

# UniLife

Issue 8 Volume 5



Naomi Klein first to  
speak at University Place

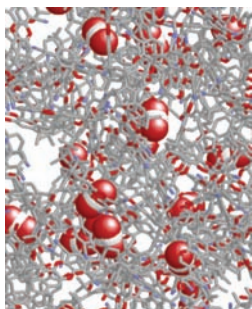
## Features



### News

Students race to a top award

page 4



### Research

'Crispy noodle' chemistry could reduce carbon emissions

page 8



### Profile

Keith Cole

page 12

## Contents

- 3 News
- 8 Research
- 12 Profile: Keith Cole
- 14 Reaching Out
- 15 Teaching and Learning
- 16 What's On
- 20 Discover the Whitworth

Front cover, internationally-acclaimed journalist Naomi Klein

## Letter from the President



I was bemused recently to see the national press pick up a piece from the Times Higher Education (THE) purporting to be based on "leaked" documents from The University of Manchester. Someone has obviously managed to persuade the THE that we are trying to conduct our Review of Undergraduate Education in secret, and that leaking of secret documents is the only way to bring the whole clandestine process into the open.

The truth is rather more prosaic. We have not tried to keep our Review secret. There is no reason why we should.

Indeed, I welcome the fact that Manchester is getting a reputation for taking seriously the challenge of improving the quality of undergraduate education. While being placed under external scrutiny is not easy, it does reduce the risk of us giving up on the absolutely vital task of reviewing and radically improving the Manchester student experience.

One feature of the recent publicity did appal me, however. While the substance of the reporting was reasonable, whoever was responsible for captioning the pieces in The Telegraph and the Daily Mail misconstrued Rebecca Attwood's report in the THE. The idea that our "leaked" documents blame "widening participation" for threatening the quality of UK higher education is preposterous.

What we are facing up to here in Manchester is the crucial truth that, over several decades, public outlays on higher education in the UK (as in most other countries) have fallen well behind the growth of higher education enrolments.

As a result, *funding per student* has declined to the point where it is not just the quality of formal undergraduate learning, but also the quality of the student experience more broadly that is now under serious threat. Despite the best efforts of dedicated staff, there is a point beyond which it is impossible to keep doing more for less without quality being compromised.

None of us in The University of Manchester would want to argue against the opening up of higher education to more and more students. The rise of mass higher education has been an important driver of economic development and social inclusion in the modern world.

We enthusiastically applaud the Government's "widening participation" policies, which seek to open up the opportunities afforded by higher education to people from social backgrounds under-represented in universities. Such policies are

vital in the interests of social justice and equality of opportunity, and because the UK can ill afford to squander the talent of all its people, irrespective of social background.

In embracing widening participation, neither The University of Manchester nor any other authentic university is going to compromise the essential idea of a university as a *meritocracy*. Our essential and over-riding purpose is to attract the very best students we can from around the world, and offer them a world class higher education.

In short, upholding the principle of entry on the basis of merit is the single most important thing we can do for our students and for the UK.

But identifying the most talented students is a complex challenge. We know that some of the brightest young people in the UK – and potentially some of the best graduates – come from disadvantaged backgrounds, where they have not enjoyed equality of opportunity to good primary and secondary education. We also know that some of them may be deterred from seeking access to a university because of cultural reasons, including a fear of student debt, or because of the opportunity cost of remaining out of the full-time workforce during their student years.

Effective widening participation strategies tackle both problems. We must continue to provide financial support for talented students who might otherwise be denied a higher education for reasons of financial disadvantage. Equally, we have to recognise that fair admissions policies must be able to identify applicants who genuinely *merit* a university place, but whose intellectual potential has been partly obscured by previous educational disadvantage.

Reviewing our admissions criteria to better measure educational potential is entirely consistent with the idea of The University of Manchester as a meritocracy. The right solutions will significantly lift the quality of the undergraduates we educate.

They will also serve the interests of social justice.

Professor Alan Gilbert  
President and Vice-Chancellor

## 'Cursus' is older than Stonehenge

**Archaeologists are one step closer to solving the 250-year-old riddle of an ancient monument thought to be a precursor to Stonehenge.**

A team led by University archaeologist Professor Julian Thomas has dated the Greater Stonehenge Cursus at about 3,500 years BC - 500 years older than the circle itself.

They pinpointed its age after discovering an antler pick used to dig the Cursus - the most significant find since it was discovered in 1723 by antiquarian William Stukeley. Carbon-dating results pointed to an age which was much older than previously thought - between 3600 and 3300 BC - and has caused a sensation among archaeologists.

The dig took place last summer in a collaborative project run by five British universities and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the National Geographic Society.

Professor Thomas said: "The Stonehenge Cursus is a 100-metre-wide, mile-long area which runs about 500 metres north of Stonehenge. We don't know what it was used for - but we do know it encloses a pathway which has been made inaccessible. That suggests it was either a sanctified area, or for some reason was cursed."

Professor Thomas believes that the Cursus was part of a complex of monuments, within which Stonehenge was later constructed. Other elements include the 'Lesser Stonehenge Cursus' and a series of long barrows - all built within a mile of Stonehenge.



Stonehenge

He added: "Our colleagues, led by a team from Sheffield University, have also dated some of the cremated human remains from Stonehenge itself. That's caused another sensational discovery, proving that burial cremation had been taking place at Stonehenge as early as 2900 BC - soon after the monument was first built.

"But what is still so intriguing about the Cursus is that it's about 500 years older than Henge - that strongly suggests there was a link and was very possibly a precursor. We hope more discoveries lie in store when we work on the eastern end of the Cursus this summer. It will be a big step forward in our understanding of this enigmatic monument."

## Naomi Klein first to speak at University Place

**The University's flagship building University Place, has cemented its position as one of the North West's most important cultural venues with its first event - a lecture from internationally-acclaimed journalist Naomi Klein.**

A packed house of 600 people filled University Place's main auditorium to hear Naomi Klein discuss her controversial views on Western foreign policy. It was her only appearance in the region to promote her new book: 'The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism'.

The eight-storey £65 million building is to become a focal point for major events and a point of first contact for prospective students and members of the public. The lecture theatre encompasses either two halls of 600 and 270, or a single 1,000 seat auditorium.

Richard Handscombe, Sales and Marketing Manager for conferences, said: "University Place is irrefutably one of the most breathtaking developments in the business meetings' world and the interest we have been receiving has been truly phenomenal. It offers the most advanced technology, professional IT technicians on site, high spec of audio visual aids and wi-fi access to exhibition and catering areas.

"It is fitting that its first event has someone with the global profile of Naomi Klein; this is a great launch for Manchester's premier conference venue. With a number of key events already

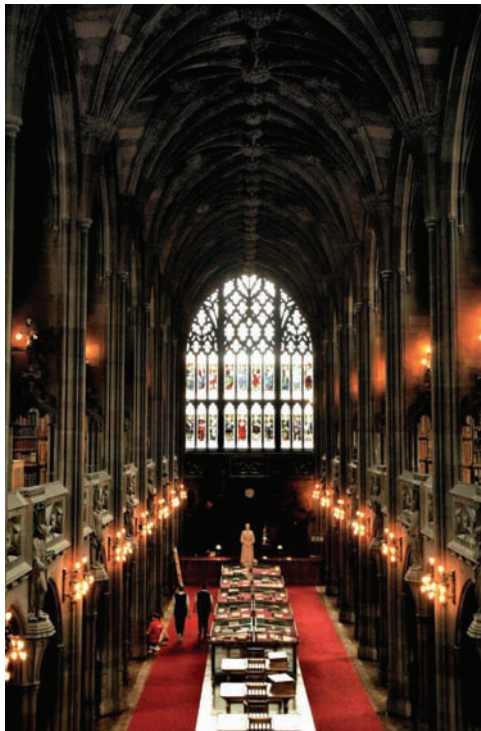


booked, we are confident that the venue has a bright future ahead as a conference destination and that it will raise the profile of events here at the University even higher."

The Centre for the Study of Political Economy organised the event, which was directed by Professors Nicola Phillips and John O'Neill.

Professor O'Neill said: "We were pleased that the event went so well and we would like to thank everyone involved in making it such a success."

For more information on events, contact the Conference Sales Office on 0161 306 4100 (64100), or email [meeting@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:meeting@manchester.ac.uk)



### Award-winning John Rylands University Library gains National Research status

The John Rylands University Library (JRUL) gained coveted status and a four-fold increase in funding after being designated one of only five National Research Libraries (NRL) in the country by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

NRL status acknowledges the Library's support for external researchers and entitles it to long-term funding from HEFCE, subject to regular reviews. Funding will leap from its current annual level of £125,721 to £504,650 for 2008-09 and approximately £883,579 for 2009-10.

The only north-based NRL, JRUL joins the ranks of Cambridge, Oxford, London School of Economics and the School of Oriental and African Studies.

Jan Wilkinson, University Librarian and Director, said: "This is excellent news. Our challenge now is to ensure that we use the funding to support innovative strategic development of the library, to benefit all our users."

The Library also recently gained the Manchester Society of Architects (MSA) Community Education Award for the redevelopment of its Deansgate building. This adds to the list of awards that the Library has received for its design, including: Most Iconic Building in the Manchester Awards; an Institution of Structural Engineers award; two gold medals in the 2007 Roses Awards, and Chamber of Commerce Building of the Year 2007.

## Students race to a top award

**Three students won a major award after attracting some of the biggest international names in motor sport to raise money for cancer research.**

The students, from the University's motor sport society, launched 'The Race Against Cancer' (TRAC): an outdoor motor sport race using go-karts. Their efforts clinched them a Student Team Working Award.

Third-year Accounting and Finance student Matt Roberts, one of the organisers, said: "We felt it would be an interesting project to host a truly global event founded upon the knowledge we had learnt from our years of study at the University. Having all had family affected by cancer in recent years, we decided to send all proceeds to Cancer Research UK."

The three secured sponsorship from some of the world's biggest companies and attracted competitors from countries including Australia, France, Spain and Switzerland to take part in the race at Rye House in Hertfordshire. Formula One stars Fernando Alonso and Damon Hill sent supportive messages, while ex-F1 champion Sir John Surtees turned up to offer his endorsement.



International competitors took part in TRAC

The TRAC team received first prize for the Undergraduate Extra-Curricular award, sponsored by PricewaterhouseCoopers. Their award was presented at the tenth annual 'Students as Partners' presentation evening held at the University, which highlights outstanding work undertaken by students to support and develop their peers. More than 1,500 mentors and 350 Peer Assisted Study Scheme (PASS) leaders were recognised for their contributions this year.

Five students and two staff members received prizes in the Outstanding Contribution to Peer Support Awards category, for their contributions in

developing and strengthening their disciplines scheme.

The School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work gained a team award in recognition of the considerable efforts demonstrated by all student and staff coordinators in introducing Peer Support into all of the School's discipline areas this academic year.

Tim Westlake and Badru Bukenya highlighted the Equity and Merit Scholar Peer Support Scheme, recognising student consultants who are helping to design and implement a sustainable scheme to support future cohorts of students arriving from Uganda to study at Manchester.

## Prime-time slot for Ghosthunter-with-the-stars Geoff

**He gallantly held the hands of trembling pop princesses as they toured a haunted house in ITV's Christmas special 'Ghosthunting With Girls Aloud'.**

Now it's the turn of Christopher Biggins, Paul O'Grady and Madchester rockers Happy Mondays, with a prime time airing of 'Ghosthunting With...' featuring the University's Professor Geoff Beattie.

The Antix Productions series shows groups of celebrities spending the night in 'haunted' venues. Professor Beattie profiles their personalities before filming to find out how introverted, extroverted and neurotic they are, then debriefs them when they leave, having watched – and analysed – their every move live on screen.

"We live in a blasé, modern world, but when you take people out of their familiar situation, they cannot hide how they really are: fear changes everything," Professor Beattie explains. "Dean Gaffney has a very extreme response, but his head movements and aggressive screams show that this is genuine, not put on."

"You also see how people adapt their behaviour to others in a group. Cerys Mathews' voice goes up in pitch when talking to Christopher Biggins: this



Professor Geoff Beattie

lets him know he is in charge. The McFly group dynamic was also brutally exposed. The Happy Mondays have been through a lot together, so they got through the night very well – as you can imagine, it was a lot of fun working with them.

"I had hours of human behaviour to study. It was a fascinating experience and makes excellent TV."

# Manchester rowers victorious

**More than 5,000 spectators saw Manchester storm to victory in this year's Two Cities Boat Race. The University won six out of the seven races to beat their Salford rivals in the annual regatta, held at Salford Quays last month.**

Nick Turnbull, Manchester's senior captain, said: "It was a brilliant day. We didn't think we would do as well as we did, but this just goes to show the talent that we have at the University rowing club."

Among the VIPs watching the 37th Two Cities Boat Race were actor Robert Powell, Olympic athlete Diane Modahl and the artist Harold Riley. BBC Radio Manchester's Ian Cheeseman provided the commentary for crowds enjoying the sunshine.

David Henderson, who took part in one of the early Boat Races in 1972, also witnessed Manchester's magnificent display, along with Professor Alan Gilbert, President and Vice-Chancellor, and Salford Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Harloe.

Spectators enjoyed performances by drummers and cheerleaders



Cheerleaders entertain the crowds at the boat race

from both universities, and witnessed the stunning spectacle of a WWII Lancaster Bomber flying overhead midway through the event.

SPARKS, the children's medical researchers, were once again

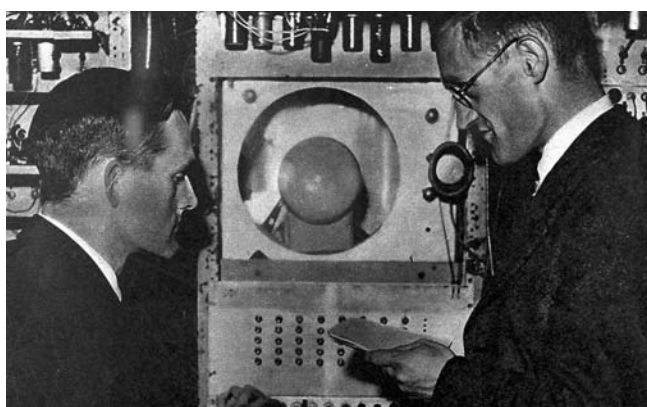
named as the event's official charity. Their Vice-President, actor Robert Powell, said: "This is a terrific event. I'm delighted to be here – and delighted that SPARKS, a charity very close to my heart, will benefit."

## University prepares for Digital 60

**A host of events will take place to celebrate Digital 60 Day on 20 June. Digital 60 marks the 60th anniversary of the 'Baby' - the world's first stored program digital computer, designed and built by the late Tom Kilburn and Freddie Williams at the University.**

A major daytime event for UK schools includes a live video link with the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI), a Schools Computer Animation Festival, the Computer Science Magic Show, and hands-on activity rooms. Winners of the UK Schools Computer Animation Competition – in which hundreds of students created short computer graphics films using a free animation programme called Alice – will also be announced.

Surviving pioneers of the Baby design and development team will receive The University of Manchester Medal of Honour



Tom Kilburn and Freddie Williams

at an awards ceremony and drinks reception. Following this, Professor Steve Furber, CBE, from The School of Computer Science, will deliver the Kilburn Lecture, on 'The Relentless March of the Microchip'.

Celebrations coincide with an Industrial Forum for businesses,

showcasing research and teaching from the School of Computer Science.

Digital 60 unites stakeholders from across Manchester, including the University, Manchester City Council, Manchester Digital Development Agency and MOSI.

## In brief



University and hospital staff celebrate new link

### Wolfson Centre strengthens links with Christie Hospital

A new link corridor has opened between the Christie Hospital and the Wolfson Molecular Imaging Centre. Senior staff from both the hospital and the University recently attended a drinks reception to celebrate the opening.

The project has been funded by the hospital to allow easier patient access between the two sites. This physical link between the two institutions aims to facilitate closer integration between scientists and medical practitioners in the field of oncology, and pave the way for further ambitious collaboration on projects such as the Manchester Cancer Research Centre.

### Creative Writing alumnus published

Mark Piggott, 2006 MA in Creative Writing graduate, has had the novel he wrote on his course published by the independent Legend Press.



Mark Piggott, author

'Fire Horses' tells the story of Joe Noone, a degenerate and enthusiastic explorer of the gutter, and his confused relationships with the people in his life. Laced with dark humour and angry political asides, it depicts England over the last 25 years through the eyes and lens of this disturbed wanderer, revealing back streets, small towns and the sleazy metropolitan underbelly.

Mark's own life story is one of extremes - from living on London's streets in his youth, to writing features for the Telegraph, Guardian and Independent. He has had short stories and poems published in several collections, magazines and anthologies, including 'Down the Angel' (Pulp Books, 2006).

Ian McGuire, Co-Director at the Centre for New Writing, said: "We are delighted that another of our graduates has been published. Mark has worked long and hard on his novel and thoroughly deserves his success."

## In brief

### Nowgen's stem cell research debate at BODY WORLDS 4

A public debate on the use of stem cells in scientific research was recently held by Nowgen, the Faculty of Life Sciences' centre for genetics in healthcare, in partnership with the Museum of Science and Industry.

'Stem Cells: Hype or Hope?' was held in conjunction with the BODY WORLDS 4 exhibition and chaired by Professor Trevor Cox. A panel included Sarah Devaney, Lecturer in Medical Law at the University; Dr Daniel Brison, Consultant Embryologist from the North West Embryonic Stem Cell Centre, and Josephine Quintavalle, Founder of the Comment on Reproductive Ethics (CORE) Group. Approximately 80 members of the public attended.

Discussions explored issues surrounding the use of animal - human hybrids for research; using embryonic stem cells; whether it is preferable to use embryos created solely for research purposes, rather than discarded IVF embryos, and involving the public in making policy decisions on sourcing and using stem cells in research and future medical practice.

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

### University promotes industry links in Bangladesh

Manchester Business School's Dr Khaleel Malik delivered the keynote lecture at a recent British Council seminar promoting interaction between universities and industry in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Dr Malik's lecture, 'University-Industry Interactions: UK insights', explored how developing countries can benefit from dovetailing their educational curricula to industry needs. He discussed the role that universities play in small business growth through knowledge transfer and innovation, giving businesses access to current direct research collaborations and the opportunity to sponsor staff and student mobility programmes.

Dr Malik has delivered lectures on this theme, as well as other innovation policy and management themes, at similar events in China, India and Pakistan.



Dr Khaleel Malik

### The University's two Nobel prize winners will deliver public lectures at University Place to launch the Institute for Science, Ethics and Innovation on July 5.

Professor Sir John Sulston will chair the cross-discipline Institute, focusing on ethical questions raised by contemporary science and technology. The 2002 Nobel Prize winner and pioneer of genomic research will work alongside the School of Law's Professor John Harris, a world-renowned authority on bioethics.

Professor Joseph Stiglitz chairs the University's Brooks World Poverty Institute, a multidisciplinary centre of international excellence researching global poverty, inequality and growth. Chief Economist and Senior Vice-President of the World Bank from 1997-2000, he was also Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers in the Clinton White House.

He is widely known for his critical stance on the privatisation and liberalisation



Professor Sir John Sulston

policies pushed by the World Bank and the IMF, which led him to leave his World Bank position in 2000. He received the Nobel Prize for economics in 2001.

Professor Harris said: "John Sulston and Joseph Stiglitz have scholarly interests in this area, so it's fitting they will launch the Institute.

"We'll be looking at the impact of the rising tide of new developments in science and technology on ethical issues. At every stage – from discovery, through proof of principle to the



Professor Joseph Stiglitz

clinic or marketplace and the regulation of this process – there is an ethical dimension.

"The moral imperatives and the public interest that underpin both the theory and the practice of science are poorly understood. What is urgently required is serious work as a vehicle for examining the role and the moral responsibilities of science, technology and innovation in society, locally and globally."

To book a ticket, email: [isei@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:isei@manchester.ac.uk)

## Local community celebrates Dig Manchester

### The University's Dig Manchester community archaeology project, which aimed to inspire people in inner city areas to aspire to higher education, recently closed with a celebration evening at Whitworth Hall.

Community representatives and archaeological groups from across the city took part in the event marking the end of the three-year collaborative project, which involved 48 schools and around 7,000 participants across Manchester.

Exhibitions showcased the work of archaeology groups who participated in Dig Manchester. The University's Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit (UMAU), based in the School of Arts, Histories and Cultures, displayed finds and results from the project's three excavation sites, along with community art work inspired by the archaeological excavations.

A highlight of the evening was a presentation by St Wilfrid's School from Northenden, which they presented to MPs at the Houses of Parliament last year. Paul Goggins, MP for Wythenshawe and Cabinet Member for the Government, Councillor Paul Murphy, Archaeology Champion for Manchester, and Eamonn O'Neal, gave speeches.

Norman Redhead, Director and County Archaeologist at UMAU, said: "This remarkable



St Wilfrid's School presents at Dig Manchester celebrations

project has been a model for collaboration between the city and the University. The archaeology has excited local interest and helped to promote community pride and better understanding of local heritage.

"But while Dig Manchester has finished, the concept has not. Community archaeology projects have sprung up across Greater Manchester, all with strong links to the University through support provided by our two Archaeology Units."

# Jazz star marks 60 years of American Studies

**Britain's first American Studies programme celebrated its 60th anniversary with a concert by acclaimed Harlem-born Jazz singer Sandi Russell.**

The programme was created at the University in the academic year of 1947-48, along with the first-ever British professorial chair in American Studies, given to Romanian-born, Manchester-educated and New York-based educational theorist Isaac Kandel, who is the subject of a new biography.

In following decades, major scholars – including Marcus Cunliffe, Dennis Welland, Maldwyn Allen Jones and Bob Burchell – occupied the professorial chair, helping American Studies to emerge as a serious academic discipline.

The concert launched the first in a series of international conferences on 'Understanding the South, Understanding America', organised jointly by the Universities of Manchester and Florida.

Current chair of American Studies and conference organiser, Professor Brian Ward, said: "While this is an important interdisciplinary conference with delegates from Europe and the US, we were especially thrilled to welcome award-winning Jazz singer and author, Sandi Russell. She kicked off proceedings with her spellbinding one-woman



Jazz singer and author, Sandi Russell

show, 'Render Me My Song: African American Women Writers from Slavery to the Present'."

"The conferences will demonstrate how a greater understanding of the American South is crucial to understanding the modern US and the nature of its global cultural, economic, ideological, diplomatic and political connections."

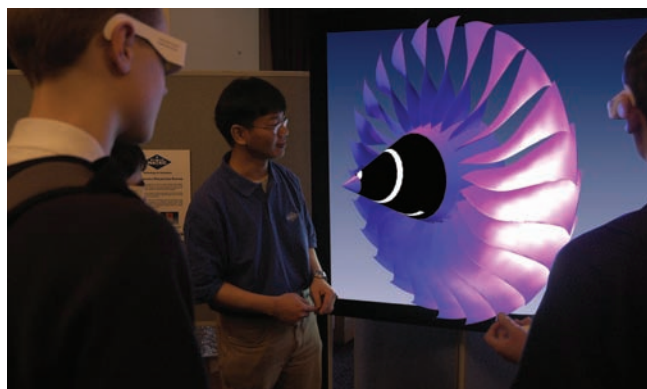
## University joins the jet-set at Farnborough

**Jet engines of the future could be designed at Farnborough Air Show between 18 to 20 July.**

In partnership with North West Aerospace Alliance (NWAA), the University's 'So you think you can design a Jet Engine?!' exhibition team has been selected to exhibit on NWAA Farnborough's stand on the International Youth Day and Public Days.

Led by Professor Philip Withers, Director of The University of Manchester Aerospace Research Institute (UMARI), the team is collaborating with the Schools of Materials, the School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering (MACE) and The University of Manchester Aerospace Research Institute (UMARI), as well as the Museum of Science and Industry.

The exhibition will allow young people and their families to take a virtual 3D journey through a jet engine's critical components, seeing how innovative research, materials, manufacturing



A 3D journey into jet engine technology

techniques and testing procedures allow engine designers to create jet engines that will lower the environmental impact of air travel in the future.

Visitors can then design their own jet engine by selecting materials presented on a computer and simulating their engine flying, exploding or crashing.

Professor Withers said: "We use X-rays to examine engine

components in much the same way doctors look at X-rays to diagnose broken bones. Using this technology, Farnborough Air Show will be a good opportunity to allow everyone to take a virtual journey through an engine and learn about its materials."

The exhibition is funded by the EPSRC and the Royal Academy of Engineering and endorsed by Rolls-Royce and MACE.

### In brief



Ed Potten with the first printed edition of the Divine Comedy

### Students study Dante's 700-year history at the Rylands

Students from the Italian department covered seven centuries of Dantean history on an innovative book history course, the only one of its kind in the UK.

'Beyond the Text: The Book and its Body' introduces the new field of book history via a study of Dante's Divine Comedy. However, rather than studying the poem itself, students investigated the material forms that the book has taken over the 700 years since its composition, looking at manuscripts, print and electronic editions and other new digital media.

The final-year course is taught by Dr Guyda Armstrong of the Italian department, with experts from the University's John Rylands Library on Deansgate: Assistant Keeper of Printed Books, Ed Potten; Modern Literary Archivist, Stella Halkyard, and manuscript expert, Anne Young.

Ed Potten said: "The University has extraordinarily rich holdings in Dante studies and the early Italian book, and is therefore one of few institutions worldwide in which a course of this type would be possible."

### Students gain insight into enterprise

"Absolutely fantastic" is how students from across the University described the panel of entrepreneurs speaking at Enterprising Futures, an event organised by the MLP, Careers and Employability Division.

Panellist and UMIST graduate Carolyn Blunt, who has her own company, Real Results Training, said: "I didn't conceive of the idea of running my own business until my mid-twenties, so it was inspiring to see so many students already have this in their focus."

Professor David Auckland, CEO of One Central Park, gave the keynote speech. An lunchtime exhibition featured MSEC, UMIC/UMIP, Venture Point, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, the MLP Careers & Employability Division and Blue Orchid, who also gave a talk on setting up a business. The day finished with a Dragons Den competition, which added to the students' understanding of what it takes to be an entrepreneur.

## In brief

### £900,000 awarded to neuroscience project

Dr Stephen Welbourne, Professor Matt Lambon Ralph (both Psychological Sciences) and Professor Steve Furler (Computer Science) have received just over £900,000 from the EPSRC, MRC and BBSRC as part of their Cognitive Foresight Scheme.

The interdisciplinary project 'PDP-squared: Meaningful PDP Language Models using Parallel Distributed Processors' has been funded for five years. It will use a new form of multi-processor computer to build larger and more realistic models of how the processes underlying language are implemented in the human brain.

The cross-Faculty collaboration between researchers from Medical & Human Sciences and Engineering & Physical Sciences was facilitated by the Neuroscience Research Institute (NRI).

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

### Six of the best

Six University researchers have been appointed in the first cohort of National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Senior Investigators.

Professors Bonnie Sibbald, Martin Roland, Nigel Bundred, Nick Tarrier, Matt Lambon-Ralph and Shon Lewis, from the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences, were among 100 successful applicants selected in an open competition by an international panel of judges.

These prestigious appointments acknowledge senior researchers and their work in applied clinical research, and reward internationally prominent, people-focused health researchers whose outstanding research contributions are essential for decision-making in health and social care.

The creation of NIHR Senior Investigators is fundamental to the formation of the NIHR Faculty. This comprises people involved in health research for the benefit of NHS patients and the wider public, and people who work for a UK university or NHS organisation whose work is supported by NIHR or Department of Health Policy Research Programme (PRP) funding.

## 'Crispy noodle' chemistry could reduce carbon emissions

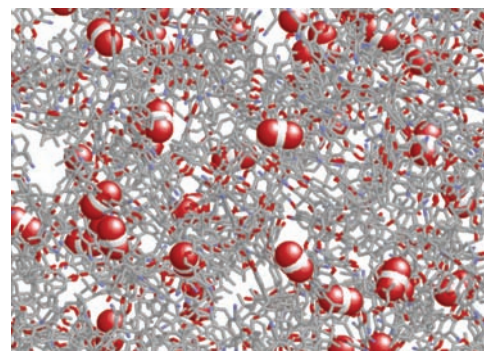
**A new material with a structure resembling crispy noodles could help reduce carbon dioxide emissions and drive the next generation of high-performance hydrogen cars.**

Dr Peter Budd, a materials chemist in the Organic Materials Innovation Centre has won £150,000 of new funding to explore the use of a special polymer in effectively removing carbon dioxide as it is belched from fossil fuel power stations or hydrogen production plants.

The 18-month study, funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), will look at the feasibility of using composite membranes made from a 'polymer of intrinsic microporosity', or PIM, and a synthetic catalyst, to capture and recover carbon dioxide.

The project expands on Dr Budd's current exciting collaborative work, which aims to use PIMs to store large amounts of hydrogen. This could enable safe hydrogen storage with an energy-efficient release – an ideal system for running hydrogen-powered cars.

Dr Budd said: "The PIMs act a bit like a sponge when hydrogen is around. It's made up of long molecules that can trap hydrogen between them, providing a way of supplying hydrogen on demand.



'Crispy noodle' polymers

"Imagine spaghetti - when it's all coiled together, there's not much space between the strands. Now imagine crispy noodles - their rigid, twisted shape means there are lots of holes.

"The polymer is designed to have a rigid backbone, and it has twists and bends built into it. Because of this, lots of gaps and holes are created between molecules - perfect for tucking the hydrogen into.

PIMs were created at the University several years ago by Dr Budd and colleagues.

## Top docs rewarded for contribution to healthcare

**Two leading University researchers have been elected to the Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences.**

Professor of Maternal and Fetal Health Philip Baker and Professor of Respiratory Medicine Ashley Woodcock OBE are among 40 new Fellows across the UK, elected for their outstanding contributions to the advancement of medical science, for innovative application of scientific knowledge and conspicuous service to healthcare.

Professor Baker's major research contributions have increased understanding and therapy of life-threatening pregnancy complications, such as pre-eclampsia. He has also promoted the role of Magnetic Resonance Imaging in pregnancy and founded the University's Maternal and Fetal Health Research Centre, now Europe's largest obstetric research group, with the charity Tommy's.

Professor Baker is now Associate Dean for Research at the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences; Head of Research and Innovation at Central Manchester and Manchester Children's Hospital NHS Trust, and Clinical Director of Manchester: Integrating Medicine and Innovative Technology (MIMIT). He also directs the newly awarded NIHR Biomedical Research Centre, has been Chairman of the Blair Bell Research Society and served on the MRC Advisory Board.

Professor Woodcock leads the Respiratory Research Group in the North West Lung Centre, an internationally recognised group in translational and clinical lung research. His research includes early life development of asthma and allergy, gene

environment interactions and novel treatments for airway diseases. He is also a Consultant Respiratory Physician and Clinical Academic Lead at the University Hospital of South Manchester.

Professor Woodcock helped an international panel of climate change experts win this year's Nobel Prize for Peace, which was awarded jointly to the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) and former US Vice-President Al Gore. He chaired the Medical Technical Options Committee, which investigated ozone-depleting chemicals in inhalers for patients with respiratory problems for the Montreal Protocol, for which he was awarded the OBE in 2006.

He has also been Chairman of the Clinical Assembly of the European Respiratory Society, Chairman of the Royal College of Physicians Tobacco Committee and Public Education Officer of the British Thoracic Society.



Professor Ashley Woodcock



Professor Philip Baker

# Diabetes researcher's double delight

**A medic whose research has helped millions of diabetes sufferers across the world for three decades has received two prestigious awards from his peers in the field.**

Professor Andrew Boulton from the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences has been awarded the first-ever Outstanding Achievement Award by the American Professional Wound Care Association. The award was given for his lifetime commitment to research into diabetic foot disorders, describing him as "a true world opinion leader who continues to educate the global medical community and benefit millions of individuals with this condition".

The only non-American to chair an interest group for the American Diabetes Association, Professor Boulton has also been awarded its Harold Rifkin Award for Distinguished International Service. Named after a former

president of the ADA, the award is given to those whose outstanding service in the cause of diabetes has been performed with an international perspective and with international impact.

Diabetes is a fast-growing problem worldwide, due to the westernisation of diets and lifestyles in the developing world. Professor Boulton's research at Manchester DIALEX (Diabetes Lower Extremity Research Group), based at the Manchester Royal Infirmary, has shown that one in five diabetics develop active foot problems, such as ulceration, and 20 per cent of those have to undergo amputation. Most of the rest have significant risk factors, such as arterial disease.

Professor Boulton, who has also been awarded several NIH grants and Diabetes UK funding to investigate maggots' ability to combat MRSA, said: "It has been a good year all round for us, but



Award-winning Professor Andrew Boulton

the important thing for me is to continue helping people who face such debilitating problems due to their diabetes. It is a growing problem and its effects need to be addressed."

## Are small bioelectricity plants dirtier than large ones?

**Small-scale, community-based bio-power plants produce higher levels of emissions per unit of electrical output than large facilities, according to new research from Manchester's Tyndall Centre for Climate Research.**

Dr Patricia Thornley and Dr Paul Upham report that while small facilities do have their plus points – for example, transport impacts are lower and local communities tend to like and support them – their environmental performance is usually inferior to that of larger plants.

However, they stress that the overall pros and cons of different types of bioelectricity generating facilities cannot be judged on just one parameter.

"There is a need to look at emissions, carbon savings, costs and jobs all side by side – and that is what we have done in this study," said Dr Thornley.

The researchers also found that, while the biopower generating systems studied all showed substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions compared to conventional grid electricity, using the most efficient technology available in bioelectricity plants does not necessarily result in the lowest carbon emissions.

The research was conducted in conjunction with The University of Ulster and Aston University and is designed to support future decision-making when it comes to developing new types of bioenergy resources.



What is the future for bioenergy?

The work – as part of the SUPERGEN Biomass and Bioenergy Consortium – assesses the impact of 25 complete bioelectricity systems, from crop establishment to energy demand servicing. It is the most comprehensive UK-focused study of biomass electricity generation systems ever conducted.

For the research, four key airborne pollutants – carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, particulates and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) – were tracked across every step in the bioenergy system, from field to power plant.

## In brief



### Stressed seaweed contributes to cloudy coastal skies

University scientists have helped to identify that the presence of large amounts of seaweed in coastal areas can influence the climate.

A new international study has found that large brown seaweeds, when under stress, release large quantities of inorganic iodine into the coastal atmosphere, where it may contribute to cloud formation.

The paper's co-author, Dr Gordon McFiggans, an atmospheric scientist from the School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences, said: "The findings are applicable to any coastal areas where there are extensive kelp beds. In the UK, these are typically places like the Hebrides, Robin Hood's Bay and Anglesey. The kelps need rocky, inter-tidal zones to prosper - sandy beaches aren't very good.

"The increase in the number of cloud condensation nuclei may lead to 'thicker' clouds. These reflect more sunlight upwards and allow less to reach the ground, and last for longer. In such a cloud, there are higher numbers of small cloud droplets and rainfall is suppressed, compared with clouds of fewer, larger droplets.

"The increase in cloud condensation nuclei by kelps could lead to more extensive, longer-lasting cloud cover in the coastal region – a much moodier, typically British coastal skyline."

The research was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.

## In brief

### MBS expert advises international investment forum

Dr Axèle Giroud, Senior Lecturer in International Business at Manchester Business School, recently spoke at the prestigious Seventh Global Forum on International Investment.

The conference, 'Best Practices in Promoting Investment for Development', was jointly organised by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. High profile keynote speakers included the Prime Minister of Peru, ministers from Uganda, Egypt, Costa Rica, Ecuador and highly ranked officials from Saudi Arabia, India and Vietnam.

Dr Giroud presented her paper, which examines the implementation of multinational linkage policies, using the Malaysian government as an example of best practice. The paper was co-authored by Dr Delane Botelho, Escola Brasileira de Administração Pública e de Empresas.

Dr Giroud's research has been recognised by the Euro-Asian Management Studies Association (EAMSA), of which she has recently been elected European vice-president.



Dr Axèle Giroud, Senior Lecturer in International Business

### Rising stars of research meet

**Two University researchers joined an eclectic group of rising stars from science and humanities for the first of four meetings designed to encourage innovation and collaboration.**

Lecturer in Bioethics Dr Muireann Quigley, from the School of Law, and Dr Tess Phillips, from the School of Chemistry, spent the first 'lab' discussing ideas and speaking to media and public policy experts in Cambridge and Westminster. They also quizzed MPs Tim Boswell, Ian Gibson and Evan Harris during a 'Question Time' style discussion.

Dr Quigley said: "It can be hard for researchers to come into contact with others from different disciplines – and that's a shame, as that sort of collaboration can be extremely innovative. This scheme provides a fantastic opportunity to do just that. We also hugely appreciated speaking to journalists about communicating with the public by engaging with the media – an extremely important activity."

The £15 million Crucible programme is run by The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (Nesta).

## Research spotlight

# Leading Zionist's Manchester science achievements remembered

**The Manchester science career of a leading Zionist has been acknowledged during coverage of the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel's creation.**

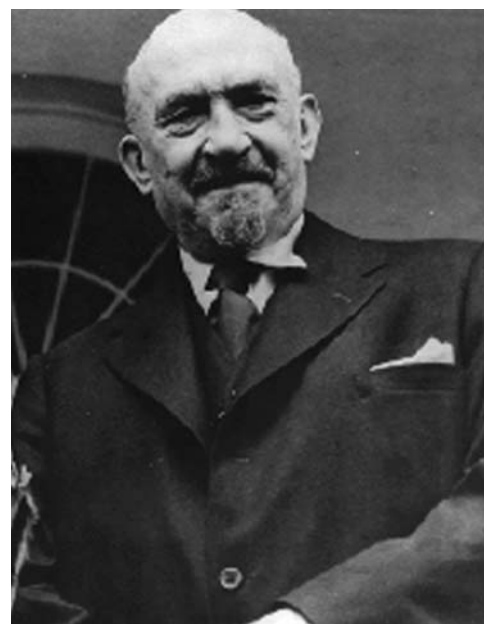
Chaim Azriel Weizmann (1874-1952) was an important international Zionist leader, who became President of the State of Israel.

But his early career was spent working as a chemist at The University of Manchester, developing bacterial chemistry techniques that allowed him to produce acetone – something that arguably helped the Allied Powers win the First World War.

Weizmann arrived in Manchester in 1904 and became a Research Fellow at the University – then Owens College – in 1905. He progressed to the position of Reader in Biochemistry – but to his disappointment was never elected to a professorial chair, despite developing a new process of producing acetone through bacterial fermentation. Acetone, a solvent needed for the production of explosives, was in short supply before World War I.

For the anniversary, BBC Manchester Online ran an extensive article on Weizmann's scientific achievements at the University, while BBC Radio 4 interviewed the School of Chemistry's Professor Paul O'Brien for a special documentary about Weizmann's life.

On today's modern campus, references to Weizmann and his scientific work remain. The small basement laboratory where he first worked now houses the HerbiVores Vegetarian Café on Burlington Street. The Perkins Laboratories – where Weizmann bred



Chaim Azriel Weizmann

the bacterium 'Clostridium acetybutylicum Weizmannii' and used them to brew acetone – are still standing and overlook Burlington Street.

His small study and the lecture theatre where he lectured to students also remain, just off the Rear Quadrangle on Coupland Street, while an Epstein bust of Weizmann sits proudly in the foyer of the Chemistry Building.

# Record funding helps scientists study breast cancer protein

**University scientists have been awarded almost £200,000 from charity Breast Cancer Campaign to help them investigate new ways to beat the disease.**

Dr Andrew Gilmore and Professor Charles Streuli, from the Faculty of Life Sciences, have received a three-year research grant worth £193,000 to study a protein called Fak, which scientists believe plays a role in changing normal breast cells to breast cancer cells.

The protein tells normal cells that they should only grow and survive when they are in the correct place. Too much Fak can allow cells to grow in locations where they normally would not.

Cancer cells can move to and grow in other places in the body, leading to secondary tumours. Changes in the amount of Fak can be seen early in breast cancer. These changes may predispose cancer cells to spread, so it may be possible to target Fak to prevent early cancer cells from spreading.

Dr Gilmore said: "Treating breast cancer early helps stop the growth and spread of tumours. When we understand more about the role of Fak, we may be able to form the basis of a new breast cancer treatment."

The Manchester grant is one of several funding awards announced recently, totalling a record £5 million – the most ever awarded by the charity in a single year.

## Working towards a diverse future

**Aneez Esmail, Associate Vice-President for Equality and Diversity, outlines future diversity and equality strategies in his first Race in Leadership report.**

"Walk down Oxford Road during term-time and the University's diversity is clearly apparent, as British students mingle with students from all over the world. Yet, walk into a meeting of academics, or senior University staff, and it's a different picture. Out of over 600 University Professors, only 45 are from a black or minority ethnic group (BME), while just 18 out of 415 senior administrative positions are held by BME staff members.

"As part of the Race in Leadership initiative, set up in 2006 to tackle diversity and equality issues surrounding the proportion of BME staff in leadership positions, I have completed the first in a series of biannual reports which identifies problems in this area and recommends suitable solutions.

"A baseline survey on staff diversity incorporates results from staff surveys, investigations of complaints and interviews. Over 200 staff were consulted to assess how BME staff identified problems they face in areas such as career progression.

"I believe we have a mountain to climb in making the University more representative of society, especially at senior levels. There is a gulf between the values of equality and collegiality that we espouse, the need to increase our international standing in research and teaching, and the reality of what happens when we try to recruit the best staff and help them realise their potential.

"We are already making significant progress. Structures are now in place to collect and monitor relevant data on areas such as recruitment and promotion. We have key performance indicators around equality and diversity and are questioning, challenging and holding accountable senior managers and academics.

"We aim to ensure that all staff receive necessary training and development to enable them to apply for senior positions. And we will focus on recruitment and career progression, challenging Heads of Schools and Administration to ensure that applicants and shortlists for senior positions are more representative and include credible and diverse candidates.

"The Race in Leadership Report forms part of the University's equality and diversity strategy, along with the Race Equality Scheme, which details practical steps that we are taking to promote race equality and diversity.

"I think that we are well placed to make significant changes. The President and Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar and Secretary are fully committed to recognising the problems and ensuring that the recommendations of this report are implemented. There is a huge amount of goodwill throughout the University to support these changes and structures are in place to ensure that we can monitor progress.

"The potential benefits are huge."

The Report and the Race Equality Scheme are available on the Equality and Diversity website.



Aneez Esmail



Students at a Shanghai graduation ceremony

## Chinese lavish attention on British students

**British undergraduates have had the experience of a lifetime in China, courtesy of the University's Centre for Chinese Studies, which is managing the first-ever Government-sponsored study programme to the country.**

The 420 students from 80 universities unexpectedly found themselves the focus of significant media attention as major broadcasters and newspapers – including Central China Television, Shanghai TV, China Youth Daily and Wenhui Daily – were among 30 outlets to cover the initiative.

The project – now in its second year – has been grabbing the Chinese media's headlines since its launch, when the Vice Chairman of National People's Congress Professor Xu JiaLu welcomed the first student group to the country.

The students have lessons in Chinese language, business and society, visit cultural sites and local businesses and shadow young Chinese at work.

Project Manager and Administrative Manager at the Centre for Chinese Studies, Karen Wang, said: "We've been overwhelmed by the attention our students have received – it's amazing. It's a strong indication the project has been really successful.

"And we have had a huge response from British students – the demand far outstrips available places. With the confidence of knowing what China is like, and equipped with basic language skills, more students are considering China as a destination for their future study and employment."

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, and the Scottish Government, have asked the Centre to continue managing the project, with the objective of recruiting another 450 undergraduates for 2008/09.



# Cole's Commitment

You wouldn't think that a bus ride from Salford into Manchester could be "heart-stopping". But that is how Keith Cole describes it. It changed his life.

"I was reading The Guardian on the bus and saw an advertisement for a job – it was a heart-stopping moment," he says. "I knew at once that it was absolutely the job for me. It was serendipity." Meant to be.

That was nearly 25 years ago – and the job was based at The University of Manchester Regional Computing Centre (UMRCC), supporting users who wanted to access 1981 census data. It was a two-year appointment – and he's still here, but now as Director of Mimas (Manchester Information and Associated Services), which provides access to a vast range of data and information resources to the entire UK Higher and Further Education sector.

So, the original job certainly was the job for him – as is his present one. In those early days, he got to know all the users, about 100, by name. Nowadays, the users number hundreds of thousands and are growing all the time, as the scope of Mimas expands.

Put simply, his commitment is to providing world-class quality data and information services to the UK academic community for research and teaching. No-one could be more committed to or enthusiastic about

doing that. Funded as a national resource primarily by the ESRC and JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee), and hosted by the University, Mimas now embraces a family of major resources, including library catalogues, archival descriptions, research articles, socio-economic and geospatial research dataset, learning materials, resource discovery tools, electronic journals and so on.

It really is quite remarkable – and it is available on your desktop. Administratively, Mimas now sits within the Faculty of Humanities – but the key to its success is that it is totally interdisciplinary in focus.

"I don't think that staff and students in the University are as aware of our services, and our research and development activities, as they might be," Keith says. "We are here to support research, teaching and learning across a very wide range of disciplines, with access to quality data and specialist support services."

"Quality" is the key word. As a recent Education Guardian article put it, "a digital treasure trove of information is out there for the taking" – "a search engine that is both academic and user-friendly" – describing it as fighting "the Google effect", described by one professor as a tendency towards mediocrity.

The challenge, said the article, was to be "sufficiently user-friendly to attract and retain a generation of students reared on commercial

search engines". Mimas, along with the UK's other national data centre, Edina at Edinburgh, is doing just that – and Keith Cole is very much alive to and up for that challenge.

Fortunately, he was early in the field. After graduating in 1977 from Keele, where he did Joint Honours in Geography and History, he went to Portsmouth as an SSRC Research Student – a significant beginning on what was to develop into his life's interest. "I was looking at the role of local government as an agent of change in the local housing market," he says. "I needed to use census data, but was struck by how difficult it was to go beyond the print-out and get computer access to the data."

Thus, the seed was sown. He started to write data analysis programs on some of the earliest micro computers. In 1983, he moved to Salford University as a Research Associate in the Department of Geography to develop his work. Again, using 1981 Census, particularly Small Area Statistics, he looked at how the local authority's public services were provided – and used. He also looked at the problems associated with analysing the statistics. He then enjoyed a spell as Program Advisor to the university's computer services – which gave him insight into providing a responsive user support service.

He also had a brief spell as a Research Assistant in the Department of Town and Country Planning at



this University, working on a Nuffield Foundation-funded project analysing counter-urbanisation and social change in rural Mid-Wales, 1971-81.

Then came that "heart-stopping" bus ride. "It was good timing," he says. "I came in at the right stage of the development of network-based data services and there was a real spirit of going forward in order to provide more access to the data for more users."

Progress has been – and continues to be – remarkable. Keith himself is a leader in the field, with many publications to his credit and an outstanding record of completed research projects. And he has served on a number of advisory boards, particularly in relation to UK Census.

As Director of Mimas, he now oversees a dazzling array of resources, embracing those such as Copac, providing access to all the major library catalogues; The Archives Hub, covering archives and manuscript collections, and Intute, the online service or web resources for education and research, chosen and evaluated by a network of subject specialists.

Another "first" is providing UK academics and researchers with free access to key international data resources via ESDS (Economic and Social Data Services), covering a range of regularly updated databanks from organisations such as the OECD, the IMF and the World Bank.

Coming to this University was also "heart-stopping" in another, more personal, sense – Keith met his wife, Diana, then working as a Departmental Secretary (she now runs her own garden design and landscaping business). They live at Mellor and have two sons, Thomas, 13, and 11-year-old Stephen.

The boys are keen on lacrosse and cricket – and in the next few weeks Keith can be found in his role as scorer for the boys' team at Mellor cricket club. He's also keen on running – one of the highlights of his weekend is putting on his running shoes and heading off-road for a five-mile hill run, in all weathers. "From Mellor, that lets me take in spectacular views across Kinder Scout in one direction and Manchester in the other," he says. "After cleaning off all the mud, I'm ready for whatever the coming week has to throw at me."

But Mimas is never completely off his agenda – and for all its size and scope today, at the core of it all is Keith's commitment to providing a quality service to individual academics and students – and getting the information readily to the user's desktop.

\* The annual Mimas Open Forum will be held on Wednesday, 9 July 2008, at MANDEC, 10am – 4pm. Topic: Anticipating User Needs of the Future.

## Name

Keith John Cole

## Position

Director of Mimas - a JISC and ESRC supported national data centre based at The University of Manchester.

## Education

1977 BA Joint Honours, Geography and History, University of Keele

## Career

Present	Director of Mimas. Deputy Executive Director National Centre of e-Social Science (NCeSS) School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Humanities, The University of Manchester
2001-2007	Deputy Director and Mimas Service Manager, Manchester Computing, The University of Manchester
1995-2001	Mimas Service Manager, Manchester Computing, The University of Manchester
1986-1995	National Datasets Co-ordinator, Manchester Computing Centre, The University of Manchester.
1984-1986	1981 Census Support Officer, UMRCC, The University of Manchester.
1983-1984	Research Associate, Department of Geography, University of Salford.
1977-1980	SSRC Research Student, Department of Geography, Portsmouth Polytechnic.

## School of Pharmacy welcomes young people in care

**Local teenagers in care recently had a taste of higher education at the School of Pharmacy, as part of AimHigher Greater Manchester's Looked After Children initiative.**

An all-day workshop, attended by 13 and 14-year-olds from Stockport and Trafford, aimed to build aspirations around post-16 education, while introducing Pharmacy as an exciting, attainable career option.

Event organiser and University Aimhigher Coordinator, Alison Gregory, spoke about the benefits and practicalities of higher education and University support available for care leavers, such as 52-week annual accommodation and various loans, bursaries and Local Authority funding.

Care leaver Donna Perry, who starts a Nursing degree at the University in September, also gave a talk. Donna has experienced mental health issues and left school aged 15 with no qualifications.

She said: "I enjoy education and believe it's important that people push themselves to achieve the things they want in life; but I know it's harder for some than others. I wanted to do this talk because I thought I could help others realise their own potential by sharing my own experiences."

The children and their support adults undertook a 'lotions and potions' class in the pharmacy dispensing lab, and observed a pharmacy undergraduate aseptic class in operation. Undergraduates assisted throughout the day.

David Allison, Widening Participation co-ordinator for Pharmacy, said: "Only six per cent of children from a care background progress to higher education, compared to approximately 40 per cent of young people nationally. Events such as these not only help vulnerable children to learn about different careers, but also show them that university can be fun and that they have every right to attend."

The event was funded by Aimhigher Greater Manchester, part of a national programme to support widening participation and get more young people into higher education by 2010.



MSV Manager Andrea Rannard (left) with the award-winning student volunteers

## Award-winning student volunteers show enterprising achievements

**Five Manchester undergraduates won awards at this year's Student Volunteering Gold Awards, run by Volunteering England.**

Second-year Physics student Rachel Walsh gained her award for leading the University to victory as Rookie Champions of the Year in the recent Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) UK competition. SIFE focuses on 'learning by doing' in decision-making, teamwork, diversity, ethics and building sustainable organisations.

Rachel's team ran two projects: Next Generation, teaching sixth-form students skills necessary to deliver IT classes for elderly people; and Global Greetings, helping primary school children to produce, market and sell greetings cards to the local community. A third upcoming project, The Ethical Tours, will establish a tour guide company where tours are conducted by homeless people, to give them skills to enhance their employability.

Rachel said: "As a new team, it was a massive achievement to be awarded Rookie Champions. I've had a fantastic time and have learnt so much through this."

Final-year Psychology student Rebecca Kelly won her award through chairing the University's recent

second annual Cancer Research UK (CRUK) Relay For Life. Relay for Life, the 24-hour, student-led, community event, was opened by President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Gilbert, Patron of the University's relay team, and run in partnership with CRUK and Manchester Student Volunteers (MSV).

Rebecca said: "I was really pleased to get the Gold Award, as our committee had to work hard this year to organise the event alongside our final-year studies. Raising over £10,000 for Cancer Research UK meant that Manchester University Relay for Life is still the most successful of all UK relays organised by students."

Final-year Mathematics and Physics student Jill Merrett was also recognised for her work on the SIFE team, while Andrew Smith, third-year Earth Sciences student, and Kyriakos Hadjikypris, final-year Economic Science student, were awarded for their work with Student Action Group for the Environment (SAGE).

MSV, part of the University's MLP, Careers & Employability Division, worked closely with all five winning students to support their projects.

## 'Big Brain' kids are psyched up

**The annual four-day 'Big Brain Summer School' was recently held at the School of Psychological Sciences for 30 Year Ten students from local schools who have been identified as "gifted and talented".**

The event is part of the University's Widening Participation initiative to encourage children to

consider further education. It is co-ordinated by teachers from outside the University as part of the Aim Higher initiative.

The school ran each morning for four days in May with the help of staff members from Psychology, Audiology, Clinical Psychology, and Speech and Language Therapy.



[www.aimhighergreatermanchester.co.uk](http://www.aimhighergreatermanchester.co.uk)

## Students enjoy animal antics at the Museum

**The Faculty of Life Science (FLS) and Manchester Museum recently joined forces to deliver a practical session for first-year Biology undergraduates learning about the adaptations of animals.**

The session – entitled ‘Animal adaptations to diverse environments: why does that frog have red eyes?’ – was run by FLS staff members Dr Amanda Bamford and Dr Ruth Grady, with the knowledge and enthusiastic help of Andrew Gray, the Museum’s Curator of Herpetology.

Around 120 students visited the Museum in order to compare the adaptations of animals using living examples of amphibians, reptiles, spiders and insects, exploring the wide variety of unusual ways animals have adapted to survive.

Dr Bamford said: “It was no surprise that this was one of the most popular practical sessions on the course, with an overwhelmingly positive response from participating students. By close examination of the live animals available at the Museum – including handling them – students could gain a deeper understanding of animal characteristics, classification and adaptation.



Students experience hands-on learning at the Museum

“Not only was it great fun for the students, but it also illustrates the exceptional resource that Manchester Museum can provide, providing many unique opportunities for innovative teaching experiences.”

## Student course project raises funds for cancer research

Four students undertaking a Career Management Skills (CMS) module as part of their degrees recently organised the University’s first-ever Cancer Awareness Week.

Humanities undergraduates Yvette Bello, Ffion Jones (both Modern Languages), Helen Moore (French Studies) and Alexandra Hayes (English Language) raised £700 for Cancer Research UK through various fundraising activities and ran information stands at the Students’ Union over the course of the week.

The star event was a visit from well-known entrepreneur and Managing Director of St Tropez, Judy Naake, who travelled to Manchester from her home in Nottinghamshire to talk to students about her experiences as a cancer survivor.

The event was a practical project undertaken as part of the credit-rated CMS course, which is run by the MLP, Careers & Employability Division. It was generated by Manchester Student Volunteers, also part of the Division, which sources community projects for CMS students.

Course Leader Chris Hughes said: “The students demonstrated excellent organisational and project management skills in the development of this successful week-long event, which was timed to tie in with the University’s Relay for Life for Cancer Research UK. It is likely that Cancer Awareness Week will continue to run as an annual event in Manchester’s student calendar.”

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

## Tesco CEO speaks to MLP students



Sir Terry Leahy talks to MLP students

**Sir Terry Leahy, CEO of Tesco, recently delivered a lecture for students on the Manchester Leadership Programme (MLP) on the topic of ‘Building a Business of Leaders’.**

His lecture, which talked about the need to maintain values, self-awareness and sustainable work-life balance for successful leadership, marked the close of this semester’s credit-rated Leadership in Action unit, which

forms part of the MLP, along with 60 hours of volunteering work.

Sir Terry said: “The MLP is the best possible preparation for leadership... to develop your character and values as a leader, for your future careers and as citizens and members of the community.”

Students who have successfully completed both parts of this year’s MLP will receive the Manchester Leadership Award at a Celebration Event on 5 June.

Colette Cook, MLP Manager, said: “The MLP is going from strength to strength, with high profile representatives from business, the community and the University offering their input and support.

“Next year, 600 places will be available to students across the University, including an online version of the Programme, which was successfully piloted this year with an intake of 107 students.”

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

# What's On

## Music and Drama at Manchester

### Estival

The Martin Harris Centre plays host to a week of concerts by The University of Manchester's Music Society. See the website for full programme details. *Daytime concerts FREE/Evening concerts £8/£5/Student Special*

*Monday 2 June*

**String Orchestra Concert**, 1-2pm

**Afternoon Concert**, 3-4pm

**Big Band Concert**, 7-9pm

*Tuesday 3 June*

**Brass Ensemble Concert**, 1-2pm

**Afternoon Concert (Soloists)**, 3-4pm

**Ad Solem Concert**, 7-9pm

*Weds 4 June*

**Baroque Orchestra Concert**, 1-2pm

**Afternoon Concert**, 3-4pm

**Evening MUWO Concert**, 7-9pm

*Thur 5 June*

**Lunchtime Concert**, 1-2pm

**Afternoon Concert**, 3-4pm

**Sinfonietta Concert**, 7-9pm

*Sun 8 June, 5pm £12.50 advance/£15 on the door*

**Manchester Does... The Last Waltz**

Manchester's finest musicians pay tribute to the legendary gig playing their own songs plus interpretations of the artists you know and love.

Tickets [www.quaytickets.com/WhatsOn/EventDetail.aspx?EventId=1839](http://www.quaytickets.com/WhatsOn/EventDetail.aspx?EventId=1839)

*Fri 13 to Sun 15 June*

**Quatuor Danel Open House Weekend**

This three-day event sees the Quatuor Danel and Professor David Fanning coaching students and members of the public, directing sight-reading sessions and taking part in informal concerts alongside those ensembles who wish to perform in public. Registration forms can be downloaded [www.arts.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre/danel.php](http://www.arts.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre/danel.php)

**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)**

## Contact Theatre

*Weds 11 to Sat 14 June, 7.30pm, Sun 15 June 6pm, £10/£6*

Quarantine, Contact and Tramway presents

**Old People, Children & Animals**

Why should we never work with children or animals?

*Thurs 19 June to Sat 21 June, 7.30pm £10/£6*

Grupo XIX De Teatro presents

**Hysteria**

A Brazilian off-site production at Manchesters Victoria Baths.

*Thurs 19 June to Sat 21 June, 7.30pm £3/£2*

Contact presents

**At Home 08 resident: Akiel Chinelo**

Marking the final year of At Home residencies...

*Fri 11 July, 8pm £6/£4*

Differing Perspectives presents

**Space Dread**

Follow the journey of a young rebel who is sent to the end of time.

*Thurs 17 July to Sat 19 July, 7.30pm £6/£4*

Space 3 presents

**Buy/Sell**

Contact's own rising-stars in their new show

**Oxford Road, Manchester**

**Tickets/Info 0161 274 0600**

**[www.contact-theatre.org](http://www.contact-theatre.org)**

## Centre for New Writing

*Monday 30 June, 5pm, The John Thaw Studio Theatre, £3/£2*

**Joe Stretch and Neil Rollinson**

Join us for an early evening burst of poetry and prose with new novelist Joe Stretch and poet Neil Rollinson.

*Tuesday 1 July, 6.30pm, Whitworth Hall, £5/£3*

**Martin Amis Public Event**

Literature and Religion with James Wood and Graham Ward. Renowned novelist Martin Amis will be joined by noted critic James Wood and leading theologian Graham Ward for this, his third public debate at the Centre.

*Wednesday 23 July, 1pm, Central Library*

*Committee Room, FREE*

**Michael Symmons Roberts and Ian McGuire**

Drop into our free lunchtime reading to hear Michael Symmons Roberts and Ian McGuire read from their work.

To book tickets call 0161 275 8951, or visit

[www.quaytickets.com/WhatsOn/EventDetail.aspx?](http://www.quaytickets.com/WhatsOn/EventDetail.aspx?EventId=1822)

[EventId=1822](http://www.quaytickets.com/WhatsOn/EventDetail.aspx?EventId=1822)

**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)**

## International Society

### SPRING TRIPS

*Saturday 7 June*

**York**

*Sunday 8 June*

**Peak District visiting Matlock Bath and the Heights of Abraham**

*Saturday 14 June*

**Scarborough**

*Sunday 15 June*

**Tatton Park Medieval Fayre**

*Saturday 21 June*

**Liverpool European Capital of Culture guided coach tour**

*Sunday 22 June*

**North Wales visiting Llangollen and Powis Castle**

*Saturday 28 June*

**Stratford upon Avon (birthplace of William Shakespeare)**

*Sunday 29 June*

**Peak District visiting Poole's Cavern and Buxton**

*Saturday 5 July*

**Anglesey**

*Sunday 6 July*

**Blackpool**

*Saturday 12 July*

**Lake District visiting Conistone Water Festival and Windermere**

*Sunday 13 July*

**Formby and Southport**

*Saturday 19 July*

**Quarry Bank Mill and Dunham Massey Country Estate**

*Sunday 20 July*

**Yorkshire Dales visiting Bolton Abbey and Skipton 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@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:int.soc@manchester.ac.uk)**

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



## The Whitworth Art Gallery

### DISPLAYS/COLLECTIONS

**CityVisions until 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 & 30s, until 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.

**Anne Desmet: Urban Evolution until Sept 2008**

Urban Evolution features work made by Desmet in the last 10 years, including images based on the deterioration and regeneration of Manchester's Victoria Baths.

**Neverland: Rediscovering Child Art until Aug 2008**

Neverland explores the visual inventiveness and spontaneity of children's drawings and looks at how artists like Picasso, Klee and Miro have collected children's drawings and been inspired by their creativity.

### FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENTS

#### Colourful Sundays

*Every Sunday 1.30 – 3.30pm, Free no need to book*  
Every Sunday is Colourful Sunday. Join friends, family and artists for our popular Sunday drop-in creative workshops. There are new exciting arty activities to take part in every week, which explore creative techniques from drawing to creating your own punk peg dolls and robot head masks! Suitable for all ages.

#### Toddlerstastic Art Adventures!

*Workshops, every second Monday of the month, 10.30 – 11.30am. Free, please book on 0161 275 7450*  
Come and enjoy a story adventure around the gallery while creating your own mini masterpiece! Especially for those budding artists under five.

#### 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)**

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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 Devass Street**

**0161 275 3275**

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



## John Rylands Library (Deansgate)

Visit the historic John Rylands Library on Deansgate, central Manchester, 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.

**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.

**From Kashmir to Kandy: A South Asian Odyssey** until 29 September

This exhibition celebrates the diversity and vibrance of South Asia through the John Rylands Library's collections of South Asian books, manuscripts and archives.

**From Kashmir to Kandy: South Asian Arts Workshops**

Working in partnership with Kala Sangam, the Library is hosting a summer programme of workshops.

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

## 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**

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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: 12.15pm 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)

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0161 226 1139

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

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



## The Manchester Museum

**SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS**

**Lindow Man: A bog body mystery**

**FAMILY ACTIVITIES**

**June Big Saturday: Bug Day**

Saturday 21 June, 11am-4pm

Celebrate National Insect Week and get up close to live insects and specimens from the Museum's collection.

**Magic Carpet: Bugs and Insects**

Friday 27 June, 11am-12noon. £1, Under 5s.

Stories, rhymes and creepy crawlly craft activities.

Book on 0161 275 2648.

**TALKS AND TOURS:**

**Showcase seminar: Untangling the threads: Greek embroidery collections in British Museums**

Wednesday 4 June, 3-5pm. Free

With Ann French, The Whitworth Art Gallery. Drop-in.

**Bedouin Jerry Can Band**

Monday 9 June, 5.30-6.30pm. Book, £1

Performance of Bedouin Sufi and Rabba folk songs and dancing.

**Poetic Inspirations**

Thursday 12 June, 6.30-8pm. Free

Lindow Man inspired poetry reading and creative writing. Book on 0161 275 3274.

**Refugee Week: Give + Take**

Saturday 14 June, 1-3pm. Drop-in, free

Women Asylum Seekers Together (WAST) share their experiences and explore their links with Manchester.

**Walking Lindow Moss**

Saturday 14 June, 2-4pm, £3

Visit Lindow Moss and find out where Lindow Man was found. Book on 0161 275 2643.

**Ideas Café: Sacrificial Theory and Lindow Man**

Monday 16 June, 6.30-8pm. Free

Bryan Stith, Curator of Archaeology, explains his personal theory about Lindow Man's death. BSL interpreted. Book on 0161 275 3274.

**Summer School**

Monday 23 - Friday 27 June

Organised by the Museum and KNH-Centre for biomedical Egyptology. Book on 0161 275 3274

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

**Opening hours**

Open: Tues-Sat 10am - 5pm

Sun-Mon (and Bank Holidays) 11am - 4pm

FREE Admission

**The Manchester Museum**

Oxford Road, Manchester

0161 275 2634

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

## 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)



## Jodrell Bank

**EVENTS**

**First Move.2 Literary Festival Weekend**

The weekend marks the launch of the Big Science Read an initiative to get people reading and talking about the things that happen in Science and Science Fiction!

Fri 13 June, 7.30pm, £5

**The Culture of Spaceflight**

Piers Bizony, author of The Man Who Ran the Moon and How to Build Your Own Space Ship, gives a great talk on the ups and downs of our quest into space!

Sat 14 June, 1.30pm, FREE

**Rocket Workshop**

Come and find out how rockets work – and see how far you can make yours fly! This workshop is free of charge, but places are limited. Please call 01477 571339 to book.

Saturday 14 June, 7.30pm, £5

**Science and Civilisation**

Celebrated Science Fiction Author Brian Aldiss will talk about 'Science and Civilisation' in our 'Hot Spot' Pavilion.

Sun 6 July (additional charge £2 per person)

**Plant Fair**

Wed 16 July, 1.30 pm, £13.50

**Trees in Summer**

Join the Arboretum Curator for a talk on Trees in Summer followed by a guided walk of the Arboretum and afternoon tea. Booking is essential.

Fri 1 August, 8.30am, £8

**Total Solar Eclipse**

Join us for breakfast and view the partial solar eclipse.

Mon 4 to Fri 8 August and Mon 18 to Fri 22 August, 2pm, FREE

**Ask an Astronomer**

Ask a Jodrell Bank Astronomer all those burning questions about stars, planets or the telescope.

Sat 9 August, 9pm to midnight, £8.50/£6.50

**Perseids Meteor Shower Party**

Watch the Perseids meteor shower and use telescopes to view the planets, weather permitting.

**Summer opening hours**

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

**Jodrell Bank Observatory Visitor Centre**

Macclesfield, Cheshire

01477 571339

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

## Gig Guide

**MANCHESTER ACADEMY 1, 2 and 3**

**Flogging Molly**

Tue 3 June

**Black Kids**

Fri 6 June

**Stephen Malkmus & The Jicks**

Sat 7 June

**John Sebastian**

**The Road to Download**

Tue 10 June

**Cat Power**

Wed 11 June

**Isabel Campbell & Mark Lanegan**

Thur 12 June

**The Lancashire Hotpots**

Fri 13 June

**Blue Oyster Cult**

Sun 15 June

**Queensryche**

Tue 17 June

**Spocks Beard**

Fri 4 July

**Drive by Truckers**

Fri 8 Aug

**Nearly Dan**

Sat 13 Sept

**Frank Sidebottom & Charlie Chuck**

Fri 26 Sept

**Tickets from:**

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Piccadilly Box Office @ easy Internet Café (c/c)

0871 2200260

Royal Court (Liverpool) 0151 709 4321 (c/c)

**Students' Union**

Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL

0161 275 2930

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

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## Through the eyes of a child

**Esmé Ward, Head of Learning at The Whitworth Art Gallery, discusses children's creativity and its influence on art.**

"Our new exhibition 'Neverland: Rediscovering Child Art?' has just opened for the summer; an exhibition which explores the images and influences of child art. We saw a ready connection between this exhibition, our learning programmes for schools and our early years programme, as well as the family-friendly activities we run here at the Whitworth.

"Children's creativity is very powerful for parents and artists. We could make obvious links with works from our collection, like this 1937 work, 'Moon Over the Cottage', by Paul Klee (pictured).

"Many big names from 20th-century modern art, such as Jean Dubuffet, Matisse, Kandisky and Joan Miro, acknowledged the influence of children's work on their own work. In our exhibition, we pick out and explore these artists' relationships with child art through their art, through their own family relationships and through their words and stories.

"Paul Klee, for example, once talked about his five-year-old son, Felix, saying: 'The pictures my little Felix draws are better than mine.' Karel Appel described children's drawings as 'a gust of fresh air'. These artists were interested in the spontaneity and inventiveness of children and expressed their desire to recapture that energy in their own work. As well as revealing the inspiration that youthful creativity held for them, there's also a certain amount of wistfulness apparent in these artists talking about something that they couldn't return to.



Paul Klee, 'Moon Over the Cottage' (1937)

"We wanted to develop a show that was critically engaged and would provoke discussion, proving interesting to parents and children alike and giving them something that they could talk to each other about. Very rarely do we get to hear what children think and, arguably, they have the most insight into

their own creativity – so we've included children's ideas in the exhibition through our work with schools and families."

Neverland:Rediscovering Child Art? runs at The Whitworth Art Gallery until 17 August.

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

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### News Contact

#### News and story ideas

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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 12 noon 18 September

### Events Contact

#### Events and listings information

Philippa Adshead

tel 0161 275 2922

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

Deadline 12 noon 18 September

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