West Africa. It flourished as a political, spiritual, cultural and economic centre in the 12th-15th centuries AD, and was an influential hub of local and long-distance trade networks.

### FAMILY EVENTS

Friday 11 Dec, 11am-12pm

#### Magic Carpet: Polar Animals

Get comfy on our magic carpet and enjoy stories and activities.

Saturday 19 & Sunday 20 Dec, 2-3pm

#### Victorian Gentleman Tour

Discover the wonders of the world with our Victorian gentleman guide, Graeme Pye Esquire. Ask him for an 'I've spied Mr Pye' sticker.

### ADULT EVENTS

Tuesday 1 Dec, 6-8pm

#### Ideas Café: Darwin's Work, Use and Abuse

Discover how Darwin's scientific discoveries were used and abused to support political agendas. Part of The Evolutionist, our Darwin extravaganza. Book on 0161 275 2648, Free

Wednesday 9 Dec, 3-5pm

#### Showcase Seminar: The Psychodynamics of Museums

with Myna Trustram, Renaissance North West. Drop-in, Free

Tuesday 15 Dec 12-1pm

#### Climate Change Tour of The Manchester Museum

Polar Bears, penguins and fossil records. These are some of The Manchester Museum's many collections that throw light onto the issues surrounding climate change. Join us for a tour of The Manchester Museum to find out more. Part of Manchester's Climate Change Festival. Drop-in, Free

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

### Opening hours

Open: Tues-Sat 10am - 5pm  
Sun-Mon (and Bank Holidays) 11am - 4pm  
FREE Admission

### The Manchester Museum

Oxford Road, Manchester  
0161 275 2634  
[www.manchester.ac.uk/museum](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/museum)



## John Rylands Library (Deansgate)

### EXHIBITIONS

#### Mapping Manchester: Stories of the City

until 17 Jan 2010

Maps can tell us many different stories about the places where we live and work. This exhibition shows how mapping is particularly ingrained into urban life; it demonstrates how maps work and how they have evolved over time - reflecting changes in technology, society and economic conditions.

#### Designer Bookbinders Annual Competition 2009

until 31 Jan 2010

The 34th annual Designer Bookbinders Competition, giving visitors the opportunity to see a marvelous variety of interpretative styles and the use of different techniques and materials.

#### I am Christina Rossetti! until 7 Feb 2010

An intimate display of material from the collections which shed light on the remarkable life and work of Christina Rossetti.

#### Collection Close-Up with Library Tour every third Thursday in the month, 12.15pm

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

### EVENTS

Sat 5 & Weds 16 Dec, 12-1pm

#### The Devil's in the Detail – exploring medieval

manuscripts Beautiful medieval manuscripts, from both eastern and western traditions and written in over fifty different languages, take a closer look and learn about their histories – how they were made, who made them and why. Tickets £2.50, contact The Library's Visitors Services on (0161) 306 0555 or [jrl.events@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:jrl.events@manchester.ac.uk)

Tues 8 Dec, 12-1pm

#### Unusual Views: Library tours for Photographers

Take the opportunity to photograph the Library building from spectacular viewpoints not normally open to the public! Guided by Library Staff you will be given unique access to the galleries hidden gems. Tickets £2.50, contact the Library's Visitors Services on (0161) 306 0555 or [jrl.events@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:jrl.events@manchester.ac.uk)

Sat 12 Dec, 11am 12.15pm, 2pm and 3pm, Free

#### Printing Press Demonstrations with Graham Moss

Graham Moss, founder of the Incline Press in Oldham, returns to the Library to lead a series of printing press demonstrations. Learn about the history of printing, see the Library's historic presses in action and have a go yourself.

Sun 6 & 20 Dec, 3-4pm, Free

#### HARK! Carol singing in the Library

Join us for an afternoon of traditional carol singing in the beautiful surroundings of our Historic Reading Room.

### 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](mailto:jrl.visitors@manchester.ac.uk)  
[www.manchester.ac.uk/library](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/library)



## The Whitworth Art Gallery

### DISPLAYS/COLLECTIONS

#### The Manchester Indian: Thomas Wardle and India until summer 2010

This exhibition celebrates the centenary of the death of Sir Thomas Wardle (1831-1909). Still perhaps best known for his collaboration with William Morris, the exhibition focuses on Wardle's efforts to reinvigorate the silk industry in India as well as the impact that India had on his work.

#### Deep Rooted, How Trees Shape Our Lives until May 2010

What do trees mean to you? Drawing from the Whitworth's internationally important collection of watercolours and drawings, this exhibition explores how trees and woodland shaped our lives.

#### The Complete Roberta Breitmore: Lynn Hershman Leeson until summer 2010

In San Francisco in the mid-Seventies, Lynn Hershman Leeson created Roberta Breitmore and performed this persona as a work of art over a four year period, documenting it through artifacts, photography, film and sound. This extraordinary body of work, which raises questions about the complexities of identity and the nature of the work of art, has been purchased by the Whitworth in its final edition and is shown here for the first time in its eternity.

### EVENTS

Tuesday 8 Dec, 6pm

#### Reflections on The American Scene

by Douglas Tallack

Saturday 12 Dec, 2-5pm

#### Pimp and Primp!

Get ready for the festive party season! Bring along your glad rags to style, swap or customise with expert guidance from our creative team.

Every Sunday 1.30pm - 3.30pm, Family Friendly, Free

#### Colourful Sundays

Drop into the gallery any Sunday afternoon for free and fun creative activities at Colourful Sundays. Suitable for all ages no need to book.

Every Tuesday 11am -12.30pm, Free

#### Tuesday Talks

Each week an artist, thinker or critic talks about their work, influences and inspirations.

### Collection Exhibitions Archive Now Online

The Whitworth's online 'Collections Catalogue' now allows you to browse and search selected exhibitions held at the Gallery over the past 10 years. Follow the link from homepage:

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

### The Whitworth Art Gallery

Oxford Road, Manchester  
0161 275 7450  
email [whitworth@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:whitworth@manchester.ac.uk)



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## CAFÉ ON THE PARK

Enterprise House, Manchester Science Park

### HAVE YOU BOOKED YOUR STAFF CHRISTMAS LUNCH?

Located across the road from the University, behind John Rylands library, Café on the Park is the perfect location to have your office/department lunch this Christmas.

**3 COURSES + COFFEE FOR £17.95\***

Take a look at our menu and select one option from each course:

#### STARTERS

Thai Vegetable Soup

Smoked Haddock and  
Spring Onion Fish Cake

Cheese Souffle (V)

Chicken Liver parfait  
with home-made  
chutney

#### MAIN COURSE

Turkey Tourmedos with Pork,  
Apricot and Cranberry stuffing  
wrapped in thin cut  
streaky bacon

Slow cooked ham shank with  
a mustard and cheddar sauce

Blackened Mahi Mahi  
on a bed of Caesar Salad

Avocado, Cherry Tomato and  
Basil Filo Tart With Roasted  
Vine tomatoes and  
Dauphinoise potatoes (V)

#### DESSERTS

Traditional Christmas  
Pudding  
& Rum Sauce (V)

Chocolate Truffle Torte

Strawberry Shortcake  
Bavarois

Assiette of Cheese  
and Fruit

#### COFFEE

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OR E-MAIL [cafe@mspl.co.uk](mailto:cafe@mspl.co.uk)

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CHRISTMAS 2009

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[WWW.MEETING.CO.UK](http://WWW.MEETING.CO.UK)

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# Discover the Whitworth



## MUMA chosen for Whitworth's building designs

**MUMA has been selected as the architectural practice which will give shape to a vision for the future of the University's Whitworth Art Gallery.**

Over 130 RIBA competition entrants were whittled to a shortlist of five firms that submitted detailed designs for the gallery's Heritage Lottery Fund bid. These were subject to public scrutiny as well as being considered in depth by the judging panel chaired by Chancellor of the University of Manchester, Tom Bloxham MBE. He said: "All the shortlisted designs were outstanding and had unique strengths, however MUMA's design shone in its thoughtful and sensitive response to a complex brief. Amongst many delightful touches the prospect of visiting a cafe in the tree canopy was particularly enjoyed".

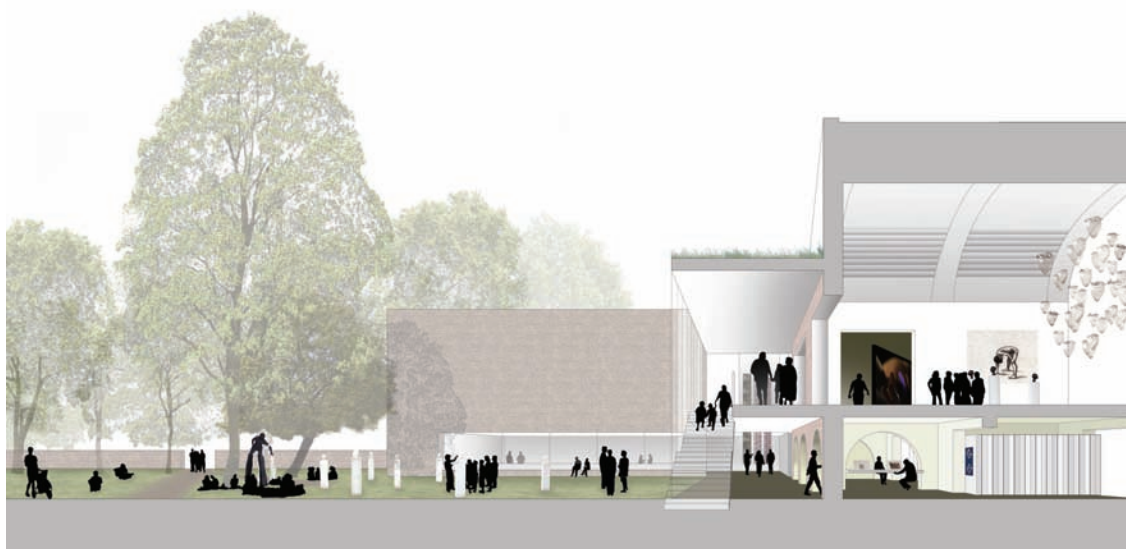
MUMA will now work with the University on a detailed design for the new second entrance and extension for the Whitworth, connecting it more directly with Whitworth Park in which it is situated at the southern gateway of campus. Plans for the

development include an art garden and second entrance, a new informal 'cafe in the trees', a landscape gallery and study area allowing visitors and researchers to get closer to the collections even when they are not on public display. Plans will be worked up during the next year and will be presented as part of the final

stage of the Whitworth's Heritage Lottery Fund bid in 2010.

MUMA (McInnes, Usher, McKnight Architects) is a collaborative architectural design studio established in 2000. They have undertaken numerous public sector and arts projects, most recently the creation of

new £30m Medieval & Renaissance Galleries for the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, to open on 2nd December. All of MUMA's work has been secured through architectural design competitions and their projects have received international awards and recognition.



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

### News Contact

#### News and story ideas

Internal Communications Office

tel 0161 275 2112

email [uninews@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:uninews@manchester.ac.uk)

online [www.manchester.ac.uk/staffnet/news](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/staffnet/news)

Deadline 13 January 12 noon

### Events Contact

#### Events and listings information

Philippa Adshead

tel 0161 275 2922

email [unievents@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:unievents@manchester.ac.uk)

Deadline 13 January 12 noon

### Adverts Contact

#### Ads

Janice Drew

tel 0161 275 2113

email [uniads@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:uniads@manchester.ac.uk)

Deadline 13 January 12 noon

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