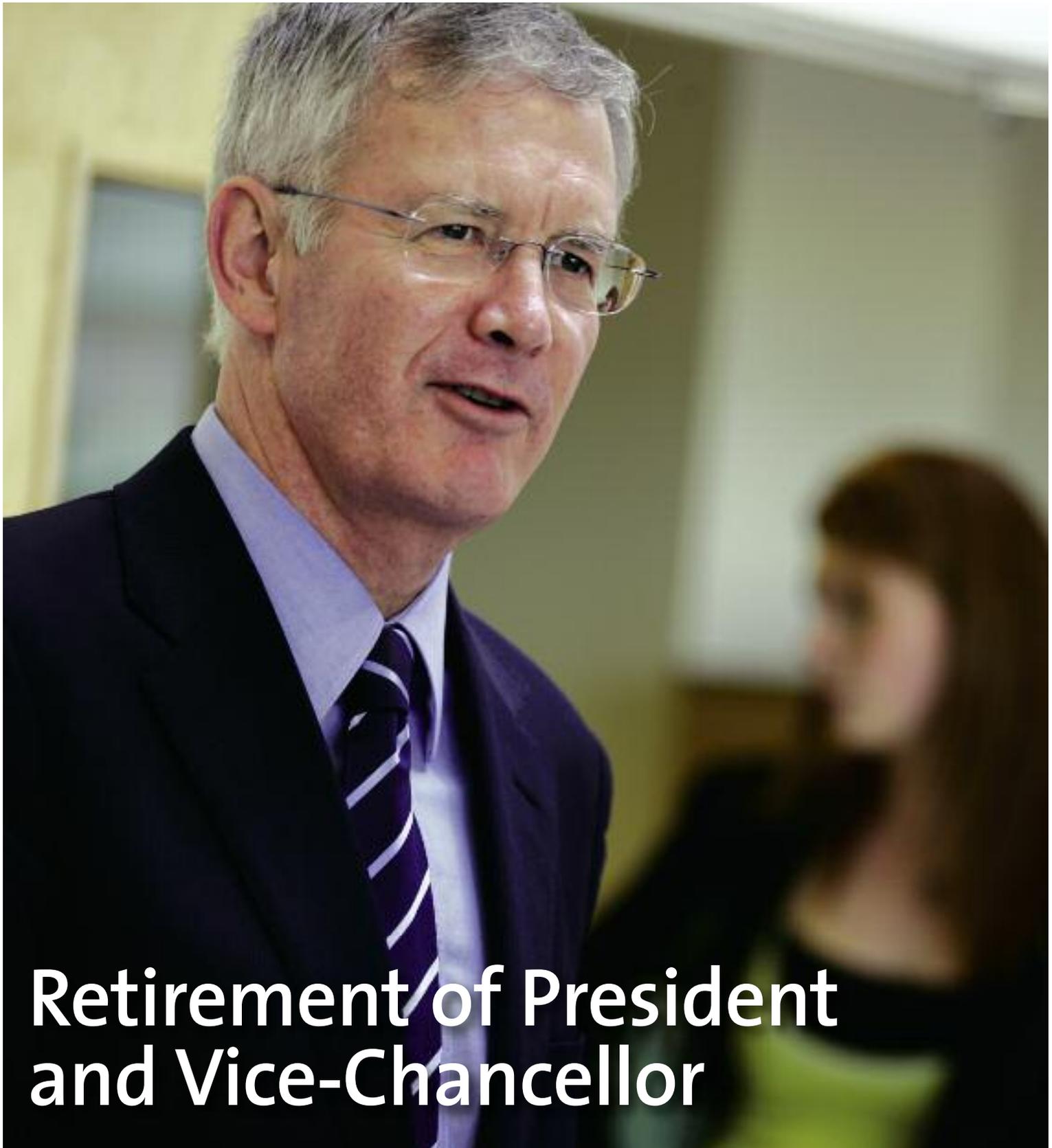


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President and Vice-Chancellor,
Professor Alan Gilbert

Letter from the President



This is the last *UniLife* article I will write. By the time the next edition of *UniLife* is published I will be back in Australia in retirement.

I have no idea what retirement will bring, but I am sure that boredom will not be a problem. During the periods of imposed rest following illness over the last few months I have started writing a book, and have been delighted to rediscover the pleasure and stimulation that comes from serious writing. There may also be tiny contributions still to make to higher education, some golf to play and old friendships to restore.

The really powerful pull back to Australia for Ingrid and me is, however, the prospect of living once more in the same city as our children and grandchildren. We might otherwise be retiring in England, so greatly have we enjoyed living here over the past six years. Leaving The University of Manchester will be a wrench.

In leaving I am, however, taking immense satisfaction – which everyone in the University community should share – in the fact that the momentum that has transformed the University since 2004 has not faltered. It is also deeply reassuring to know that the University is in a healthy financial position, and must be among the best-placed universities in the UK to emerge from a prolonged period of financial stringency without loss of strategic momentum.

That does not mean that the future will be easy. The financial pressures on universities are likely to be severe enough to test the strength of even the best-placed institutions. What it does mean is that, even if the most draconian scenarios eventuate, Manchester will be able to sustain itself in good order, and actually improve its institutional competitiveness.

In retrospect, I suppose that the main thing that has driven me as President and Vice-Chancellor has been fear of letting the University down.

The sheer scale of the opportunity that the “merger” afforded The University of Manchester made the prospect of leading the new institution one of the most exciting and challenging tasks in international higher education. But it also meant that the stakes were extraordinarily high, and magnified the fear of failure.

Had the University community settled for becoming the biggest “Big Civic” university in the UK instead of exploiting the strategic opportunities that the merger created for “step change” transformation, I would be retiring with a deep sense of personal as well as institutional failure.

As things have turned out, I can take enormous pride in the fact that the University has been remarkably successful.

Pride but little credit! Being President has been rather like being a highly agitated football manager rushing up and down the sideline in an important match, cheering the team on, shouting futile instructions, expressing frustration, calling for greater effort, glowing with pride when players display virtuosity or score goals – but remaining entirely dependent on the quality, commitment, skill and competitiveness of the team.

So it remains only for me to say that I would like to thank every colleague in the University community, academic and non-academic alike, for a phenomenal achievement over the past six years.

Collectively, you have not been daunted by the most ambitious of agendas; you have been realistic about institutional shortcomings, and worked decisively to rectify them; you have accepted that we are competing with the best universities in the world, not measuring ourselves against UK benchmarks.

As outstanding researchers, you have accelerated the emergence of Manchester as a research powerhouse able to challenge the likes of Imperial College and University College London; as academic teachers, you have embraced wholeheartedly the challenge of transforming the student experience in Manchester; as members of a distinguished University community, you have embraced the special responsibility to tackle the great challenges facing contemporary societies and accepted the inconvenience and uncertainties of relentless change as a proper price to pay for “step change” improvement. As a result, you have created something exceptional here in Manchester – a powerful, ambitious, strategic University where morale is strong and the future bright.

So I can sign off with profound admiration, pride and confidence – and deep affection for all the friends and colleagues who have given me six memorable years in Manchester.

Professor Alan Gilbert
President and Vice-Chancellor

Poet Laureate puts John Rylands Totem in Pole Position



Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy unveiled a new work of art at The John Rylands Library Deansgate last month. The piece, entitled 'Totem', is an 11-metre high stained glass and metal sculpture. Specially commissioned for the building it was installed in January this year.

Totem was the judges' top choice after receiving more than 100 applications from across Britain, Europe and the United States last year. Funded by the Oglesby Charitable Trust, the £40,000 work can be seen by the Library's new entrance wing, close to the original 1890s building famed for its gothic architecture.

The winning design came from artist Derek Hunt based at Limelight Studios in Leicestershire. His work can be seen in churches, public buildings, theatres and shopping centres around the UK.

The design refers to some of the internationally famous collections, such as the St John's Fragment, thought to be the earliest piece of New Testament in existence.

More details from the event, including photos, are available at the website below.



www.manchester.ac.uk/library

Corridor Manchester to begin transformation of Oxford Road

Corridor Manchester has secured £5.1 million funding to begin its ambitious transformation of the Corridor – the Oxford Road area of the city.

To be completed this year, new public realm works will be carried out to First Street, improvements will be made to the landscaping and Grosvenor Square at All Saints, Manchester Metropolitan University and outside the Whitworth Buildings at The University of Manchester.

Together Corridor Manchester partners with the North West Development Agency (NWDA) are investing £2.55 million and have secured £2.5 million from European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to finance the work which will see significant improvements to these public spaces.



Psychotherapy open day

People in Greater Manchester will have the chance to find out more about the benefits of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) this summer.

The British Association for Behavioural & Cognitive Psychotherapies (BABCP) is welcoming the public to a free open meeting at The University of Manchester on Tuesday, 20 July.

BABCP, whose head office is based in Bury, is the lead body and national charity for CBT in the UK.

Taking place at the start of the BABCP Annual Conference, the open meeting is a yearly event supporting BABCP's aim to increase the involvement of the public and users of CBT in its work. The event consists of short presentations from clinicians, researchers and service users involved in CBT, followed by a question and answer session reflecting a broad range of experience and expertise in CBT.

This year's open meeting focuses on how CBT has been effective in addressing stigma within the mental health context – promoting the fact that anxiety, depression and distressing thoughts are experienced by most people at some time, and they can be understood and managed in a way that promotes a better quality of life.

The open meeting will take place from 3.30pm-5.30pm on Tuesday, 20 July, at: University Place on Oxford Road. Admission is free, but registration is essential. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/babcp2010> or email your name and contact details to open@babcp.com



Body language reveals if you're a true green

The inner feelings of people who falsely claim to care about the environment can be exposed by understanding their body language, according to a new book.

Professor Geoff Beattie, from the University's School of Psychological Sciences, says mismatches between gestures and speech will allow us to identify 'green fakers', regardless of what they actually say.

His research - for the University's Sustainable Consumption Institute, used video recordings to examine the gestures and speech of people with differing views on the environment while they talked about carbon labelling, global warming and their lifestyles.

By examining their gestures, each speaker revealed a fascinating connection between what they were saying and what they actually believed.

In his book launched this month, Professor Beattie, urges society's leaders to pursue, understand and change the implicit attitudes which make us buy green products in supermarkets.

Called *'Why Aren't We Saving The Planet?' A Psychologist's Perspective*, published by Routledge, Professor Beattie also examined video footage of former Prime Minister Tony Blair, and Big Brother housemates to spot the difference between what they said and what they actually believed.

He said: "This material shows for the first time a behaviour clash between what people espouse openly and explicitly on green attitudes and what they hold unconsciously and implicitly.

"Explicitly, people may want to save the planet and appear green, but implicitly they may care a good deal less.

"This research shows there are 'green fakers' out there, who say one thing but believe another. We need to work on the hearts and minds of such individuals to produce attitude change."



From left: Professor Colin Bailey; Colin Smith, Director of Engineering and Technology, Rolls-Royce; Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell; Professor Tim Abram

Rolls-Royce expands growing network of University Technology Centres

Rolls-Royce, the global power systems company, has announced the opening of a new University Technology Centre (UTC) dedicated to nuclear technology at The University of Manchester.

UTCs are long-term, funded collaborations that ensure continuity of work, offering high-quality technology for the company and real-world challenges for academic partners, and led by a world-class academic, supported by a strong team of staff and students. Professor Tim Abram, Professor in Nuclear Fuel Technology, will head up Manchester's UTC.

A second UTC will be located at Imperial College London. Both are home to world-class academics and research teams

with particular capabilities in nuclear science and engineering and will work in close collaboration with Rolls-Royce.

In addition to the new UTC, The University of Manchester is a founding member of the Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (NAMRC), for which Rolls-Royce is the lead industrial partner, and is a proven leader in research in nuclear science.

Professor Colin Bailey, Vice-President and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences at the University said: "The University of Manchester has a long history of academic collaboration with Rolls-Royce and this superb new facility further strengthens that relationship. The Rolls-Royce

Nuclear University Technology Centre is a superb example of a high-technology partnership between industry and academia.

"The Centre will underpin the science and engineering requirements of Rolls-Royce and help to develop the next generation of nuclear scientists and engineers needed by industry. The UTC will allow further exchange of skills between The University and Rolls-Royce and provide new opportunities for training and development."

The UTC will focus on material properties, modelling of processes in the nuclear plant, as well as safety and reliability with applications in both civil nuclear power and submarines.

Lecturer's new take on Chekhov masterpiece

A University of Manchester drama lecturer brought one of theatre's greatest plays, Chekhov's 'The Cherry Orchard,' to the Lowry last month in a fresh adaptation of the work.

The action moves through various rooms, while passing characters from the play frozen in time and then coming to life.

The production is the brainchild of Senior Lecturer in Drama Dr Sasha Dundjerovic (pictured).

It has been developed from a Liverpool Capital of Culture 08 project and has won awards in theatre festivals in Romania, Serbia and Iran.

Dr Dundjerovic's productions are marked by using a range of locations, allowing the actors to improvise and to write their own script within the boundaries of the original play. His company are also keen to be culturally specific: 30 per cent of the performance in Iran was in Parsi.



Dr Dundjerovic said: "Our aim to present a classical work, for a contemporary audience, making it an exciting and high quality performance that can be enjoyed by all."

Funding boost for new Jodrell Bank 'live science' centre

Funding of £3.1 million to kick-start the development of the new Science Discovery Centre at Jodrell Bank Observatory has been confirmed by the North West Development Agency (NWDA) and the North West European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The announcement coincides with confirmation that the project has been granted planning permission by Cheshire East Council, meaning that work could start on site as soon as this month.

An investment of £2.1 million will be made by the NWDA and £1 million by ERDF in the North West. An additional £600,000 of funding will come from the University.

The new-look centre is predicted to attract thousands of extra visitors to the Observatory every year and will help to generate an additional £26 million for the regional economy over the next decade.

The project includes a Planet Pavilion entrance building with an orientation centre and café with spectacular views of the Lovell telescope, a Space Pavilion for exhibitions and events as well as an education space and landscaping of the Arboretum to create a new Galaxy Maze and a Space Garden. It aims to inspire budding young scientists and showcase cutting-edge research 'as it happens'.

The Planet Pavilion is set to open by the end of the year and all work will be completed by Summer 2011.

Steven Broomhead, Chief Executive of the NWDA, said: "Jodrell Bank is already an icon in the North West and a visitor attraction in its own right, but it has the potential to attract many more national and international visitors to the region. This investment will help create a richer, more inspiring visitor experience which is more fitting to this beacon of science and research."



Dr Teresa Anderson, Director of the Jodrell Bank Visitor Centre Project, said: "This is a really important milestone for us and we're absolutely delighted that we will be able to take our project forward this year in partnership with the NWDA."

"Alongside redeveloping our facilities we will be taking the opportunity to revitalise our visitor programme, and look forward to welcoming lots of new people to Jodrell Bank in the future."

The development has strong support from Sir Bernard Lovell, founder of the Jodrell Bank

Observatory and creator of the Lovell Telescope, who was delighted at the news.

Sir Bernard said: "The very modern design that has been developed reflects the fact that the work of Jodrell Bank is at the forefront of research into astrophysics. The new facilities will pass on the spark of inspiration to the school pupils who are the scientists of the future. I look forward to this development going ahead very soon."

Current visitor facilities will be kept open as much as possible as the development goes ahead.

www.manchester.ac.uk/jodrellbank

Thinking time for Gallery's 'cultural entrepreneur'

Maria Balshaw, Director of The Whitworth Art Gallery at the University, has been awarded £260,000 as one of five recipients of the 2010 Paul Hamlyn Foundation Breakthrough Fund.

The Breakthrough Fund was launched by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation Arts programme with the aim of supporting exceptional 'cultural entrepreneurs'. Cultural entrepreneurs may appear in a range of roles but they each possess a pressing and persuasive vision, a drive and a strong track record of making things happen. The Breakthrough Fund aims to support these individuals in their determination to make a difference to the cultural landscape in which they work.

The grant will, over three years, enable her to conduct research and development as well as provide seed-corn funding for new programming strands that will emerge from the R&D carried out. This will include a part-time sabbatical for Maria over a six-month period, research trips, a

new curator-collaborator post for 30 months and a programming fund to explore ways of working differently with the collections, artists and audiences. All of this will take place alongside the major capital redevelopment she is leading at the Gallery, infusing new thinking into a 'new' Whitworth.

Maria says: "Finding time to develop big ideas and retain the creative side of my Director's role at the Whitworth is my perennial challenge. The Breakthrough funding will buy me thinking time at a critical time for me and for the organisation."

"As we steer through a major capital expansion of the Gallery, I will be able to research and develop some completely new ways of working with our wonderful collection, with artists, our audiences and our new and old spaces. It is so unusual to have the trust of a funder at the beginning of the creation process, so I feel extraordinarily honoured to receive this grant."



Family tree website helps trace roots

A free specialist website containing valuable information for people researching their families' past has been launched by a University of Manchester historian.

The website contains 3,000 or so records of small businesses and people with common surnames living between 1760 and 1820, mainly in Manchester and Liverpool.

Though small, the database will boost the efforts of some amateur historians to delve into their roots before the 1841 census - a common barrier to investigators.

The brainchild of Professor Hannah Barker from The University of Manchester, it is based on court records, wills, business records and family correspondence.

Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, historians can search the database by name, business and document.

Professor Barker said: "Eighteenth- and early 19th Century wills and court records are publicly available - but they can be hard to use even for professional historians. They are also often difficult to access.

"This database makes the information easily accessible for the first time in the North West."

She felt that data, compiled during her research of small business families in the North West, would be useful for family historians.

She said: "Family historians are the mainstays of most record offices and are the biggest group of historians in the country. Family history also has a massive presence on the internet.

"This project, should interest anyone who thinks they might have had an ancestor working 'in trade' in the North West during the industrial revolution.

"Small family businesses - such as grocers, ironmongers and wigmakers proliferated in the North West at a rapid rate between 1760 and 1820.

"Despite their significance to the local and national economies, historical research into such firms has been limited and we know surprisingly little about how they functioned or about the people who ran them and worked for them."

Visit the Family and Business in North West England, 1760-1820' project website below:

 www.northwestfamilybusiness.arts.manchester.ac.uk



Easter Island discovery sends archaeologists back to drawing board

Archaeologists have disproved the 50-year-old theory underpinning our understanding of how the famous stone statues were moved around Easter Island.

Fieldwork led by researchers at University College London and The University of Manchester, has shown the remote Pacific island's ancient road system was primarily ceremonial and not solely built for transportation of the figures.

A complex network of roads criss-cross the Island between the hat and statue quarries and the coastal areas. Laying alongside the roads are dozens of the statues - or moai.

The find will create controversy among the many archaeologists who have dedicated years to finding out exactly how the moai were moved, ever since Norwegian adventurer Thor Heyerdahl first published his theory in 1958.

Heyerdahl and subsequent researchers believed that statues he found lying on their backs and faces

near the roads were abandoned during transportation by the ancient Polynesians.

But his theory has been completely rejected by the team led by Manchester's Dr Colin Richards and UCL's Dr Sue Hamilton.

Instead, their discovery of stone platforms associated with each fallen moai - finally confirms a little known 1914 theory that the routes were primarily ceremonial avenues. The statues merely toppled from the platforms with the passage of time.

"The truth of the matter is, we will never know how the statues were moved," said Dr Richards.

"Ever since Heyerdahl, archeologists have come up with all manner of theories - based on an underlying assumption that the roads were used for transportation of the moai. What we do now know is that the roads had a ceremonial function to underline their religious and cultural importance."



Early bird was no high flier

The evolution of flight took longer than previously thought with the ancestors of modern birds "rubbish" at flying, if they flew at all, according to a Manchester scientist.

Archaeopteryx, the theropod dinosaur believed to be the earliest bird, was discovered 150 years ago but debates about how flight evolved still persist.

The two theories are that flight evolved in running bipeds through a series of short jumps or that Archaeopteryx leapt from tree to tree using its wings as a balancing mechanism.

Dr Robert Nudds at the Faculty of Life Sciences is carrying out a series of biomechanical investigations to shed light on the subject with his colleague Dr Gareth Dyke at University College Dublin.

For their latest paper, Dr Nudds and Dr Dyke applied a novel biomechanical analysis to the flight feathers of the early birds Archaeopteryx and Confuciusornis to find out if they were strong enough to allow flight.

They found that the dinosaur feathers' much thinner central stem (rachis) must have been solid or they would have broken under the lift forces generated during flight or by gusts of wind. This solid structure is very different to modern birds, whose rachises are broader, hollow straws. If the dinosaurs' feathers had had hollow rachises, they would not have been able to fly at all.

"These are surprising results," says Dr Nudds, whose controversial findings were published in *Science*.



"I thought the feathers would be strong enough with a hollow rachis to fly but they weren't. Even with a solid rachis, they were not very good. These dinosaurs were rubbish at flying.

"This pushes the origin of flapping flight to after Archaeopteryx and Confuciusornis. It must have come much later."

He and Dr Dyke plan to analyse other fossilized feathers to find out when flapping flight evolved. However such specimens are rare.

"I don't mind," says Dr Nudds. "It makes it more exciting and all the more intriguing."

Earth story

New research by The University of Manchester and the Carnegie Institution of Washington is to make scientists rethink their understanding of how Earth formed.

The team have found that volatile elements - most likely to include water - were present during the violent process of the Earth's birth between 30 and 100 million years after the solar system was created - a minute period in geological terms.

The findings mean that comets and asteroids were unlikely to have brought the bulk of volatile elements to Earth - as commonly thought.

Lead scientist Dr Maria Schonbachler from The University of Manchester, published her research in *Science*, the prestigious weekly American journal last month.

The scientist based at the University's School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences, hit upon the findings by using high precision equipment to measure abundances of silver isotopes contained in rocks.

The readings show that the moderately volatile element silver was present in relatively large amounts

towards the final stages of the Earth's formation.

The findings give a new boost to a 30-year-old model, which suggests that volatile elements were already present in the final stages of the Earth's birth.

How much of these elements were lost during impacts like the one that formed the moon, however, is still not well known.

Dr Schonbachler said: "The sensitive equipment we use works in much the same way as when you might carbon date a rock or artifact - but on a scale which enables us to go back billions of years.

"And those measurements allow us to detect a transition from volatile-depleted to volatile-enriched building blocks as the accumulation of Earth proceeded.

"Because we know what happened to the moderately volatile silver, it's very likely that the same thing happened to the highly volatile water.

"Though I accept that about 85 per cent of the Earth's mass was built without volatile elements the rest of it was - and that's quite an important



difference in our understanding of the Earth's geological history."

"We don't now need any theories about how water came to Earth -

such as comets and asteroids - it was most likely here almost from the beginning. And water is what made Earth habitable for life."

Scientists develop a new computational method to uncover gene regulation

Scientists have developed a new computational model to uncover gene regulation, the key to how our body develops - and how it can go wrong.

The researchers, from The University of Manchester (UK), Aalto University (Finland) and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory Heidelberg (Germany), say the new method identifies targets of regulator genes.

The human genome contains instructions for making all the cells in our body. An individual cell's make-up (e.g. muscle or blood) depends on how these instructions are read. This is controlled by gene regulatory mechanisms. Uncovering these mechanisms holds a key to greatly improving our understanding of biological systems.

One important regulatory mechanism is based on genes that actively promote or repress the activity of other genes. The new research addresses the problem of identifying the targets these regulator genes affect.

The new method, presented in the latest edition of *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*, is based on careful modelling of time series measurements of gene activity. It combines a simple biochemical model of the cell with probabilistic modelling to deal with incomplete and uncertain measurements.

Dr Magnus Rattray, a senior researcher at Manchester's Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, said: "Combining biochemical and probabilistic modelling techniques as done here holds great promise for the future. Many systems we are looking at now are too complex for purely physical models and connecting to experimental data in a principled manner is essential."

Fast food clocks up car miles

Supermarket lamb curry ready-made meals eaten in the UK amount to an annual carbon footprint equivalent to 5,500 car trips around the world or 140 million car miles.

The figures were calculated using a new carbon footprinting tool known as CCaLC developed by researchers at The University of Manchester.

The estimates – calculated to illustrate the tool – are based on the figure of 30 per cent of adults in the UK who eat ready-made meals at least once a week. Curry is one of the nation's favourites, accounting for up to 10% of ready-made sales.

The academics in the School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science found that the fast food meal generates the equivalent of 4.3 kg of carbon dioxide emissions per person.

The meal's ingredients are responsible for 65% of the carbon footprint, with lamb contributing half of the total. Meal manufacture contributes on average 14% and packaging 4% of the total carbon footprint.

The contribution of transport is small at 2%. However, storage at the retailer contributes 16%.

The research was carried out as part of the Carbon Calculations over the Life Cycle of Industrial Activities (CCaLC) project at the University.

The £1 million project is led by Adisa Azapagic, Professor of Sustainable Chemical Engineering at the University and funded by organisations including the Engineering and Physical Research Council, and the Natural Environment Research Council.

"The same lamb curry prepared at home has a 20% lower carbon footprint, mainly because of the elimination of the refrigeration stage at retailer needed for the ready-made meals," said Professor Azapagic.

In addition to food products, the CCaLC carbon footprinting tool can be used for estimation of carbon footprints of other products, including packaging, biofuels and various chemicals.

Flag has ladies all of a flutter

Scientists have revealed how the male common snipe 'flies the flag' to get the girl.

A new study - using high speed video and feathers bought on ebay - shows that when the male snipe sticks out his outer tail feathers, they flutter like flags in the wind, producing a highly seductive drumming sound. The winged Lothario also dives to increase the speed and therefore raise the pitch of the call in a bid to impress the female of the species.

This latest study, by Drs Roland Ennos and Jonathan Codd and their team at the Faculty of Life Sciences, is the first to observe deformations of the feathers as they produce the actual sound, and the first to describe feathers that are specially designed to flutter like flags in the wind.

The team, whose findings were published in the *Journal of Experimental Biology*, used high speed video and a new understanding of the physics of aeroelastic flutter (the self-feeding and potentially destructive vibration caused by positive feedback between the natural vibration and aerodynamic forces).

To see film footage of the feather in the wind tunnel, visit the website below.



Chemical remains of Dinobird found



A 150-million-year old 'Dinobird' fossil, long thought to contain nothing but fossilized bone and rock, has been hiding remnants of the animal's original chemistry, according to new research.

The sensational discovery by an international team of palaeontologists, geochemists and physicists was made after carrying out state-of-the-art analysis of one of the world's most important fossils — the half-dinosaur/half-bird species called Archaeopteryx (see also page 7).

The discovery could revolutionize the field of palaeontology say the team led by scientists at The University of Manchester and the Department of Energy's SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory in the United States.

By recording how 'bright X-rays' interacted with the fossil, the team have created maps showing chemical elements which were part of the living animal itself.

The maps, published in the journal *Proceedings of National Academy of Science*, show that portions of the feathers are not merely impressions of long-decomposed organic material—as was previously believed.

Instead, they include fossilized fragments of actual feathers containing phosphorous and sulphur, elements that compose modern bird feathers.

Trace amounts of copper and zinc were also found in the

Dinobird's bones: like birds today, the Archaeopteryx may have required those elements to stay healthy.

University of Manchester palaeontologist Dr Phil Manning said: "Archaeopteryx is to palaeontology what Tutankhamen is to archaeology. It's simply one of the icons of our field.

"You would think after 150 years of study, we'd know everything we need to know about this animal. But guess what - we were wrong."

Lead author geochemist Dr Roy Wogelius from the University said: "We talk about the physical link between birds and dinosaurs, and now we have found a chemical link between them.

"In the fields of palaeontology and geology, people have studied bones for decades. But this whole idea of the preservation of trace metals and the chemical remains of soft tissue is quite exciting."

The researchers found significantly different concentrations of elements in the fossil than in the surrounding rock, confirming they are remnants of the Dinobird and not leached from the surrounding rock into the fossil.

The team say the research could change the way palaeontologists work.

Dr Wogelius added: "We're able to read so much more into these organisms now using this technology - we're literally touching ghosts."



Dame Nancy to give Physiological Society's annual lecture

Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell Deputy President and Vice-Chancellor is to deliver The Physiological Society's annual public lecture.

Founded in 1876, The Physiological Society is a learned society with over 2,900 Members drawn from over 60 countries. The Society seeks to promote and support the study of physiology around the world, or the science of how humans and other animals function in an integrated way. Each year at 'Physiology' - its main meeting - it holds a public lecture designed to illustrate the importance of physiology and further its understanding by the general public and in schools.

Dame Nancy will speak about her highly-regarded neuroscience research in a lecture entitled 'Tracking down killers in the brain', hosted by the University on Wednesday 30 June.

The brain is an extremely complicated structure housing billions of nerve cells (neurones) and millions of connections, which allow us to move, breathe, think and remember. Even a small injury to part of the brain can be devastating, and brain diseases pose the greatest burden on society, affecting an increasing number of people and their families.

Dame Nancy's research group is trying to find out what causes damage or death of brain cells in diseases such as stroke, brain injury and Alzheimer's disease. They have discovered that a protein called interleukin-1 (IL-1) is an important "killer molecule" which is switched on after insults to the brain. A naturally occurring blocker of IL-1, called IL-1RA, reduces experimental damage to the brain and Nancy's team has undertaken the first clinical trial of IL-1ra in stroke patients.

For more information visit:

 www.physoc.org

President and Vice-Chancellor in pictures

As President and Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Alan Gilbert prepares to retire, we take a pictorial look back at some of the key events and highlights during his six years here.



October 2004 New University opens

Professor Alan Gilbert arrived in Manchester in February 2004 ahead of the 1 October merger of UMIST and The Victoria University of Manchester and unveiled the University's new visual identity with former Vice-Chancellors, Professor Sir Martin Harris and Professor John Garside.



October 2004 Granting of the Royal Charter

The Queen made a special visit to the University to Grant the Royal Charter which formally marked the launch of the University on 22 October 2004. The Charter was handed over to Co-Chancellor, Anna Ford at a ceremony in the Whitworth Hall. Professor Gilbert gave the Foundation Declaration and later that day also gave the Foundation Lecture to staff.



November 2005 Higher Education Institution of the Year

The University was awarded the 'Higher Education Institution of the Year' at the inaugural Times Higher Awards in 2005.

The award was announced by then Prime Minister Tony Blair, who said: "Manchester has impressed the whole higher Education sector by its successful merger last year with UMIST. But what particularly impressed the judges was how, under the leadership of its Vice-Chancellor Alan Gilbert, Manchester's vision for the future and determination to reinvigorate itself to become one of the top research universities in the world has enthused both staff and students."

The following year, the University was also named 'Sunday Times University of the Year'.



November 2005 Nobel Laureate appointed

Professor Gilbert welcomed Professor Joseph E Stiglitz to the University who took up the post of Chair of the new Brooks World Poverty Institute (BWPI). Professor Stiglitz of New York's Columbia University received the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences (2001) and was Chief Economist and Senior Vice-President of the World Bank from 1997-2000 and was also Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers in the Clinton White House.

The BWPI is a multidisciplinary centre for global excellence researching poverty, poverty reduction, inequality and growth.



May 2006 1st Manchester Leadership Programme awards

The first group of students to successfully complete the inaugural Manchester Leadership Programme (MLP) received the Manchester Leadership Award at a celebratory event in the Whitworth Hall opened by Professor Gilbert.

The MLP offers a unique combination of academic study and volunteering. MLP students learn the importance of leadership that promotes social, economic and environmental sustainability.

Seventy-five students took part in the first year of the MLP, in 2009/10 900 students from all Faculties took part.



October 2007 John Rylands Library re-opens

The John Rylands Library in Manchester officially re-opened after its £17 million transformation. More than £8 million of funding was provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund to complete the three-year project. Professor Gilbert attended the event and is pictured with University Librarian, Bill Simpson; then Co-Chancellor, Anna Ford; and Head of Special Collections, Stella Butler.



June 2006 New biotech facility

Science and Innovation Minister Lord Sainsbury officially opened a new £25 million facility a 'hothouse' for new treatments for diseases such as HIV and cancer. The state-of-the-art Core Technology Facility provides specialist accommodation for biotech companies as well as academic staff from the Faculties of Medical and Human Sciences and Life Sciences.

December 2008 New Chancellor installed

Tom Bloxham MBE was installed as Chancellor of The University of Manchester at a special ceremony in the University's Whitworth Hall.



Mr Bloxham took office for a period of seven years. This was the first election of a Chancellor since the establishment of The University of Manchester in 2004.

Tom Bloxham, 44, is Chairman and co-founder of Urban Splash, the innovative property developer. He graduated from the Victoria University of Manchester in 1986 and in 2007 received an Honorary Doctorate from The University of Manchester.



Business Leader of the Year January 2006

The CBI in the North West chose Professor Gilbert as its Business Leader of the Year for his work in launching and leading the University since its establishment. The judges acknowledged his role in launching the University's ambitious *Manchester 2015 Agenda* and overseeing the largest campus rebuilding programme ever in British higher education.



May 2009 AV Hill building officially opened

The President and Vice-Chancellor attended the official opening of the AV Hill building, an award-winning £39 million research centre that makes Manchester home to one of the largest biomedical complexes in Europe.

Housing 300 scientists in 50 research groups working mainly on neuroscience and immunology. The building was opened by Nobel Laureate A V Hill's grandson Professor Nicholas Humphrey and University alumnus Dr Ralph Kohn.



Matthew's Maggots

There's more to maggots than meets the eye – or the nose. They're not scary or creepy, but fascinating and cute - and are helping us to understand how our own sense of smell works.

A maggot has 21 smell cells, compared with our four million. So, figuring out how a smell cell links to the brain's network is manageable. And the scientist who is working on that fundamental link is Dr Matthew Cobb, Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Life Sciences.

At the other end of the animal scale, he lectures on stegosaurus – the dinosaur with the spiky plates on its back. Indeed, his office houses a remarkable multi-coloured collection of model stegosaurus, crowded onto his window sill. Even the window-pane is decorated with plastic dinosaurs and there are boxes of stegosaurus model kits on his bookshelves.

Matthew has interests going back even further into the history of our planet. On his desk is a fossil that is over 600 million years old.. But he is a man who wears his knowledge and achievement lightly. He is welcoming, affable, good-humoured - and self-critical (always with a smile).

"Perhaps my interests range too widely for my own good," he says. "But life's for living." As well as publishing articles on animals as varied as flies, ants, dogs, beetles and sea-spiders, he reads voraciously, from human evolution to '60s music, antiquity to cyberculture, science fiction to prehistory. As a parent, he reads children's books, and especially enjoyed Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials* trilogy, "a brilliant antidote to the lack of imagination and literary dowdiness of the Harry Potter books."

His own prolific writing has produced two award-winning books, one on the history of science (*The Egg and Sperm Race: the 17th-century Scientists who Unravelled the Secrets of Sex, Life and Growth*, 2006), the other on World War 2 (*The Resistance: The French Fight Against the Nazis*, 2009).

Together with his colleagues Catherine McCrohan and Rasmus Petersen, his maggot research has recently attracted a £490,000 grant – while his

passion for teaching earned him the 2007 Faculty of Life Sciences 'Teacher of the Year' award. He is also a great champion of public engagement with science, which brings us back to those lovely maggots, which caused a popular sensation at last year's Festival (the international insect arts festival) in London when he had them painting works of art to challenge even Jackson Pollock's abstracts. "We dip them in non-toxic paint and they crawl around leaving a wonderful pattern of squiggles," he says proudly.

But, more seriously, his research focuses on the sense of smell in *Drosophila larvae* (fruitfly maggots).

"I'm interested how odours are encoded by the smell cells and send signals to the brain, which is wired up in essentially the same way in all organisms," he explains. "We can make a maggot with a single smell cell, and thereby get a clear picture of how odours are recognised and encoded by the nervous system."



How he got into studying fruitfly behaviour is interesting. In 1974, at Cheadle Hulme School, he was torn between studying politics and working in forestry. But one day he read about a degree in Psychology. "Something clicked and I knew I wanted to study behaviour," he says. So, he went off to Sheffield to do Psychology - "I was also desperate to escape from 1970s Manchester."

Two years later, there was another "click". "I read an article in *New Scientist* about "dunce", a mutant fruitfly that could not learn – and I made a snap decision to study *Drosophila*." Fortunately, Sheffield was one of the few places in the UK that studied the genetics of behaviour using *Drosophila*, setting him out on his career path.

After finishing his PhD research in 1981, he worked as a post-doctoral researcher in London – getting twins drunk, as part of a rather different way of studying behaviour genetics. "We discovered nothing," he says cheerfully. "But I realised that I didn't want to work on humans." He then got a Royal Society grant to continue his work in France. In 1984, he joined the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) in Paris – and stayed there happily for 18 years.

Hence his interest in all things French and his facility with the language, which has brought him further awards for his translations – in 2009 his translation with Malcom DeBoise of Michel Morange's *Life Explained* won the French-American Foundation and the Florence Gould Foundation translation award. His recent book on the French Resistance won the Franco-British

Society Book Award, and he has organised an important conference in June this year to mark the 70th anniversary of the Resistance, which will include leading résistants – now in their 80s and 90s. "As an amateur working on history, I have been amazed at the generosity of professional historians who helped me," he says.

In 2002, rather to his own surprise, he returned to Manchester. "People told me that I would find it very different from the city I had happily left behind," he says. "When I came for my interview I was amazed." Even his favourite football team, Manchester City, had leapt ahead.

He prefers working in the University now rather than the research institute he was used to. "I love teaching," he says. "Your real legacy comes from the impact you have on your students. And the students challenge and refresh you. Communication is incredibly important." As head of the teaching-focused academics in the Faculty, he is fulfilled in this aspect of his work.

He is also fulfilled in his research – and enthusiastic about working with colleagues to produce a robot maggot nose, bringing together behaviour, electrophysiology, computer science and remote sensors. "It's very exciting," he says.

He is also happily settled here. His companion, Christina Purcell, is doing a PhD in the Sociology of Work at MMU. And their daughters, Lauren, 14, and 11-year-old Evie, are enjoying life here.

Whether or not they've fallen for their dad's maggots is another matter.

Name

Dr Matthew Cobb

Current position

Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Life Sciences, The University of Manchester (August 2006 –)

Career History

2002-2006:

Lecturer, Faculty of Life Sciences, The University of Manchester

1988-2002:

Chargé de Recherche, CNRS, France.

1985-1987:

Lecturer in Psychology, Université Paris XIII, France;

1984-1985:

Royal Society European Science Exchange Fellow, CNRS, France;

1981-1984:

Research Psychologist, Institute of Psychiatry, London;

Qualifications

BA Psychology (1st class), Sheffield University, 1978

PhD (Genetics and Psychology), Sheffield University, 1984

Habilitation à Diriger les Recherches, Université Paris 6, 1998

Awards

2010 Franco-British Society's Enid McLeod Book Prize for "The Resistance"

2009 French-American Foundation and The Florence Gould Foundation prize for non-fiction translation

2008 Zoological Society of London Award for Communicating Science

2007 The University of Manchester Distinguished Achievement Award – Teacher of the Year

2007 The University of Manchester Award for Teaching Excellence



Deputy President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell with award recipients

University Awards Outstanding Volunteering

The remarkable volunteering achievements of University staff and students were recently recognised and celebrated at a special awards ceremony at the Whitworth Hall. Over 100 students, staff and invited guests attended the event, which saw the presentation of two new volunteering awards.

The Community Service and Volunteer of the Year Awards for students and staff were launched earlier this year. The nominations for these awards reflected a diverse range of volunteering activity, including supporting vulnerable adults and children, fundraising, environmental projects and working with local communities in wards close to the campus. While most of the volunteering took place in Manchester and the UK, nominations were also received for students and staff who volunteer overseas, including in South Africa, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and, Nicaragua, Tanzania.

Many of the students nominated were current or previous participants on the Manchester Leadership Programme.

A new University Medal for Social Responsibility was also launched at the event. The medal, part of the suite of established President's Distinguished Achievement Awards, was given to the overall winners of the Community Service and Volunteer of the Year Awards.

The winners were selected by independent judging panels comprising University staff and representatives of charities and not-for-profit organisations.

University staff:

1st Place and recipient of the University Medal for Social Responsibility : Dr Alison Jeffers, Lecturer, School of Arts, Histories and Cultures [see p. 15]

2nd Place: Dr Natalie Zacek, Lecturer in History and American Studies, School of Arts, Histories and Cultures. An active volunteer for the Samaritans, Natalie works as an emergency counsellor, as well as screens and trains other prospective volunteers.

3rd Place: Philippa Lee, Undergraduate Co-ordinator, School of Materials Sciences. As a Support Officer for the local branch of the Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society, Philippa provides confidential support to people affected by MS and organises fundraising and social activities.

University students:

1st Place and recipient of the University Medal for Social Responsibility: Benjamin Scheerbarth, BSc (Hons) International Management [see p. 15]

2nd Place: David Ward, MMath (Hons) Mathematics. David co-ordinates a weekly project which organises activities for groups of teenagers from across South Manchester, provides support for other Student Action volunteers and helps at events for the elderly and children.

3rd Place: Tom Skinner, BA (Hons) Philosophy. Tom acts as a tutor and mentor in a high school in Wythenshawe and is helping the students to set up a media club and publish their own magazine. He also volunteers at a children's hospital and helps with a homework club.

Certificates were handed out to all shortlisted nominees, and the first, second and third placings received a donation to support the organisations where they volunteer. The event provided an opportunity for the University to welcome the families and friends of those nominated onto campus, and to strengthen ties with the charities and not-for-profit organisations where our staff and students conduct their volunteering.

Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell, Deputy President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, gave the Keynote Address and presented the awards. She said: "Social responsibility lies at the heart of the University's mission. These awards are an important part of demonstrating our commitment to help improve the lives of communities in Manchester and around the globe, and we applaud the inspiring achievements of our students and staff."

The awards and event were organised, on behalf of the University, by the MLP, Careers and Employability Division.

University Student Winner: Benjamin Scheerbarth

Benjamin is a 2nd year BSc (Hons) International Management student. He has been an effective and inspiring leader of the University's Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team, leading 100 volunteers and ten innovative projects which sustainably empower individuals and organisations within local and international communities.

Under Benjamin's leadership and with his commitment of over 400 volunteering hours, the SIFE team educated over 300 members of the community on issues such as: the environmental and economic benefits of saving energy at home; the value of recycling and reusing garments in Withington; entrepreneurial education for primary school children in Moss Side; financial literacy for a secondary school in East Manchester; confidence building for homeless individuals in the city centre; business ethics for restaurant owners in Rusholme, and training on a streamlined administration system for a refugee government in Algeria.

The students worked closely with community partners, raised nearly

£7,000, gained sponsorship for some of their projects, and recruited volunteer business advisors from local organisations including KPMG, Heinz, Enterprise Rent-a-Car and Manchester City Council.

As a result of these efforts, The University of Manchester was awarded the inaugural Community Engagement Award from Volunteering England at a national SIFE competition held in April, and Benjamin won Team Leader of the Year, beating stiff competition from other universities.

Assistant Team Leader Rachel Walsh nominated him for the University awards. She says: "Ben played a major role in supporting students to set up these projects, and mentored and guided them along this journey. He creates an environment in which people thrive on responsibility and grow on the job."

Benjamin also spent a year doing full-time charity work in Cape Town, South Africa, working with a variety of organisations and has taken part in the University's Sport Volunteer Scheme.



As a student on the Manchester Leadership Programme (MLP), Ben earned the MLP Gold Award for his volunteering work and also qualified for the Bronze Volunteer Award working with Manchester World Sport.

Benjamin says: "Volunteering is a really worthwhile thing to do. Very few other opportunities offer this level of freedom to choose what to do and how to do it. Helping others whilst being amongst friends is one of the most fulfilling things I can imagine doing."

University Staff Winner: Dr Alison Jeffers

Alison has run a weekly drama workshop with survivors of torture since 2006. She coordinates a range of creative activities, including theatre, dance, song, poetry and games for a group of asylum seekers and refugees from Africa.

Participants talk about the workshop as being a 'place of joy and friendship' where they can meet and socialise for a few hours. It helps them to forget about past traumas and the difficulties of integrating into British society.

Alison's volunteering has made a really significant impact on their lives. One workshop participant said: "Alison is really special. She helps us to forget all our worries".

The group has started to perform to external audiences and last year showed a piece of drama that they had created and which was directed by Alison, to delegates at the National Organisation for Family Therapists.

Alison is a Lecturer in Applied Theatre and Contemporary Performance and Co-Director of the Centre for Applied Theatre Research in the School of Arts, Histories and Cultures. Her colleague Professor James Thompson nominated her for the award.

He says: "Ali's contributions are beyond the normal call of duty. She has shown great commitment over many years to a group who are often misunderstood. Her work with refugees has been incredibly helpful to them in coming to terms with life in the UK and has helped them to feel welcome and a part of the community. They all identify a special role in their recovery played by the drama activities."

Alison has also been a careers mentor to a Congolese refugee and a volunteer on a community radio station.

A number of workshop members surprised Alison by attending the ceremony at the Whitworth Hall. After the ceremony Alison said: "I feel very proud to have won this award and honoured to be the first member of staff to win the Medal for Social Responsibility. I enjoy volunteering because I get to do things and meet people that would not be possible as part of my job or social life. I believe we have an obligation to share the huge privilege we enjoy in the University with those outside the institution."



What's On

Music and Drama at Manchester

Mon 7- Thurs 10 June
ESTIVAL

Now entering its 32nd year, Manchester's biggest student classical music festival which showcases a variety of ensembles and soloist over a four day period.

Mon 7 June, 1.10pm

MUMS FREE Lunchtime Concert: Summer Soundscapes

Monday 7 June, 5pm

Inspiring Ensembles

Mon 7 June, 7.30pm

Ad Solem: University of Manchester Chamber Choir

To conclude a hugely successful year that has included a tour to Poland and a recent CD release, Ad Solem will perform a programme of music inspired by American traditions.

Tue 8 June, 1.10pm

MUMS FREE Lunchtime Concert: Baroque Orchestra

Manchester's biggest student classical music festival combines two of Telemann's concertos with the more familiar harpsichord concerto by Bach and a Vivaldi concerto.

Tue 8 June, 5pm

The Joy of Voice

Tue 8 June, 7.30pm

Manchester University Wind Orchestra

Wed 9 June, 1.10pm

MUMS FREE Lunchtime Concert: 'Magic & Fairy tale' Opera Scenes

After two successful performances this year, Estival's Opera Scenes promises to be something out of this world.

Wed 9 June, 5pm

Intimate Chamber Works

Musicians from the University of Manchester present another diverse selection of chamber music, including classics from Dvořák and Beethoven.

Wed 9 June, 7.30pm

University of Manchester Symphony Orchestra

Three giants of Czech music are brought together in our final orchestral concert of the year, concluding with Janacek's glorious Sinfonietta – complete with twelve trumpets!

Thur 10 June, 1.10pm

MUMS FREE lunchtime concert - Exams are over!

Three giants of Czech music are brought together in our final orchestral concert of the year, concluding with Janacek's glorious Sinfonietta

Thur 10 June, 5pm

Leavers Concert

Friday 18 June, 8pm (Doors open at 7.30pm)

John Hegley

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email boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk

www.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre

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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. For further information visit our website.

Jodrell Bank Observatory Visitor Centre
Macclesfield, Cheshire

01477 571339

www.manchester.ac.uk/jodrellbank/viscen

Chaplaincies

St Peter's House Chaplaincy

11am Holy Communion

12.15pm Bible Study

12.45pm Lunch (first 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 the 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 rabbiiyy@hotmail.com

www.rabbiiyy.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

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' emails: a.sami99@yahoo.co.uk,

mhm1411@hotmail.com, assia_shah61@yahoo.co.uk,

hawwah@hotmail.com

Centre for New Writing

Our unique events bring the best-known contemporary novelists and poets to Manchester to discuss and read from their work. Everyone is welcome, and ticket prices include a complimentary glass of wine or soft drink.

Thursday 1 July, 6.30pm, *The Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall*

Martin Amis Public Events: Literature and Violence

Martin Amis, Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Manchester, and one of the leading novelists of his generation. In this, the latest of his series of high profile public events, he will be discussing the ways in which literature depicts and responds to violence.

Website: www.manchester.ac.uk/arts/newwriting

Online journal: www.themanchesterreview.co.uk

The Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama

Bridgeford Street, Manchester M13 9PL

0161 275 8951/8950

email boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk

www.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre

International Society

Saturday 12 June

Lake District visiting Haverthwaite Railway and Lake Windermere

Sunday 13 June

Blackpool

Saturday 12 - Sunday 13 June

Overnight Visit: Bath and Stonehenge

Saturday 19 June

North Wales with a ride on the Bala Lake Railway and Erdgig Hall

Sunday 20 June

South Lakes Animal Park and Grange-over-Sands

Saturday 26 June

North Wales visiting Anglesey with guided coach tour

Sunday 27 June

Formby and Speke Hall

Saturday 3 July

Lake District visiting the Coniston Water Festival and Ambleside

Sunday 4 July

Liverpool with guided tour

Opening hours

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

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

Small World Café opening hours

Mon-Fri 11am – 3pm

327 Oxford Road (next to Krobar)

0161 275 4959

email int.soc@anchester.ac.uk

www.internationalsociety.org.uk

Gig Guide

MANCHESTER ACADEMY 1, 2 and 3

Mon 7 June

The Magic Numbers

Tues 8 June

Ellie Goulding

Mon 14 June

Anvil

Wed 16 June

I Am Kloot

Sat 19 June

Richie Kotzen

Fri 25 June

Limehouse Lizzy

Sat 26 June

The Hold Steady

Mon 28 June

Broken Social Scene

Fri 2 July

KMFDM

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





The Manchester Museum

EVENTS

May/June half term

Wed 9 Jun, 12.30-1.15pm

Ideas Café: Island Life

Investigate current and past research on island birds at this talk by the Museum's Henry Mcghee, and Martin Jones, MMU. Part of The Evolutionist our Darwin extravaganza and the International Year of Biodiversity. Book on 0161 275 2648. Free, Adults and older children

Sat 12 Jun, 11am-4pm

Refugee Week

Celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK.

11am-4pm

Destination Unknown

Is it inhumane to deport people living with HIV who are on treatment to a country where treatment is not readily available or affordable? A persuasive presentation by the George House Trust. A panel debate with local experts and positive speakers facing possible removal from the UK will take place at 3pm.

11am-4pm

Object Handling and Art and Craft

What would you pack if you had to suddenly leave your house? Draw your own suitcase with your belongings inside, create a peace dove and learn about food from around the world. Drop-in, Free, All ages.

Big Saturday

Sat 19 Jun, 11am-4pm

Bugs

Get as close as you dare to some live insects and some carnivorous plants from our collection. Meet our conservators and find out how we stop insects eating our stuffed animals; make a bug home; do some pond dipping and much more. Most activities are free and drop-in. Some activities may need to be booked on the day and may cost up to £1.50. All ages.

Sat 19 & Sun 20 Jun, 2-3pm

Victorian Gentleman's 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. Drop-in, Free, All ages

Summer School

Thurs 24-Sun 27 Jun

Egyptology in Manchester

A summer school presented jointly by the KNH Centre for Biomedical Egyptology and The Manchester Museum. For more information, including the programme and booking form, please visit our day and summer schools page.

Fri 25 Jun / 11am-12pm

Magic Carpet: Bugs

Get comfy on our magic carpet and enjoy stories and activities. Book on 0161 275 2648 (from 18 Jun), £1 per child, Under 5s and their families/carers

Most activities are free and drop-in. Some activities may need to be booked on the day and may cost up to £1.50. All ages, book on 0161 275 2648 www.museum.manchester.ac.uk/whatson/

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



John Rylands Library (Deansgate)

EXHIBITIONS

Heroes and Kings: The Shahnama of Ferdowsi until 27 June

The Shahnama, or Book of Kings, is an epic poem written by the Persian poet Ferdowsi. The national epic of Iran, it tells the mythical and historical past of Iran from the creation of the world up until the Arab conquest of Persia in the 7th Century.

EVENTS

Azur and Asmar: The Princes' Quest 3 June

Azur & Asmar: The Princes' Quest is a French animated film, written and directed by Michel Ocelot. Ocelot quotes the tradition of Persian miniature paintings as an inspiration for the jewel-like imagery. Certificate U Booking is recommended

Public lecture: Heroes, Kings, Prophets, and Lovers in Ferdowsi's Shahnama and in Later Persian Poetry 10 June

A lavishly illustrated lecture by Dr Dominic Parviz Brookshaw (Lecturer in Persian Studies and Iranian Literature at The University of Manchester).

Curator Tour and Close-up 19 June

Join the curator of Heroes and Kings for a tour of the exhibition and take the opportunity to have a closer look at related material not included in the exhibition. Booking is essential

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. Booking is essential.

For more information and to book tickets please visit www.library.manchester.ac.uk/specialcollections/events/ or contact our Visitor Services Team on 0161 306 0555 or jrl.events@manchester.ac.uk

Public opening hours

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

Reader opening hours

Mon-Wed 10am-5pm, Thurs 10am-7pm, Fri-Sat 10am-5pm
FREE ADMISSION

The John Rylands Library
150 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 3EH
0161 306 0555
email.jrl.visitors@manchester.ac.uk
www.manchester.ac.uk/library



The Whitworth Art Gallery

DISPLAYS/COLLECTIONS

Walls Are Talking: Wallpaper, Art and Culture until Aug 2010

The first major UK exhibition of artists' wallpapers with work by over 30 artists including Andy Warhol, Sarah Lucas and Damien Hirst. Kitsch ideas of home decoration are turned upside down as artists subvert the stereotypes of wallpaper to hit home messages about warfare, racism, cultural conflicts and gender.

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.

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 entirety.

Events

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.

Every Monday 10.30-11.30am, Family Friendly, Free

Toddlerastic

For budding artists under five. Come and enjoy an art, music or dance adventure around the Gallery.

Reserve tickets by calling 0161 275 7450 or events.whitworth@manchester.ac.uk

The Whitworth Art Gallery
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www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth

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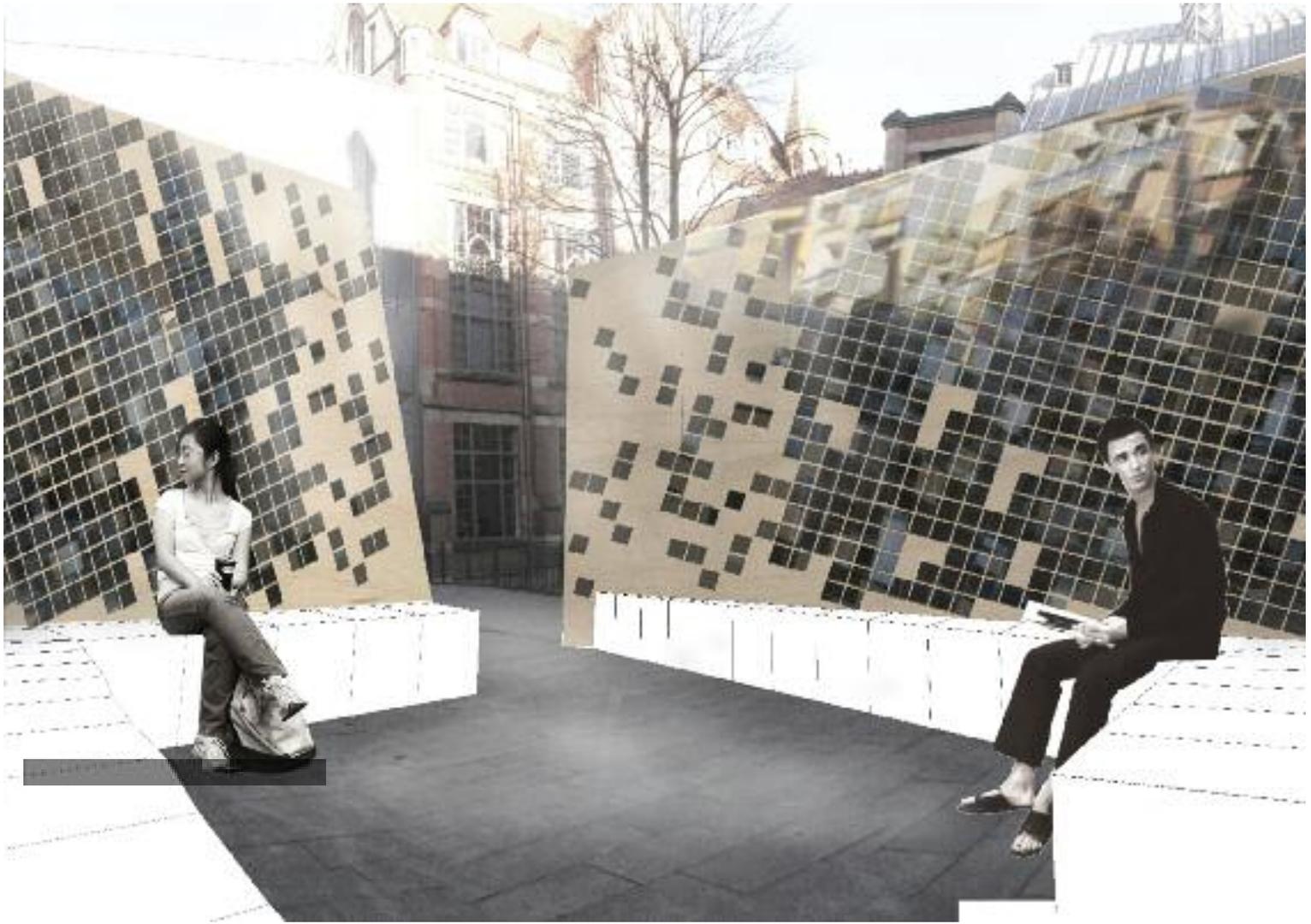
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Reflective Room

An exciting new temporary structure - Reflective Room - will be constructed in the Museum's courtyard over the summer. It was chosen as the winning design in a competition between 5th year 'BArch' course students from the Re_Map and Prototype studio units at Manchester School of Architecture.

Inspired by the changes that unfold in the courtyard over the course of the day, the team designed a new environment in which people can reflect and re-engage with their surroundings.

Using everyday materials, including plywood and black glazed ceramic tiles, its design is both subtle and delicate and creates an experiential space.

Fabricating a room within the Courtyard space will enable people to sit and relax whilst reviving their awareness of the environment. Enclosing this space will enable the courtyard to be revealed in a less direct way, reducing it to a more accessible human size. Edges, materials, weather and the surrounding environment will become more apparent through subtle reflections.

The Reflective Room will be assembled by all students involved in the project, in collaboration with technical assistance from Manchester Metropolitan University, The University of Manchester and The Manchester Museum. The ceramic tiles will be provided by Pilkington's Tiles. It will stand in the Courtyard from June – September 2010.

The Reflective Room forms part of the Museum's preparations for the major redevelopment of its Mammals gallery, closing in September 2010 and re-opening in April 2011.

 www.manchester.ac.uk/museum

News Contact

News and story ideas

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