

UniLife

University helps to put Chinese on the curriculum



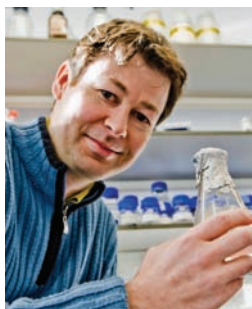
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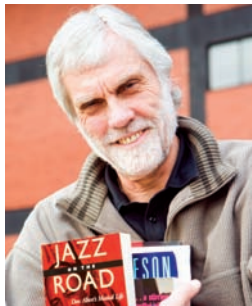
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Letter from the President



The University's annual Faculties and Schools Conference was held in February. As in previous years, people with key responsibilities in Schools, Faculties and Administrative Directorates met for a day-and-a-half to take stock of how the University had performed, at all levels, over the previous 12 months, and to review goals, strategies and priorities going forward.

In 2008, our fourth year since the University was established, we took time to consider, not just the past 12 months, but also our overall progress. There were two reasons for doing this. Firstly, many of the early imperatives driving the new institution have run their course. The University's 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) Return was submitted late last year. Our major IT systems project, after inevitable implementation problems and with a few glitches still to be ironed out, is finally providing us with timely, accurate financial, HR and student data. Phases One and Two of our Capital Programme (totalling £401 million), are virtually at an end, having come in on time and within budget. Finally, the administrative staff restructuring, delayed for two years as part of the initial merger Agreement, has now been tackled – not without pain, but with the promise of efficient administrative services and lower administrative costs as it beds down.

The second reason for standing back and reviewing overall progress was to try to decide where we are following a year in which the University community has been under very significant pressure.

Getting the University's budget back into surplus was never going to be easy. All the measures required to achieve that goal are now in place, and on target. But the process has been hard. Colleagues across the University have worked together magnificently to make the required savings, grow revenue and manage the workload and functional impacts of the voluntary severances required to consolidate the gains made in the early years of the new University.

With some trepidation, I decided to test the appetite of my senior colleagues for pushing ahead boldly with the *Manchester 2015 Agenda* after a difficult 2007. So I offered them the chance to recommend a total review of the *Agenda*, including a fundamental reappraisal of the 2015 vision itself. Did they think that the journey so far been worth the effort? Were they in favour of seeking less

ambitious goals? How ready were they to keep managing strategically once the roller-coaster of very rapid growth and sharp financial constraint gave way (as it will from 2008-09) to the more mundane challenges of consolidation and financial sustainability?

In short, had they lost confidence, or interest, in the grand ambition of creating, here in Manchester, one of the world's truly great institutions of higher learning?

The response was overwhelming – and immensely reassuring. Not one Head of School or Dean wanted to re-think the *Agenda*. There was nothing but support for the vision and the long-term goals that we have set ourselves. Such concerns, doubts and inclinations to change direction that were expressed all had to do with *means*, not *ends*.

So the Faculties and Schools Conference thus focused in a businesslike fashion on key strategic challenges. In the coming weeks, we will be engaging colleagues across the University in formulating detailed plans both for implementing the recommendations arising from the Review of Undergraduate Education and for defining the University's research priorities post-RAE. There will be an emphasis on the timely sharing of information and ideas in order to allow colleagues at all levels engage with the issues, influence decision making and have a say in shaping future priorities.

The *Manchester 2015 Agenda* remains our blueprint for the rest of the 2004-15 decade. The challenge is to take this already distinguished institution into the very top echelon of the world's great universities. I am delighted that all my senior colleagues remain convinced that Manchester, in February 2008, remains a good place to start the rest of the journey.

Professor Alan Gilbert
President and Vice-Chancellor

Primary is first to put Chinese on curriculum

A primary school in Manchester has become one of the first in the UK to teach Chinese as part of its curriculum – with help from teachers supplied by the Confucius Institute at The University of Manchester.

The Year Three and Four pupils at St Paul's Primary School in South Manchester will be the first children in the north west to learn Mandarin during school time – even though only one of the pupils is of Chinese descent.

The children – from Withington – also celebrated Chinese New Year with a special performance at a school assembly– partly delivered in Chinese.

And in recognition of their success, the Office of Chinese Language Council International has just awarded the school the status of "Confucius Classroom", which will enable it to act as a resource for other schools in the area - with the help of University of Manchester staff.

Head teacher Don Berry said: "The University has been on hand to support us with teachers and help develop resources and now we are expanding our provision from after-school sessions into curriculum time.

"The lessons are proving very popular with our children, to the extent that we have created an extra session for eight and nine year olds alongside an older group of 10 and 11 year olds."



Director of the Confucius Institute at The University of Manchester Professor Hong Liu said:

"Manchester has the largest Chinese community outside London with more than 30,000 ethnic Chinese living and working in the city and The University of Manchester attracts more than 1,500 Chinese students each year.

"And China is important: Mandarin is spoken by more than a sixth of the world's population and

Chinese economic power is growing exponentially. So it's an important job to bring Chinese culture to the wider community - and the work by St Paul's is helping us to achieve exactly that.

"I'm delighted that our partnership with the school is so successful and I've no doubt it will go from strength to strength. Let's hope that St Paul's will be the first of many," added Professor Hong Liu.

Timetable announced for election of new Chancellor

The electoral process required to appoint a new Chancellor to the University has been announced.

Since the creation of The University of Manchester in October 2004, Anna Ford and Sir Terry Leahy have acted as Co-Chancellors of the University.

Their period of office is due to come to an end on 31 July 2008, and neither Anna nor Sir Terry is eligible for re-appointment. Therefore a new Chancellor will be required to take up office from 1 August 2008 and will serve for a period of seven years.

The key dates in the electoral process are:

• **Issue of Nomination Forms**
Wednesday 12 March

Close of Nominations
Wednesday 23 April

Close of Voting (if required)
Wednesday 4 June

Declaration
Thursday 5 June

For clarification, the electorate consists of those persons whose names appear on any of the following lists, fourteen weeks before the election date:

- Members of the Alumni Association whose names and addresses have been registered on the 'opted-in' list
- Those holding paid superannuable appointments in the University which extend to the date set for the election



Co-Chancellor Anna Ford

- Members of the General Assembly whose appointments do not terminate before the date set for the election

Any person whose name appears on more than one of the above shall be entitled to only one vote. Full details of the electoral process will be issued, along with nomination forms, on Wednesday 12 March.

To become a candidate a proposition for nomination should be submitted, which must be signed by at least 20 people who are eligible to take part in the election. Nominations must be received by the Returning Officer no fewer than six weeks before the date appointed for the election. Each nominee should certify that they hold no paid appointment in the University.



Co-Chancellor Sir Terry Leahy

If only one candidate is validly nominated the Returning Officer (in this case the Registrar and Secretary of the University) shall declare him or her to be elected.

The University has appointed the Electoral Reform Services (ERS), a not-for-profit organisation which is part of the Electoral Reform Society and a well known and respected name in balloting, to provide assistance over the course of the election.

The ERS will provide administrative support and offer technical assistance in facilitating on-line voting among the alumni constituency. This will allow a greater level of participation and provide an independent and respected endorsement of the electoral process.

In brief



Charlie Viney and Katherine Foster

Mulcahy and Viney foster new talent

The Centre for New Writing's annual Mulcahy and Viney Prize, for the best novel-in-progress by one of its MA in Creative Writing students, has been awarded to Katherine Foster, for an extract from her novel *Three's a Crowd*. The prize of £1,000 was awarded by Charlie Viney, co-founder of the literary agency, at a ceremony at Manchester's Central Library.

Ian McGuire, Co-Director of the Centre for New Writing, said: "The Mulcahy and Viney prize is an excellent way for us to recognise and honour the work of the talented young writers in our programme. I am sure that, with the able assistance of the agency, Katherine Foster will go on to achieve great things."



Dr Steve Hepworth, Professor Bernard Kelly, Heather Moore and Dr Paul Mort

Nuclear institute strengthens ties with Sellafield

The University's Dalton Nuclear Institute has strengthened its working relationship with Sellafield Ltd - the company charged with managing and operating the Sellafield site - with a key member of staff starting work on a unique PhD in Manchester.

Heather Moore, who is a key player in formulating the future decommissioning strategies at Sellafield, is embarking upon post graduate studies in Decommissioning Modelling.

Heather, from the Decommissioning Technical team at Sellafield, will be undertaking research into a new type of decommissioning business model in support of future decommissioning and the overall strategy for the Cumbria site.

Heather will be researching a new business model that stems from an idea formulated by Professor Bernard Kelly, the Chair in Nuclear Decommissioning Engineering at the University.

British Bhangra conquers adversity to go global

Bhangra music has gone from an obscure 1960s Birmingham import to an internationally recognised art-form - says the author of the first ever history of the genre.

But according to Dr Rajinder Dudrah who is Head Of Drama at The University of Manchester, the music has had to struggle against cultural racism and community politics to stake its place in British popular culture.

The Senior Lecturer in Film and Media Studies charts the rise and rise of the mix of Punjabi beats and lyrics, UK pop, RnB, reggae, garage, grime and other world sounds in his new book 'Bhangra: Birmingham and Beyond'.

Dr Dudrah said: "Bhangra has made a hugely important contribution to British popular music despite the attitudes of the mainstream music business.

"In the 1980s Bhangra bands were selling up to 30,000 cassettes a week in Asian music shops.

"But despite its massive popularity, the music was, and continues to be, unrecognised by the official top 40 - though it outsells many of the official top 40 bands.

"Even though the genre is now taught in schools, it is still sidelined by the British music establishment.

"When Bhangra artist Panjabi MC sampled the theme tune of 1980's TV series 'Nightrider', it sold millions of copies globally. However it was ignored by Britain until American rap star JayZ used the tune.

"Bhangra music has now become a cultural backdrop: you hear it regularly for example in advertising.

"So surely it's now time for it to be formally acknowledged by the music industry alongside our other major artists," added Dr Dudrah.



A bog body mystery

Lindow Man, the 2,000 year old body found in a peat bog at Lindow Moss near Wilmslow in 1984, will be visiting The Manchester Museum as part of a special exhibition, opening on 19 April. On loan from the British Museum, he will be on display for a year.

'Lindow Man: A bog body mystery' will explore the different stories relating to Lindow Man, and look at what he means to us today. Seven people with particular connections to him have been interviewed for this exhibition. Their personal experiences provide a unique insight into the impact that he has had on their lives, and those of many others.

A number of groups including pagans, archaeologists and curators, have been involved in consultations which have informed the way his body will be put on display, with emphasis being placed on displaying him in a respectful and sensitive way and preparing visitors for their encounter.

Find out more about the preparations the Museum is making and contribute your own comments or memories to a special blog at the web address below.

Planting the seed for eating five a day



Children were reminded of the importance of eating five portions of fruit and veg a day during a half-term botanical bonanza at the Manchester Museum.

'Plants in Disguise', organised by two PhD students from the University's Faculty of Life Sciences, aimed to show youngsters – as well as a few adults – the benefits of eating plenty of greens.

Visitors to the Museum got to learn about some of the more unusual fruits and vegetables and examined some of the exotic plants that produce them.

The event, funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), focused on the use of plants in everyday life.

"We are constantly being told about how important it is to eat five fruits and vegetables a day, but how many of us are aware of where our food comes from," said Eleanor Taylor, who with fellow student Ghzaleh Masnavi, ran the event.

"There was a taste station where people could taste some exotic fruits like Sharon fruits and pomegranates to encourage people to be more adventurous in their eating habits and introduce more variety to their diet."

Visitors to the Museum also got the chance to tour the University's botanical gardens, The Firs, in nearby Fallowfield, where they were shown how dye is produced from plants. Youngsters even got to dye T-shirts that they could then take home to wear.

Manchester Business School holds strong position in world rankings

Manchester Business School (MBS) has maintained its position as 22nd in the Financial Times' ranking of the world's leading business schools, published in January. MBS is ranked as one of Europe's top ten business schools and is placed 4th in the UK.

The ranking highlights how MBS' alumni benefit from their time at Manchester - with the School ranked 10th in the world for career progression. MBS is 11th in the world, and 2nd in the UK, for international experience and its doctoral programme is rated 1st in the world.

Professor Cathy Cassell, Director of postgraduate research programmes said: "Our excellent staff are internationally renowned in their fields and supervise our students closely – so they benefit from world-leading advice about how to develop their doctoral research. We have a thorough and rigorous research training programme that prepares

students for the demands of doctoral research. We also deliver more than a PhD experience in that students are encouraged to take part in all kinds of opportunities and activities that enable them to develop a successful academic career."

Professor Michael Luger, director of Manchester Business School said: "MBS' consistently strong performance clearly positions the School at the forefront of global business education. This is an excellent base from which to drive MBS towards achieving its ambition of becoming one of the world's top ten business schools."

The Financial Times survey measures a wide range of factors - surveying MBA alumni three years after graduation. It looks at their career progress, salary increase and, within the School, considers diversity of the staff and student body, the MBA programme and research activities.

Cancer care expert appointed Professor of Nursing



An expert in supporting cancer patients has been appointed Professor of Nursing jointly by the University's School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work and Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust (CMMC).

Professor Kinta Beaver has a distinguished career in researching ways to provide better support and information to people with cancer, and developing and evaluating innovative ways of providing follow-up care post treatment.

Professor Beaver's appointment is the first under the new CMMC Research and Innovation Division, founded to the increase collaboration with the University. She will work closely with the Trust's directors of adult and children's nursing, researchers across the Central Manchester hospitals and with partner organisations to develop research projects led by nurses. She will also head a programme of patient-centred research focusing initially on survivorship issues for cancer patients and follow-up service provision for patients with different chronic diseases.

Professor Beaver, who began her career as a nurse at the Victoria Hospital in Blackpool in 1984, has produced outstanding research. She received a Special Training Fellowship in Health Services Research from the Medical Research Council in 2001, which enabled her to develop innovative ideas on follow-up care for women with breast cancer. She also won the 'Cancer Nursing' annual research award for best paper in 2005.

Dean of the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences Professor Alan North said: "I am delighted with this, the first of many appointments through the Research and Innovation Division. Kinta Beaver's outstanding body of work has had an immense impact on patients' lives and illustrates perfectly why the division was founded: to ensure nursing science achieves significant results in the clinical setting."



Sallie's birthday treat



Centre for New Writing alumna Sallie Day's novel, 'The Palace of Strange Girls', will be published by Harper Press on 5 May. The novel is set in 1959 at the height of the 'Scrap and Shut' cotton crisis, and centres around the

Singleton family and their annual holiday in Blackpool.

Jack Singleton, a foreman at a local mill, has been offered both the job of mill manager and a union post, forcing him to choose between the welfare of his fellow workers and that of his family. As the novel continues shocking discoveries are made and promises broken, and the family struggle to find their place in a shifting society.

Sallie, who undertook her MA in Creative Writing in 1999-2000 after joining a local writing group, said: "I'm delighted that 'The Palace of Strange Girls' is to be published. My agents auctioned the novel during the summer, and it was actually sold on my 55th birthday.

"I only began writing when my youngest child left for university in 1998, and found Manchester's MA experience very positive: from the introductions to visiting agents and talks by publishers to the analysis of novels and critiques of my submissions. I learned a tremendous amount, received a great deal of support and advice and was grateful for the opportunity to return to study - 25 years after my first degree."

A green future for China?

Innovative plans for a new 'eco-city' in China were outlined at a conference held recently at the University.

Peter Budd, director of ARUP, a global design and business consulting firm, outlined the design of the new Dongtan Eco-city near Shanghai. With capacity for 80,000 residents, the city is designed to have a low ecological footprint and will achieve this through zero emission transport, water recycling, control of noise and light pollution and preserving the local bird habitat.

The plans were discussed at the event hosted by Manchester Business School's Institute of Innovation Research and the University's Architecture Research Centre. The conference was designed to begin a dialogue with China on the crucial issue of innovation for sustainable growth.

The event was opened by the Chinese Academy of Science's Professor Rongping Mu, who spoke about China's ambitious goal to become an "innovation-driven country" by 2020.

Professor Simon Guy, from Manchester's Architecture Research Centre, called for: "Wider public discussion and fresh thinking about sustainable design beyond the narrow debates of green architecture, in order to maximise sustainable growth."

Following the conference, Manchester Business School further strengthened links with the Chinese Academy of Science by signing a collaboration agreement to work together on future innovation research and the exchange of staff.

Enterprising move by Eddie

A generous donation from Eddie Davies OBE (right), owner of Bolton Wanderers FC, will fund a new Chair for Entrepreneurship at Manchester Business School (MBS). The Chair will lead the recently launched Centre for Enterprise and spearhead the School's drive to generate entrepreneurial activity.

MBS is already committed to supporting emerging businesses through its Incubator, which has recently been working behind the scenes with BBC2's Dragons' Den on the viability of contestants' business plans.

Eddie Davies said: "MBS has an excellent reputation for innovation in business education and I'm delighted to support

this initiative, which I hope will inspire entrepreneurs of the future."

A successful entrepreneur himself - Eddie Davies sold Strix, the maker of the switch that turns off kettles when the water boils, to ABN Amro in 2005 for over £300 million. He expanded the company from its Isle of Man base and it now has a global presence in Belgium, Russia, Hong Kong and China.

Eddie Davies has a long-standing relationship with MBS, having attended the School in 1982 when he took an intensive Portuguese language course in preparation for working in Brazil. So impressed he was with the School, and its library, that he decided to provide a



substantial contribution to further its work. In recognition of this, the Eddie Davies library is now one of the largest business libraries in Europe.



Rory Brooks on his trip to Bangladesh

Brooks sees Bangladeshi success for himself

The principal funders of the University's Brooks World Poverty Institute (BWPI) have visited Bangladesh to see for themselves how its work is improving the lives of the poor.

The BWPI was made possible by a donation of £1.3 million over three years from the Rory and Elizabeth Brooks Foundation, one of the largest known gifts in Europe to fund poverty research.

Rory and Elizabeth, accompanied by University researchers and post graduate students, visited two schemes in the country in which BWPI researchers are directly engaged with partners in Bangladesh.

One initiative works with the people who live on the sand islands on the Jamuna River north of the capital Dhakar - known as Chars - who are

severely affected by flooding and river erosion.

Thanks to help from the Chars Livelihood Project, houses are now raised on plinths to protect them from flooding, providing families with a stable environment to work and live.

The party also visited a microfinance banking scheme in a Dhakar slum, which allows people on low and irregular and unreliable incomes to borrow and save regularly.

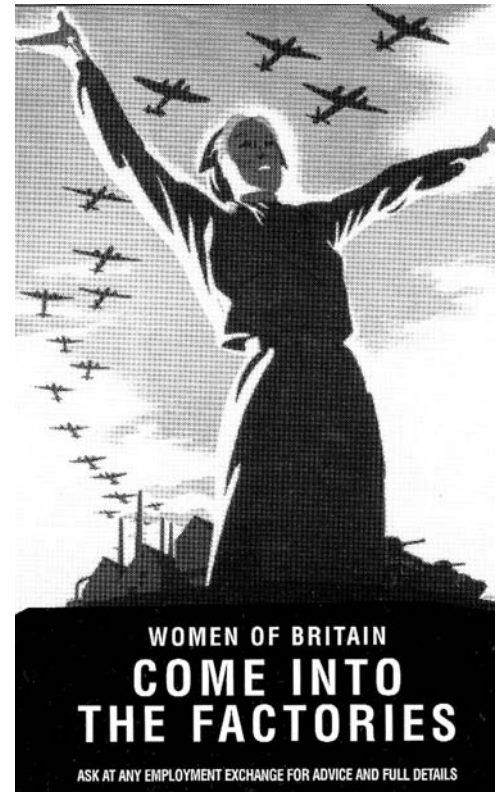
Rory Brooks said: "It was enlightening and rewarding to witness at first hand how research into poverty and

development can help to make improvements to people's lives by encouraging new approaches to deep-seated problems.

"These projects in Bangladesh offer a glimpse into how entrenched problems can begin to be tackled.

"It's clear from the work at BWPI that top quality research, working with other actors and agencies, can play a vital role in this process.

"Both Elizabeth and I are delighted to be able to do what we can to accelerate the benefits of this work."



Women's work

The often unrecognised contribution of the 'hidden army' of women factory and engineering workers to World War II is being celebrated at an event later this month.

The Women's History Network North West is being launched on Friday 14 March at a special event at the Imperial War Museum North. The event is being sponsored by the University's Gender Research Network which is based in the School of Social Sciences.

The event - which takes place in International Women's Week - will feature a film entitled 'The Ladies Bridge' which depicts the reconstruction of Waterloo Bridge in London during World War II. The film will be followed by a discussion of the role of women's war labour in the North West.

The event begins at 5pm and the film and discussion will take place between 6pm and 7pm.

For further details contact Clare Debenham on claredebenham@hotmail.co.uk or 0161 445 0529/0161 446 2022.

Douglas Alexander launches IDPM golden jubilee

Secretary of State for International Development Douglas Alexander dropped in on the University's Institute for Development Policy and Management (IDPM) to launch the celebrations for its 50th anniversary year.

One of the oldest organisations of its kind, IDPM promotes social and economic development through education, training, consultancy, research and policy analysis.

Since it was established in 1958, IDPM has trained more than 10,000 people from across the globe.

During his visit, the Secretary of State paid tribute to the contribution that IDPM and other UK researchers are making to our understanding of development.

IDPM Director Dr Willy McCourt said: "A visit from the Secretary of State was the ideal way to begin our Golden Jubilee.

"We look forward to extending the links that we already have with him and with the Department for International Development."

In brief



Unique study gives mum and baby food for thought

Researchers at the School of Psychological Sciences are recruiting hundreds of pregnant women in a unique study to find out how important certain fatty acids are in developing their babies' brains.

Omega 3 and 6 polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA), which are found in oily fish, nuts and seeds, are crucial to brain development. They help regulate cell metabolism and maintain cell membranes, which are essential in activity of the neurons (nerve cells which transmit messages around the brain).

However while there have been a number of studies demonstrating the importance of certain PUFA known as long-chain PUFA (LCPUFA) in brain development and indicating positive effects on children's cognitive processes, a clear picture of specific cognitive benefits has not yet been gained.

Alison Rees's study of 200 mothers from Greater Manchester will comprehensively examine maternal PUFA intake during pregnancy alongside a range of infant cognitive outcomes, in order to clarify the role of these nutrients on aspects of cognitive development.

Alison will examine the women's and babies' nutrition from pregnancy to toddlerhood and also test the babies' cognitive development (motor skills, learning speed, early reasoning and information processing) at three, nine, 18 and 24 months at the University's world famous BabyLab.

- For more information or to take part in the study contact Alison Rees on 0161 275 1970.

No evidence of link between MMR jab and autism spectrum disorders

There is no evidence of a link between the MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) jab and autism, according to the largest published study on the issue, which involved a University of Manchester researcher.

Immunisation against MMR plummeted when the vaccine was linked to the development of autism following the publication in 1998 of research on 12 children, which has since been discredited.

It is hoped that this study – the Special Needs and Autism Project (SNAP), carried out by Professor Andrew Pickles of the University's Health Methodology Research group and researchers from Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust in London, King's College London and the Health Protection Agency – should lay to rest any remaining parental fears about the vital vaccine.

The prevalence of autism spectrum disorders is now recognised to be between 6 and 12 cases per 1000 children, depending on the strictness with which the diagnostic criteria are applied.

The findings, published in the Archives of Disease in Childhood, were based on a community sample of ten-to-twelve year old children drawn from a population of 57,000, born between 1990 and 1991 in one area of Southern England. The sample

comprised 98 children who had an autism spectrum disorder, and two comparison groups - 52 children with special educational needs, but not autism, and 90 typically developing children. Some of the children with autism had experienced a setback or regression early in their development.

All the children had been vaccinated against MMR, but not all of them had been given both doses.

Blood samples were taken, to check for the presence of persistent measles infection, or a persistently abnormal immune response, indicated by circulating measles virus or increased antibody levels.

Results of the blood sample analysis showed that there was no difference between autistic children and the comparison group in circulating measles virus or measles antibody levels. This finding was not affected by whether the child had received one or two doses of MMR or whether they had regression or not.

This is now the third and the largest study that has failed to show a link between the MMR jab and autism and the authors hope parents finally feel happy to have their child vaccinated.

This study is just one of several studies of the causes, development and treatment of autism in which Professor Pickles is engaged.

Strictly e-Dancing!

Bruce Forsyth may have been slow to embrace the full potential of computing on Strictly Come Dancing, but a new project known as e-Dance is exploring the use of technology to create new forms of collaborative choreography.

A partnership between Research Computing Services (RCS) at The University of Manchester, the Open University and choreographic researchers at the Universities of Bedfordshire and Leeds, is looking to use technology to help capture the creative process of dance, perhaps the most ephemeral of art forms.

The project will create digital memory traces of choreographic development that can be archived, interrogated and reused in a range of different contexts in order to explore the interplay between dance, technology and e-Science.

Whilst most e-Science research - in which Manchester (and RCS in particular) are world leaders - has helped enable the next generation of scientific discovery, more artistic domains have been slow to realise the potential of these emerging technologies.

e-Dance will produce software to enable choreographers to visually annotate video of rehearsals and performances, to plan pieces that exploit networked virtual spaces over the



Internet, and to weave material from recordings into live events.

The project is looking at how choreographers and dancers negotiate the paradoxical position of being in different physical locations, yet together in a virtual space. Which is not something that Bruce and Tess have yet had to worry about...

To find out more about e-Dance you can contact Michael Daw or Martin Turner in Research Computing Services at michael.draw@manchester.ac.uk or martin.turner@manchester.ac.uk

Comet dust lands in Manchester

Fragments of cosmic material captured by a NASA mission have arrived in Manchester for analysis, with researchers hoping to unlock the secrets of what space was like billions of years ago.

Scientists in the School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences (SEAES) have received small fragments of material from the Wild 2 comet, which was brought back to earth by NASA's Stardust space mission.

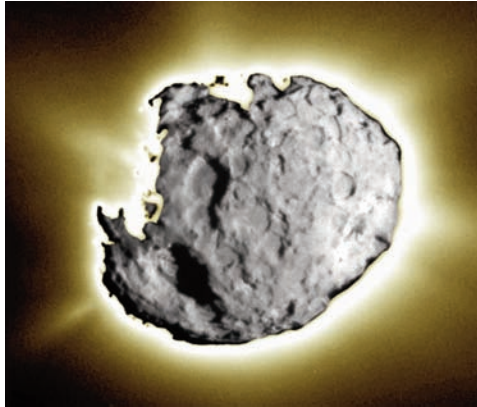
The Cosmochemistry research group is now analysing the material using two state of the art mass spectrometers.

The Interstellar Dust Laser Explorer (IDLE) will be used to profile the chemical make-up of the dust particles. It uses beams of ions to create magnified images of materials at a molecular level.

The Refrigerator Enhanced Laser Analysis for Xenon (RELAX) machine will be used to detect the presence of xenon. This is achieved by firing powerful lasers at the samples and actually destroying them in order to extract the information required.

It's hoped that analysing the xenon found in the comet fragments will give scientists a window into the distant past and help them unravel mysteries surrounding the birth and evolution of our solar system.

The samples that have arrived in Manchester are embedded in highly porous sponge-like material called aerogel.

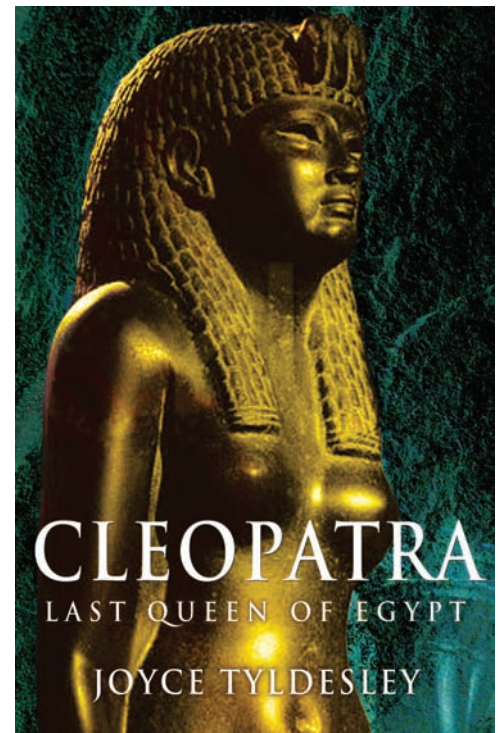


As the particles embedded themselves into the aerogel, travelling at around 6km per second, they slowed down and created what are known as 'tracks'.

Manchester has received a cross section of a carrot-shaped track containing embedded comet particles.

The University of Manchester, as part of a UK consortium, was chosen by NASA to receive the samples due to the fact that IDLE and RELAX are the only machines of their type capable of performing certain crucial analyses of the comet fragments. Both machines have been developed by scientists at the University.

Manchester has five scientists working on the three-year project funded by the Science and Technologies Facilities Council (STFC).



Books use science to delve into Egyptian history

Fans of the ancient Egyptians will be interested to know that University of Manchester Egyptologists have published two new books.

'Cleopatra – Last Queen of Egypt' is a revealing biography of one of Egypt's greatest rulers told, not through the histories of the Romans or the lens of Hollywood myth-making, but through the expert knowledge of Joyce Tyldesley.

Joyce, an Egyptian queens specialist in the KNH Centre for Biomedical Egyptology and Manchester Museum, has stripped away preconceptions and used her skills as an Egyptologist to give a rich picture of a country and its queen.

The book explores the debate surrounding Cleopatra's provenance and beauty, uncovers the history of the now-submerged ancient city of Alexandria, home to Cleopatra's palace, as well as Cleopatra's cultural afterlife – how the myth was made and preserved.

A second book – 'Egyptian Mummies and Modern Science' – has also been published, this time written by a long-established team of Manchester scientists.

Edited by the Director of the KNH Centre, Rosalie David, the book aims to show how the team's investigative methods are being used for new international research into disease evolution and ancient Egyptian pharmacy.

Highlighting the unique resource of Manchester's Egyptian Mummy Tissue Bank, the book looks at the progress of ancient DNA research and the treatments available for conserving mummified remains.

'Cleopatra – Last Queen of Egypt' by Joyce Tyldesley is published by Profile Books and is priced £20 (hardback).

'Egyptian Mummies and Modern Science', edited by Rosalie David, is published by Cambridge University Press.

Researchers add further weight to link between cancer and obesity

Researchers from The University of Manchester, Christie Hospital and University of Bern in Switzerland have published findings in the Lancet medical journal which further support the link between obesity and risk of developing cancer.

Following on from findings reported by the World Cancer Research fund last year, the study reveals that risk is increased not only in common cancers such as breast, bowel and kidney, but also in less common cancers such as blood cancers (myeloma and leukaemia) and melanoma (a form of skin cancer).

Dr Andrew Renehan and colleagues from The University of Manchester and Christie Hospital, did a meta-analysis (a combined analysis of 221 previous studies), looking at over 250,000 cases of cancer, to determine the risk of cancer associated with a 5kg/m² increase in body mass index (BMI).

The researchers found in men, a 5kg/m² increase in BMI raised the risk of oesophageal adenocarcinoma by 52%, thyroid cancer by 33%, and colon and kidney cancers each by 24%.

In women, a BMI increase of 5kg/m² increased the risk of endometrial (59%), gallbladder (59%),

oesophageal adenocarcinoma (51%) and kidney (34%) cancers.

They also noted weaker, but significant, positive associations between increased BMI and rectal cancer and malignant melanoma in men; postmenopausal breast, pancreatic, thyroid, and colon cancers in women; and leukaemia, multiple myeloma, and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in both sexes. They found associations were stronger in men than in women for colon cancer - 24% in men compared with 9% in women.

The study looked at cancer data from all over the world, and while the results for North America, Europe, Australia and the Asia-Pacific region were broadly similar, there was a stronger link between increased BMI and both premenopausal and post menopausal breast cancers in Asia-Pacific populations.

The senior author on the study, Dr Andrew Renehan, said: "Over the past five years, there has been increasing proof that obesity is linked with cancer risk, but despite this, we do not know whether weight reduction in people protects them against cancer. The findings of this study are important to address these issues and explore ways to prevent cancers in the future."

Diet and lifestyle critical to recovery, says study

Diet and lifestyle may play a much more significant role in a person's ability to respond favourably to certain drugs, including some cancer therapies, than previously thought, say scientists.

Writing in *Nature Genetics*, University of Manchester researchers have shown how the nutrients in the environment are critical to the fitness of cells that carry genetic mutations caused by diseases.

The findings, for the first time, provide a scientific insight into why some people might respond better to certain medications than others.

The team used baker's yeast – a model organism studied by biologists to reveal molecular processes in higher organisms – to explore the relationship between environment and genetic background.

The large-scale study involved removing one of the two copies of all yeast genes – similar to removing one parent's set of genes in a human – and analysing the resulting fitness under different dietary restrictions.

"If the gene targeted is quantitatively important, you would normally expect the yeast to show a reduction in fitness," said Dr Daniela Delneri in the Faculty of Life Sciences.

"But what we found was that in certain environmental conditions, removing one copy of certain genes actually produced the opposite effect and surprisingly the yeast cells grew more quickly and were healthier."

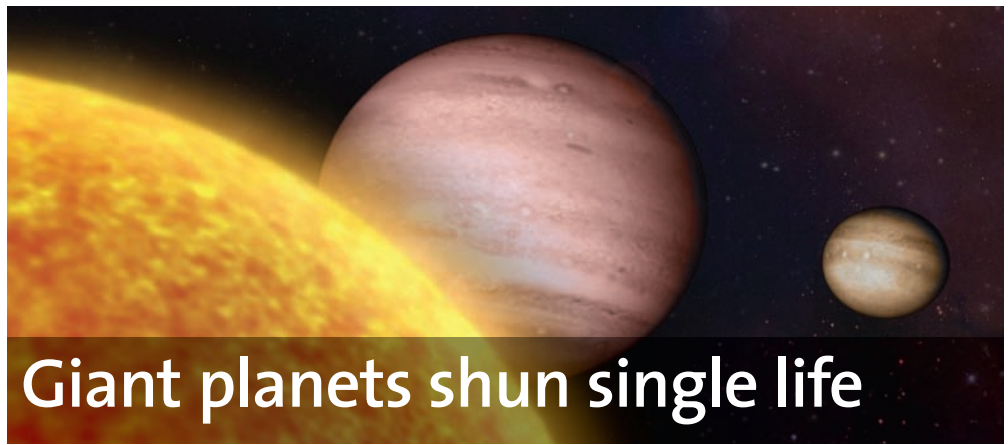
The team further established that this effect was mainly occurring in genes involved in the proteasome – the quality-control system within the cell that degrades unwanted proteins.

"The proteasome is important as it maintains the equilibrium of the cell," said Dr Delneri. "When this equilibrium is lost it can result in a number of diseases, including cancer, diabetes, Huntington's, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

"For example, in rapidly-growing cancerous cells the high proteasome activity renders the tumour cells immortal, so drugs that block the proteasome's actions are currently used as therapeutic compounds.

"Our study shows that reduced proteasome activity could be either advantageous or damaging to the cell depending on the nutrients available to it in the surrounding environment."

The findings suggest that, ideally, when therapeutic drugs are administered to alter the proteasome activity, the environment – governed by the type of tissue or a person's diet and lifestyle – should be taken into consideration to assure the correct beneficial effect.



Giant planets shun single life

A research paper co-authored by an astronomer at the University has revealed the discovery of another system of planets that has striking similarities with our own Solar System.

The research, published in the journal *Science*, also reveals the discovery of scaled versions of Jupiter and Saturn orbiting a star 5,000 light-years away, which are half as massive as the Sun.

While there are more than 250 planets now known, there are only about 25 such systems with multiple planets – and the newly discovered system resembles our own Solar System more closely than any previously observed.

The new research also suggests that such giant planets do not favour the single-life but are more likely to be found in family groups.

Dr Nicholas Rattenbury, a Science and Technology Facilities Council-funded Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Jodrell Bank Centre of Astrophysics, said: "Like humans, gas-giant planets appear to prefer not to come as lonely hearts."

Dr Rattenbury was part of an international team that provided key data sets to the study. The findings have been revealed from an effort involving a world-wide net of telescopes, including the UK's Liverpool Telescope on the Canary Islands.

A technique known as gravitational microlensing has been used for the study, which is best suited for studying extra-solar planets that resemble the gas giants of the Solar System.

A UK team of microlensing planet hunters are now looking to do further observations that could not only lead to the first detection of an earth-mass extra-solar planet, but even of less massive ones.

Professor Keith Horne from The University of St Andrews said: "Apart from individual spectacular discoveries, the technique of gravitational microlensing allows to infer a census of planets within the Milky Way. Once we know that planets similar to Earth are common, it is straightforward to go ahead on finding them and investigating whether these harbour any forms of life."

Hundreds of strokes avoidable, says study

Hundreds of strokes could be prevented each year if patients suffering 'mini strokes', known as transient ischaemic attacks or TIAs, were assessed sooner by specialist clinicians.

A University of Manchester study has found that almost two-thirds of patients attending what are termed 'rapid access' TIA clinics took more than the recommended seven days to be seen by a suitably trained professional.

A TIA, often characterised by a temporary weakening of one side of the face and the corresponding arm, drastically increases a person's chance of suffering a major stroke within days of the initial symptoms, with some studies putting the risk as high as a one-in-four probability.

Despite the obvious importance of early assessment, the research – published in the *Journal of Neurology Neurosurgery and Psychiatry* – suggests that, on average, access to the specialist clinics takes at least twice as long as it should.

"Current UK guidelines recommend that all people who have had a TIA should be assessed by a specialist within seven days of the start of symptoms," said Dr Craig Smith, from the University's clinical neuroscience group which coordinated the research.

"Our findings suggest that this standard is not being met and, in reality, TIA patients should ideally be assessed for risk of further stroke within a couple of days, if not on the same day as the initial symptoms."

The delay in TIA patients being assessed by a stroke specialist is due to a number of reasons, including the patients themselves not realising the potential serious nature of the attack. Initial symptoms are temporary, lasting a matter of minutes or hours before the face, arm and, sometimes, leg return to normal, so patients often feel well by the time they are seen by a clinician.

Dr Smith added: "Our findings suggest that current provision of TIA services, where delayed presentation to 'rapid access' TIA clinics is common, does not appear to provide an appropriate setting for urgent evaluation or timely secondary prevention in those who may be at the highest risk of stroke.

"If the speed with which TIA patients can be evaluated is improved many strokes in the UK each year could be prevented."



It's back to the lab for MP with a passion for science

Catherine and Brian Iddon

Bolton MP Brian Iddon swapped the backbenches for laboratory benches last month when he visited the University.

Brian, who has a science background, visited Dr Catherine Lawrence, a neuroscientist in the Faculty of Life Sciences, as part of the Royal

Society's MP-scientist pairing scheme.

Catherine, who spent a week in London in November 2007 learning about the day-to-day routine of a

Parliamentarian, explained to the Labour politician her research on obesity and the brain.

"We currently have two research projects underway exploring how obesity might affect the brain in stroke and in Alzheimer's," said Catherine.

"There is already evidence to suggest that being overweight can increase a person's risk of stroke but we are trying to determine whether obesity can also make the effect of stroke worse.

"The second study is attempting to establish whether obesity or a high fat diet are risk factors in Alzheimer's disease."

Catherine, who admits to knowing little about politics before her visit to the Commons, said she thoroughly enjoyed her time wandering the corridors of powers.

"I got to watch Prime Minister's question time and attend some of the committee discussions; I was amazed at just how hectic an MP's life is," she said.

Might fish provide Lowe-down on boyhood disease?

Scientists have been awarded £72,000 to study zebrafish in a bid to understand the causes of an incurable genetic disorder in humans.

The University of Manchester team will use the model organism to investigate Lowe syndrome, an inherited complaint affecting only boys.

"Lowe syndrome is a rare disorder that produces cataracts of the eyes, defects in brain development and kidney problems in young male sufferers," said Dr Martin Lowe, who is based in the Faculty of Life Sciences.

"Life expectancy is short due to complications associated with the disease, which can cause blindness, arthritis, rickets, mental impairment and kidney failure."

The research will focus on one particular gene, OCRL1, which scientists have identified as being a key factor in the cause of the condition.

"Lowe syndrome arises from a mutation in OCRL1, which is a gene found on the male X-chromosome involved in degrading fat-soluble molecules in the body called lipids," said Dr Lowe.

"Although significant progress has been made to increase our understanding of OCRL1, we still do not know what processes it regulates."

One of the difficulties earlier studies have faced is finding a suitable model system to explore the mechanisms underlying the disease. But in a pilot study, Dr Lowe and his team found that OCRL1 works in a similar manner in zebrafish as it does in humans.



Dr Lowe and Oscar

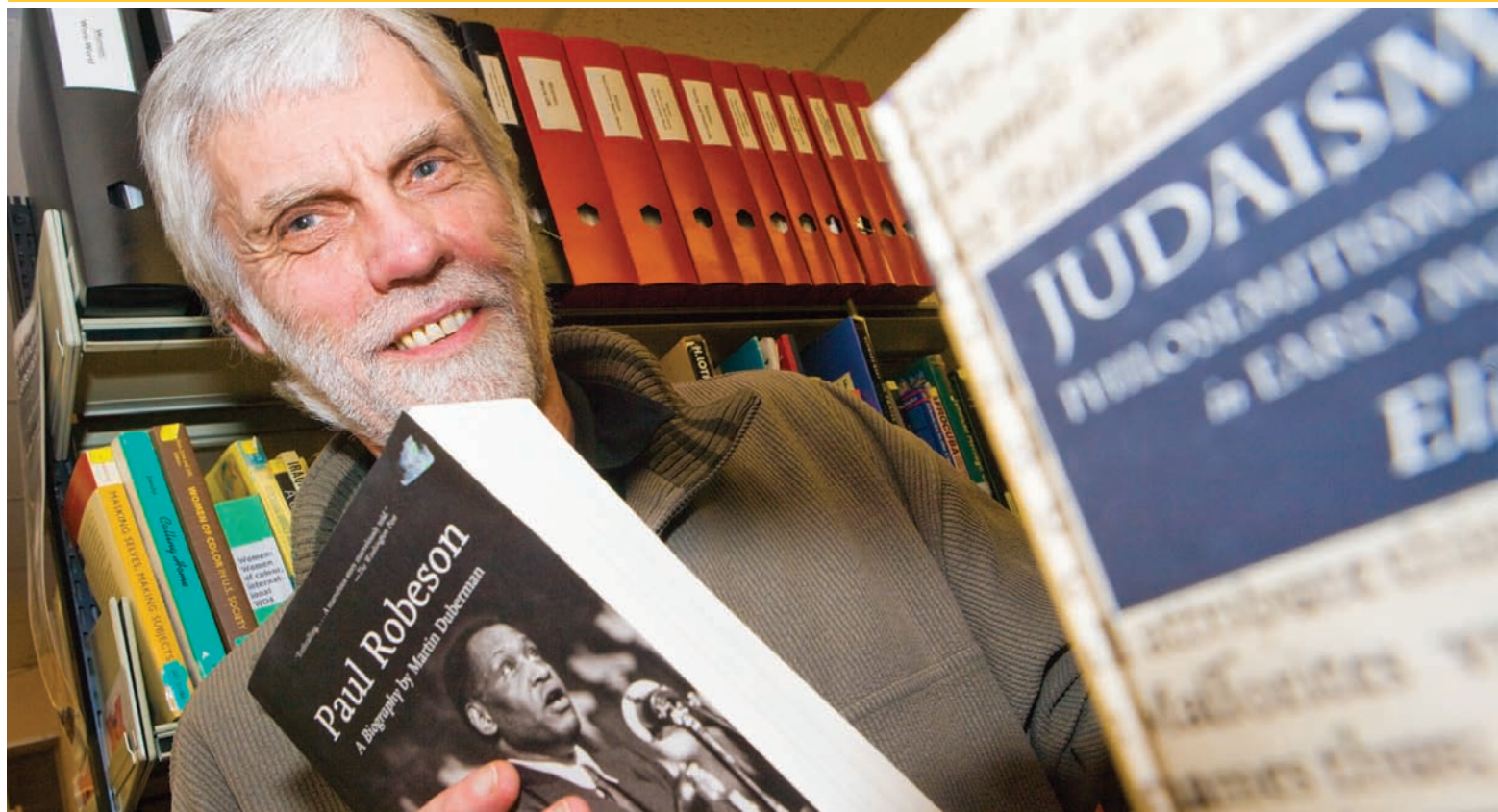
He said: "In the long term it is hoped that zebrafish will serve as a model system for experimenting with chemicals that suppress the symptoms of Lowe syndrome in the hope of one day finding a cure."

The research is being funded by the Lowe Syndrome Trust, which was set up in June 2000 by Lorraine Thomas after her son, Oscar, 14, was diagnosed with the condition in 1999.

Lorraine said: "The Lowe Syndrome Trust is delighted to award a grant to The University of Manchester to further research into this rare disease. Sadly, due to lack of awareness and funding, many children suffering from this disorder only live until their teenage years."

Further information about the Lowe Syndrome Trust can be found at the web address below.





Searle's Striving

Having sought out some of the world's trouble spots, as well as difficult inner city challenges in the UK, in the cause of education, Chris Searle, the new Director of the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Centre, is a man with a mission. He passionately believes in causes, from helping poverty-stricken people in politically-charged places like Grenada and Mozambique to inspiring teenagers in deprived areas of the London's East End.

He has enjoyed such a long, busy and altogether remarkable career that it is impossible to cram it all in. Radical school teacher, university lecturer, teacher trainer, writer and poet, striving to improve conditions and inspire young people wherever he has been, for more than 40 years, during which time he has produced around 50 books on subjects as diverse as Caribbean language, cricket and jazz.

Born in Romford, Essex, in 1944, he failed his eleven-plus, but went to the University of Leeds as a mature student to read English. "I was a late developer," he says with irony. He has certainly made up for any lost time.

His first job, after graduating, was at the University of Calgary in 1967 - "But I soon decided I wanted to teach in schools." His other passion was (and is) cricket.

Being nearly 6ft 5inches, he naturally became a fast bowler, playing for England Schools. And he idealised the West Indies ("I'm still a West Indies supporter").

"I decided to put the two together and went to teach in Tobago," he says. "I was mad about the cricket, but I also became deeply interested in West Indian literature, Caribbean language and history, and the relations between the Caribbean and England."

He has since written several acclaimed books on those topics, including *The Forsaken Lover* (1973), which won the Martin Luther King Prize, and *Words Unchained*, both examining the language used in the Caribbean, the powerful influence of the colonisers' language and the way in which Caribbean language freed itself from the chains.

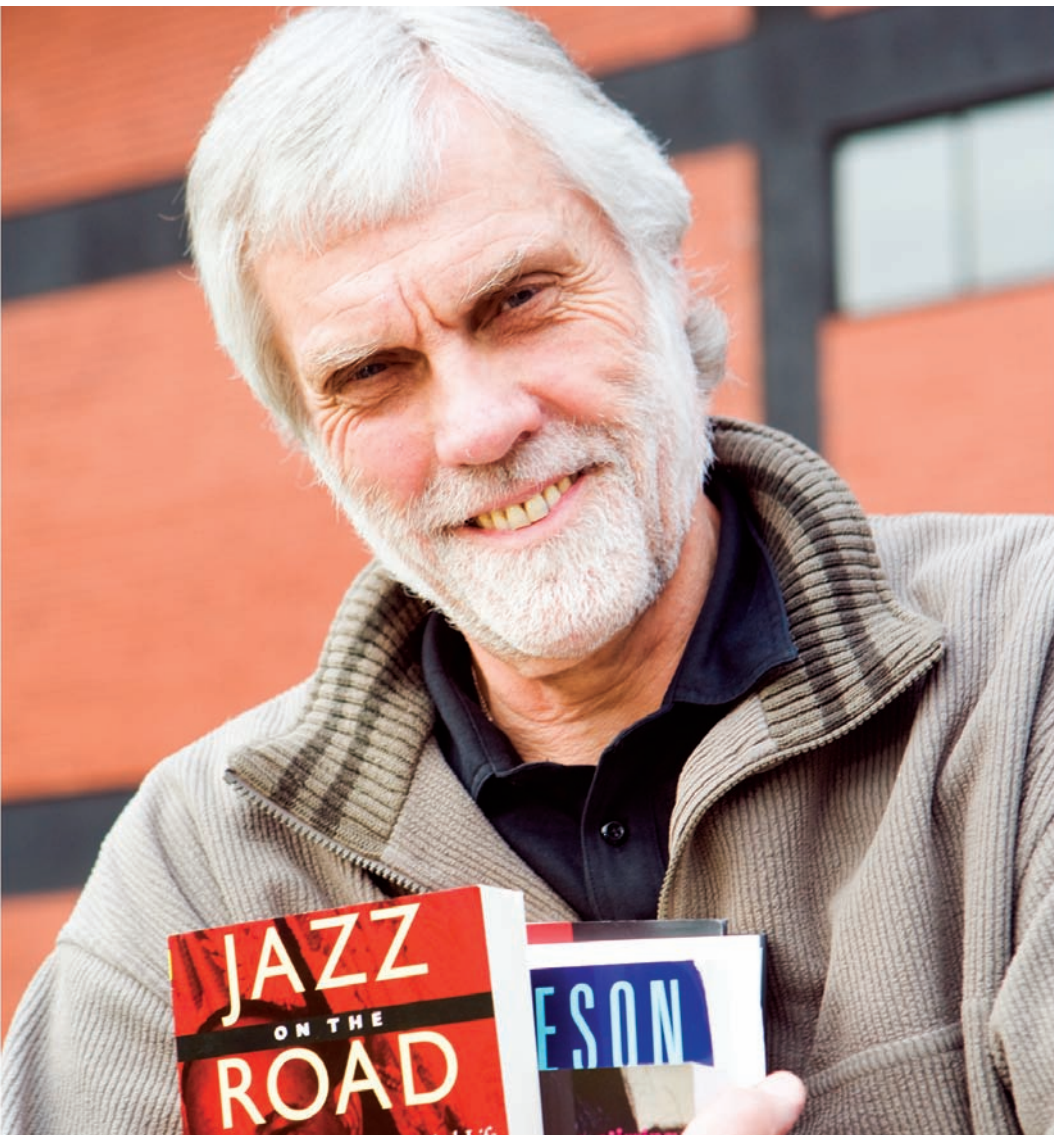
Always striving for another challenge, he moved back to the UK in the seventies to teach at a demanding secondary school in Stepney, in London's East End. "I wanted to put into practice my belief in the power of creative writing and poetry by getting the children out on the streets and writing poetry," he says. "Those hugely creative young people found their voice and produced some beautiful poems." And then a remarkable event happened.

Chris tried to get the poems resulting from the Stepney Words project published, but the

authorities decided they were too critical and vetoed publication. Chris, determined as ever in the face of authority, raised the money and published them anyway - and got the sack. "The book was well received, not least by Father Trevor Huddleston, the Bishop of Stepney, who supported the project," he says. "Then the children went on strike and about 800 of them marched to Trafalgar Square in protest. It was a big story - and eventually I got my job back. I was very moved by my students' actions on my behalf and by the effectiveness of their protest."

The next major move, reflecting Chris's radical socialism, was to Mozambique, just after the colonial government was overthrown in 1976 and the country gained independence from Portugal. He taught at a local school at Nampula, in the north of the country for two years. "I had a wonderful time and I discovered again the power of education, literacy and creative writing, especially poetry, as I had in Stepney," he says.

He returned to the East End (a repeating pattern) for a couple of years before spotting another revolution to support in 1980 - in Grenada, his wife's home country. "I backed the revolution," he says. "I was put in charge of teacher education, where we were able to make a radical change," he says. Previously, primary school teachers had no training, but now they went on courses for the first time. The courses won co-



operation from the University of the West Indies and became a model for teacher education in the Caribbean. At the same time, Chris got parents to help out in the classroom during the teachers' absence. "It was a very successful programme, bringing the children and the parents closer together, sharing life skills," he says. "The US invasion when it came was a real blow."

So, it was back for another stint in his beloved East End, before moving in the mid-eighties to an extremely fruitful time in Sheffield (where he still lives), beginning as Adviser for Multi-Cultural Education there and including a spell as head teacher of the city's most multi-racial school, Earl Marshal.

After six years there, he moved on to spend the next six years preparing teachers of English for PGCE at Goldsmiths College, University of London. He commuted between Sheffield and London before taking up one of the jobs he has most treasured - Education Officer for the Yemeni Community Association in Sheffield.

His work with that community attracted the positive attention of the media. "I had the oldest class of pupils in the country," he says. The average age of the Yemeni men he was teaching English was 77. "They were wonderful men - generous, intelligent, funny and serious about their classes," he says. "It was one of the most beautiful teaching experiences I ever had. The

men had come over to do the dirty jobs in the steel industry and stayed on even when the industry collapsed. But they had never had the opportunity to learn English properly. I was able to create that chance for them."

He still counts them among his friends.

He then accepted an invitation to go to York University in Toronto as a Visiting Professor - and whilst he was there saw the opportunity to come to this University.

"Luckily I got the job," he says. "I was inspired by the tremendously valuable work done by the Centre and it's a precious opportunity for me to be able to carry it forward. I feel very privileged to be able to succeed Lou Kushnick, who started it all. And I'm inspired by Ahmed Iqbal Ullah, the boy it's named for. It is important not to see him as a victim, even though he was brutally murdered. He died defending one of his friends who was being racially abused by a white boy. He was an inspiration. He wanted to change our consciousness and had pride in his own people. I feel moved to try to continue the influence of his bright and burning life. We want to serve all young Manchester people. And I want the influence of the centre and its resources to be used by all trainee teachers, local communities and other interested scholars. We have a prime opportunity now."

Name

Chris Searle

Position

Director of the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Centre

Education

- 1966 BA (Hons) English
University of Leeds
- 1967 MA English
McMaster University, Hamilton,
Ontario, Canada
- 1972 MEd 'The Teaching of English'
Exeter University

Career

- 2007 Director of the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Centre
- 2004-2007 Visiting Professor, Atkinson Faculty of Liberal and Professional Studies, York University, Toronto
- 2005-2007 Education Officer, Yemeni Community Association and Manager, Asylum Seeker Development Programme, Sheffield College
- 1996-2002 Lecturer of Educational Studies, Goldsmiths' College, University of London
- 1990-95 Headteacher, Earl Marhsal Comprehensive School, Sheffield
- 1984-90 Advisor (Multicultural Education), City of Sheffield Education Department
- 1983-4 Head of Humanities, Daneford Comprehensive School, Bethnal Green, London
- 1983 Divisional Co-ordinator, Multi-Ethnic Education, Inner London Education Authority
- 1980-82 Chairperson of Language, Arts and National Co-ordinator, National In-service Teacher Education Programme, Grenada, Caribbean
- 1979-80 Deputy Head of English, Langdon Park Comprehensive School, Poplar, London
- 1976-8 Head of English, Nampula Secondary School, Nampula, Mozambique
- 1974-6 Head of English, Langdon Park Comprehensive School, London
- 1970-4 Deputy Head of English, Bishop's High School, Tobago, Caribbean
- 1967-8 Lecturer of English, University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- 1966-7 Graduate Teaching Fellow of English, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario



Rugby scrums good as Sharks sign in

SPORT at The University of Manchester has launched a major coaching partnership with Sale Sharks Rugby Club.

The agreement will see the University's first and second teams benefiting from top class coaching, whilst the University will support Sharks' community work.

The University's Sports Development Manager James Birdsey said: "We are very excited about this partnership and we believe it will take the standard of our teams to a new level."

Young players are already excited about the new deal and Manchester has six England under-18 internationals wanting to come to the University next year.

The new partnership will also include pre-season strength and conditioning work for the University players at Sharks' state-of-the-art training base in Carrington.

Sammy inspires a new generation of students

Readers of February's edition of *UniLife* will remember the remarkable story of Sammy Gitau who rose from a Kenyan slum to achieve his dream of gaining a Masters degree at the University.

Now, four final-year Accountancy with Business Information Systems (ABIS) undergraduates from the University have been working with Sammy on a new website aimed at helping communities living in the slums of Nairobi, where Sammy grew up.

Ashrafun Nessa, Farah Sarwar, Usman Waheed and Lin Yin are creating a website to promote workshops and training to help local people develop skills and trades, so that they can work their way out of poverty. In Kenya's current climate of unrest, the site, www.marifa.org also aims to promote a sense of unity, by emphasising collaboration among competing tribes.

ABIS student Farah Sarwar said: "The project provides us with valuable project management and system development skills, whilst at the same time enabling us to help accomplish a dream for the community resource centres. The project has also fuelled our passion to help those who are less fortunate than us."

This project forms part of the students' accredited Career Management Skills module and is one of many course projects sourced by Manchester Student Volunteers (MSV), which is managed by the MLP Careers and Employability Division.

ABIS tutor Chris Westrup said: "This is one of several interesting projects that MSV has sourced for us which challenge our students, encouraging them to develop the skills employers value, whilst allowing them to develop as socially responsible people. The plight of Kenya at the moment has



Sammy story: Final year ABIS students Farah Sarwar, Ashrafun Nessa, Usman Waheed and Lin Yin with Sammy Gitau and MSV Manager Andrea Grace Rannard.

been strongly felt by the student team, who themselves have multinational backgrounds, and the challenge of finishing this unusual project is bringing out the best in them."

Sammy also hopes to organise a football tournament in Mathare, bringing together different tribes through their unifying love of football. The Manchester United Community Foundation donated football kits via Manchester Student Volunteers, for Sammy to take to the slums. The football club has strong links with MSV; several students, including Manchester Leadership Programme students Gareth Bradley and Michael Tennekoon, volunteer at Manchester United's Study Support Centre.

www.marifa.org

The appliance of science

More than 120 A-level students got a chance to find out more about life as a scientist at a special event held at Manchester Museum early this year.

A series of 'Study Days on Genetics' were held in association with the University's Faculty of Life Sciences and Nowgen. The students took part in seminars, debates and hands-on laboratory sessions.

For further information on how to get involved with student engagement at the Manchester Museum, contact Lauren Furness, Widening Participation Officer at lauren.furness@manchester.ac.uk

You can bank on a great career

The diverse career opportunities on offer in investment banking were revealed to first and second-year undergraduates at a recent event hosted by the University.

'Banking on your Talent' brought together more than 300 students from the universities of Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool and Sheffield and representatives from five prestigious City investment banks. Women and ethnic minority students, who are underrepresented in certain industry roles, were particularly encouraged to attend.

A range of exhibitions, presentations, skills sessions and



informal networking opportunities aimed to provide students with key insights into applying to and working for investment banks.

The event was organised by the MLP Careers and Employability Division, with the collaboration of the student-led Manchester Economics Society.

Chopper venture creates campus buzz

A high-flying student has created a buzz by setting up a business importing and selling miniature helicopters.

Vernon Kerswell, a second year Information Systems Engineering student from Manchester Business School (MBS), scooped the £1,000 first prize in the annual Venture Out competition after setting up a business importing and selling a range of easy-to-fly remote control miniature helicopters and UFOs.

Vernon and business partner Dominique Briggs – also an MBS student – have sold nearly 2,000 of the flying machines through shops and via the company's website - www.extremefliers.co.uk

Run by the University's Manchester Science Enterprise Centre (MSEC), Venture Out is the business ideas competition where students submit unique ideas ranging from fun and funky to the seriously high-tech.

Second prize of £300 went to third year Modern Languages student Elizabeth Gillam, who has started up a novel social enterprise, which aims to combat global warming by utilising vacant city centre properties.

Third prize of £150 was claimed by Muhammad Ali, a third year Electrical and Electronic Engineering student, who has pioneered a unique system for reducing the eye strain caused by PC monitors.

Henry Li's Original Limu Drink, a health drink made from Limu Moui, a seaweed found in Tonga, was highly commended by judges. Henry is a second year undergraduate studying Management and Leisure in the School of Education.



Kneeling Left to Right: Vernon Kerswell, Dominique Briggs. Standing Left to Right: Lynn Sheppard, MSEC; Professor Rod Coombs, Vice President for Innovation and Economic Development; Muhammad Ali; Elizabeth Gillam; Sicong Li.

The Venture Out competition is supported by AstraZeneca, Barclays, Eversheds, Thread Creative, Ideas to Market and the University of Manchester Incubator Company (UMIC).

Lynn Sheppard, Director of MSEC, said: "The success of Extreme Fliers shows that you don't have to be an inventor or a scientist to succeed in our

Venture competition. Vernon spotted a novel product and had the determination and talent to establish a successful part-time business. We really hope the enterprise will continue to flourish."

For more information about the Venture Competition, please visit the web address below.

www.manchester.ac.uk/venturecompetition/

Nurturing new business in Reddish

The University of Manchester Incubator Company (UMIC) is working in partnership with Stockport Council to develop business incubation space at Broadstone Mill in Reddish.

A not-for-profit Community Interest Company has been formed which will provide 12,000 sq ft of state-of-the-art workspace and incubation facilities designed to nurture and grow new and small businesses.

The scheme is part of Stockport Council's Community Pride campaign and sees the Council and University working alongside the Mill's landlord Broadstone House Ltd.

UMIC's association with Broadstone Mill goes back to 2005 and the first business incubator offices were opened in 2006. Since then more

than 17 companies have moved in, some of which are high-growth University spin-out companies. But Broadstone's incubator has also attracted a growing number of high-calibre firms to locate in Reddish.

"That's because we encourage tomorrow's industries to locate and develop in Stockport with a view to creating an ongoing wealth and employment base in Houldsworth Village," says Tony Walker, hi-tech incubator manager at the University of Manchester Incubator Company (UMIC).

Tony continues: "The great thing about working alongside Stockport Council's existing Houldsworth Business Centre means that the areas value and appeal rises with a business incubation service focused on this key location.



"Companies can access the incubator at a critical growth phase and quickly graduate to follow-on space. A key factor in 'sustainable clusters' is keeping companies and

their wealth in the area. We have a huge historical legacy and an attractive asset base to work with."

What's On

Contact Theatre

The Wedding Dance

Tues 4 Mar to Sat 8 Mar, 8pm. £10/£6

Cuban immigrant José is a modern Don Juan and magnificent dancer. Arriving in London, he exploits his talent for teaching the most passionate dance of them all - the salsa.

Britannia Rumba

Thurs 6 Mar 10pm, £5 or FREE with ticket for The Wedding Dance

This one off unique musical special will take audiences on a journey through the history of the Congolese rumba, from links with Cuban musicians, through pop and rock inspired 60s rumba to the fast paced 90s soukous rumba from the streets of Congo.

The Arab and The Jew

Thurs 3 Apr to Sat 5 Apr, 8pm. £10/£6

Allel Nedjari and Amit Lahav are Gecko.

Having grown up on opposite sides of the Arab-Israeli divide, here they celebrate their brotherhood and laugh and cry at their reflections.

Oxford Road, Manchester

Tickets/Info

0161 274 0600

www.contact-theatre.org

Music and Drama at Manchester

Quatuor Danel

Thurs 6 Mar 2008, 1.10pm, Free

The Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall

Haydn Quartet in B flat, Op.76 No.4
Weinberg Quartet No.9 in Fsharp minor,
Op.80 – UK première

Quatuor Danel Seminar

Thurs 6 Mar 2008, 2.15pm, Free

The Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall

Student Minuets

Quatuor Danel

Fri 7 Mar, 7.00pm

The Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall

Mozart Quartet in D, K499
Pascal Dusapin Quartet No.5 (2005)
Beethoven Quartet in F, Op.59 No.1

Student Showcase

Thurs 13 Mar, 1.10pm. Free

The Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall

A recital featuring the talents of Undergraduate and Postgraduate star performers from music.

University of Manchester Wind Orchestra together with Stockport Grammar School Wind Orchestra

Sat 8 Mar, 7pm

The Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall

Alongside Manchester greats such as Martin Ellerby and Peter Meehan, this performance will feature works by Los Angeles based Eric Whitaker and Frank Ticheli.

The University of Manchester Baroque Orchestra and Ad Solem

Weds 5 Mar, 7pm

The Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall

Handel and Italy

Lancashire Sinfonietta

Fri 14 Mar, 7.30pm

The Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall

Delights of the Danube

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

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

International Society

SPRING TRIPS

Saturday 8th March

Lake District visiting Windermere

Overnight Trip!

Saturday 8th to Sunday 9th March

Bath (with visit to Stonehenge)

Saturday 15th March

North Wales visiting Blaenau Ffestiniog Railway and Portmeirion Village

Sunday 16th March

Alton Towers

Saturday 22nd March

Robin Hood's Bay and Whitby

Sunday 23rd March

North Wales visiting Anglesey (with guided tour)

Saturday 29th March

Harewood House and How Stean Gorge

Sunday 30th March

Blackpool

Saturday 5th April

North Wales visiting Llangollen and Powis Castle

Opening hours

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

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

Small World Café opening hours

Mon-Fri 11am – 3pm

327 Oxford Road (next to Krobar)

0161 275 4959

email int.soc@anchester.ac.uk

www.internationalsociety.org.uk

Chaplaincies

St Peter's House Chaplaincy

SUNDAY WORSHIP

11am Holy Communion

12.15pm 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

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

www.rc-chaplaincy-um.org.uk

The Jewish Student Centre and Synagogue

Hillel House, Greenheys Lane.

0161 226 1139

email rabbiiyy@hotmail.com

www.rabbiiyy.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.

NEW FOR 2008

Close-Up Session: Every Thursday 12.15-pm

Enjoy a closer look at selected items from the Library's outstanding collections and find out more about the building every Thursday lunchtime.

EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

Enriqueta Rylands: Who Do You Think She Was?

Discovering the founder of The John Rylands Library until 19 May 2008

This exhibition celebrates the life of the Library's founder, Enriqueta Rylands and marks the centenary of her death in 1908. Born in Cuba, she travelled widely as a child before settling in England in the 1860s. She became the third wife of John Rylands and inherited the bulk of his estate when he died. She built the Library in his memory. Aspects of her extraordinary life are illuminated by stories discovered in the Library's archive. These provide a new perspective on this fascinating woman. Themes include family life, travelling for health, her love of art and her work for good causes.

Close-Up Session Sat 12 Apr 11-11.45am

Enjoy a closer look at items from the collections which tell the story of Enriqueta Rylands as a book collector, with exhibition curator Elizabeth Gow. Tickets £2.50, available from Visitor Services on 0161 306 0555 or jrl.events@manchester.ac.uk.

Mr Pye Visits the Library Wed 26 Mar

Meet Manchester Museum's Victorian gentleman, Mr Pye, as he visits the Library to find out more about Mrs Rylands and her gift to Manchester.

Return From Exile: The Life And Times of George Gissing until 19 May 2008

An exhibition of manuscripts and printed books from The George Gissing / Kohler Collection. George Gissing (1857-1903) was a late Victorian novelist whose works depicted the harsh realities of Victorian working class life and dealt with important issues of his day, such as science and religion, and the emancipation of women.

Public opening hours

Mon and Wed-Sat 10am-5pm

Tues and Sun 12pm-5pm

Reader opening hours

Mon-Sat 10am-5pm

FREE ADMISSION

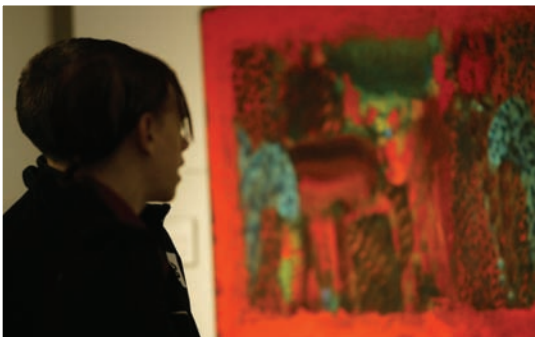
The John Rylands Library

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

Mind Forged Manacles: Blake and Slavery until 6 April 2008

The show explores both the horrors of slavery, which Blake was adamantly opposed to, and mental enslavement, which Blake summed up with the phrase 'mind forg'd manacles'. The exhibition features over sixty of Blake's vivid and imaginative watercolours and engravings from the collection of the British Museum.

Blake's Shadow: William Blake and his Artistic Legacy until 20 April 2008

This exhibition will explore the influence of Blake in the development of the visual arts from the eighteenth century to the present day.

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.

Walter Crane and the Illustrated Book until April 2008

Focusing on the book illustrations of Walter Crane, this exhibition will span Crane's entire career, incorporating a range of illustrations from his early commissions to his world famous Toy Books, Grimm's Fairy Tales and private drawings created for his children.

City Visions 29 March – August 2008

This exhibition looks at how artists have represented the experience of urban living in the last 150 years.

Flights of Fancy: Select decorative schemes of the 1920s and 30s, until 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.

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

The Whitworth Art Gallery
Oxford Road, Manchester

0161 275 7450

email whitworth@manchester.ac.uk

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 complementary glass of wine or soft drink (except Martin Amis public events)

Literature Live

John Thaw Studio Theatre, 6.30pm, Tickets: £3/£2

Thurs 6 March

Novelist and screenwriter Hanif Kureishi.

Mon 10 March

Novelist and poet Helen Dunmore and poet August Kleinzahler.

Mon 7 April

Poets Matt Welton and John McAuliffe

The Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama

Bridgeford Street, Manchester M13 9PL

0161 275 8951/8950

email boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk

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The Manchester Museum

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

- MoNO: Museum of Native Oak
- Jamie Shovlin: Manchester
- Birds of America: Passenger Pigeon
- Ilana Halperin: Physical Geology

EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Big Saturday - Sciencetastic

Saturday 15 March, 11am–4pm

Celebrate National Science and Engineering Week and Brain Awareness Week with University scientists in this family fun day. Ring 0161 275 2648 for further details and booking.

Easter Holidays

Tuesday 25 – Friday 28 March and

Monday 31 March – Friday 4 April

Join in a variety of activities including:

- Ancient worlds
- Smashing pots
- Golden fleece

Visit www.manchester.ac.uk/museum or ring 0161 275 2648 to find out more.

TALKS AND TOURS:

Ideas Café: Documentary Imperative

Monday 3 March 6.30–8pm

Join a discussion and special screening of Jordan Baseman's new film Documentary Imperative. Book on 0161 275 2648. Free

Showcase: The Manchester Museum Research Seminar

Design for the 21st century: The new Egyptian galleries in Liverpool

Wednesday 5 March, 3–5pm

Dr Ashley Cook will talk about the exciting new developments in the World Museum, Liverpool. Drop-in, free

You and your lifestyle

Monday 10 March, 6.30pm

What we choose defines who we are. Hear the findings of this research project, and see how closely your tastes might fit national trends. Free. Book on k.d.ho@open.ac.uk

Alchemy: The Big Alchemy Discussion

Saturday 15 March, 2–4pm

Join artists, curators and critics in an open discussion about the culmination of the Alchemy project. Book on 0161 275 2648, Free

Opening hours

Open: Tuesdays–Saturdays 10 – 5pm

Sun–Mon (and Bank Holidays) 11 – 4pm

FREE Admission

The Manchester Museum

Oxford Road, Manchester

0161 275 2634

www.manchester.ac.uk/museum

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



Gig Guide

MANCHESTER ACADEMY 1, 2 and 3

Tina Dico

Mon 3rd Mar - £10 Adv

Jack Penate + Tinchy Stryder

Tue 4th March - £11 adv

Gary Numan

Sat 8th March - £19 Adv

Panic at the Disco

Wed 12th March - £16 Adv

The Feeling

Thu 13th March - £15 Adv

Inspiral Carpets

Fri 14th March - £20 Adv

Manchester Academy's 5th Annual St Patrick Week Party Feat. Stiff Little Fingers + The Men They Couldn't Hang + DILE

Sat 15th March - £18 Adv 7pm - Late

Scouting For Girls + The Sonic Hearts + Nick Harrison

Sat 29th March - £12.50 Adv - SOLD OUT

Gogol Bordello

Sun 30th March - £14 Adv Doors 7pm

Tickets from:

Students' Union, Oxford Road
Piccadilly Box Office @ easy Internet Cafe (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

Jodrell Bank

EVENTS

25 - 28 March, 2pm

Ask an Astronomer

Ask a Jodrell Bank Astronomer all those burning questions about stars, planets or the telescope. No extra charge.

30 March to 4 April, 2pm

Ask an Astronomer

Ask a Jodrell Bank Astronomer all those burning questions about stars, planets or the telescope. No extra charge.

2 April, 11.30am.

Children's Guided Walk of the Arboretum,

Join the Arboretum Curator on a guided walk of the Arboretum and discover what products trees make, you maybe surprised. Space is limited, so please book in advance. No extra charge.

Summer opening hours

Closed on Mondays

Every day 10:30am to 5:30pm, until Sun 28 Oct.

Closed on Thu 4 Oct.

Jodrell Bank Observatory Visitor Centre, Macclesfield, Cheshire

01477 571339

www.manchester.ac.uk/jodrellbank/viscen

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MANCHESTER



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Discover the Whitworth



Dr Jennifer Harris, The Whitworth Art Gallery; David Barrie, The Art Fund's Director and Rosy Greenlees, Executive Director of The Crafts Council.

Material goods

The textile collection at the Whitworth Art Gallery is one of the most important in the UK, and we've been collecting industrially produced textiles since 1958 when we first joined the University.

In 1990, we started collecting textile art as we felt it made an effective bridge between fine arts and textiles. We sensed that it would be an increasingly interesting area, at the forefront of craft and often conceptual.

We've made some iconic, ambitious purchases, developing an international reputation. This is work

that acknowledges, in some way, textile history and textile techniques, even if they seem, at first sight, a long way from textiles as we might imagine them.

At Collect at the V&A this year, we made an ambitious purchase of a piece by Norma Starszakowna, as part of Art Fund Collect, which encourages the quality and profile of contemporary craft in public collections, with money gifted from the Patrons of the Crafts Council and The Art Fund.

This is a large wall based piece, with subtle and powerful political themes. It will be on display, following conservation, in the coming months.

Textiles have always been good at being politically and socially engaged, probably more so than any other craft tradition. Norma Starszakowna is under-represented in UK collections and her work sits at an exciting interface between textile art and textile design.

In the coming years, we will focus some of our collecting energies on new technologies and new techniques in dyeing and printing, connecting to objects in our historic collection that were often at the cutting edge of technologies and techniques.



www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth

News Contact

News and story ideas

Internal Communications Office

tel 0161 275 2112

email uninews@manchester.ac.uk

online www.manchester.ac.uk/staffnet/news

Deadline 12 noon 20 March

Events Contact

Events and listings information

Philippa Adshead

tel 0161 275 2922

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Deadline 12 noon 20 March

Adverts Contact

Ads and distribution queries

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Next Issue 7 April 2008

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