

# UniLife

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## New chapter for John Rylands Library



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University Co-Chancellor Anna Ford  
officially re-opens the Rylands

## Letter from the President



One thing that is not on the agenda in The University of Manchester is maintaining the *status quo*. As Charles Darwin wrote in the *Origin of Species*, "It is not the strongest of the species that survives... It is the one that is the most adaptable to change." He might well have been talking about higher education in the 21st Century. The environment in which contemporary universities are operating places an immense premium on adaptability.

Darwin's observation left something unsaid, however. The weaker members of a species, however adaptable, also have poor chances of survival. In any highly competitive ecosystem, the weak are not typically given the chance to be adaptable. In short, where survival of the fittest is concerned, fitness means being healthy and energetic - *and* adaptable.

The University of Manchester has passed those three survivability tests with extraordinary success since October 2004, beginning its new existence as a university not only with enviable inherited strengths, but also genuinely committed to the challenge of adapting deeply embedded traditions, structures, processes and procedures in order to capitalise on immense opportunities in a new, post-merger environment.

In the life of organisations, adaptability is of little value unless it is more than a passing phase in organisational culture and consciousness. Three years out from our inauguration, The University of Manchester cannot afford to pause and catch its institutional breath. The *Manchester 2015 Agenda* is about the evolution of a very good "Big Civic" university into a kindred yet distinctly different species of institution, able to operate, survive and thrive at the most rarefied level of higher learning, research, scholarship and social and economic engagement.

The early signs of successful evolution are already visible. We have taken research activity to a new level, and are working systematically to leverage growing research strength to promote far greater knowledge and technology transfer; we have made prodigious progress towards providing state-of-the-art physical infrastructure for all our activities; we

are serious about transforming student learning and we are developing new, innovative forms of social and civic engagement. *But all these gains would come to nought should we lose the energy - or the will - to maintain our change agenda and accept the imperative to remain adaptable.*

On the other hand, the Darwinian observation that adaptability is a fundamental competitive advantage needs to be qualified in one crucial respect. The stresses imposed by a new or changing environment do not always prompt positive adaptive responses - they can sometimes be pathological.

The lesson for us is obvious. Change is the essential dynamic of the *Manchester 2015 Agenda*, but ubiquitous change - or, more precisely, too much change-induced stress - can be harmful. Wisdom as well as exuberance needs to be brought to managing a change agenda.

Over the next few months priority will be given to our major Review of Undergraduate Education. Recommendations may emerge from that Review that have implications for the way Schools are structured, managed and funded, but the primary focus is likely to be on pedagogy and student learning. Meanwhile, we will initiate a thorough review of the way we design, develop, fund and manage research institutes, and the Registrar and Secretary will complete his review of administrative services.

2007-08 is not the right time, we believe, to press ahead with a *comprehensive* review of the University's academic structures. A fundamental reappraisal of School and Faculty structures may be necessary in future, but to press ahead with such a review at present might prove to have been an inglorious triumph of exuberance over wisdom.

Professor Alan Gilbert  
President and Vice-Chancellor



From left: University Librarian, Bill Simpson; President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Gilbert; University Co-Chancellor, Annã Ford; Head of Special Collections, Stella Butler

## New chapter for John Rylands Library

### The John Rylands Library in Manchester has officially reopened after a £17m transformation.

The magnificent neo-gothic building on Deansgate, which is part of The University of Manchester, is a major visitor attraction as well as a world-renowned research library.

More than £8m was provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) in order to complete the three-year project.

The Library was built in the 1890s by Mrs Enriqueta Rylands in memory of her husband John, Manchester's most successful cotton tycoon and, at the time of his death, the UK's wealthiest industrialist.

Speaking at the official re-opening of the Library, Anna Ford, Co-Chancellor of the University said: "Mrs Rylands used her wealth to seize opportunities and in so doing she created a Library which has no direct comparisons in the UK and is considered by many to be better than the US millionaires' libraries such as the Pierpont Morgan in New York or the Huntington in California."

By the late 1990s, the building had deteriorated structurally and began to cause concern for the condition of the collections held inside. The University also wanted to increase public access to the collections.

The 'Unlocking the Rylands' project was launched to conserve the Grade I listed building and its collections and to improve physical access and facilities for visitors with the addition of a new entrance wing.

The upper floors of the new building house a purpose-built new Reading Room, a Conservation Studio and state of the art storage areas for the collections.

New exhibition areas display some of the Library's famous collections, including the St John Fragment, the oldest known surviving piece of the New Testament, dating from around 125AD.

Anna Ford added: "As a result of this magnificent refurbishment project, visitors and scholars can now see the Library in all its original glory and enjoy access to some of its most famous collections and treasured items, such as the St John Fragments."

Bill Simpson, University Librarian and Director of the John Rylands Library, said: "The John Rylands Library is one of the most important rare book and manuscript libraries in the world. This project has enabled The University of Manchester to keep the collections in the building created for them over a century ago and to make these treasures accessible to all."

### \* Shortly after its official re-opening the Rylands was celebrating scooping four awards in one week.

First was the Greater Manchester Chamber's Building of the Year Award for 2007 for which the Library fought off stiff competition from other shortlisted projects, the Civil Justice Centre and the University's new humanities building.

The Award, given in recognition of the importance of new building

projects in Greater Manchester. Previous winners include the Pinnacle Building on Manchester's King Street and the Beetham Tower.

Phil Cusack, Chairman of the Chamber's Building and Development Section and the judging panel, said: "The judges were particularly impressed by the project's uncompromising mix of old and new, bringing back into use one of Manchester's overlooked cultural treasures."

The second award was the MCR Award for "Best Iconic Building".

The MCR Awards celebrate all that has been great in Manchester over the past 12 months encompassing regeneration, buildings, lifestyle, entertainment and personality.

Head of Special Collections Stella Butler said: "We are delighted that the John Rylands Library has received such a wonderful accolade as Manchester's Best Iconic Building particularly as we were up against

buildings such as the Beetham Tower and Urbis. The people of Manchester voted for the Library and we hope many more people will visit as a result."

The Library also came away with two accolades at the Roses Design Awards which recognise and reward the design industry. They won Gold in the 'Best Structural Design' and 'Best Re-use of a Listed Building' categories.

## In brief

### Every Child Matters

A research conference aimed at understanding shared leadership within the Every Child Matters (ECM) agenda took place recently at the Centre for Educational Leadership (CEL), at The University of Manchester.

The conference, entitled 'Negotiating Shared Leadership: Exploring the ECM challenge in the North West', was organised to help those working at the forefront of change deal with the complex issues raised by ECM.

A large group of professionals, including directors of children's services, school leaders and managers of children's centres, shared ideas about multi-agency work and discussed the challenges of shared leadership within children's services during workshops and table discussions.

Presentations were made by Joyce Redfearn, Chief Executive of Wigan Council, Professor Gerard Egan, Professor Emeritus of Loyola University, Chicago and renowned international consultant and author in the field of leadership and organisational change, and Professor Gerry Stoker, joint author of *Towards Holistic Governance*.

Two University of Manchester professors, Helen Gunter and Alan Dyson, also gave presentations at the event.

The aim of the conference was to make an honest appraisal of the challenges people face in working across traditional boundaries and to highlight what is effective, where new practice is taking them and the issues they need to tackle to succeed in their task. A conference report highlighting the main themes from the event with video extracts from the keynote speakers will be available on the CEL website in November.

### New Careers WebChats piloted this semester

The University's MLP, Careers & Employability Division has launched a new webchats service for students.

Weekly Careers WebChats will be held over the semester and will cover a variety of subjects, including: general careers information talks with careers consultants and information staff; sessions tailored to international and postgraduate students; advice on part-time jobs, and an employer-led chat on management consultancy careers, run in conjunction with Accenture.

Students are encouraged to sign up in advance (see link below) to register their attendance and download the required software from the website. They may then log on and attend these WebChats when scheduled, in real time, from anywhere in the world.

[www.studentnet.manchester.ac.uk/careers/aboutus/events/webchats](http://www.studentnet.manchester.ac.uk/careers/aboutus/events/webchats)

## A Nobel contribution

**A professor in The School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering is celebrating after helping an international panel of climate change experts to win the Nobel Prize for Peace.**

This year's prize was awarded jointly to the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) and former United States Vice President Al Gore.

Professor Geoff Levermore (pictured) is a UK-nominated Lead Author on the IPCC working group that deals with mitigating the effects of climate change. He has also helped write and edit a key chapter on residential and commercial buildings in the forthcoming Fourth Assessment Report (AR4).

Professor Levermore, who is Professor of the Built Environment, received a letter of

congratulation from the Chairman of the IPCC, Rajendra Pachauri, who wrote: "The fact that the IPCC has earned the recognition that this award embodies, is really a tribute to your knowledge, hard work and application."

Professor Levermore said he was delighted that the IPCC had achieved "the recognition it deserves". He said the research had provided the basis on which governments took their decisions on limiting greenhouse gas emissions and protecting the environment.

The Nobel citation says that the award made to the IPCC and Al Gore is "for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change".

\* Professor Levermore will give a lecture to the North West branch of the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers on Tuesday 6 November on the subject of 'The IPCC, climate change and the built environment'. The lecture is being held in the Pariser Building, Room C16 at 6.30pm. Everyone is welcome.



## Research rewards

**The University has been highly successful in obtaining research funding across the range of disciplines.**

It topped the recent league table compiled by the *Times Higher Educational Supplement* based on the number of awards received from five major awards councils: the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC). Manchester was awarded 163 research grants, followed by Cambridge with 158. Manchester also submitted the largest number of grant applications.

The University's progress in relation to research in the life sciences has been impressive. The University has consolidated its position at the top in terms of research grants from the BBSRC by widening last year's already impressive £10 million gap on second place Cambridge to £20.7 million. The University now holds more than 11% of the total awards from the BBSRC.

In addition, good progress has been made in terms of obtaining funding from the



ESRC and AHRC. In particular, Manchester received the highest funding from the ESRC for research and training. Overall Manchester received just short of 14% of total ESRC expenditure on research and training. Also, the University rose from 14th to 4th place in the UK for grants awarded by

the AHRC in 2006-07. Vice-President (Research), Professor Simon Gaskell said: "These figures are testament to the sheer volume of research of the highest quality that is conducted within the University, as judged by rigorously peer-reviewed grant awards."

# Nobel Prize winner to chair new Institute

**Nobel Laureate John Sulston FRS is to join The University of Manchester's Faculty of Life Sciences and will chair a new research institute focusing on the ethical questions raised by science and technology in the 21st century.**

The 2002 Nobel Prize winner and pioneer of genomic research will be joined in the cross-discipline Institute of Science, Ethics and Innovation by Professor John Harris, a world-renowned authority on bioethics in Manchester's School of Law.

The new Institute's overriding aim will be to examine how the social and ethical consequences of science and technology can be managed in a way that protects people and makes their lives better. Among some of the ethical issues to be investigated are: Genetic selection of human embryos; genetic manipulation of humans and animals; the funding disparity in healthcare research between diseases of the developed and developing world and global trade.

"What is new and urgently required is serious work at the interface between science, ethics and innovation," said John Sulston.

"We need to examine the role of science and technology in society, both locally and globally, and consider the adequacy and justification for that role as well as the forms of regulation and control that are appropriate."

John Sulston has scholarly interests in common with Professor Joseph Stiglitz, also a Nobel Laureate, who was recruited by the University to chair the Brooks World Poverty Institute.

Professor John Harris, Research Director of the Institute, said: "The transition process for new scientific and technological developments from discovery, through proof of principle to the clinic or marketplace, raises acute issues of social and global justice.

"These justice issues are also very much the concern of the Brooks World Poverty Institute and the intention is for these twin Manchester institutes, each chaired by a Nobel Laureate, to work closely together to create a centre of excellence in these complementary fields that is second to none in the world."

The University's President and Vice-Chancellor,



Professor Alan Gilbert said: "I'm delighted that John Sulston has agreed to join the University.

"His appointment is the latest in a series of iconic appointments intended to reflect the University's commitment to become one of the top 25 research universities in the world.

"We already have a reputation for research and policy engagement in the fields of development economics, development studies, sustainability, healthcare governance and ethics, sociology and politics, as well as a strong reputation in science.

"The role of this Institute will be to build on this through world-leading research on science, ethics and innovation."

## Going up in the world

**The University of Manchester has again improved its position in the Shanghai Jiao Tong "Academic Ranking of World Universities".**

In the 2007 table it has climbed to 48th, up from 78th (VUM only) in 2004, 53rd in 2005 and 50th in 2006. The University's ranking in the UK and Europe remains unchanged at 5th and 9th respectively.

This annual ranking is generally regarded by research-led universities around the world as the most reliable of international rankings. It is carried out by the Institute of Higher Education at Shanghai's Jiao Tong University.

In his report to the Board of Governors last month, President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Gilbert said: "While the Jiao Tong also raises significant methodological issues, it uses credible criteria and is developed in a largely transparent, contestable and consistent manner, making it a meaningful basis for monitoring the University's progress from year to year."

He added: "At the present rate of improvement, our target of a top 25 ranking by 2015 looks problematic, but it is important to note that many of the initiatives we have undertaken since 2004 have hardly begun to translate yet into improved outcomes. This is especially true in relation to research citations, where the time lag between publication and citation impact is several years."

## In brief

### Seeking 'lost' alumni

The Division of Development and Alumni Relations is trying to locate "lost alumni" i.e. former graduates with whom the University's Alumni Association has lost touch with over the years.

Many current and former University staff are also University of Manchester alumni, and we would ask you to make contact us so we can update your alumni record and ensure you receive *Your Manchester*, the alumni magazine packed with information about the University, graduates and events and reunions.

You can update your details by registering for Your Manchester Online ([www.yourmanchester.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.yourmanchester.manchester.ac.uk)) and becoming a member of a new interactive alumni website where you can search for friends and register for events. Alternatively please email [louise.hancock@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:louise.hancock@manchester.ac.uk) or tel: 0161 275 7230.

If you know of any former members of staff who are also Manchester graduates or are in touch with some of your former students, please pass this message on.

### MLP attracts record student numbers

The MLP Careers & Employability Division received record numbers of applications this autumn from students eager to enrol on the 2007/8 Manchester Leadership Programme. A total of 859 students applied for the programme, which combines a credit-rated unit with voluntary work.

The MLP is proving particularly popular with Humanities students, who made up 56 per cent of the total, with 484 individual applications. However, students are being drawn from all Faculties, with 163 applications from EPS, 127 from MHS and 85 from Life Sciences.

MLP Manager Colette Cooke said: "A new online version of the Leadership in Action unit is running this year, which was designed particularly for those students whose timetables would otherwise have made it difficult for them to attend the physical lectures. We are delighted at the positive response that the MLP has received, and look forward to an increasing number of students benefiting from the programme."

### A dialogue with China

'Innovation and sustainability in a globalising economy: a dialogue with China' is a two day conference taking place 14.00 - 19.30, Thursday 22 November and 08.30 - 13.00, Friday 23 November, Harold Hankins Building.

The conference will explore:

- framework for innovation policy in China
- existing challenges
- current policy approaches to sustainability
- innovative design and planning strategies, especially at regional and City level

A limited number of places are still available, please contact Professor Jakob Edler at [jakob.edler@mbs.ac.uk](mailto:jakob.edler@mbs.ac.uk) to register.

## In brief

### Career Choice

In recognition of its wide-ranging activities to support the employability of its international students, the University has recently won the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Service (AGCAS) Award for Excellence in the services for international students category.

Key to the University's success in enhancing the employability of international students was the recent development of International Talent, an initiative which helps international students secure valuable work experience opportunities using their languages, cultural knowledge and a range of skills developed whilst at university, with regional organisations from various sectors.

Another important achievement was the Chinese Graduate Recruitment Fair @ Manchester, where Chinese students had the unique opportunity to meet nearly 40 graduate recruiters, mainly flown in from China, last December. The success of the Fair has led to another being planned for this month.

Amanda Wood, Head of International Career Development at the MLP, Careers & Employability Division, said: "We hope that by winning this award, colleagues involved in the recruitment of international students will be able to demonstrate our firm commitment to understanding the needs of international students and to helping them further their careers both in the UK and in their home countries."

To find out more about careers services for international students, contact Amanda Wood, Head of International and Alumni Career Development: 0161 275 2828 / amanda.wood@manchester.ac.uk

[www.studentnet.manchester.ac.uk/careers/international/](http://www.studentnet.manchester.ac.uk/careers/international/)

### MBS students benefit from strong business community links

Dr Brian Squire has secured accreditation from The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) for his undergraduate programmes in supply chain management - students graduating will now be awarded with a BSc, MCIPS.

Other developments for students see Professor Paul Cousins restructuring the undergraduate operations management course to give it a practical twist. Students have to develop their own business ideas during the course and this culminates in a Dragons' Den-style business case competition, judged by Deloitte consultants later this year with a prize of £250.

Links between MBS and Deloitte have been strengthened further by securing additional sponsorship to publish a third series of supply chain strategy briefings. The briefings enable businesses to tap into and benefit from the cutting-edge research undertaken by Paul and his team.



## Big guns launch Centre with a bang

Will Self (left) and Martin Amis

**Three of the world's most famous writers gave the public an unprecedented chance to hear their views at the end of September, at the Centre for New Writing's launch event at St. Ann's Church.**

Appearing at the end of his first day as the Centre's Professor of Creative Writing, Martin Amis was joined by fellow literary heavyweights Will Self and John Banville for a debate on the

state, role and future of contemporary literature.

The discussion ranged from the writer's relationship with the reader (described as a love affair by Professor Amis) to the influence of contemporary political themes such as climate change, science, terror and the market state. Will Self defended modernism as an antidote to the 'chocolate box' heritage novel dominating current fiction, while

his colleagues looked to shifting identities in China as a possible source of renewal for this kind of novel.

The event was the first of a series featuring Amis and other leading writers and commentators discussing key issues in contemporary literature. Anyone interested in attending the next - Literature and Terrorism on 3 December - is advised to book early.

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

## Lovell dish becomes world's biggest screen

**Last month the University's famous, iconic Lovell radio telescope briefly became the largest cinema projection screen in the world.**

The sell-out public event, which was held over two nights, was organised to mark the golden jubilee of the Lovell radio Telescope and the dawn of the Space Age.

It kicked off two weeks of celebrations called the 'First Flight Festival'.

During the screenings, which attracted over 2,000 people, the huge dish acted as a giant video screen, displaying images of early space exploration, astronomy, engineering, the history and future of radio astronomy and the construction of the Lovell telescope itself.

These spectacular moving images were combined with music and a



specially-commissioned light and laser show.

Dr Alastair Gunn, the Production Manager for the event, said: "The overall effect was quite breathtaking and the audience were completely immersed in sound and light."

The projected images were at

least 150 foot tall - twice the size of the biggest IMAX screen in the world.

The event was produced by radio astronomers at Jodrell Bank, through funds allocated by the Royal Academy of Engineering 'Ingenious' grants programme and Swinton Group Ltd.



From left: Professor Robert Putnam, Irene Khan, Professor Alan Gilbert

## University honours world leaders in social science and human rights

**Professor Robert Putnam - who leads a research collaboration between Harvard and The University of Manchester on social change - and graduate of the University, Irene Khan, the Secretary General of Amnesty International, received honorary degrees at The University of Manchester to mark the University's Foundation Day on 15 October.**

Professor Putnam, who is renowned for his influential research into community ties known as "social capital", also gave a Foundation Day Lecture entitled: "Civic Engagement in the Contemporary World".

Putnam began a five-year Visiting Professorship at the University in

October 2006 encompassing a series of collaborative projects, graduate summer school coursework and postgraduate programmes.

Named one of *The Guardian's* top 100 intellectuals of 2005, he charted the 30-year-decline of social connectivity in the US, articulating the atomised nature of modern life in his book called "Bowling Alone".

Irene Khan joined Amnesty International in August 2001 and is the first woman, Asian and Muslim to hold the position of Secretary General.

She studied law at Manchester and Harvard, specialising in public international law and human

rights. She is the recipient of several academic awards, a Ford Foundation Fellowship, and the Pilkington Woman of the Year Award 2002.

President and Vice Chancellor of The University of Manchester, Professor Alan Gilbert said: "I am delighted to be awarding honours to these two distinguished individuals on the day we celebrate the foundation of this University.

"Professor Putnam's scholarship and Ms Khan's campaigning activities are addressing some of the most pressing issues confronting mankind in the 21 century and have had a major impact on the lives of people all around the world."

### In brief



Professor Mel Ainscow

### Manchester academic rises to Challenge

The Government has announced Professor Mel Ainscow as Chief Adviser of the new Greater Manchester Challenge, a £50 million campaign over three years to raise standards in schools across some of the most deprived areas of the region.

Professor of Education and co-director of the Centre for Equity in Education at Manchester University, Mel Ainscow has an international reputation for his work on school improvement.

He has been appointed to drive the Government's three year programme to improve standards for children in all schools across Greater Manchester.

The programme will launch in April 2008 and will build on the experience of London Challenge, which has had a major impact on raising standards in schools in the most deprived parts of the capital.

Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families and Minister for the North West, Beverley Hughes, who is heading up the Greater Manchester Challenge, said:

"I am delighted to welcome Professor Ainscow as the new Chief Adviser for Greater Manchester.

"Mel is renowned for his work on raising the achievement and attainment of all children and young people but particularly those from more disadvantaged backgrounds, which is a key focus of this programme.

"I am confident that he will be a major force in helping us to break the cycle between deprivation and low achievement in the region.

"The Greater Manchester Challenge will build on our experience in London, where highly targeted investment in disadvantaged areas has brought dramatic results. I am confident that we can repeat this success in Greater Manchester and support the work already being done by our educational partners locally."

## Academy award

**At the MCR Awards 2007, Manchester Academy shared in the accolades with the Rylands Library Deansgate by being named 'Best Entertainment Venue'.**

Alistair McGregor, General Secretary of the University of Manchester Students' Union which runs the venue, said: "Obviously we are delighted to have been recognised as the "Best Entertainment Venue" in these awards especially when we were up against the MEN Arena, the Apollo and the Royal Exchange Theatre.

"We believe we can only now go from strength to strength especially when the main Academy venue is currently undergoing a £3.5m refurbishment program."

The program, due for completion early next year will include increased capacity, purpose-built disabled viewing platform, fully accessible dressing rooms,



new front of house and stage areas, enhanced visitor facilities and a feature glass tower entrance enhance its profile on Oxford Road. The refurbishment has also been carried out with a view towards environmental sustainability.

## In brief

### Former Dean wins top US award

Malcolm Rowland, Professor Emeritus and former Dean of the School received the coveted 2007 ACCP Distinguished Investigator Award at their annual meeting in San Francisco recently. The award recognises his long and outstanding international contributions to pharmacokinetics and clinical pharmacology.

In addition to being the author of some 300 scientific publications, Malcolm was a founder, and editor for 33 years, of the *Journal of Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics*, and is co-author of the internationally regarded premiere textbook, *Clinical Pharmacokinetics: Concepts and Applications*.

### Summer school success for computing service

Research Computing Services, which provides advanced computing expertise, services and facilities to researchers throughout the University, hosted a week-long summer school in supercomputer programming in August.

With more than 60 attendees, spanning 27 institutions and 11 countries, the Intel-sponsored event has been hailed a major success.

Organisers Dr Craig Lucas and Fiona Cook, said: "We were delighted at the interest in the summer school. The syllabus was designed to have cross-discipline appeal and we were thrilled that attendees came from such a wide range of scientific disciplines, from biology to civil engineering.

"The feedback was extremely positive, and with interest already being shown for next year's summer school we hope to make it even bigger and better."

The final day of the school was combined with a one-day workshop on high-performance computing, which was open to the wider public and attracted more than 100 delegates. Speakers from academia and industry, including Intel, Bull, and Cray Inc, provided their views on the direction of high-performance computing, while Professor Jack Dongarra, Turing Fellow at The University of Manchester, discussed challenges for the future.

For information on courses currently offered by Research Computing Services visit:

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

## Cancer Researchers impress their peers...and potential patients

**The University's researchers enjoyed a successful appearance at the National Cancer Research Institute conference in Birmingham last month with their work hitting the headlines.**

Dr Robert Clarke told the conference how he and his team had been investigating human breast cancers for the presence of stem cells - cells that generate new tumours and can cause the cancer to recur - in a series of studies funded by the charity Breast Cancer Campaign.

One third of women who are successfully treated for breast cancer find that the disease recurs some years later because some of these cancer cells survive the treatment and begin

to grow again. The team's research into these 'breast cancer stem cells' revealed that the cells are stimulated by the Notch gene and they now hope to develop new drug therapies to target this gene and thus stop the growth of any surviving breast cancer stem cells.

Dr Clarke's work hit the headlines when it was revealed that one drug that is known to attack Notch is already used for the treatment of Alzheimer's Disease.

Dr Guy Makin's work with a new drug that has shown promising pre-clinical activity against several children's cancers also made the news.

Dr Makin and his team have shown in laboratory tests that

the drug RH1 can kill tumour cells from neuroblastoma, osteosarcoma and Ewing's sarcoma, three types of childhood and adolescent cancer that are often resistant to current types of chemotherapy.

On the strength of pre-clinical results, the researchers are planning a trial for the drug involving children with cancer which will be the first tested for children through Cancer Research UK's drug development office.

The conference also saw a presentation on two projects aimed at reducing the side effects of radiotherapy without decreasing its effectiveness by Dr Catharine West and her team.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/manchester/7021504.stm>

## Jodrell Bank to host new radio telescope HQ

**The Jodrell Bank Centre for Astrophysics has been chosen to host the global headquarters of the world's next generation radio telescope.**

The Euro 1.5bn Square Kilometre Array (SKA), which involves astronomers and engineers in 17 countries, will be made up of thousands of antennas spread over thousands of kilometres.

It will enable astronomers to explore dark energy, to see the first stars and galaxies, to test Einstein's theories and to study the origin of stars, planets and life.

Professor Phil Diamond, Director of the Centre, said: "The Square Kilometre Array looks set to become one of the great scientific projects of the 21st century and we are very proud that its global headquarters will be here at The University of Manchester."

The engineers who will work in the new headquarters will be responsible for leading the design effort on SKA, coordinating the work of many



scientists and engineers worldwide. Funding for the headquarters is being provided by the European Community.

A Memorandum of Understanding agreeing to locate the SKA HQ at Jodrell Bank was signed by Professor Alan Gilbert, President and Vice-Chancellor and Professor Brian Boyle, Chair of the International SKA Steering Committee at a special event in October to mark the 50th anniversary of the completion of the giant Lovell radio telescope at Jodrell Bank.

The first act of the Lovell Telescope was to track the rocket that carried Sputnik into space and it has since played a leading role in radio astronomy.

The University is also leading the UK's involvement in the SKA's development through a Euro 38m European design study known as SKADS.

The Microelectronics and Nanostructures research group in The School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering is designing and fabricating high-tech receiver components using special semiconductor technology developed internally.

In the same school, The Microwave and Communication Systems group is developing the very high performance antenna elements required for the proposed system to work successfully.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/manchester/7021504.stm>



# One foot in the past

**Paleontologist Dr Phil Manning has discovered what could be the world's first *T.rex* footprint.**

The discovery by Dr Manning, from The School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences (SEAES), of a possible footprint was the subject of a special half-hour documentary for the BBC's *Inside Out North West* recently.

The metre-square print has been found in the Hell Creek area of Montana in the United States and has been lying there for an estimated 67 million years. For generations finding a *T.rex* footprint has been seen by many as the Holy Grail of palaeontology.

*Tyrannosaurus rex* was one of the last dinosaurs to exist before the entire species was wiped out in a mass extinction. Only about 50 partial skeletons have been recovered since fossil hunters started looking for what was one of the largest carnivores to live on earth.

Dr Manning, who has travelled the world in search of dinosaur remains, has

returned to a footprint he came across last year. Now he's been able to make a detailed study of it.

"People have been trying to find *T.rex* tracks for a hundred years," said Dr Manning. "Unless you come across an animal dead in its tracks you can't say for definite what left them.

"However with information available about the numbers of *T.rex* in the rocks of the Hell Creek formation, it is the closest we have got so far to discovering a tyrannosaur track.

"And it could only be made by one of the two species known from Hell Creek - either the *Nanotyrannus* or its bigger relative *Tyrannosaurus rex*. The size of the footprint at 76 cm in length suggests it more likely to be the latter."

Dr Manning can't say he's found a *T-rex* print until others have had their chance to study his findings. His drawings and photos will now provide the basis for a scientific paper which he is looking to publish shortly.



Inside Out BBC North West

[www.bbc.co.uk/insideout](http://www.bbc.co.uk/insideout)

## Research Spotlight

# Trailblazing Clinical Psychology

**Involving people who need and use their professional help is at the very core of the trailblazing approach of the University's Clinical Psychology training. The importance of communication between the professionals and the patients is top of their agenda. "It is vital that the people who are usually at the receiving end help the professionals of the future to understand their needs," says Linda Steen, Clinical Director of the University's three-year training programme for Doctors of Clinical Psychology.**

"Our approach also fits in well with the University's widening participation initiative by attracting people from the community who have previously had no contact with Universities."

Her colleague at the centre of the groundbreaking scheme is Clinical Psychologist, Dr Rory Allott, who founded the Community Liaison Group (CLG), which brings together patients, carers and community members interested in improving psychological care through training. The success of the first two years of

this initiative and of the CLG has resulted in renewal of funding from the Strategic Health Authority for a further three years.

"This approach is very much in line with 'user centrality' in the NHS - putting the patient at the centre of things," says Rory. "Early on in their training, the trainees get a small taste of the experience of being on the receiving end of Psychology services through some very creative exercises designed by patients themselves. People with experience of using health services can make an important contribution to training these future professionals."

Breaking down any "them-and-us" barriers is vital. Reflecting that attitude, a key CLG member, 60-year-old Graham Stierl, now enjoys Honorary Staff status.

"This is one of the best things I've ever been involved with. It gives us all an equal voice and is forward-thinking."

Another CLG member, Richard Hughes, is a member of Manchester People First, the self-help group for physically disabled people and those with learning difficulties. Graham



and Richard, together with other members of the CLG, were recently involved in selecting candidates for the doctoral training programme.

There are eight people in the CLG core group, with a diverse range of backgrounds and skills, as well as a further 150 individuals and groups serving as a consultation network, but the scheme is open to all members of the community. "This really is for everyone," says Rory. "The community needs to get involved in the training of clinical psychologists in order to shape the

future. And we also need the full commitment of the university."

The aim is to recruit community representatives from all over the region and involve them in all aspects of training from selection through curriculum development to completion.

Linda Steen may be contacted on 0161 306 0401

Email: [linda.steen@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:linda.steen@manchester.ac.uk)

## In brief

### No sunglasses required for fish supper

Fishermen are always looking for a tasty catch - but it is the fish that have a natural advantage when it comes to spotting dinner, according to new research from The University of Manchester.

In a paper published last month, in the *Biophysical Journal*, Dr Nicholas Roberts from The University's Photon Science Institute and the School of Physics and Astronomy reports how individual light sensitive cells within the retina of goldfish are able to detect polarised light.

It's believed this type of polarisation vision improves visual contrast and can help an animal catch its prey more easily.

Researchers say this latest research is important because it is the first direct experimental evidence of a polarisation detection mechanism in any normal vertebrate eye.

They believe that discovering how single cells work as polarisation detectors may lead to new developments in man-made microscopic detection or information display technologies.

Dr Roberts says: "Vision is the primary sense of many animals and the way they see their world is of fundamental importance to understanding aspects of their behaviour.

"Numerous animals have amazing visual abilities, which allow them to see the world in very different ways. One such ability is polarisation vision.

"Just as fishermen wear Polaroid sunglasses to help improve contrast, many different animals - including fish - have evolved to do the very same thing without the need of sunglasses. It is a surprisingly common ability throughout the animal kingdom."

### Cramming culture turns students off maths

The ever-growing strain of examinations, cramming and top-down teaching is turning students off studying maths at university - according to new research.

Professor Julian Williams from The University of Manchester says the pressures caused by cramming for up to 12 exams a year leaves too many AS level maths students tired at the thought of studying more at university.

Professor Williams leads a team of researchers at the School of Education who quizzed 1,700 students from 40 sixth form and further education colleges across England.

The researchers provided evidence that so called "transmission teaching" - heavily based on preparing for tests - has a statistically significant negative effect of students' intention to study more maths in the future.

## The true value of water-cooler networking



**Water-cooler networking - is one of the most effective ways of unlocking knowledge within an organisation according to a study from Manchester Business School's Institute of Innovation and Research and ICI has confirmed that getting people talking informally -**

The joint project compared the formal and informal social networks within large research and development organisations where the free exchange of ideas and know-how is crucial.

Dr Phil Gamlen, senior fellow at Manchester Business School, said:

"Businesses should ask themselves whether they are maximising the power of informal networks as an integral part of their business development strategy.

"However it's not always as straightforward as it seems - especially if an organisation has recently undergone restructuring, which can sever key relationships."

The study has generated five action points which can easily be put into practice:

- informal social networks matter - coffee room or water-cooler gossip lubricates the

real business of the firm. Informal contacts help spread key knowledge within an organisation. Yet informal contacts are often ignored when managing organisations

- informal networks need managing. Individuals who are key technology 'nodes' and those who cross boundaries must be identified and nurtured. These key people can help or hinder know-how flow around a large organisation
- to be an effective knowledge node needs a particular set of personal characteristics but coaching and training can increase impact still further
- it is possible to map networks within firms to reveal gaps and blocks which may have to be supported by more formal structures, such as regular meetings
- loss of personnel not only means a loss of formal know-how, but the organisation also disproportionately suffers from the collapse of informal networks which a manager has built up during their employment.

## Frog study takes leaf from nature's book

**A brightly coloured tropical frog under threat of extinction is the focus of a new research project hoping to better understand how environment and diet influence their development and behaviour.**

Biologists from The University of Manchester have teamed up with experts at Chester Zoo in the hope that their findings will not only help save the splendid leaf frog *cruxiohyala calcarifer* from extinction in the wild but provide clues as to how it can be better catered for in captivity.

Loss of habitat in its native Costa Rican rainforest, combined with global declines in amphibian populations generally through a combination of environmental change and disease, have all contributed to the splendid leaf frog's precarious situation.

"This research aims to contribute to our understanding of the basic factors that influence the development and survival of these frogs," said Dr Richard Preziosi, a lecturer in the Faculty of Life Sciences, who is supervising the project.

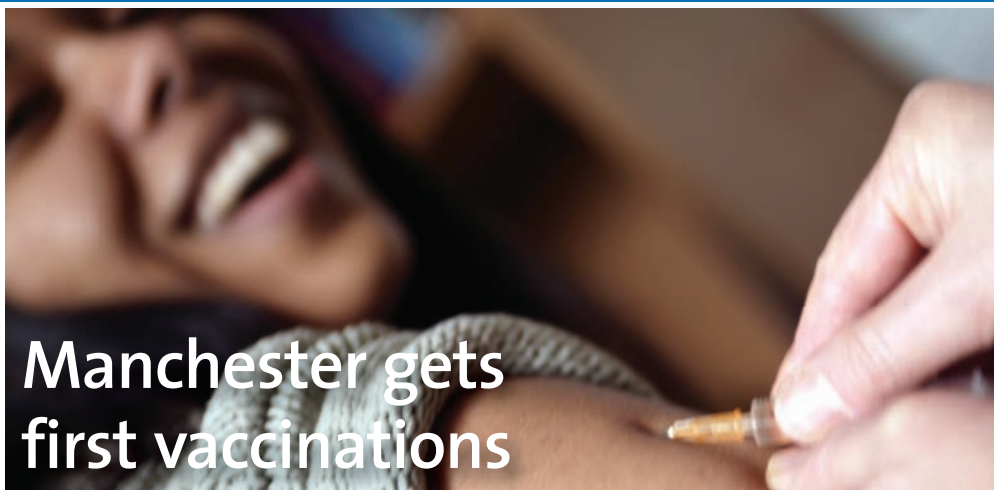
"The global decline in amphibian populations means research such as this, carried out ex situ, is



therefore critical for both conservation projects in the wild and for maintaining and successfully breeding the frogs in captivity."

The research at Chester Zoo is being complemented by field studies being conducted by Dr Preziosi and Manchester Museum's Curator of Herpetology, Andrew Gray, in the Costa Rican jungle.

The study is the three-year research project of PhD student Victoria Ogilvy and is funded by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC).



## Manchester gets first vaccinations

**Girls aged 12-13 in Greater Manchester are the first in the UK to be offered immunisation against the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) – which causes 70% of cervical cancer cases – thanks to a University of Manchester study.**

The Department of Health plans to introduce vaccination against HPV throughout England. In preparation for this, Dr Loretta Brabin has secured funding from Glaxo Smith Kline (GSK), one of the two vaccine manufacturers, to run a pilot study to examine the logistics of delivering three doses of a vaccine within a six-month period and to investigate parents' attitudes towards HPV vaccination.

All secondary schools in Bury and Stockport have been invited to participate in the pilot and it is anticipated that approximately 3,300 Year 8 schoolgirls will be invited for immunisation – giving them protection against most forms of cervical cancer.

Dr Brabin, of the Cancer Studies Research Group, said: "I conducted a survey of parental attitudes last year that showed 80% of parents in Greater Manchester to be in favour of vaccinating their daughters.

"It is very important for parents to have their say about the new vaccine and to have an opportunity to have their questions answered. We are asking the parents of girls

involved in this study to complete a questionnaire giving us their views on the vaccination programme. Our pilot study will no doubt learn lessons that will help pave the way for a smooth introduction of the national immunisation programme next year."

Dr Lesley Turnbull, Cervical Screening Director for the North West, agreed: "Approximately 3,000 new cases of cervical cancer are diagnosed in Britain and 1,100 women die from the disease each year. The HPV vaccination programme will inevitably reduce this terrible burden of disease and it will save lives. However, it is still vitally important for women to attend for smear tests."

## Bionic nerve to bring damaged limbs and organs back to life

**Researchers in the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences have transformed fat tissue stem cells into nerve cells - and now plan to develop an artificial nerve that will bring damaged limbs and organs back to life.**

Dr Paul Kingham and his team at the UK Centre for Tissue Regeneration (UKCTR) isolated the stem cells from the fat tissue of adult animals and differentiated them into nerve cells to be used for repair and regeneration of injured nerves. They are now about to start a trial extracting stem cells from fat tissue of volunteer adult patients, in order to compare in the laboratory human and animal stem cells.

Following that, they will develop an artificial nerve constructed from a biodegradable polymer to transplant the differentiated stem cells. The biomaterial will be rolled up into a tube-like structure and inserted between the two ends of the cut nerve so that the regrowing nerve fibre can go through it from one end to the other.

With a clinical trial on the biomaterial about to be completed, the researchers hope the treatment could be ready for use in four or five years.

Dr Kingham said: "The differentiated stem cells have great potential for future clinical use - for patients with traumatic injuries of nerves in the arms and legs or who have had an organ transplant. Furthermore, we could also apply the technique when a tumour is removed and takes with it a nearby nerve trunk, such as the removal of a prostate tumour where damage to the nerve leads to male impotence."

Director of the UKCTR, Professor Giorgio Terenghi said: "This new research will improve the lives of many people. The frequency of nerve injury is one in every 1,000 of the population - or 50,000 cases in the UK - every year.

"The current repair method - a patient donating their own nerve graft to span the gap at the injury site - is far from optimal because of the poor functional outcome, the extra damage and the possibility of forming scars and tumours at the donor site. With tissue engineering the patient will not be able to tell that they had ever 'lost' their limb and will be able carry on exactly as they did before."

## In brief

### Revealed: what tickled the Victorians

The journals of an obscure Victorian diarist have been rediscovered in a Nottinghamshire archive, giving a unique insight into the bizarre world of nineteenth century entertainment.

University of Manchester theatre historian Dr Ann Featherstone brought the writings of Sydney Race to light for her book published last month.

According to Dr Featherstone, Sydney gave a rare insight into the freak-shows and waxworks which set up in the windows of vacant and abandoned shops in his home town of Nottingham.

He was among the first people ever to document the advent of early cinema: cinematograph technology was just months old when he saw it in a shop show in 1897.

And among his other observations were a "Fat Irish Child" called Polly O' Gracious, a dancing bear, Madam Hartley the 'Armless Lady' and vivid descriptions of the Nottingham's famous Goose fair - which still thrives today.

Dr Featherstone said: "Sydney was an extraordinary Nottinghamian who had a passion for documenting the weird and wonderful world of Victorian entertainment.

"Certainly a major part of his life were his journals. He wrote dozens of them from 1892 all the way up to the 1950s - an amazing achievement.

"But it's his observations of popular entertainments from the period between 1892 and 1900 which are the most startling - because they are so vivid and unusual."

Born and bred locally, Mark Woolstencroft came to work at the University when he was 16, on a YTS (Youth Training Scheme), never dreaming that he would carve out a successful career here over the next 30 years. Fortunately, his creative talent was spotted early on. Now, Mark has taken up the challenging new appointment of manager of that hothouse of creativity and performance, the Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama.

# Mark's Mission

He is enthusiastic about the challenge. "The centre is one of our cultural assets and we want it to realise its full potential," he says. "We want everyone to know where we are and what we can offer. Our first job is to support the teaching and research, but we also have the opportunity to develop a wider range of activities, alongside our important programme of public performances in music, drama and literature."

Being born locally also gives him a special feeling about reaching out to the community. "I went to a local school and I would love us to be more connected to the community round here," he says.

His is a remarkable – and heartwarming – story. He came on the YTS scheme without knowing what it might bring, if anything. The whole idea was to let youngsters see and sample what was going on in the University, particularly in the technical support areas, with a view to them finding a niche. And Mark is the supreme example of how the scheme could work at its best. He pays ready tribute to the part that the late John Johnson, an inspirational training manager, played in his development. "I came straight from school, not knowing what I was going to do, but John quickly saw that I had a creative bent – I could draw – and he quickly steered me in the right direction," Mark says.

He started off in Archaeology, working with the late Professor Barri Jones, another inspirational figure. He developed his skill by drawing maps and small finds from digs. He also got involved with photography. "I was fascinated – and it was great experience for a young lad, who knew nothing about archaeology at first," he says.

It wasn't long before his talent was turned in another direction – medical illustration. He was assigned to Withington Hospital, the University Hospital of South Manchester, where he learned to apply his skills to the benefit

of a large teaching hospital, creating illustrations, medical drawings and developing new video techniques.

The dual skills of creative ability and technical know-how grew together – and set him on a clear path for a future that would see him establish an international reputation as an editor, particularly of ethnographic films, a teacher and a manager. And on the way he has gained both management and teaching qualifications.

It is nearly 20 years now since he moved from the hospital environment to the central University Audio Visual Service, which has evolved over the years into the Media Centre. He taught video editing to academic staff and students as well as being involved in production and technical development.

He has had a particularly fruitful and productive association with the Granada Centre for Visual Anthropology, teaching editing skills to the students on the Masters programme. Not only did he enjoy his part in making films – he is credited with editing more than 150 – but his expertise has taken him to Kunming in China, where he helped to establish the East Asia Institute of Visual Anthropology (EAIVA), the first institute for visual anthropological research and professional training. It was a joint project between Yunnan University and the Institut für den Wissenschaftlichen Film in Göttingen – and the project was sponsored by the Volkswagen Foundation.

"It was a very exciting project," he says. "Preparation started in 1994 and the EAIVA was established in 1998. The aim was to set up an institute in China to train professionals in visual anthropology, equipping them with knowledge in theory and history, but also giving them practical skills in making their own ethnographic documentaries. They are now in a position to preserve and record vanishing cultural and ethnographic material with the help of modern visual technology."

In the run-up to establishing the institute, he had month-long stays in Yunnan, teaching editing techniques and working with the Chinese students alongside outstanding documentary film-makers Barbara Keifenheim and Judith MacDougall.

"It's been a wonderfully rewarding experience," he says. "I never thought as a lad growing up in Old Trafford that I would one day get the opportunity to work in China, especially being involved in establishing such an institute."

However, following the 2004 merger and restructuring, he moved on from his management position in the Media Centre to be Resources Manager of the School of Arts, Histories and Cultures, taking on responsibility for the technical teams and for the School's resources budget. "It was a very challenging time," he says. "There were many policies and systems to put in place that didn't exist before. But, again, I found it rewarding and worthwhile."

In the overview, it became clear that the Martin Harris Centre needed a manager. It also became clear that Mark was the man for the job – he likes a challenge, he's likeable and unflappable, he has vision and he enjoys working in a creative environment.

So, we can look forward to the Centre having a higher profile, selling itself as a central cultural asset, attracting a wider range of events and conferences to its attractive spaces, like the 350-seat Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall, which has the BBC Philharmonic amongst its clients, and the 100-seat John Thaw Studio Theatre Studio.

One of Mark's particular favourite offerings is the series of Walter Carroll Lunchtime Concerts (Thursdays at ten past one). "It's a lunch-time oasis – the perfect de-stresser on a busy day," he says. I think he might need it.

**Name**

Mark Woolstencroft

**Current role**

Martin Harris Centre Manager  
School of Arts, Histories and Cultures  
The University of Manchester

**Previous roles**

2004 – 2007

Resources Manager  
School of Arts, Histories and Cultures  
The University of Manchester

1999 – 2004

Assistant Manager  
Media Centre  
The University of Manchester

1989 – 1999

Academic Liaison Officer  
Media Centre  
The University of Manchester

1978 – 1989

Medical Illustrator  
Withington Hospital, Manchester

**Education**

City and Guilds Certificate in  
Delivering Learning/Teaching Adults

Bolton Institute of Higher Education  
Certificate in Education

The University of Manchester  
Certificate in Management

**Other**

Visiting tutor  
Yunan University, Kunming, China  
1998 - 2003



## Enterprising Start

The Manchester Science and Enterprise Centre (MSEC) has launched a new course designed to help people get their business ideas off the ground.

The Certificate of Higher Education in Enterprise is aimed at people from all backgrounds, and allows ambitious individuals to develop the key business knowledge and skills to run a successful enterprise.

The course runs every Thursday in the evening - opening it up to those with existing daytime jobs who harbour greater ambitions.

Depending on personal circumstances, budding businessmen and businesswomen may be eligible for grants to cover some of their course fees.

The programme will be delivered at One Central Park in Central Manchester, and students have use of MSEC's impressive business acceleration unit, Venture Space.

The course - in its previous incarnation as Enterprise Direct - has already helped a working mum from Tameside grow a successful plant business.

A few years ago, trained horticulturist Jayne Lawton, 38, from Hyde, identified a gap in the market for easy-to-plant, low maintenance hand-picked scented plants.

Lacking the business skills and key contacts to turn her big idea into a thriving commercial venture, in 2005 she signed up for the Enterprise Direct.

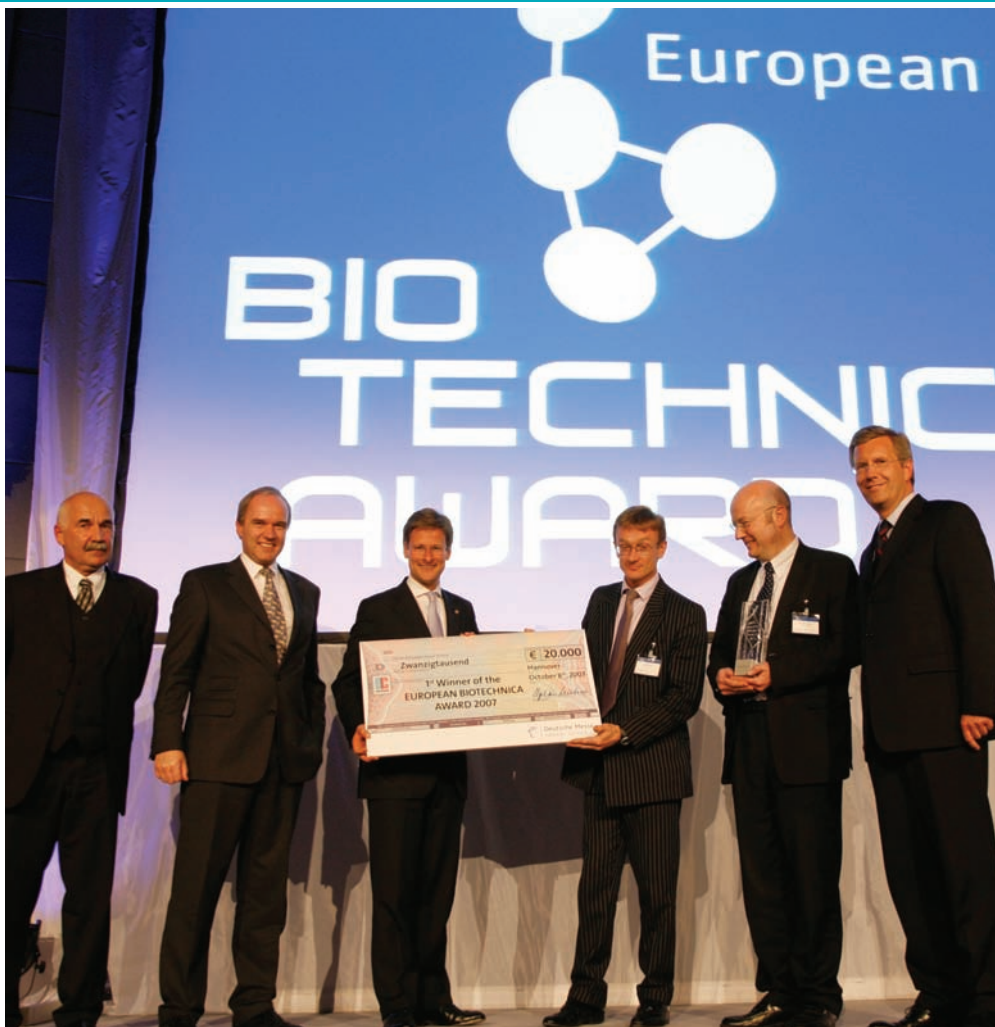
Learning from tutors and mentors who Jayne calls "the most talented business minds in the UK", she learned all about the theory of doing business and the practical aspects of running a company.

Today she sits proudly at the helm of Grobox Gardens ([www.groboxgardens.co.uk](http://www.groboxgardens.co.uk)), which supplies a range of unique plants in biodegradable boxes to Sainsbury's and Wilkinson's, and also direct to customers via the Internet.

The success of her unique garden gift products has landed her the titles of British Female Innovator of the Year and Packard Bell Independent Working Mum of the Year in 2006. She also recently finished runner up in the Grazia O2 X Entrepreneur of the Year awards.

MSEC is based within the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS).

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



## Renovo wins European Biotechnica Award

**University spin-out company Renovo Group plc, the biopharmaceutical company developing drugs for the prevention and reduction of scarring at multiple body sites, has won first prize in the final round of the European Biotechnica Award 2007. This was the first time that the award has been won by a UK biotech company.**

The award, which brings with it benefits worth up to 100,000 Euros, is presented by the Deutsche Messe AG to European biotech and life science companies in related fields. The international jury, which was made up of distinguished biotech experts from six countries, selected the winner from a list of 27 applicants. The major criteria in the selection of the award winners were the marketability, relevance and impact of the products under

consideration and the existence of a potentially successful marketing concept and strategy.

Christian Wulff, the Premier of Lower Saxony, Dr. Karl-Ludwig Kley, Chairman of the Board of Merck KGaA, Christian Siebert, departmental head at the European Commission, and Stephan Ph. Kühne, who sits on the Board of Management at Deutsche Messe AG, Hannover, presented the prizes in the presence of more than 500 invited people from the worlds of science, business and politics.

Professor Mark W J Ferguson, Chief Executive Officer of Renovo, said: "We are delighted to be the first UK biotech company to win the European Biotechnica Award. This highly prestigious award, which was judged by an international jury of biotech experts, is further recognition of the strength of Renovo's research and

development expertise, its product pipeline, and the huge potential market for drugs targeted at the prevention and reduction of scarring."

Professor Dr. Peter J. W. Stadler in his capacity as jury chairman, said: "Renovo impressed the jury with its high scientific standards, its pioneering products in a very important area of application that has hitherto suffered from low standards of treatment, its strong financial situation and its genuine entrepreneurial spirit."

The European Biotechnica Award is Europe's most important and valuable prize for small and medium-sized enterprises working in biotechnology and life sciences. The Award was presented for the fifth time in 2007, with prizes to the amount of EUR 100,000. For further information on the award and photographs please visit the web address below.



NAFUM members and partners at Broomcroft Hall

## US alumni visit Manchester

**Directors of the North American Foundation for The University of Manchester (NAFUM), led by their President, Tony Thornley, were welcome guests over the Foundation Day weekend in October. This is only the second time in the nearly ten years the Foundation has existed that its Board of Governors has met here.**

During their visit, they were able to meet academics concerned with the key areas they have identified as being particular targets for their philanthropic support, including Professor Nic Jones, Director of the Manchester Cancer Research Centre; Professor Tony Addison, Executive Director of the Brooks World Poverty Institute; and Professor Gus McGrouther, the country's first Chair of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

Their visit provided the opportunity to bestow two important awards. George Rigg (BSc Science 1960) received an Outstanding Alumnus Award for his achievements in the field of electrical and electronic engineering. George and his wife, Jane are also providing personal support for a PhD scholarship in Energy Engineering (the Rigg-NAFUM Scholarship). Robin Mills (BA Economics 1967), who recently stepped down as President of NAFUM, was awarded the University's Medal of Honour for his commitment to the University and catalytic leadership of the NAFUM that saw a step change in activity and a marked increase in donations. Robin and his wife, Jan, are also supporting a PhD fellowship in the Brooks World Poverty Institute (The Mills-NAFUM Fellowship).

The visitors were also able to meet students who are benefiting from their giving. This year, NAFUM is supporting a total of four PhD scholarships, two Masters and ten undergraduate scholarships for

students from Greater Manchester. A Welcome Reception for students from North America was funded by Helen Brown, a Manchester exchange student in 1983-4.

The University's 4,000 or so alumni on the other side of the Atlantic are playing an increasingly significant part in driving the University forward through scholarships, support for teaching and research, and furthering links with partner universities in the USA.

The Foundation is now contributing \$540,000 a year in support funding for a wide range of academic and social developments. And that figure is growing all the time (in its first year, the fledgling organisation raised \$12,000). So, NAFUM goes from strength to strength.

Tony Thornley, who originates from Morecambe and graduated with a BSc in Chemistry in 1967, recently retired as President and Chief Operating Office of Qualcomm Inc and heads NAFUM's 16-person Board of Directors.

He said: "As Alumni we all enjoyed a great education, good times and friends during our time as students. Now however, The University of Manchester is an exceptional institution involved in the leading edge of research in many areas critical to the well being of the human race. The leadership of the University has laid out very aggressive goals making it a privilege to be a contributor to their achievement.

NAFUM is a vehicle for those of us who have used our Manchester education to move to the USA. We are a relatively new organization focused on fund raising but we have made considerable progress thanks to the efforts of the Boards of Directors since our inception in 1998. We look forward to

continuing to grow and to see the University contribute to society at the level we know it will."

As an independent, not-for-profit corporation, dedicated to charitable and educational purposes, the Foundation focuses its activities on the promotion and development of relationships and loyalty amongst Manchester alumni and friends in the USA. Its aim is to build on those relationships to provide philanthropic support for education, teaching, research and scholarship at this University.

Interestingly, after reviewing its priorities (in the context of the University's development and ambitious 2015 agenda), the Board has adopted six key themes for promotion in the USA and as a focus for future grants:

- Cancer 2015
- Regenerative Medicine
- Science 2015
- Sustainable Civil Society
- Transforming Futures
- World Poverty

NAFUM is also playing an increasingly important role in linking the University with partners in the USA.

Professor Gilbert readily acknowledges their endeavours. "We have set ourselves ambitious goals and we are most grateful for the keen interest and encouragement that alumni and friends in the USA have shown us," he says. "We value the pivotal and highly strategic support that they are providing to help us to bring the best minds from both sides of the Atlantic together."

# What's On

## Contact Theatre

**SBBC/Contact**

**Present Word-up Festival** Mon 5 Nov – Sat 10 Nov

**Various events** Thu 8 – Sat 10 Nov

**Water** Tue 20 Nov – Sat 24 Nov 8pm

With the strange beauty of a dream, *Water* is a story of two half brothers who clash over legacy of their dead father, while another man runs from the impending birth of his child.

**Exodus Sparks** Tue 20 Nov 7.30pm

A series of short plays by new refugee writers presented as script-in-hand performances.

**Romeo in the City** Wed 21 – Thu 22 Nov 7.30pm

Two families surviving in modern Britain. Young men, gangs and knives, Shakespearean verse and modern rhyme

**Speakers's Corner** Sat 1 Dec 8pm

Speaker's Corner is a new live music theatre performance, spearhead by film and music maverick Don Letts that seeks a contemporary response to the 200th anniversary of the abolition of slavery

**Oxford Road, Manchester**  
**Tickets/Info 0161 274 0600**  
[www.contact-theatre.org](http://www.contact-theatre.org)

## 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 (except at Martin Amis public events)

**Literature Live with Robert Crawford and Peter Sansom** – Mon 12 Nov

Poets Robert Crawford and Peter Sansom read from and discuss their work. Tickets: £3/£2

**Literature Live with Michele Roberts** – Mon 26 Nov

Michele Roberts reads from and discusses her work. Tickets £3/£2

**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)**

## Courses for the Public

The Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) runs a large and varied programme of courses designed for adults studying part-time, whether for pleasure or personal/professional development. Most are open to beginners and no prior knowledge is assumed unless stated. Concessions are available to staff and graduates of the University of Manchester. Brochures and application forms are available on request.

**CCE, 1st Floor, Humanities Devas Street**  
**0161 275 3275**

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

## International Society

Sat 10 Nov

**York**

Sun 11 Nov

**Chester (with guided walking tour)**

Sat 17 Nov

**Liverpool (with guided tour)**

Sun 18 Nov

**Yorkshire Dales visiting Bolton Abbey and Haworth**

**Overnight Trip!**

Fri 23 – Sun 25 Nov

**London (with guided coach tour)**

Sat 24 Nov

**Lake District visiting Kendal and the Ulverston Dickensian Christmas Festival**

Sun 25 Nov

**Peak District – Christmas at Chatsworth House and Bakewell**

Sat 1 Dec

**Warwick Castle and its magical ice rink**

Sun 2 Dec

**Chester Zoo Frost Fair**

Sat 8 Dec

**Lincoln Christmas market**

**Opening hours**

Mon-Fri 9.30am – 7.00pm (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)**

## Chaplaincies

**St Peter's House Chaplaincy**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

11am Holy Communion

12.15am Bible Study

12.45 Lunch (1st Sunday)

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.

**Precinct Centre 0161 275 2894**

**email [sph.reception@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:sph.reception@manchester.ac.uk)**

**RC Chaplaincy, Avila House**

Mass Times (term-time only)

**SUNDAY:** 7pm (in the Holy Name Church) next door to Chaplaincy

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

Tues, Thurs: 12.15 pm in the Chaplaincy Chapel

**Oxford Road (opposite the Students' Union)**

**0161 273 1456**

**email [info@rc-chaplaincy-um.org.uk](mailto:info@rc-chaplaincy-um.org.uk)**

**[www.rc-chaplaincy-um.org.uk](http://www.rc-chaplaincy-um.org.uk)**

**The Jewish Student Centre and Synagogue**

**Hillel House, Greenheys Lane.**

**0161 226 1139**

**email [rabiyy@hotmail.com](mailto:rabiyy@hotmail.com)**

**[www.rabiyy.com](http://www.rabiyy.com)**



## John Rylands Library (Deansgate)

Visit the historic John Rylands Library on Deansgate, home to one of the country's greatest collections of printed books, manuscripts and archives. Regarded as one of the city's most beautiful buildings, the Library has just been voted Manchester's 'Best Iconic Building' in the MCR Awards 2007. Permanent exhibitions tell the story of the Library, display treasures from the collections and include interactive exhibits to engage visitors.

### CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

**The Sword and the Book** (until 13 Jan 2008)

Traces the history of the translation of the Bible into English, including examples from the Library's world-famous collection of lavishly illustrated Bibles.

**Close-up session** Sat 10 Nov – 11am - 11.45am

Enjoy a closer look at some of the Bibles from the Library's collection. Tickets £2.50

**Crawling to Maturity** Tue 20 Nov – 6pm-8pm

The King James Version and the English Renaissance Bible – talk by David Price. Free (booking essential)

**A Joy Forever** (until 14 Nov)

The Manchester Art Treasures Exhibition in Print. This exhibition marks the 150th anniversary of Britain's most spectacular art exhibition, held in Old Trafford in 1857 and tells the story of the event from different points of view.

**"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" Charles Wesley and the Rise of the English Hymn**

(until 20 Dec 07)

Charles Wesley is regarded as one of the greatest hymn-writers of the Christian Church. Original manuscripts and books from the Methodist Archives tell the story of a remarkable man whose spiritual poems became a part of popular culture.

**Designer Bookbinder Annual Competition 2007**

(20 Nov 07 – 12 Jan 08)

Entries from professionals, amateurs and students showcase original designs demonstrating technical and artistic skills.

**Public opening hours**

Mon and Wed-Sat 10am-5pm

Tues and Sun 12pm-5pm

**Reader opening hours**

Mon-Sat 10am-5pm

FREE ADMISSION

**The John Rylands Library**

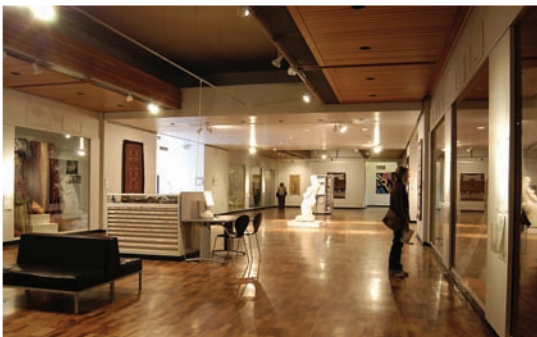
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**0161 275 3764**

**email [jrul.special-collections@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:jrul.special-collections@manchester.ac.uk)**

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





## The Whitworth Art Gallery

### DISPLAYS/COLLECTIONS

**Autonomous Agents: The Art and Films of Lynn Hershman Leeson** until 12 December 2007  
Lynn Hershman Leeson's impressive and influential work spans the forms of painting, photography, performance, film and video, robotics and artificial intelligence.

**Flights of Fancy: Select decorative schemes of the 1920s & 30s**, 27 Oct 2007 to Mid Oct 2008  
In the early 20th century the influence of Modernism encouraged a move away from highly patterned walls. This change in fashion affected wallpaper production as a whole and manufacturers, keen to retain their customers, produced numerous fancy paper decorations to add interest to plain or textured backgrounds.

**Trade and Empire: Remembering Slavery** until 27 April 2008  
The exhibition explores slavery and its impact on trade and empire through objects picked from the Gallery's collection. These range from a pair of 18th century watercolours by Thomas Hearne that show day-to-day life in the Leeward Islands.

**Sleeping Beauties: Walter Crane and the Illustrated Book** until February 2008  
Spanning the career of the artist and designer Walter Crane, the late 19th and early 20th century, the display presents his book illustrations. It features Crane's early commissions as well as original drawings from his famous Toy Book illustrations flower books and political cartoons.

**The Uncertainty of Identity: The Biographies of Things** to February 2008  
This exhibition explores the contexts in which the identity of an art or design object is formed and destabilised – creating its 'life history' or 'biography'. Where does the object come from and who made it?

**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 at:  
[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)

## Jodrell Bank

**Jodrell Bank Observatory Visitor Centre,**  
Macclesfield, Cheshire  
01477 571339  
[www.manchester.ac.uk/jodrellbank](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/jodrellbank)

**Summer opening hours**  
Every day 10:30am to 5:30pm, until Sun 28 Oct.  
Closed on Thur 4 Oct.



## The Manchester Museum

### SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

- **Tooth & Claw: Living alongside Britain's predators** (opening 10 Nov)
- **Revealing Histories: Myths About Race**
- **After Life**

### TALKS AND EVENTS

**Big Saturday – Volcano Day**  
Saturday 17 November, 11am – 4pm  
Make your own volcano and experience what its like to be in an eruption! Ring 0161 275 2648 for further details and booking.

**Showcase: The Manchester Museum Research Seminar**  
**Unlocking the treasure house with digital keys**  
Wednesday 7 November 3-5pm  
Look at current research into the uses of museum collections with Dr Suzanne Keene. Drop-in, free

**The Manchester Museum Day School**  
**The others: living in the margins of the Greco-Roman world**  
Saturday 10 November 10am-4.30pm  
A day of lectures and hands-on sessions. Booking and information: [museum@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:museum@manchester.ac.uk) £25/£5 (students)

**Alchemy Artist Jordan Baseman: Joy on Toast**  
15, 17, 22 & 24 November various times  
Filmed interviews with botanical explorer Sheila Colinette. Booking required on 0161 275 2648. Free.

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

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

## Burlington Society

The Society of Mature Students and Postgraduates in the Universities of Greater Manchester.

**Burlington Rooms, Schunck Building,**  
Burlington Street (next to JRUL)  
0161 275 2392  
[www.burlington.man.ac.uk](http://www.burlington.man.ac.uk)



## Music and Drama at Manchester

Wed 7 Nov 7pm  
**BBC Philharmonic – Chamber Music**

Wed 7 Nov 5pm  
**A Thoroughly modern scandal: the Profumo affair, London 1963**

Thu 8 Nov 1.10pm  
**Paul-Thomas Bambrough & Ron Woodley – tenor & piano**

Sat 10 Nov 7pm  
**The University of Manchester Symphony Orchestra**

Thu 15 Nov 1.10pm  
**Richard Uttley - piano**

Fri 16 Nov 7pm  
**The University of Manchester String Orchestra**

Thurs 22 Nov 1.10pm  
**Quatuor Danel**

Thu 22 Nov 2.15pm  
**Quatuor Danel Seminar**  
**Sergey Taneyev – The Russian 'missing link'**

Fri 23 Nov 1.10pm  
**The University of Manchester Baroque Orchestra**

Fri 23 Nov 7pm  
**Quatuor Danel**

Thu 29 Nov 1.10pm  
**Lesley-Jane Rogers, John Turner & Pamela Nash – soprano, recorder & harpsicord**

Fri 30 Nov 1.10 & 7pm  
**New Music Ensemble – Great Danes**

**The Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama**  
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email [boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk)  
[www.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre)

## Gig Guide

### MANCHESTER ACADEMY 1, 2 & 3

Mon 5 Nov  
**Kate Nash**

Wed 7 Nov  
**Calvin Harris**

Mon 12 Nov  
**Biffy Clyro**

Weds 14 Nov  
**Alexisonfire**

Sat 17 Nov  
**The Complete Stone Roses + Peter Hook**

Fri 23 Nov  
**Whisky Cats**

Thu 29 Nov  
**Within Temptation**

Fri 30 Nov  
**Marillion**

Sat 1 Dec  
**Thunder**

**Tickets from:**  
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Piccadilly Box Office @ easy Internet Cafe (c/c) 0871 2200260  
Royal Court (Liverpool) 0151 709 4321 (c/c)

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Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL  
0161 275 2930  
[www.manchesteracademy.net](http://www.manchesteracademy.net)

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- Available 3rd - 20th December 2007 •
- A deposit of £8.00 per person is required to secure booking •





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## The longest bug

Stick and Leaf-insects of the order Phasmida are plant-eating insects, so named because most of them look like sticks or leaves. There are around 3,000 known species, largely tropical or warm temperate in distribution, of which three New Zealand species currently occur in the UK. Many Phasmids are among the largest insects in the world and definitely the longest, measuring over half a metre including the outstretched legs! For instance, *Phobaeticus kirbyi* from Borneo can reach the maximum length of 546mm. In nature, these long, slender insects, are remarkably well camouflaged in their habitat during the daytime and may be present in gardens for years without being noticed.

The Manchester Museum's insect collections contain around 150 phasmid species, some of which are quite rare or poorly-known. One of the Museum's most recent acquisitions includes a small collection of 85 stick-insects from Vietnam. This collection is being studied by Museum volunteer Dr Yvonne Golding, who is confident that it contains several species as yet undescribed.

Phasmids are popular in many parts of the world as pets. The Phasmid Study Group is a society in the UK dedicated to encouraging studies of them. It is open to people of all ages, with an interest in stick and leaf-insects and boasts over 500 members in 23 countries.



Phasmid Day will be taking place at the Manchester Museum on Saturday 17 November between 11am and 4pm. It will include a display of live stick insects, with people on hand from the PSG giving tips on keeping and rearing stick insects. Other activities

include competitions and behind-the-scenes-tours of the insect store, with talks on camouflage and mimicry in insects and phasmid hunting in Borneo. This is also part of the Museum's Big Saturday: Volcano Day (17 November).



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



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Next issue is 3 December 2007

## 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 Noon 15 November

## Events Contact

### Events and listings information

Philippa Adshead

tel 0161 275 2922

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

Deadline Noon 15 November

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