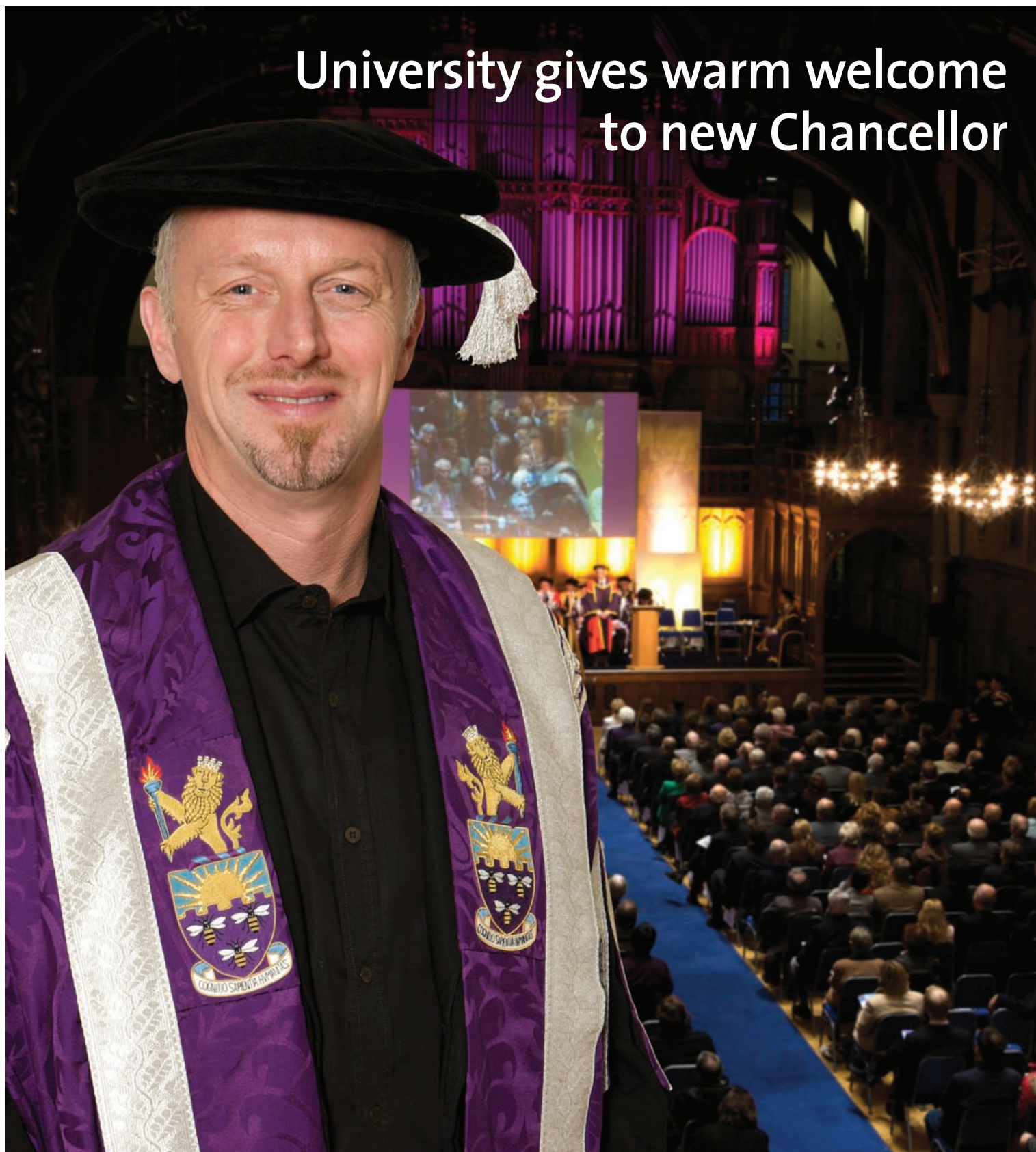


UniLife

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University gives warm welcome to new Chancellor



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Letter from the President



It has been easy for almost any institution to construe the outcomes of the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) in flattering terms.

One regional newspaper ran with a headline announcing that the RAE had shown its local post-1992 university to be "better than Oxford". It proceeded to explain (for those bothering to read the small print) that the local institution had outperformed Oxford in a single sub-classification within one of the many RAE fields of research.

Such cases are trivial, and presumably have little impact on public perceptions of the relative research standing of Oxbridge and the post-1992 sector. More generally, however, the emergence of widely divergent ranking criteria and accompanying "league tables" is a potential problem for UK higher education.

The spectacle of RAE "winners" popping up all over the country must risk leaving outside observers with the impression that universities have learned to "spin" the news with all the dexterity of campaigning politicians.

Amidst all the competing "noise" colleagues in the University and our external stakeholders might be forgiven for overlooking the enormity of Manchester's RAE achievement.

The 2008 RAE was a painstaking, comprehensive audit by national and international experts, and provides an essentially valid picture of the UK's research strengths. The problem is that genuine differences in the scale and profile of the research undertaken at an institutional level means that no one league table is able to capture its full significance.

Specialist institutions such as the London School of Economics, the Institute of Cancer Studies and the School of Oriental and African Studies, while relatively minor players in the overall national research effort, are among the nation's major centres of research activity and output in their specialist areas.

For such institutions, RAE outcomes in other fields are irrelevant; what counts is the evidence the RAE provides about their specialist research strength.

Research productivity is highly discipline specific, so it is as misleading to rank specialist institutions below broad-based research universities in terms of total output as it is to rank them above such institutions in terms of per capita research funding or research productivity.

Manchester has from the outset determined to measure itself as a research university primarily in terms of research power.

Naturally, we are also interested in the per capita output or funding of our research staff, and how we rank in particular fields of research.

Ultimately, however, it is by the scale, quality and impact of our total research performance that we wish to be judged. We want to know what impact research undertaken in The University of Manchester has on the wider international research effort, whether to defeat cancer, develop new sources of renewable energy, tackle trans-generational poverty, or understand biological systems – to name just a few peaks in our research profile.

A research power index answers such questions by measuring both the scale and the quality of the research we undertake.

The so-called medal table approach is a common sense way of measuring research power. Aggregating the number of researchers per institution receiving a 4* research rating (the highest available in 2008) provides incontrovertible evidence of strength in depth; as, indeed, does the alternative medal table approach combining 3* and 4* ranked staff.

Presumably, when the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) makes its forecast announcement in March 2009 about how the RAE results are being translated into research funding allocations to universities, the resulting funding table will also be a defensible indicator of research power.

A clear message of the 2008 RAE is that on the basis of research power – that is, in terms of the total volume of high quality research being contributed by higher education to the national research effort – Manchester now trails only Oxford and Cambridge.

Professor Alan Gilbert
President and Vice-Chancellor

University challenges dominance of ‘Golden Triangle’

The University has confirmed its place as one of the top-rated research institutions in the country – bringing to an end the dominance of the so-called ‘Golden Triangle’.

The results of the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), published in December, reveal the University has one of the most outstanding records for research in the country.

In the past, the major research universities in Oxford, Cambridge and London had dominated high quality research in the UK, giving rise to the idea of a ‘Golden Triangle’.

But the results of the RAE show that the quality and breadth of research in Manchester is now proving competitive with the London institutions.

In a wide range of areas – including cancer studies, dentistry, sociology and nursing and midwifery – research in Manchester ranks as the best in the country.

And the RAE also highlights significant levels of world leading research areas such as the biological sciences, engineering, development studies and music and drama.

The findings show there are more staff conducting research judged to be world leading or internationally excellent – graded 4* or 3* - than at any other university, excluding Oxford and Cambridge.

And they confirm that the University is firmly on course to meet its ambition of becoming one of the top 25 research-led universities in the world by 2015.

Commenting on the results, Professor Simon Gaskell, Vice-President (Research) said: “Some of us suspected that the 2008 RAE came rather too early to provide a definitive progress report on the University’s advance towards its 2015 objectives.

“Moreover the exercise has been understandably but essentially retrospective, in part assessing research output that preceded the benefits derived from the 2004 merger of UMIST and the Victoria University of Manchester.

“It is therefore particularly gratifying that the results have provided a clear affirmation of the University’s research strengths, a compelling vindication of the wisdom of the merger and clear evidence of the achievability of the University’s most ambitious objectives.



“By any measure, it is apparent that the old concept of a ‘Golden Triangle’ of Oxford, Cambridge and London is no longer relevant.

“The RAE 2008 exercise represents a comprehensive assessment of comparative research strengths. The outcome is an important input, with others, to the University’s continuing development of research strategy.

“All colleagues can take collective pride in the achievement of these results, based as they are on the enormous efforts of our researchers and of the broader community that provides technical and administrative support, and that contributes to other aspects of our core mission.”

As the tables reproduced on this page demonstrate in terms of both Research Quality and Research Power (Quality x Volume), there is no longer a ‘Golden Triangle’ in British higher education research.

The RAE results – which will have a future impact on the levels of funding awarded by the funding councils – are the most significant indication of the

quality of research that has been ongoing at the University since its launch in 2004.

The University of Manchester submitted research in 53 Units of Assessment, more than any other university in the UK.

And it is now one of only a handful of UK universities with an internationally significant research profile over a very wide range of subjects.

President and Vice-Chancellor of the University Professor Alan Gilbert also said: “The very best international teaching and learning universities are great research institutions, so the excellence in research demonstrated in the RAE is good news for our students.”

In the past four years, The University of Manchester has achieved a net growth of close to 1,000 new researchers and invested more than £403 million in new and refurbished facilities.

More information about the University’s performance in the RAE can be found at the web address below.

A table based on ‘Research Power’, which is a measure of quality and volume combined, puts Manchester in third position.

Ranking	Institution
1	University of Oxford
2	University of Cambridge
3	The University of Manchester
4	University College London
5	University of Edinburgh
6	Imperial College London

A ranking which looks at the volume of research activity judged to be ‘World-Leading’ (4*) and ‘Internationally Excellent’ (3*) shows Manchester in third position, behind Oxford and Cambridge.

Ranking	Institution
1	University of Oxford
2	University of Cambridge
3	The University of Manchester
4	University College London
5	University of Edinburgh
6	Imperial College London

A table of the major research universities according to quality alone places Manchester in sixth place.

Ranking	Institution
1	University of Cambridge
2	University of Oxford
3	London School of Economics
4	Imperial College London
5	University College London
6	The University of Manchester



Warm welcome for new Chancellor

Property developer Tom Bloxham was installed as Chancellor of the University in a ceremony full of pomp and splendour, warmth and humour.

Until last month the role had been held jointly by Co-Chancellors Anna Ford and Sir Terry Leahy, who had previously been Chancellors at the Victoria University of Manchester and UMIST respectively.

But at a ceremony attended by hundreds of staff, academics and supporters, Tom became the first Chancellor to be installed at the University since its inauguration, in 2004.

The historic day was celebrated in the grand surroundings of the Whitworth Hall, where Tom had graduated in Politics and Modern History just over 20 years earlier.

It was during his student days that the then young entrepreneur started to try his hand in the world of business, initially selling fire extinguishers door-to-door and later selling posters from a shop in Manchester's Affleck's Arcade.

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Since then he has built up one of the country's most successful property

development companies, Urban Splash, which is responsible for the redevelopment of many much-loved, but run-down, areas of the city.

Despite his outstanding professional success, with disarming modesty he repeatedly told the congregation at the Installation how humbled he was to have been elected as Chancellor.

"The University had a profound impact on my life," he said. "The University was the reason I came to Manchester and one of the reasons I stayed in Manchester."

And bringing laughter to the Hall, he later said: "It is daunting enough to follow either of the previous Co-Chancellors, but for one person to be expected to match their joint contribution over the past four years is an impossible task.

"I was thinking I hope I can be half as good a retailer as Anna Ford and half as good a tv presenter as Sir Terry Leahy."

Tom – whose responsibilities include serving on the board of the Arts Council England, chairing the Manchester International Festival and Director of Liverpool's Capital of Culture team - was clearest

when he spoke about his hopes to be an effective Chancellor, who would be an ambassador for the University on a local and national level.

He wanted, he said, "to let the world know that Britain has more than two world class universities and one of them was not in the south east".

Introducing Tom at the ceremony, Deputy President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell said: "Tom brings to the role of Chancellor an immense pride in the City of Manchester and surrounding regions and in the role the University plays in the city's social and economic development, leaving a legacy for future generations to enjoy.

"As a successful public figure with long-standing associations with both Manchester and the University, I believe he will play a valuable part in building on the existing links between the University and the city.

"I have no doubt that Tom Bloxham in his role as Chancellor will be a hugely valued friend and ambassador for the University as it seeks to realise its ambition to become one of the top 25 universities in the world by 2015."

Remarkable quartet honoured by University

Some of the world's leading minds from the world of science, music and business have been honoured by the University.

At the ceremony held to mark the Installation of the new Chancellor Tom Bloxham, the University also awarded honorary degrees to Professor Sir Tim Berners-Lee, Eddie Davies, Edward Gregson and Sir Bernard Lovell.

Professor Berners-Lee, who is director of the World Wide Web Consortium, is credited with having invented the World Wide Web in 1989. And both of his parents worked on the Manchester Mark 1 – the offspring of the famous Baby computer, which was first demonstrated at the University in June 1948.

Also honoured was composer Edward Gregson, who was principal of the Royal Northern College of Music for 12 years, until retiring in the summer.

They were joined by philanthropist Eddie Davies OBE, who is involved in a number of businesses throughout the world, has been chairman of leading manufacturing company Strix and is the owner of Bolton Wanderers Football Club.

But despite the incredible calibre of the company, it was pioneering radio astronomer Professor Sir Bernard Lovell who stole the show at the ceremony – commanding a lengthy standing ovation after accepting the award.

Sir Bernard, now aged 95 – after whom the landmark Lovell Telescope was named – has been spearheading research at Jodrell Bank, since he first went out to the site in 1945.

Until then the land had been used solely by the University's Botany Department. But Sir Bernard went there in a bid to escape the interference created by the electric trams close to the Oxford Road campus.

And within five years he was drawing up plans that would transform the landscape with the 250ft telescope, which now bears his name.



The building of the telescope in the 1950s went significantly over budget, which prompted widespread criticism from the press and politicians.

Only recently has Sir Bernard been able to admit publicly that the overspend had been because he had been made to change the design to track intercontinental missiles.

When the Soviet Union launched Sputnik in October 1957 the telescope was the only instrument on earth that was able to track the launch vehicle.

At the honorary degree ceremony Sir Bernard spoke of the "immense debt" he owed the University for the faith they had shown.

He said: "It is well known and well publicised the awful difficulties that I presented your University with in changing the design and by January 1957 we had overspent by several hundred thousand pounds.

"All work had come to a standstill and there was

no money to pay contractors to build the telescope and then one day I was summoned to a meeting in this building.

"I was expecting – and quite rightly – to be dismissed, for having carried out these changes to the design without proper authority.

"The University – when they heard the full story – agreed to underwrite a sum of £70,000 immediately and enable the bowl of the telescope to be completed. I owe the University an immense debt."

Under Sir Bernard's leadership, scientists at Jodrell Bank have used the ground-breaking telescope to make a number of fundamental discoveries – including the structure of the Galaxy and the discovery of quasars in the field of pulsar research.

Pictured (l-r): Edward Gregson, Professor Sir Tim Berners-Lee, Sir Bernard Lovell and Eddie Davies.

New Year's Honour for University academic

Leading mathematician Martin Taylor has been knighted in the New Year's Honours list, in recognition of his contribution to the world of science.

Professor Martin Taylor, who is Vice President of the Royal Society, has been a Professor of Pure Mathematics at the University since 1986.

In the early years of his academic career, Professor Taylor's research focused on the properties and structures of algebraic numbers. And more recently he has studied various aspects of arithmetic geometry.

During his distinguished and prolific career, he has already published five books and more than 70 papers.

But as well as pursuing his own academic interests he has spearheaded a national drive to inspire the next generation of young scientists and been at the heart of the Royal Society.

Commenting on his knighthood, Professor Taylor, aged 56, said: "I received a letter about six weeks before it was announced, but it didn't seem real until the New Year. It is a huge honour.

"I have worked very hard for the Royal Society over the last four years. Before that I was President of the London Mathematical Society. And before that I was also chairman of the steering group for the International Review of Mathematics. So it feels like this is real recognition and a stamp of approval of these activities.

"I have been at the University since 1986 and I have had amazing support."

Professor Taylor is due to collect the honour in July.

Meanwhile, former member of staff Diana Kloss – who continues to be an honorary senior lecturer in Occupational Health – has been awarded an MBE.

Practicing barrister Diana, aged 70, worked at the University for 42 years. And when she retired from her post, as senior lecturer in the School of Law, she became an honorary senior lecturer in the School of Medicine.

Diana continues to be a part-time judge at Employment Tribunals in Manchester and Liverpool, a member of the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council, an ACAS arbitrator and a member of the CJD incidence committee.



She was awarded the MBE for her work in the field of occupational health.

"I am very honoured because I have been nominated for this by the occupational health professionals with whom I work," said Diana. "To be recognised by one's colleagues in this way is one of the greatest achievements of my life. It is also recognition for all the people who have helped me over the years."



Student snaps up prize

It's not unusual to take a few snaps when you are away from home, but business student Alistair Howarth has won national recognition for his collection of photographs.

Alistair, who is studying for a BSc in International Business at the Manchester Business School, spent the past academic year at the University of Navarra, in Pamplona, Northern Spain.

He recorded his time in Europe with his camera. He took a number of photographs on the theme of 'home or away?', including the stunning image on the left. And then he submitted his portfolio to the competition, run by the Erasmus Programme.

The judges, who included representatives of the British Council, selected Alistair as the winner of the £500 national photography prize. And now he has been presented with his prize by Sarah Lambert, from the European Commission in the UK.

Alistair, aged 22, from Hexham, near Newcastle, said: "I was quite



pleased with the photos that I took, but I never in a million years thought that I would actually win the competition. It was phenomenal to win.

"I always liked taking photographs when I was on holiday and then I just started taking my camera everywhere I went. It was easier to take impressive shots in

Spain than on a rainy day in Manchester."

Despite his photographic success, Alistair – who says he would recommend a year abroad to anyone – isn't tempted by the idea of a career behind the camera. Instead he says he still intends to pursue his planned career in the banking industry.

Whitworth sends Blake on tour

An exhibition from the Whitworth Art Gallery focusing on the art of William Blake has gone on tour to a museum in Seoul.

'Blake's Shadow: William Blake and his Artistic Legacy' was curated by Dr Colin Trodd, who is a lecturer in Art History at the University.

It brings together 60 watercolours, prints, paintings and illustrated books by Blake, as well as works that he has influenced over the past two centuries.

The exhibition – which is currently on display at the Museum of Art, at Seoul National University – is the first time that Blake's work has ever been seen in East Asia.

New 'Learning Commons' to be at heart of the student community

The University is drawing up plans for a new 'Learning Commons' at the heart of the campus to meet the needs of 21st century students.

'Learning Commons' are being developed at a growing number of universities around the world.

Typically they include PC terminals, interactive learning facilities, quiet study areas, social learning spaces and a café.

And now plans are being drawn up for a similar facility on the site of the Old Refectory and Moberly Tower.

The concept for the 'Learning Commons' at this University is to transform the Moberly Tower area into a flexible learning space that would provide integrated learning environments supported by advanced technologies.

"The creation of the 'Learning Commons' was one of the most ambitious recommendations to arise from the recent Review of Undergraduate Education," said Professor Colin Stirling, Vice-President for Teaching and Learning.

"Situated at the heart of the campus - close to the John Rylands University Library and the Students' Union - it will be a hub for student-centred activities.

"It will provide our student population with additional learning space that is technology-rich and meet the needs of 21st century learners. And we hope it will become the beating heart of the student community."

The space will provide facilities for private study, group work, use of the library's digital information, internet and the institutional 'Virtual

Learning Environment (VLE)', online research, the practice of presentations, use of academic support services or conversation over a coffee.

It will provide a variety of learning spaces, including flexible rooms for group work, quiet spaces for lone-working, and 'smart classrooms' for IT-dependent learning-support activities. A series of 'specialised zones' could also provide advanced facilities including video and audio production and editing, video conferencing, a gaming and visualisation zone, and a multimedia gallery.

Further details about the project – which is being developed jointly through JRULM, Teaching and Learning and IT Services - will be released over the next few months, as decisions are made about the scale, budget and timetable for the project.

Late night calls raise funds from University's friends in the States

Students from across the University have been returning to campus in the middle of the night to make contact with alumni in the United States.

Almost 4,000 of the University's former students now live in America. And a team of 30 current students have spent three weeks calling up to 1,250 of them.

The alumni were keen to hear how student life has changed in recent years. And the students enjoyed swapping stories of life on campus.

But as well as being a chance to catch up the calls raised significant sums for The North American Foundation for The University of Manchester (NAFUM), which offers financial support for students, research and scholarship at the University.

Since 2004 \$138,695 has been raised through NAFUM. And this year it is set to smash the \$175,000 mark.

Among the projects supported by NAFUM is the Opportunity Manchester Scholarship Programme. Ten outstanding local students receive NAFUM Access Scholarships, which provide them with a £1,000 bursary in their first year.

Opportunity Manchester Scholar Samuel Ratcliffe, who is studying for a BEng (Hons) in Aerospace Engineering, says the funds have already proved invaluable.

"The scholarship has made a huge difference to me as I am studying a particularly intense course and could not devote myself to it anywhere near as much if I had to work a part-time job," said Samuel.

"The money from NAFUM donors has meant that I can focus my efforts on my work and especially exam revision in December and May."

NAFUM donors also support solutions-driven research in areas of national and international importance



through providing Research Impact Scholarships for PhD students.

And they support students from developing countries – including

Malawi and Uganda - through the Global Outreach Scholarships programme, which provides funds for living costs, flights and tuition fees.



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Exhibition pays homage to forgotten Bollywood legacy

Photographs from Bollywood movies are taking centre stage at the Contact Theatre, as part of an exhibition that has been curated by University researcher Dr Rajinder Dudrah.

The ground-breaking exhibition brings together a number of images taken by Bollywood photographer Damodar Kamat.

These 'action stills' are used for posters, press and magazine advertising. And they are routinely copied on hand-painted billboards across India.

Dr Dudrah, from the School of Arts, Histories and Cultures, says they are an important aspect of Bollywood culture, which until now have not been given the attention they deserve.

The exhibition continues at the Contact Theatre until Saturday, 28 March 2009.

Library trials 24-hour opening through exam period

There has been no need to ask what time the library closes for the past month . . . because it hasn't.

Students have been able to use the John Rylands University Library around the clock for the past four weeks, as 24-hour opening has been trialled on campus for the first time.

The pilot scheme was timed to coincide with the exam period at the end of the semester. And the plans were drawn up in response to requests from students.

Although there was no access to books, between 11.30pm and 8am, the building was popular with students in need of computer access or somewhere warm and quiet to study.

Now library staff are looking at the possibility of repeating the pilot scheme later in the year, to coincide with the exams at the end of the second semester.

Katy Woolfenden, head of public services at the JRULM, said: "What we are doing is responding to student feedback that they wanted to access the library for extended periods, especially during exam periods. The pilot is to see how it works and how it is used."

For security reasons access to the library space was limited to certain areas during the extended hours. And arrangements were made for the night bus service to run through the night.

Katy says many students welcomed the extended opening hours because they like to have somewhere they can study away from their home.

And she says that while some night owls like to study through into the early hours, she says others have welcomed the chance to start studying at six or seven in the morning.



Radio-astronomers form telescope the size of Earth

Astronomers at Jodrell Bank have been at the heart of a global bid to observe three distant galaxies, known as quasars, which have massive black holes at their cores.

Seventeen telescopes across Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and South America – including several operated from the University's Jodrell Bank Observatory – took part in the 33-hour project.

By working together, as a real-time single gigantic instrument, the telescopes were able to produce high-quality images.

"By combining information from such widely separated radio telescopes we can produce incredibly sharp images with up to one hundred times better resolution than

those available from the best optical telescopes," said Simon Garrington, from the University's School of Physics and Astronomy, who is Director of the UK's MERLIN/VLBI National Facility.

"It's like being able to sit here in Manchester and read a newspaper in London".

Using an astronomical technique called electronic, real-time Very Long Baseline Interferometry, or e-VLBI, the 17 participating telescopes could observe the same object simultaneously.

Then data from each telescope could be streamed across the globe through high-speed optical networks to a purpose-built supercomputer at JIVE in the Netherlands, which combined the signals collected from



instruments across the world. Results could be accessed by the astronomers within hours of conducting an observation.

The project was held last month to co-incide with the opening event for the International Year of Astronomy 2009 (IYA 2009) in Paris.

Manchester student wins top music award

A talented composer - whose music draws heavily on her mathematics background – has won a prestigious award.

Emily Howard, aged 29, who is currently completing a PhD in music at

the University, is one of three composers and five artists to receive a Paul Hamlyn Foundation Award of £45,000.

Emily says the award will give her the flexibility to spend time writing some orchestral material.

She said: "It's amazing to receive this award and it really can be described as a life changing event.

"It will give me more freedom to decide what I really want to do with my music. Over the next few years, I'd like to write longer orchestral pieces - and this award will help me do that."

Emily, whose PhD is being supervised by renowned composer Professor John Casken, has already been appointed as Liverpool City Council Composer in Residence and has also secured a music lecturer post at Leeds University

One of her pieces – called Magnetite – opened the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra's Capital of Culture season with principal conductor Vasily Petrenko earlier in the year.

"My techniques are derived in part from mathematical principles, which is not surprising as I studied maths as an undergraduate," said Emily. "But intuition also plays an important role in the creative process.

"Magnetite is dedicated to my 93-year-old grandmother who has lived in Liverpool for most of her life. She was a chemist – so as Magnetite is the oldest known magnetic substance - it's very appropriate that I wrote this piece for her."

Meanwhile members of the University's Wind Orchestra have won their way into the finals of the National Concert Band Festival, after winning the regional final.

The group – which includes University members from across the NorthWest – will compete for the top prize in Cardiff in April.





Manchester gets £20 million for science training

The University has been awarded £20 million as part of a national drive to train a new wave of scientists and engineers.

The funding from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) is part of a £250 million initiative, which will establish 44 centres for doctoral training across the UK over five years.

These centres will tackle some of the biggest problems currently facing Britain such as climate change, energy, ageing population and high-tech crime. And they are set to provide a radical alternative to the traditional 'lone scholar' PhD route.

The University will lead three of the training centres - including one for Nanoscience, an industrial training centre for Nuclear Engineering, and a training centre for nuclear fission research - which will all be run in partnership with other universities.

In addition a training centre for advanced metallic systems which is being led by the University of Sheffield will be run in partnership with The University of Manchester.

Professor Nigel Vincent, Associate Vice-President for Graduate Education at the University, said: "The linking of world-class research and world-class doctoral education



is key to The University of Manchester's vision.

"Our success in the doctoral training centres competition both recognises and advances that ambition.

"This success will allow us to build stronger and better links at graduate level both with other leading national and international institutions and with industry."

The EPSRC Centres for Doctoral Training have been described as "a bold new approach" to training PhD students, creating communities of researchers working on current and future challenges.

Professor Vincent added: "The training centres are a key component of the newly formed Manchester Doctoral College, which will enhance Manchester's position as a leader in graduate education both nationally and internationally."

Minister of State for Science and Innovation Lord Drayson, who announced the new centres, said: "Britain faces many challenges in the 21st century and needs scientists and engineers with the right skills to find answers to these challenges, build a strong economy and keep us globally competitive.

"EPSRC's doctoral training centres will provide a new wave of engineers and scientists to do the job.

"These new centres will help to develop clean renewable energy, fight high tech crime, assist in reducing carbon emissions, and discover new healthcare solutions for an ageing population.

"This is an exciting, innovative approach to training young researchers and will help build a better future for Britain."

In brief

£5 million for graphene research

Experts at the University have been awarded £5million to research uses for graphene.

The new 'super carbon' was discovered in Manchester in 2004 and its electronic properties have already led to research into its use as a possible replacement for sensors, transistors and semi-transistors.

Researchers believe graphene may have uses in many other areas. And the Centre for Innovation Through Materials Science, Chemistry and Engineering will examine possible applications in relation to material science, chemistry and engineering.

The University has been awarded the £5 million - jointly with Lancaster University - as part of the EPSRC 2008 Science and Innovation Awards.

Social Statistics Launch

The new discipline area of Social Statistics, within the School of Social Sciences, has been launched at the University with a one-day event.

The launch - 'Social Statistics in Manchester' - featured a number of talks on themes of social statistics relating to the discipline, the School, the University and the city.

And the aim of the event - which also included visiting Professor Ray Chambers - was designed to generate further interest in the field.

It also set out to demonstrate the breadth of statistical work, the applications of statistics across the University to topics as diverse as ethnicity, social change, social networks, confidentiality and privacy, and the use of social statistics in a local authority context.

University Challenge

Manchester has reached the semi-finals of University Challenge for the fifth year in a row.

The team - consisting of captain Matthew Yeo (PhD in the History of the Book), Simon Baker (Politics and Modern History), Henry Pertinez (PhD in Pharmacokinetics) and Reuben Roy (Medicine) - beat LSE in the quarter finals by a score of 210-165.

In the semi-finals - which will be broadcast on BBC2 on Monday 9 February, 2009 - they will face Lincoln College, Oxford.

The University of Manchester 2009





Fungal pill could provide relief for asthma sufferers

Thousands of severe asthma sufferers could benefit from antifungal medication, according to new research from the University.

Scientists from the School of Medicine have found that pills already used to treat everyday fungal infections greatly improve symptoms of asthma, in those patients who have an allergic reaction to one or more fungi.

The study, led by Professor David Denning and Dr Robert Niven, is the first to show that antifungal therapy can improve the symptoms of those who suffer from severe asthma.

Dr Robert Niven, from the School of Medicine and the University Hospital of South Manchester, said: "This pioneering study indicates that fungal allergy is important in some patients with severe asthma, and that oral antifungal therapy is worth trying in some difficult-to-treat patients.

"Clearly itraconazole will not suit everyone, and is not always helpful, but, when it is, the effect is dramatic."

As part of the eight-month study researchers compared the oral antifungal drug itraconazole with a placebo.

They focused on 58 patients – who all tested positive for fungal allergy – at the University Hospital of South Manchester, Salford Royal, Royal Preston and North Manchester General hospitals.

And they found that nearly 60 per cent of patients taking the drug showed significant improvement in their symptoms. Within four months of stopping therapy asthma and nasal symptoms deteriorated.



Feather scientists have it all wrapped up

Material scientists have developed a way of making wrapping paper – from feathers.

The team from the School of Materials – led by Professor Chris Carr – began the process by breaking down and filtering large amounts of duck, goose and poultry feathers.

Then they used special machinery – unique to the University – to turn the feathery pulp into the innovative paper.

According to the National Farmers' Union (NFU), 10 million turkeys are consumed in the UK over the festive Christmas period alone. But the vast majority of feathers plucked from these birds are incinerated or end up in landfill.

As well as paper, scientists at the University have been able to use feathers to make egg

boxes and plant pots that are potentially flame retardant and more biodegradable than traditional plastic plant pots.

Researchers believe these feather-based pots may also offer enhanced fertilising properties as a result of the nitrogen supplied by the protein in the feathers.

Professor Chris Carr, said: "We are very excited and encouraged by our results and the prototypes we have produced, although there is still some way to go before products start to appear on the shelves.

"We see this as a real opportunity to put large volumes of poultry feathers to good use."

The University is now working with industrial partners to develop the necessary processes and technology to produce commercially viable feather-based products.

Study to improve the health of turkeys

Researchers from the University are scrutinising the way birds breathe to help farmers breed fit, healthy turkeys with bigger, juicier breast meat.

Dr Jonathan Codd and Dr Peter Tickle, from the Faculty of Life Sciences, are studying changes in breathing mechanics in developing birds and hope their findings will ensure healthy turkeys grow more efficiently.

In particular they are looking at the uncinate processes – the bony levers which extend off the ribs and which help the birds to breathe.

Working in collaboration with Aviagen Turkeys Ltd (ATL), they have already found that the levers are essential to the breathing mechanism of birds as they facilitate movements of the ribs and sternum.

They have found the hardening of the levers from cartilage to bone is linked to the onset of air breathing and increases in muscle mass.

Talking about poverty in Rajendrapur

Researchers from the School of Environment and Development, led by the Brooks World Poverty Institute (BWPI), have been in Bangladesh to launch an annual 'conversation' event with those living in extreme poverty.

The 'Rajendrapur Conversation', named after the area of Dhaka where it was held, was carried out by the University, in partnership with one of the world's largest NGOs, BRAC.

As part of the project those living in the area – which is one of the poorest in the world – were asked how adaptation of their homes and livelihoods could help them withstand the effects of climate change.

BWPI was accompanied on the trip by experts from Eco Cities, based at the Manchester Architecture Research Centre, to help draw up an action plan and a series of pilot projects – which, if successful, could be scaled up across urban Bangladesh through donor aid.

There are plans to repeat the 'Conversation' event in different countries each year. And the wider aim of the initiative is to launch a strategic global partnership between those living in poverty and world-class research to help eradicate poverty.

Meanwhile, in Manchester, BWPI and WIEGO (Women in Informal Employment, Globalising and Organising) have held a panel discussion on 'New Perspectives on Informality'.

Informal workers – including self-employed, street vendors, domestic employees and day labourers –



often work long hours, in hazardous conditions and for low pay. They constitute the majority of the labour force in developing countries.

The event, at the University, looked at the role of urban planning policies in reducing social exclusion against informal workers, trade policy, migration, and social protection, as well as the need to incorporate informality into international policy.

Sniff of success for scientist

A scientist who developed a new and fast method for detecting potentially harmful airborne chemicals has scooped the UMIP Technology Commercialisation Award for Engineering and Physical Sciences.

Professor Krishna Persaud, from the School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Sciences, established MultiSensor Systems Limited (MSS) in 2007, to commercialise technology capable of sensing volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

The MSS monitoring system is designed for use in industrial and environmental situations. It is the culmination of 20 years of research in the field of the sense of smell, in which Professor Persaud is a leading authority. And it has been successfully commercialised with assistance from UMIP.

Meanwhile MTI, in collaboration with UMIP, have hosted a Dragons' Den style event to help turn ideas and inventions into successful commercial ventures.

More than 140 budding entrepreneurs, including professors and graduate students, attended the event, which was intended to show the audience that a spin-out company can be an achievable and attractive option for researchers.

Sharon O'Kane, co-founder and CSO at Renovo; Alex Hoye, CEO Latitude Group; Steve Purdham, CEO We7; and Paul Strzelecki, partner at Yorkville Advisors all offered insights based on their own entrepreneurial experiences.



Research shows performance can bring museums to life

Actors can be used to unlock the 'unheard' stories hidden behind the artefacts in museums, according to research from the School of Arts, Histories and Cultures.

The Performance, Learning and Heritage (PLH) research project – led by Professor Tony Jackson – analysed the use and long-term impact of drama at four sites, including the Manchester Museum (pictured), over three-and-a-half years.

The team of academics looked at the varied uses of drama as a medium of learning and interpretation in museums and historic sites.

They found that it had the power to reveal and provoke active engagement with the hidden stories and people behind the exhibits on show.

But they also found that the success of the projects depended on the reaction of visitors, how well they

were prepared – and particularly whether they were willing to make the transition from 'visitor' to 'audience'.

The research findings have been published in a report, with an accompanying DVD. Professor Jackson says they will have implications for the future professional practice of educational theatre in museums.

Professor Jackson said: "The findings from the research are many, and they raise some important questions about the impact of drama in museum settings upon a range of audiences

"At its best, museum performance has value and long-term impact. It enhances the visitor's appreciation and critical understanding of the subject in question and can engender empathy with other life experiences from history.

"But the research also shows that the quality of a visitor's experience is governed by a complex array of factors, personal, cultural, institutional.

"It is in the detailed understanding of the transitions and oscillations that take place between 'visitor', 'audience', 'participant' and 'learner', where the research has been most productive."

Details of how to order the report and DVD can be found on the PLH website below.



Nina's know-how

Many people born in the New York borough of the Bronx, have immigrant parents or grandparents, and grow up with a feeling for people crossing borders and putting down roots yet keeping their ties to far away families or homelands. But few such people are inspired to build on that experience and become one of the world's experts on transnational migration.

Professor Nina Glick Schiller, Director of the Research Institute for Cosmopolitan Cultures (RICC) of the Faculty of Humanities and an anthropologist with an international reputation, is such a person. Her grandparents were part of that mighty migration which took them from Eastern Europe to the United States to start a new life.

"I was always drawn to the human experience of migration and cities," she says. "When I discovered anthropology at

university, it was love at first sight, a calling if you like. My commitment was immediate and has remained so. But in those days anthropologists were not very interested in international migration. It's very different now – there's a great demand."

That commitment evolved into a labour of love that changed the academic world by, in effect, establishing a new discipline. Together with two like-minded women living near one another in the Bronx, Nina decided to write a book about the subject.

"We worked on it at night and in the early hours of the morning for more than five years," she recalls. "We used to throw pebbles at each other's windows to wake our writing partner up without waking up the children. But we knew that we had to get the book written."

The result was *Nations Unbound: Transnational Projects, Postcolonial Predicaments and Deterritorialized Nation-States*, published in 1994 by Gordon & Breach. It took off, went round the world and established itself as a classic. Nina wrote it with her friends Linda Basch and Christine Szanton Blanc. The fact that she had taken up an academic post at the University of New Hampshire helped them to get some academic credibility – and get the book published. "I have been writing about the subject ever since," she says modestly.

But her interests are widespread. As an undergraduate at New York University, she did three majors – Anthropology, Sociology and Political Science. And she also had a keen interest in public health.

"I've been interdisciplinary from the very beginning," she says. "I've read the literature and I



know the methodologies. It's served me very well and never more so than now."

Nina is enthusiastic about the RICC because it is a hub of interdisciplinary research within the Faculty of Humanities with commitments for co-responsibility from three Schools: Languages, Linguistics and Cultures; Arts, Histories and Cultures; and Social Sciences.

"We're interested in all human experience and that makes it really exciting," she says. "The last 15 years have seen a rediscovery of cosmopolitanism, but there is no other actual institute with the interdisciplinary scope of ours. We're ahead of the game."

That is what persuaded her to move with her anthropologist husband, Professor Stephen Reyna, from New England to Manchester.

"I could see that the RICC was right for this time, for this city and for this University," she says.

Nina is particularly excited about the Institute's Launch Festival, planned for the first week of March 2009, entitled Whose Cosmopolitanism? Centred at the Town Hall, with a film showing at

the Cornerhouse and an art exhibit at the Victoria Baths, the Festival will cover such topics as Migration and Belonging, Common Places and Imagined Politics and it will feature debates, workshops, new writings and exhibitions.

Cosmopolitanism can mean different things to different people, but it certainly embraces the world and a freedom from national limitations and prejudices. It is clearly highly relevant to current challenges associated with immigration, racialism, minorities and divisions in our cities.

"The term goes back to the Stoics and the Greeks," says Nina. "There are many definitions. We use the word, but also question it. I'm interested in the definition that identifies those people who are open to the world and wish to break down barriers, without denying their own distinct identity or way of being.

"There is a myth that there is such a thing as homogeneity and uniformity across national territory. This pretence of homogeneity causes local people to blame everything on the foreigners.

"In fact, there is already a multiplicity of identities within a nation. Immigrants add to the mix and it is not possible for them to live in a new place and not change or cause change."

For that reason, she is delighted to be living in Manchester: "If you walk in the city and see it with fresh eyes, it's quite remarkable. You see people from different cultures hanging out together." She and Stephen live in Old Trafford, which she describes as "quite wonderful", because of its cultural mix.

Nina has also always been a great believer in community involvement. In New York City she has, for instance, worked over the years with convicted arsonists, people with AIDS, the homeless, mentally ill and family support groups in a South Bronx housing project. In New Hampshire she worked with immigrants and refugees from all over the world.

"I have always believed in doing research with community involvement," she says.

When she was doing her PhD at Columbia, more than 30 years ago, she studied how institutions in New York City encouraged immigrants from Haiti to organize as a separate ethnic community. At that time there were only five Haitian organisations - 20 years later there were more than 100.

When she began she says there were no jobs for Caribbeanists, since the region was seen as hybrid in culture and therefore not meriting study. Now the Caribbean is the source of major research themes, including diaspora, transnationalism, hybridity and creole cultures.

But of course, Nina points out, there is no such thing as a pure culture. Every culture is a constantly changing mixture.

To say that no-one could be better qualified, in experience and attitude, to lead the venture of this new Institute is stating the obvious. You could say, to use her word, it's a calling.

CV

Name

Nina Glick Schiller

Position

Director, Research Institute for Cosmopolitan Cultures, Faculty of Humanities; Professor of Social Anthropology, School of Social Sciences, The University of Manchester

Education

1975 Columbia University PhD in Anthropology

1966 New York University Majors: Sociology, Political Science

Career

2007 - 2009 Hayes Research Professor, Humanities Centre, The University of Manchester

2003 -2008 Professor of Anthropology, University of New Hampshire

2000- Research Associate, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology

1994-2003 Associate Professor, University of New Hampshire

1991-1993 Assistant Professor, University of New Hampshire

1988-1991 Postdoctoral Fellow, Institute for Health, Rutgers

1984-1987 Research Associate, Center for Social Sciences, Columbia University

1983-1985 Researcher, New York Psychiatric Institute

1981-1983 Researcher, Office of the Mayor of NYC

1977-79 Director of Academic Advising, Northern Kentucky University

1974-77 Assistant Professor, Visiting, University of Cincinnati

What's On



Courses for the Public

Thurs 19 Feb, 7pm, £7

Roscoe Lecture, A Stroke of Bad Luck: Understanding Brain Disease

Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell

An insight into the astonishing discoveries that have been made in neuroscience over recent years by one of the University's most popular and accessible speakers.

Sat 7 Feb, 10am-4pm, £45

Edward Carpenter: Rebel against Victorian Values

Professor Sheila Rowbotham, renowned socialist feminist theorist and writer, will lead this exciting day focusing on the life and radical politics of the gay activist, poet and social philosopher who was a leading figure in the late 19th/early 20th century Britain.

Sat 7 Feb, 10am-4pm, £45

Palaeontology – Biomechanics, Tracks and Traces

Peter Falkingham

This day school will provide an overview of how modern methods, predominantly taken from the engineering fields, can be applied to palaeontological problems to understand extinct life.

Sat 21 Feb, 10am-4pm, £45

Plants Past and Present

Dr Susannah Lydon

A hands on day school that uses fossil evidence to track the history of plant life on earth from its origin in the ocean. It will explain and illustrate the major evolutionary events that created the extraordinary diversity of plant life on this planet and place many familiar modern plants in the context of geological time.

Sat 21 Feb, 10am-4pm, £45

Gender Jokes and Brain Studies

Dr Pete Mann

How do recent findings about the brain's architecture and nature-nurture help explain very small – yet noteworthy – differences in the neurology between girls and boys growing up to behave as men and women.

Sat 21 Feb, 10am-4pm, £45

Girl with a Pearl Earring

Creina Mansfield and Christine Musgrove

Vermeer's painting *Girl with a Pearl Earring* inspired the novel of the same name which in turn was made into a film. This day school will explore the relationship between Vermeer's paintings and Tracy Chevalier's interpretation of his life in 17th century Delft.

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For a full list of all our courses and an application form please visit our website or call in at our Reception, 10am – 4pm, Monday to Friday. Pre-enrolment is required. We do not accept telephone bookings. Bursaries are available for those on low income.

CCE, 1st Floor, Ellen Wilkinson Building
0161 275 3275

www.manchester.ac.uk/coursespublic

Jodrell Bank

Ask an Engineer/Astronomer

Mon 16 - Fri 20 Feb, 2pm

Ask a Jodrell Bank Astronomer or Engineer all those burning questions you have about the telescope or Jodrell Bank. No extra charge.

Exclusives – Behind the scenes with an Astronomer

Sat 28 Feb, 10.30am

Join a Jodrell Bank Astronomer on a tour of the observatory, taking in the other telescopes Jodrell has and the control room, followed by lunch.

Jodrell Bank Observatory Visitor Centre
Macclesfield, Cheshire

01477 571339

www.manchester.ac.uk/jodrellbank/viscen

Contact Theatre

Small Worlds – A Short Adventure For One

Tues 3 Feb – Sat 7 Feb, 3.30-5.30pm and 7.30-9.30pm, (£8/£5)

An interactive show for one - with live performance, music & digital projection.

Contact Young Tech Team

Mon 9 Feb, 7pm, Free

Giving young people the opportunity to learn from Contact's professional technicians.

Monday Drop

Mon 9 Feb, 7pm, Free

Drop-in performance and writing workshops for young people led by professionals.

Song of Songs by Sonia Hughes

Wed 11 Feb – Sat 21 Feb, 8pm, £10/£6

An exploration of love from the writer of *Quarantine's Susan and Darren*. BSL performance 20 February.

Bollywood to Go

Thurs 12 & Fri 13, £6/£4

A selection of films and workshops to accompany the Bollywood Stills exhibition.

Raw Jam: Seductive Shakespeare

Fri 13 Feb, 1pm, Free

A free afternoon of unadulterated passion to kick-start the Valentine's weekend.

Love for All

Sat 14 Feb, 9pm, £8/£5

Acclaimed performance artist David Hoyle invites you to an alternative Valentine's experience.

Open Stage Week

Mon 16 – Sat 21 Feb, Free

Join us for a week of events to launch the Free Ticket Initiative.

Venus and the Killer Bees

Fri 20 Feb, 8pm, £6/£4

Work-in-progress of a brand-new dancehall musical, *Venus and the Killer Bees*.

Henri Oguike Dance Company 10th Anniversary Tour

Thurs 26 Feb, 8pm, £10/£6

A retrospective of work by award-winning choreographer Henri Oguike. Live music by Pávão Quartet.

Verbally Challenged

Wed 4 March, 7.30pm, £5

Five writers compete for your vote in order to win £100.

Oxford Road, Manchester

Tickets/Info 0161 274 0600

www.contact-theatre.org

Gig Guide

MANCHESTER ACADEMY 1, 2 and 3

Wed 4 Feb - £8 Adv

Wed 4 Feb - £10 Adv

Thurs 5 Feb - £10 Adv

Sat 7 Feb - £15 Adv

Sun 8 Feb - £8 Adv

Mon 9 Feb - £13 Adv

Wed 11 Feb - £8 Adv

Thurs 12 Feb - £10.58 Adv

Fri 13 Feb - £8 Adv

Sat 14 Feb - £10 Adv

Fri 6 Mar - £12.50 Adv

Tickets from:

Students' Union, Oxford Road

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

0871 2200260

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

Students' Union

Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL

0161 275 2930

www.manchesteracademy.net

Interpartysystem

The Gaslight Anthem

Chiodos

Soulfly

Peter Dinklage

The View

Mongrel

Ida Maria

Forever The Sickest Kids

Magazine Aftershow Party

Peter Bjorn & John

The Manchester Museum

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

Lindow Man: A Bog Body Mystery until 19 April

The discovery of a preserved body of a man in a peat bog at Lindow Moss, Cheshire, in 1984. Seven different people provide a range of perspectives on the life and death of a man who returned to us after nearly 2,000 years.

Lindow Moss: A Place of Finding until 19 April

This photographic exhibition documents the landscape at Lindow Moss; the mysterious place where the preserved body of Lindow Man was found.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Darwin's Big Birthday Bash

Sat 14 Feb, 11am-4pm

Celebrate the 200th birthday of Charles Darwin in this fun-packed activity day. To find out more, visit our website.

February Half-term - Lindow Man Mania

Mon 16 – Fri 20 Feb, 11am-4pm

Come along for a week of Lindow Man related activities. To find out more, visit our website.

Magic Carpet: Polar Bear, Polar Bear

Fri 27 Feb, 11am-12noon

Storytelling activity session for the under fives

Big Saturday: Sciencetastic

Sat 7 Mar, 11am-4pm

Celebrate National Science and Engineering Week and meet scientists from The University of Manchester.

TALKS AND TOURS

A Medical History of Egypt in Museum Collections

Wed 4 Feb, 3-5pm, FREE

With Jackie Campbell, KNH Centre for Biomedical Egyptology. (Drop-in)

Spring Festival Walk on Lindow Moss

Sat 7 Feb 2-4pm, £3

Visit the mysterious place where Lindow Man was found. Book on 0161 275 2648, 10+.

Ideas Café: DNA and the Ancient World

Mon 23 Feb, 6-8pm, FREE

Explore how biomolecular science can be used to find out more about the lives of ancient people with Terry Brown. Book on 0161 275 2648

MANCHESTER CAFÉ SOCIETY

Manchester's Café Society is a place where, for the price of a glass of wine or a cup of coffee, anyone can explore the latest ideas in science, culture and the arts. Talks are either in the café or the Museum's Discovery Centre.

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



Music and Drama at Manchester

Thurs 5 Feb, 1.10pm,

A Breath Between Two Worlds: Gavin Osborn (flute and bass flute)

A recital exploring the inspirational role of the breath in contemporary flute music.

Sat 7 Feb, 7.30pm, £8/£5/£3

The University of Manchester Sinfonietta

The University's flagship student-led orchestra presents a night of Classical masterpieces showcasing the exquisite playing of award-winning pianist Sebastian Grand. Haydn's dramatic 103rd symphony ends the night – and by the time he'd written 102 he had gotten pretty good at it!

Thurs 19 Feb, 2.30pm, Free

Quatuor Danel Seminar

Various odds and ends – and a new finale: Beethoven's Op. 131, with Professor Barry Cooper.

Thurs 19 Feb, 1.10pm, Free

Quatuor Danel Lunchtime Concert

The 18-year-old Schubert explores the minor mode for the first time in his quartets, followed by Mendelssohn's most anguished quartet, composed in the year of his death as a lament for his sister Fanny.

Fri 20 Feb, 7.30pm, £12/£8/£3

Quatuor Danel Evening Concert

The young Webern's romantic slow movement precedes a major premiere for the University's senior lecturer Kevin Malone. The Danels' Beethoven cycle continues with a quartet that has struck awe into audiences and composers down the ages.

Thurs 26 Feb, 1.10pm, Free

Mozart and Friends: Rhapsody String Quartet

Today's programme, played on historical instruments, is inspired by an 18th-century chamber music gathering of performing composers connected through friendship, professional influence and even a public kiss.

Sat 28 Feb, 7.30pm, £12/£8/£3

The University of Manchester Symphony Orchestra

The Symphony Orchestra present the premiere of Camden Reeves' new piano concerto featuring leading contemporary pianist Richard Casey as soloist.

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

John Rylands Library (Deansgate)

Visit the historic John Rylands Library on Deansgate, central Manchester, home to one the country's greatest collection of printed books, manuscripts and archives. Regarded as one of the city's most beautiful buildings, the Library was 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.

Close-up Session: every Thurs 12.15pm

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

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



International Society

WINTER TRIPS

Sat 7 Feb

Sun 8 Feb

Oxford (with guided tour)

Lake District visiting Aira Force

Waterfall and Ambleside

Stratford-upon-Avon

Tatton Park

York and the Jorvik Viking Festival

Sat 14 Feb

Sun 15 Feb

Sat 21 Feb

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

Centre for New Writing

Thurs 12 Feb 6.30pm, Martin Harris Centre, £5/£3

Martin Amis Public Event, Literature and

Britishness, with Howard Jacobson

Martin Amis and Manchester's Howard Jacobson will discuss how well the novel represents the nation, and how ideas of 'Britishness' have altered over the past half-century.

Mon 23 Feb 6.30pm, Martin Harris Centre, £5/£3

Literature Live, Helen Dunmore and Peter Fallon

Poet and novelist Dunmore was the first winner of the Orange Prize. Poet Fallon founded Ireland's Gallery Press, and was Villanova's inaugural Professor of Irish Studies.

Mon 2 March 6.30pm, Martin Harris Centre, £5/£3

Launch of the Research Institute for Cosmopolitan

Cultures (RICC), Jackie Kay and Joe Pemberton

Kay's first poetry collection was Saltire Society Scottish First Book of the Year, and her debut novel won the Guardian Fiction prize. MA alumnus Pemberton's novel describes 1960s Manchester through a child's eyes.

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

Chaplaincies

St Peter's House Chaplaincy

SUNDAY WORSHIP

11am Holy Communion

12.15am Bible Study

12.45 Lunch (1st Sunday)

6.30pm Evening Worship (term-time only)

FOYER 10am – 5pm

An area where students and staff can relax and meet friends. A tea/coffee machine is available.

Precinct Centre

0161 275 2894

email sph.reception@manchester.ac.uk

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

www.rc-chaplaincy-um.org.uk

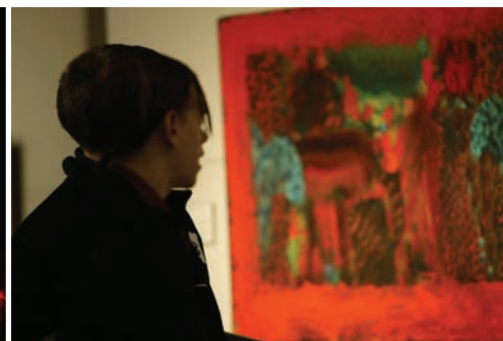
The Jewish Student Centre and Synagogue

Hillel House, Greenheys Lane

0161 226 1139

email rabbiiy@hotmail.com

www.rabbiiy.com



The Whitworth Art Gallery

DISPLAYS/COLLECTIONS

Subversive Spaces, Surrealism and Contemporary Art 7 Feb–4 May

The familiar spaces of The Whitworth Art Gallery are disturbed and subverted by this major exhibition, which traces the affinities between the work of historical Surrealist artists and visual culture today.

Putting on the Glitz, wallpapers and wall coverings with that extra something until Oct
Traditionally, wall coverings incorporating precious metals could only be afforded by the wealthy. For those aspiring to wealth, such luxury was highly desirable. Putting on the Glitz explores how this desire has been (and can still be) satisfied, both by the real thing and extremely effective imitations.

Some Smaller Things until Summer 2009

Inspired by, and acting as a counterpoint to, the iconic status of Stonehenge, a new selection has been drawn from the Whitworth's collection of drawings and prints.

Art and Labour's Cause is One, Walter Crane and

Manchester 1880-1915 until Sept

The exhibition features items such as book illustrations, political cartoons, socialist emblems and works of art.

Agents of Change until Summer 2009

The Whitworth has recently purchased the final edition of Lynn Hershman Leeson's most significant work of art, the 172 item Roberta Breitmore made between 1974 and 1978. A small collection of this work will be shown alongside five newly acquired monoprints by Tracey Emin.

EVENTS

Colourful Sundays

Every Sunday 1.30pm - 3.30pm, Family Friendly, FREE
Drop into the gallery any Sunday afternoon for free and fun creative activities at Colourful Sundays. Suitable for all ages, no need to book.

Tuesday Talks

Every Tues 11am -12.30pm, FREE

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

Magical Mobiles

Wed 18 Feb & Fri 20 Feb 1.30-3.30pm, FREE

Create your own magical mobile with your family to hang up at home.

Glitz Magnets

Thurs 19 & Sat 21 Feb 1.30-3.30pm, FREE

Brighten up your afternoon by designing and creating your own glitz magnet to take home.

European Textiles

Sat 7 Feb 1.30-3.30pm

Bring your family and join us to explore and celebrate cultures from around the world through storytelling, art activities and even tasting food snacks.

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



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www.meeting.co.uk/confercare

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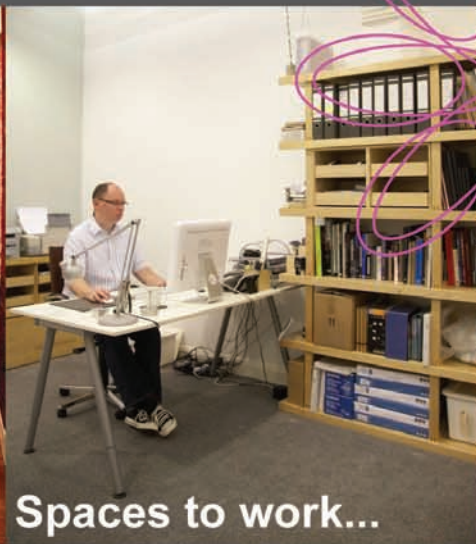
Live and work in Houldsworth Village - fast developing into an area buzzing with growth and renewal opportunities.

Award winning developer Millshomes Ltd. and sister company Broadstone Mill Ltd. are offering a discount of up to 15% if you occupy residential and commercial space in Houldsworth Village*. It's an excellent location for up-and-coming creative and technology businesses. A unique place to live, work and relax. Both apartments and offices have been converted from former Victorian cotton mills to reflect a modern space, retaining original mill features.

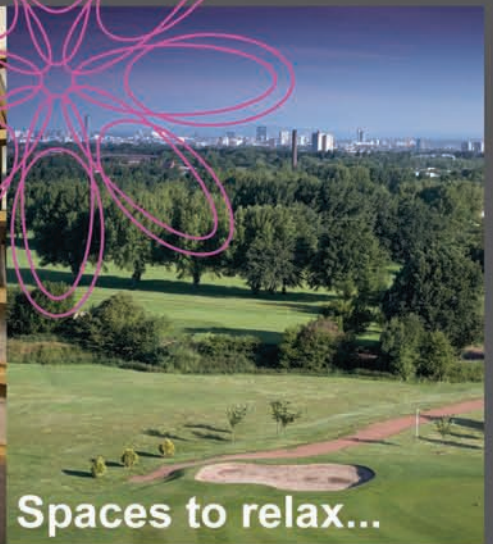
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Discover the Museum

Manchester Museum says 'Happy Birthday Charles Darwin'



To celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin, Manchester Museum is hosting 'Darwin's Big Birthday Bash'.

The event on Saturday, 14 February 2009 – two days after Darwin's birthday – will include live performances, a recreation of Darwin's famous 'worm charming' experiment and science experiments.

There will be live Brazilian music from Juba do Leao, puppet storytelling and craft activities. There will even be the chance to help create a giant tortoise (pictured) – in recognition of the role the animals played in Darwin's research.

Museum and University experts will be on hand throughout the day to talk about their work on a wide range of subjects from carnivorous plants to dinosaurs. There will also be opportunities to get up

close to specimens that Darwin collected during his famous voyage on the 'Beagle'.

This event is a taster for the Museum's 'Darwin Festival' which starts in August 2009. The festival will explore Darwin's life and work, present the evidence for evolution, explain how science works and encourage people to reflect on issues arising from Charles Darwin's work and its legacy.

Three new exhibitions will explore these themes:

- Nature Discovery, an activity space for families (opening August)
- Charles Darwin: evolution of a scientist, with a fantastic selection of objects interpreted in a graphic novel style (opening October)
- a collection of breathtaking photographs of South American wildlife and landscapes by local photographer Ben Hall.

The festival will include lots of events and activities, some of which have been developed in partnership with BBSRC and the Wellcome Trust.

Meanwhile, the Museum has launched an appeal for an artist to live as a hermit in its splendid Victorian Gothic building.

In complete isolation, the hermit will be expected to reflect on topical issues including biodiversity, climate change, extinctions and the future of the planet, drawing inspiration from the Museum's collection.

The hermitage will run for a period of up to 8 weeks between May and July 2009.

 www.manchester.ac.uk/museum

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