

# UniLife

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Issue 5 Volume 6

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## Letter from the President



As many of you will be aware, over the past few weeks there has been a nationwide series of protest on university campuses - including our own - to express solidarity with the Palestinian people of Gaza. Some have demonstrated the strength of their convictions by occupying University buildings and serving their universities with a series of demands.

The University accepts the right of all students to protest peacefully, provided only that they do so lawfully, that their actions do not unduly, or for an extended period, disrupt the conduct of the University's normal business, and that the safety and well-being of the University community, including the protesters themselves, are not jeopardised.

In relation to the current protests, the University has recognised from the outset that great humanitarian and political issues are involved. On the one hand, I have expressed pride in being part of a university community in which students feel sufficiently strongly about the great issues of the day to take direct action to have their voices heard; on the other, it has been clear to me that the University must never identify itself as an institution with any particular political, social or ideological position, and must ensure that alternative views, lawfully expressed, also have an equal right to be heard.

People will have their own strongly felt views about recent events in Gaza. Like most people, I have been very concerned by what we have all been witnessing (presumably like almost all my colleagues) and have my own views about the kinds of steps that need to be taken on both sides if lasting peace is finally to replace the desperate cycles of alienation, mutual mistrust, poverty, violence and conflict that have endured in Palestine for fully 60 years.

But as the person ultimately responsible to the Board of Governors for the good management of the University, my personal views are irrelevant. My job is to balance the rights of the protesters, irrespective of the nature, validity and/or intensity of their views, against the rights of the wider University community. My responsibility is to ensure that in doing this I at all times uphold certain key underlying values and principles.

Our *Statement on Academic Freedom*, adopted in December 2007, sets out the "fundamental commitment" of The University of Manchester "to the academic freedom of all its members, without fear or favour, to express unpopular opinions, advocate controversial views, adduce provocative arguments or present trenchant critiques of conventional beliefs, paradigms or ideologies....An authentic university is an institution that so respects the potency of truth and the efficacy of open, rational inquiry, that it can also respect and defend the expression or advocacy of any lawful idea, opinion or argument".

One implication of those principles is that, while individuals and groups within the University community are empowered and encouraged to express lawful views on any issue whatsoever, the University as a *University* may not, and will not, issue statements about any matter not directly related to its core educational mission.

This is a principle that protects academic freedom.

As an institution embracing academic freedom, we welcome the lawful expression by students and staff of strongly held views, and accept the right of those advocating such views to assert them in ways designed to confront the rest of us with the issues involved. I am pleased to be President and Vice-Chancellor of a University whose students think deeply and feel strongly about current issues facing their own or other societies. In particular, I accept the right of groups of students to organise protests as means of drawing attention to their causes. All such protests must, however, remain peaceful.

The right to lawful protest in The University of Manchester is restricted, not by any limit to freedom of expression, but by the fact that a judgement has to be made eventually about the balance between the rights of the protestors on the one hand and, on the other, the rights of all the University's other students, staff and visitors to go about their business safely, unimpeded and free from harassment.

The judgement required is particularly acute where a protest is taking place in a University building. In these circumstances, we must ensure that protestors have a reasonable opportunity to assert their views while also ensuring that the University's ability to conduct its normal business is not unduly disrupted over an extended period. Along with my senior colleagues, I have as President and Vice-Chancellor the responsibility for managing this delicate balance, knowing that it is never possible to satisfy everyone.

So I do not expect everyone to be pleased with the way we have handled and are handling the protests. But I can give an assurance that our approach is being informed by deeply-held principles rooted in the highest ideals that the idea of a University evokes. That will not change.

Professor Alan Gilbert  
President and Vice-Chancellor

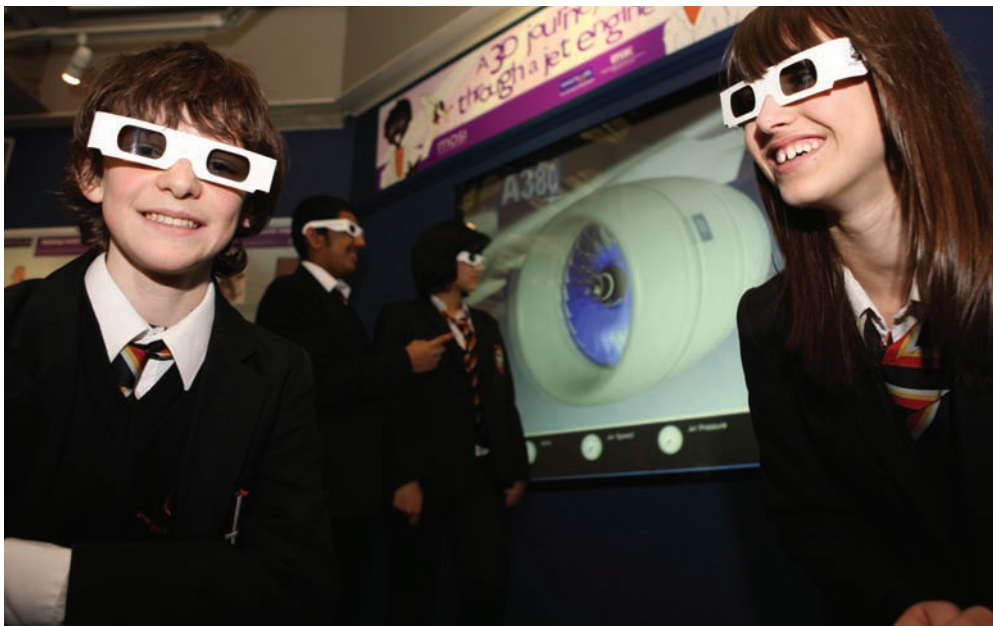
## Jet engine exhibit lands in Manchester

Manchester - the cradle of the first British jet engine – is set to become a national centre for hands-on education about jet engines. A new permanent interactive exhibition, led by The University of Manchester, which opened recently at MOSI (Museum of Science and Industry) in Manchester allows school children and other visitors to see inside a state-of-the-art jet engine and design their own engine.

'So you think You Can Design a Jet Engine' sponsored by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), is the first display in a British museum which demonstrates how a jet engine works. It showcases the virtual 3D Rolls-Royce Trent 900 jet engine on the Airbus A380, and aims to inspire young people about engineering.

The exhibition, aimed at engaging and enthusing young people about the materials used inside jet engines. It is just one facet of a large public engagement programme headed up by Professor Phil Withers, Director of the University's Aerospace Research Institute, that was awarded the Royal Academy of Engineering/Nexus Solutions Education Innovation Award in 2007.

Professor Withers said: "Our state-of-the-art 3D journey through a Jet Engine allows young people to see how the engine works and to design a jet engine of their own to see if it can fly. We have found it to be a great way to showcase novel research going on within universities, and hopefully inspire engineers of the future!"



Stephen Mycock, a teacher at Stretford Grammar School who visited the exhibition with pupils said: "The 'How to design a jet engine' display fits very well into the new science GCSE as it shows how scientists use the properties of materials for real life uses, which is a very important part of the syllabus.

It is a fun and interactive simulation and it is harder than it first seems to make the plane fly! The display also helps pupils to realise that there are many different jobs for scientists after university as well as the traditional career routes of doctors and dentists."

[www.tools4schools.org.uk](http://www.tools4schools.org.uk)

## Singapore looks to Manchester for Optometry

**The University of Manchester has signed an agreement with Singapore Polytechnic and NHG Eye Institute@TTSH (Tan Tock Seng Hospital) to run the country's first degree course in Optometry.**

With four out of five male teenagers in Singapore suffering short-sightedness (myopia), the country is desperate for fully-trained optometrists.

The Bachelor of Science (with Honours) in Optometry, which includes a placement at the hospital, boasts \$2 million of new equipment and facilities.

The University's Vice-President for Teaching and Learning Professor Colin Stirling, the Faculty of Life Sciences Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning Professor Richard Reece, Programme Director Phil Morgan and Head of Administration Rachel Brealey attended the signing along with their Singaporean colleagues and Singapore's Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts, Rear Admiral Lui Tuck Yew.

Rear Admiral Lui Tuck Yew said: "A high quality and well-directed education is a necessary and long-term investment to produce a quality workforce. We must anticipate and design suitable programmes to meet Singapore's future needs. Singapore Polytechnic's collaboration with The University of Manchester is an example of such a programme with the needs of our population in mind."



Professor Stirling said: "The University of Manchester has long been an important centre for Optometry, and the British Optical Association was founded at the University in 1964. Manchester also has a long history of working in Singapore and we have been welcoming

Singaporean students to our city for many years.

"This new validated degree programme with Singapore Polytechnic is the latest development in this tradition of co-operation and collaboration."



## New Darwin specimen discovered at the Museum

**The Manchester Museum recently discovered a specimen of sea stock collected by Charles Darwin in its collection which specimen had been hidden away in the Museum's collection for around 100 years.**

Previously overlooked, as there was no direct reference to Darwin on its label, the sea stock's genuine identity was pieced together from known facts, including the name of Darwin's tutor - Professor John Stevens Henslow - at the University of Cambridge, and Darwin's location in Barmouth, Wales in August 1831, found on the specimen label.

With a corresponding specimen in their own collection, colleagues at the University of Cambridge confirmed that it was a genuine Darwin specimen.

Curator of Botany at The Manchester Museum, Leander Wolstenholme commented, "We are delighted to find this specimen in the collection. To

have any Darwin specimen in the collection is very special. We are very lucky in the Museum, as we already have thirteen specimens collected by Darwin during his voyage of the Beagle."

"This particular specimen relates to Darwin's earlier life and was collected during his vacation just after he finished university. He would have collected the specimen about two months before he set sail on the Beagle. At the time of its picking, Darwin had no inkling that he was about to set forth on one of the most legendary scientific journeys of all time."

The sea stock specimen came to the Museum through a Victorian network of specimen exchanges or swapping societies which were very popular in the 19th Century.

This specimen and others collected by Darwin, was put on public display at the Museum's Big Darwin Birthday Bash on Saturday 14 February held to mark Darwin's 200th birthday.



## University Challenge

**Manchester has narrowly failed to achieve a second series victory in four years in the long-running television quiz *University Challenge*.**

Following series victory in 2005/06 and the runner-up's spot in 2006/07 for Manchester, the 2008/09 team made it three finals in four years by beating Lincoln College, Oxford, in the semi-final by a convincing margin of 345-30.

They then took an early lead in the final against Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and held it until Corpus Christi overtook them in the last five minutes and went on to win 275-190.

The team comprised Matthew Yeo (captain) (PhD in the History of the Book), Simon Baker (Politics and Modern History), Henry Pertinez (PhD in Pharmacokinetics) and Reuben Roy (Medicine).

The University of Manchester nevertheless has a record in the competition which is second-to-none, having reached at least the semi-finals every year for the last five years. Team organiser Stephen Pearson of the John Rylands University Library will be selecting the team for the 2009/2010 series later this month.



**Professor John Beddington, Government Chief Scientific Adviser toured the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, during a day-long visit to the University.**

During the visit Professor Beddington visited Manchester Interdisciplinary Biocentre (MIB) and the Joule Centre for Energy Research in the North West. He witnessed a demonstration of the wave tank in the School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering.

Also he heard about research in the Sygenta Sensors University Innovation Centre (UIC) that

could reduce the amount of food that is wasted in transit across the globe (see page 9).

Commenting on the visit, Professor John Perkins, Vice-President and Dean for the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, said: "We were delighted to welcome John Beddington to the University and to show him some of the University's ground-breaking research on issues of global importance."

*Professor Beddington is pictured (above left) with Professor John Perkins during a tour of the North Campus.*



## UK's first virtual awards ceremony

**Senior BP executives from around the globe gathered in Manchester Business School's Second Life to take part in the UK's first virtual awards ceremony last month.**

On 17 February, the first cohort to complete BP's project management course at Manchester Business School were awarded their certificates in the virtual world of Second Life, complete with specially designed graduation gowns, lifelike avatars of dignitaries, an academic procession (pictured above) and speeches.

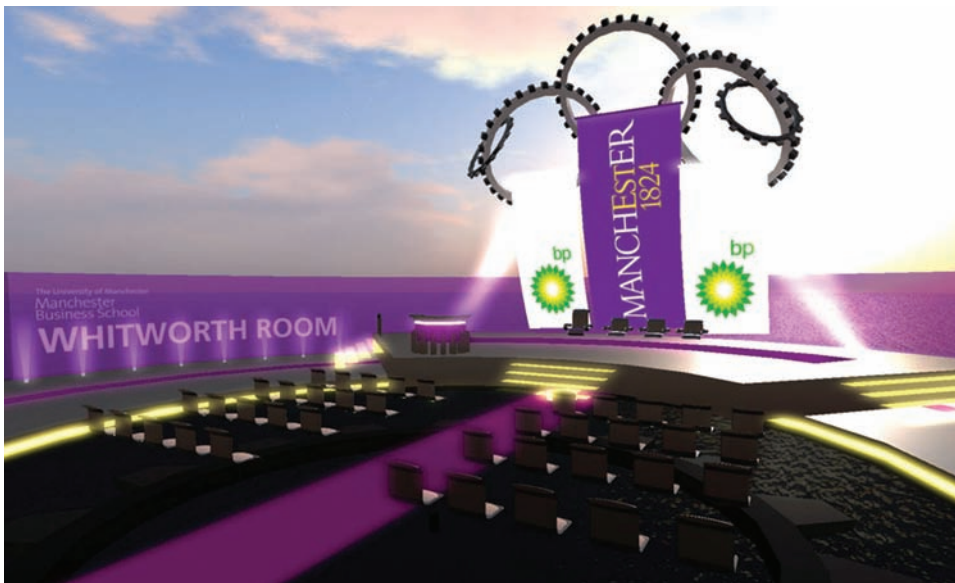
The virtual awards ceremony is the culmination of the year-long programme which enables BP executives from the UK, USA, Canada, Angola, Indonesia, Alaska and Russia to apply the latest business thinking to practical challenges they are facing in their business life.

The ceremony took place in the Whitworth Room of Manchester Business School's Second Life Island. Created by Corporation Pop, the Whitworth Room forms part of the School's space-age tower structure in the virtual world and takes inspiration (in name only) from Whitworth Hall where the University holds its real-life graduation ceremonies.

Dom Raban, managing director of Corporation Pop who managed the event said: "It would be almost impossible for 18 of BP's senior executives, who are spread across the globe, to take part in a traditional awards ceremony. By holding it virtually, we have made it possible for them to be rewarded for their achievements with minimal disruption, saving time and money as well as reducing environmental impact."

Professor Michael Luger, Director and Dean of Manchester Business School said: "MBS' innovative approach to e-learning is driving our presence in Second Life – adding value to the real time experience of our students. The award ceremony for BP executives is the first of its kind in the UK and we're delighted that we can bring the cohort together to celebrate their achievements in this way."

During the ceremony the student-controlled avatars climbed the stage to receive their certificates and scripted handshakes enabled them to be congratulated by the Dean, as in real-life. They were given a hyperlink to a website where certificates could be downloaded and following the event received a machinima (filmmaking in a virtual space) souvenir film of the ceremony.



## General Assembly

**The University is seeking applications from people outside the University who would like to draw on their experience and expertise in order to make an important contribution to the broader governance framework at The University of Manchester.**

The General Assembly is a body of more than 200 members largely made up of lay members. These are drawn from a wide range of local, regional and national interests and, in particular, provide links with industry, commerce and the public services.

The Assembly is the forum where legitimate interests in the affairs of the University can be heard and provides an interface between the University and its stakeholders.

Applications are welcome from individuals with a record of achievement within or outside their careers which can be applied in a variety of ways to benefit the University. Applicants should be in sympathy with the values of higher education and with the aims and objectives of a university that is pursuing an ambitious agenda for the future. The appointments are unpaid and are not open to anyone holding any paid positions within the University.

The closing date for applications is 3 April 2009

For further information and an application form, please visit:

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

## Legacy Scheme

**Alumni, staff, former staff, friends and partners have been among those who have already remembered the University in their wills.**

Since the merger of the two universities in 2004, The University of Manchester has received more than £4 million from supporters as part of the Legacy Programme.

A Legacy is a gift left in a will. By making such a gift to the University, it can have a real and enduring effect by speeding up vital research; strengthening an academic discipline; helping to attract the best undergraduate and postgraduate students, irrespective of their personal circumstances; and helping to recruit the best teachers and researchers.

Among those who have made donations are Miss Margaret Blount, who received a BA (Hons) History in 1951 and an MA in History in 1974, whose gift provided for the John Rylands University Library's book fund; Emeritus Professor William Brice, who was a long-serving professor in the Department of Geography, whose gift supports vacation study for undergraduates; and Miss Betty Kemp, who received a BA (Hons) History in 1940 and who lectured for a time at the University, whose gift has supported the Department of History.

Further information about the University's Legacy Brochure can be found at the web address below.

Contact Louise Hancock, Division of Development and Alumni Relations, 0161 275 7230

[www.manchester.ac.uk/alumni/donorprogrammes/legacy](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/alumni/donorprogrammes/legacy)



Bill Williams, Professor Philip Alexander, President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Gilbert.



Jane Davies and Professor Rod Coombs with the President and Vice-Chancellor.

## Medals of Honour

**The University awarded Medals of Honour to two distinguished individuals last month. The Medal of Honour is the highest non-degree award bestowed by the University and is given to an individual who has made an exceptional contribution to the work of the University, city or region.**

Bill Williams, renowned for his work on oral history and his studies of the history of Jews in Manchester and Jane Davies, Chief Executive of Manchester Science Park Limited (msp) were the recipients.

Mr Williams, who is based at the University's Centre for Jewish studies, has a distinguished career spanning more than 40 years.

He helped to establish Manchester Jewish Museum in 1984 and became its first chairman of trustees and has produced a series of landmark studies in local history. Between 1988 and 1991, he co-ordinated interviews with Holocaust survivors for the National Sound Archive. And in 1993, he became a lecturer and research supervisor in Religions and Theology at The University of Manchester, retiring from that role in 2006.

Since 2002 he has managed a research project funded by the Association of Jewish Refugees.

Co-director of the Centre for Jewish Studies, Professor Philip Alexander, was one of the scholars who nominated him for the award. He said: "Bill has shown incredible dedication to the city of Manchester and its Jewish community. His pioneering methods of research, such as the use of oral testimony, serve as a blueprint to historians worldwide.

"We are immensely grateful for his long and distinguished service to the Centre for Jewish Studies, where he is held in high esteem by students and colleagues alike."

Jane Davies was appointed Chief Executive of msp in October 2000. Acknowledged as one of the UK's most successful science parks, msp, was established in 1984 adjacent to the academic campus.

A partnership between the city of Manchester, the universities and commercial investors, the Science Park is now home to more than 100 high tech organisations creating more than 1000 jobs in key

regeneration areas such as Hulme and East Manchester.

Jane's previous roles include PVC plant chemist, international oil trader in New York, opera festival director, FCO planner and regional manager of BP's international aviation business.

Jane's influence and profile has been recognised by her election as current Chair of the UK Science Park Association. In June 2006 she was elected Chairman of the European Division of the International Association of Science Parks – a two-year appointment. She is also a Director of Manchester Enterprises, the economic development agency for Greater Manchester and of the Oxford Road Corridor Investment Partnership.

Professor Rod Coombs, Vice-President (Innovation And Economic Development), who presented Jane at the award ceremony, said " Jane Davies has led msp superbly, with the result that it is now seen as one of the most successful science parks in the country. This is a tremendous asset to the city and to The University of Manchester. We all owe her a lot".

## Sir David Attenborough celebrates Darwin with Nowgen

**Staff from Nowgen recently demonstrated their latest practical work to Sir David Attenborough. The renowned natural scientist visited the Wellcome Collection to launch a set of Darwin 200 initiatives, funded by The Wellcome Trust.**

The *Survival Rivals* project, which celebrates Darwin's 200th birthday, will provide every secondary school student in the UK with the chance to take part in Darwin-inspired experiments. Nowgen has been commissioned by the Wellcome Trust to develop practical workshops for A-level students, which will be delivered from the Nowgen laboratory, along with two other national science centres.

Leah Holmes of Nowgen said, "It was so exciting even to be in the same room as Sir David; his energy

and enthusiasm for inspiring young people truly shone through. With this practical we have really pushed the boundaries of A-level practical work, bringing it up-to-date with current research."

Professor Terry Brown and Dr Matthew Cobb from the Faculty of Life Sciences have also contributed to the project, providing background information on human evolution and our sense of taste.

Nowgen, a Centre for Genetics in Healthcare, is part of the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences. Its education programme aims to engage with young people about genetics and associated issues. Nowgen will be delivering 75 laboratory-based workshops exploring human evolution for post-16 students from September 2009 onwards. Enthusiastic



postgraduate students will be recruited to help deliver this programme. For more information, please contact: leah.holmes@manchester.ac.uk.

For further information about the Wellcome Trust's Darwin initiatives please see the web address below.



## Manchester company has its eye on Paris

**A high tech engineering firm in Manchester which provides 24/7 monitoring of the electricity network across London, has its sights set on its next major city target – Paris.**

IPEC Limited, based at Manchester Science Park (msp), already has around 100 monitors situated across London, providing continuous analysis of the switchgear and underground cables which feed electricity to the capital's businesses and homes.

Data from each monitor is collected by IPEC's servers in Manchester where technicians analyse the information, picking up any problems within the electricity network months before the issue develops into a major problem that could affect the power supply.

IPEC Limited, which began life 15 years ago as a University of Manchester spin-out, has been monitoring the electricity network in London for the past seven years as part of an ongoing contract with EDF Energy.

And, as EDF Energy is a subsidiary of the France based EDF Group, one of the largest energy companies in Europe, Tony is hopeful IPEC's current contract will help the Manchester company expand their customer base further into Europe in coming years.

"We are hoping that Paris will be the next city to come on board," Tony continued. "We already have several monitors operational in France, which are currently being studied by EDF's R&D engineers in Paris."

## North West start up of the year

**Dr Andrew Almond and his colleagues at the drug discovery spin-out company Conformetrix have scooped the BioNoW Biomedical Start Up of the Year Award for 2008.**

Conformetrix Ltd is an early-stage drug discovery company providing novel chemistry Intellectual Property to the wider drug discovery industry. The platform technology, developed by Dr Almond at the Faculty of Life Sciences, came from his research into the 3D structures of complex sugar molecules and how they interact with proteins. The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) -

funded technology gives Conformetrix a competitive advantage in drug discovery, since they are the only company in the world that can solve the dynamic 3D-shapes of drug molecules. This information gives unique insight into how drugs work and, more importantly, how to quickly and efficiently improve hit selection or lead compound development.

BioNoW is the North West Development Agency's biotechnology, pharmaceutical and healthcare cluster programme.

For more information see the web address below.

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

## It's a 'YES' for postgrads

**A team of postgraduates at the Faculty of Life Sciences scooped a coveted prize at the Biotechnology YES (Young Entrepreneurs' Scheme) with their business plan for a hypothetical bioscience hair removal product FolliCore.**

Leon Adams, Annie Geraghty, Alexandra Hughes, Tom Longden and Laura Roberts won the Syngenta prize for 'Best plant science-based business plan' after competing against 73 teams from around the UK under the company name Follix.

Biotechnology YES is an entrepreneurial competition aimed at enhancing understanding of the importance of scientific research to the commercial sector.

The Follix team won their Central Regional heat, during which they also received three days of expert



tuition on how to establish a viable and profitable company, in a Dragons' Den-style competition in which contestants were required to present a realistic business plan for a hypothetical bioscience product to a

panel of potential investors. The top three teams from each heat were then sent to the illustrious London final to compete for a £1,000 prize.

Professor Arthur Weston, one of the

team's supervisors, said: "The podcast of their brilliant and inspiring performance will surely become a model for participants in future competitions." See link below for podcast.

<http://streaming2.its.manchester.ac.uk:8080/lifesciences/Int/podcasts/BTY2.mov>



## Small grants, big wins

**The Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility (WTCRF) Manchester is launching the Small Grant Awards for 2009 and is hoping to attract applications from across their five partners.**

In 2008, the WTCRF Manchester gave a record seven small grant awards, due to the tremendous calibre of applications. The panel awarded £50,000 to winners from across their five partner organisations, The University of Manchester; Central Manchester University Hospital Foundation Trust (CMFT); Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust, University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust; Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust. The winning applications cover a wide expanse of research topics including Cancer, Mental Health, Congenital Heart Disease, Vascular Disease and Musculoskeletal, Rheumatology and Renal health.

Acting Deputy Director, Paul Brown, said "Based on the success of the last two bids we are re-launching the awards and while funding can be for research clinicians and academics, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from nurses and allied healthcare professionals".

The Small Grant Awards, now entering their third year, were set up as part of the WTCRF's ongoing strategy to foster new initiatives and developments and to bring new, pioneering research to the Facility. For more information, preliminary application forms and guidance notes for applicants and supervisors please email [information@wtcrf.nhs.uk](mailto:information@wtcrf.nhs.uk) or visit the web address below.

If you would like to discuss your study idea with a member of WTCRF staff please contact the Research Study Manger or Administrator on 0161 906 7517.

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

## Race 'myths' threaten racial harmony, say population experts

**Race relations in Britain are under threat from a series of ill-informed myths according to a new book by two of the country's leading experts on the topic.**

Using previously unpublished evidence, Professor Ludi Simpson and Dr Nissa Finney from The University of Manchester show how repeated falsehoods about immigration, integration and segregation are misleading policy and promoting racial disharmony.

This is the basis of the authors' new book *'Sleepwalking to segregation? Challenging myths about race and migration'* published today by The Policy Press.

After years of investigation the pair, based in the Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research, have found no evidence "whatsoever" for the existence of race ghettos in the UK. In fact the opposite is true with increasing ethnic mixing.

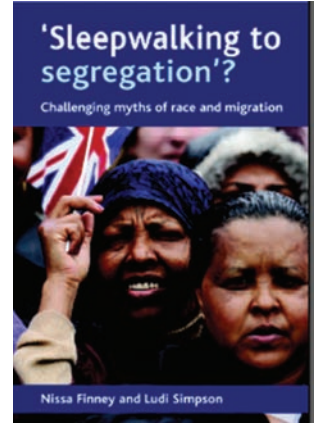
And claims by head of equalities watchdog Trevor Phillips that Britain is "sleepwalking" into racial and religious segregation are also dismissed in the book.

According to the academics' review of evidence, white flight is no greater than brown or black flight. And there is white movement into minority concentrations in Leicester, Bradford, Lambeth, Wolverhampton, Wycombe, Manchester and Merton.

By linking social problems to segregated areas, they say, politicians have stigmatised the areas and their residents.

The authors also provide evidence that areas with large populations of Muslims do not act as a 'breeding ground' for terrorism.

"By propagating myths using bogus and alarmist interpretations of population change, individuals such as Trevor Phillips, Dr Michael Nazir-Ali, Bishop of Rochester and Sir



Andrew Green, Chair of Migration Watch are inadvertently promoting racial segregation," said Professor Simpson.

"Misunderstanding breeds mistrust and division between ethnic and religious groups. This book is about dispelling those myths. The truth is that Britain's so-called ghettos are diverse areas both ethnically and socially where no one ethnic group dominates."



## Energy boost for University

**EDF, one of Europe's largest energy companies and parent company of EDF Energy, has signed an £800,000 agreement to fund a Chair and a Research Fellow at The University of Manchester.**

The new Professor of Computational Mechanics and Research Fellow will be based in the University's School of

Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering and will be funded by EDF for a minimum of five years.

The move is the latest step towards the creation of a new Centre for Modelling and Simulation, which is expected to be launched later in the year. It follows a decade of joint working between the University and EDF.

*Pictured (left to right) following the signing of the agreement are Professor Colin Bailey, Head of School, School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering; Pierre-Louis Violette, Research and Development EDF Energy; and Professor Peter Stansby, Professor in School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering.*





## Researchers discover new material

**Researchers at The University of Manchester have produced a ground-breaking new material, graphane, which has been derived from graphene.**

Graphene, which was discovered at the University in 2004, is a one-atom-thick crystal with unusual highly conductive properties, which has been tipped for a number of future applications in electronics and photonics.

But new research published by Professor Andre Geim (pictured above) and Dr Kostya Novoselov, who led the group that discovered graphene in 2004, now suggests its uses could be far greater than first thought.

That's because the scientists, from the School of Physics and Astronomy, have found that graphene will react with other substances to form new compounds with different properties.

As part of the research Professor Geim and Dr Novoselov used hydrogen to modify highly conductive graphene into a new two-dimensional crystal - graphane.

The addition of a hydrogen atom on each of the carbon atoms in the graphene achieved the new material without altering or damaging the distinctive one-atom-thick "chicken wire" construction itself.

But instead of being highly conductive, like graphene, the new substance - graphane - has insulating properties.

The researchers say the findings demonstrate that the material can be modified using chemistry - clearing the way for the discovery of further graphene-based chemical derivatives.

The unique electronic properties of graphene have already led researchers to look at ways the material could be used in the development of increasingly small and fast transistors. However, the absence of the energy gap in the electronic spectra forced scientists to use rather complex graphene-based structures like quantum point contacts and quantum dots for this purpose.

The discovery that graphene can be modified into new materials, fine tuning its electronic properties, has opened up the increasingly rich possibilities in the development of future electronic devices from this truly versatile material.

Professor Geim said: "The modern semiconductor industry makes use of the whole period table: from insulators to semiconductors to metals.

"But what if a single material is modified so that it covers the entire spectrum needed for electronic applications?"

## Thought for food

**The millions of tonnes of food that are wasted on the journey from 'farm to fork' could be reduced, as a result of ongoing research at the University.**

Today many of the foodstuffs we eat in the UK are grown in warmer climates of the world and can have travelled thousands of miles before their journey ends on a plate. But exposure to extreme heat or humidity during the journey can mean vast amounts of produce are unfit to eat by the time they reach the UK.

Now researchers at the Sygenta Sensors University Innovation Centre (UIC), in the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, are looking at new ways of tracking food around the world more effectively.

Although data logging technology can already be packed alongside produce to show the point in the journey it was exposed to damaging levels of heat or humidity, the information it stores can only be accessed when the produce reaches its final destination. And that means it's too late to have an impact on the condition of the produce itself.

But now scientists at the Sygenta Sensors UIC are developing low-cost radio frequency identification (RFID) sensors that could provide real-time information about the produce.

Data from these new sensors could be analysed at various stages of the journey using fixed data



readers at warehouses, distribution centres or airports. And that information could be used to determine changes to the condition of the product and to assess any impact that could have on its shelf-life - leading to the setting of more scientific 'best before' dates.

Where necessary, the readings could prompt remedial action to preserve the produce en route. And where data suggested the produce would be inedible on arrival in the UK, it could be sold off

locally - which would rule out unnecessary transport costs.

The development of the project has already brought together the expertise of electrical engineers, chemists, physicists and experts from the Manchester Business School.

Dr Bruce Grieve, from the Sygenta Sensors UIC, is pictured with the Government's Chief Scientific Adviser Professor John Beddington CMG



## Fungal pill could provide asthma relief

**Up to 300,000 people suffering from severe asthma in the UK could benefit from taking antifungal medication already available from pharmacists, new research has found.**

University of Manchester scientists found that pills used to treat everyday fungal infections greatly improved symptoms of asthma in those patients that had an allergic reaction to one or more fungi.

The study, carried out at four North West hospitals and published in the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*, is the first to show that antifungal therapy can improve the symptoms of those who suffer from severe asthma.

The researchers compared the oral antifungal drug itraconazole, with a placebo over eight months and found that nearly 60% of patients taking the drug showed significant improvement in their symptoms.

"Only patients with a positive skin or blood test for fungal allergy were included in the study," said Professor David Denning, who is based at Wythenshawe Hospital in south Manchester.

"Severe asthma affects 10 to 20 per cent of adult asthmatics and probably 25 to 50 per cent of these patients showed allergy to one or more fungi. Since about 60 per cent of those treated benefited from the treatment, we believe that antifungal therapy may be helpful in an estimated 80,000 to 300,000 adults with asthma in the UK."

The clinical study of 58 patients at Wythenshawe, Salford Royal, Royal Preston and North Manchester General hospitals showed statistically significant improvements in a validated quality of life score. Patients' asthma and nasal symptoms deteriorated within four months of stopping therapy.

Dr Robert Niven, one of the study's authors from the School of Translational Medicine, added: "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."

## 'Rajendrapur Conversation' reveals suffering of Bangladesh's urban poor

**A team led by the Brooks World Poverty Institute (BWPI) has returned from Bangladesh with an action research plan to try and help urban poor people adapt their homes and livelihoods to withstand the effects of climate change.**

One of the major findings of the 'Rajendrapur Conversation' (reported in last month's *UniLife*) launched in partnership with BRAC University in Dhaka is that 'climate variability' is dramatically impacting on Bangladesh's slum dwellers now, with worse to come under accelerated climate change.

The team spent four days talking to poor people living in urban slums; visiting a waste management plant; and discussing adaptation with fellow researchers, NGOs and practitioners.

Professor David Hulme of BWPI said: "What the urban poor have told us is a wake-up call. Poverty in Bangladesh is no longer a rural problem. Rural migrants, who have been forced from their areas by extreme weather are living in overcrowded, unsanitary slums in the

towns and cities, where they are being affected again and again by climate variability."

Thirty five per cent of Dhaka's people live in slums that occupy just four per cent of the land, and lie within the areas most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Some estimates put 55 per cent of the 153 million population of Bangladesh at risk and in need of finding a new home and livelihood in urban areas.

"It's difficult to predict how large the migration will be, but it's certain that an increased urban poor population and accelerated climate change is going to have a devastating impact," said Professor Hulme.

"A huge problem is that poor people don't own land. This prevents the building of an infrastructure and perpetuates an uncertain future. People live in flimsily constructed single-storey dwellings in slums that can be 200 times more densely populated than other parts of Dhaka," he added.

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

## Parkinson's researcher wins top award

**Chris Kobylecki has won the Liversedge Prize for best scientific presentation for his talk on dyskinesia, a disabling side-effect of drugs used to treat Parkinson's Disease (PD).**

Chris, a Clinical Neurology Research Training Fellow in the Faculty of Life Sciences, is researching the effect of the drug L-DOPA as many

patients who take it develop disabling abnormal involuntary movements or dyskinesia. He and Professor Alan Crossman are working on the chemical messenger glutamic acid, indicating potential future targets for treatment of PD.

Chris, who was presented with the £500 prize at the North of England Neurological

Association, said: "I was very pleased to have been selected for this award and feel that this underlines the potential clinical relevance of our research."

Professor Crossman added: "There is no effective treatment available for dyskinesias, so Chris's work is addressing an important area of unmet clinical need."

# Rising sea threatens coastline

**Experts at The University of Manchester are to produce a detailed picture of the public's views on the uncertain future of a 250-mile-stretch of coastline.**

Large parts of the coast between Anglesey and Carlisle are likely to be adversely affected by rising sea levels and erosion over the next hundred years.

The area is home to some of Britain's most celebrated wildlife, important transport links, densely populated coastal towns and cities and the nuclear plant at Sellafield.

Drs Richard Kingston and Adam Barker from the University's School of Environment and Development have launched a website which allows the public to add their views to an online coastal map.

"The Lancashire, Cumbrian and Welsh coastlines contain a number of low lying or vulnerable sections which are particularly at risk from the adverse impacts of climate change.

"If local agencies are forced to abandon sections of our coast to the advancing sea, then this can only be effectively done with the knowledge and understanding of local communities," said Dr Barker.

"Clearly it's a pressing issue: large parts of the coastline - some of which are highly populated -



are likely to recede. At the same time however, local authorities are under pressure to release more land for development.

"Something needs to be done to manage this transition as effectively as possible and to involve the people who live in these areas in the decision-making process."

Threatened areas include Morecambe Bay where

the historic St Peter's Church in Heysham is under attack from coastal erosion.

And Formby Sands in Lancashire - home to endangered red squirrels and the rare Natterjack toad could recede by more than 400 meters in 100 years according to research carried out by the National Trust last year.

The maps are available at the web address below.

<http://mycoastline.org/>

# Vitamin D may be a gain for the brain

**Eating fish – long considered 'brain food' – may really be good for the old grey matter, as is a healthy dose of sunshine, new research suggests.**

University of Manchester scientists, in collaboration with colleagues from other European centres, have shown that higher levels of vitamin D – primarily synthesised in the skin following sun exposure but also found in certain foods such as oily fish – are associated with improved cognitive function in middle-aged and older men.

The study, published in the *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry*, compared the cognitive performance of more than 3,000 men aged 40 to 79 years at eight test centres across Europe.

The researchers found that men with higher levels of vitamin D performed consistently better in a simple and sensitive neuropsychological test that assesses an individual's short-term memory, attention and speed of information processing.



"Previous studies exploring the relationship between vitamin D and cognitive performance in adults have produced inconsistent findings but we observed a significant, independent association between a slower information processing speed and lower levels of vitamin D," said lead author Dr David Lee, in Manchester's School of Translational Medicine.

"The main strengths of our study are that it is based on a large population sample and took into account potential interfering

factors, such as depression, season and levels of physical activity.

"Interestingly, the association between increased vitamin D and faster information processing was more significant in men aged over 60 years, although the biological reasons for this remain unclear".

"The positive effects vitamin D appears to have on the brain need to be explored further but certainly raise questions about its potential benefit for minimising ageing-related declines in cognitive performance."

# Safety guide launched for new 3-D dental scans

**Important new guidelines for dentists using the latest three-dimensional imaging system in their surgeries have been established for UK and European practitioners.**

Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT), which gives a similar kind of image as a medical CT scan, is now available in high-street dental practices to give high-definition, 3D scans of patients' jaws and teeth.

However, CBCT carries an increased risk associated with greater radiation dose than traditional dental X-rays, so the European Academy of Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology (EADMFR) has developed 20 'Basic Principles' for use of CBCT in dentistry.

Professor Keith Horner, who is heading the project in the School of Dentistry, said: "In many European countries, dentists can purchase and use CBCT without any additional training and so there was a pressing need to establish some guidelines."



# Rob's Resolve

No-one knows more about Manchester's gangs than Rob Ralphs. He was brought up around them. That inside knowledge and what might be called his "street cred" has been invaluable in establishing him as one of the country's leading researchers in this hard-to-penetrate underworld.

His beginnings – he was brought up in a two-bed terrace in Gorton, the youngest of seven children, and went to what was acknowledged to be amongst the worst schools in the country - also underpins his resolve to make a positive contribution to the community way beyond his academic work. He is an experienced youth and community volunteer, qualified sports coach, treasurer of Moss Side's anti-gun crime group Mothers Against Violence and a keen

supporter and worker in the University's Widening Participation and Manchester Leadership initiatives.

"When I was at school, the thought of being able to go to college wasn't on the agenda at all," he says. "You were considered like Einstein if you had an A-level, never mind a degree! As young people leaving school we knew - or at least we perceived - that we were stigmatised because of the place we lived and the school we went to. It's the same with kids I'm involved with now from M16, Moss Side, and surrounding areas who say they are stigmatised because of where they live. I see lots of similarities – and that makes me determined to help. I believe in helping to widen participation and in making the university part of the community."

He is deeply involved in consultation about police operations and strategies with particular focus on gangs and gun crime, on a local level as Secretary and Member of the Independent Advisory Group for M Division of the Greater Manchester Police and on a national level through involvement in various Home Office Roundtables and the recent Street Weapons Commission. He has clearly earned respect from all sides of the community – gangs, police and parents of victims of crime. And way beyond Manchester, he is currently involved in research and consultancy on gang, gun and knife crime to Hackney Borough Council in London, the North West Development Agency and to the Scottish government.



fire service when he was 16. "I hated it and soon left and then I managed to get a job with the CIS – as an accounts assistant, which ultimately meant stapling cheques to insurance letters," he says.

Disillusioned with unrewarding early employment experiences, at 18, he took off for two years to travel with a girlfriend: "We worked our way round the world and learned a lot about different cultures and different people, including the value placed on education. We got to know prostitutes in Thailand, most of whom were working to better themselves and pay for their siblings education. In countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia I discovered how highly British education was rated."

That experience stimulated his growing interest in further education and realisation that he was fortunate to have free access to education. He returned to Manchester, enrolled at MANCAT – and emerged as a qualified coach in a dozen sports, from basketball to weight-lifting ("I'm still a keen sportsman and include football, running and weight-training in my leisure interests," he says.). He also started working in youth clubs. After another spell travelling in South East Asia, he decided to try to get to university – and, aged 25, after an Access course, he made it. In 1994, he went to Salford to study Sociology and Criminology. He emerged with a First and a special award as Student of the Year.

He may have been a late starter, but he had clearly found his niche. He got a bursary to study at postgraduate level at this University – and began his distinguished research career. He pays ready tribute to the support he received from Professor Mike Savage. Around that time, the Manchester Foyer opened, taking a holistic approach to young people's problems as they made the transition to adulthood. Naturally, Rob got very involved – just his territory. His research focused on young people, especially drug use, and won him an offer from the MMU to do a PhD. The title of his thesis was: *Beyond Transitions: Problematizing the experience of young people in contemporary society* – an ethnographic study of their experiences of education, work, housing and family transitions.

His qualitative research into young people, from drug culture to gang culture, was encouraged by Judith Aldridge and Dr Juanjo Medina-Ariza in the School of Law. This year alone, together and with others, they have presented and published many papers and special reports, including the ethics and politics of doing gang research, and are contributors to the Eurogang Network collection. This University is the only one in the UK with a specialist gang research unit. Consequently Rob and his colleagues are regularly contacted by the media and officials for comments and advice. For his own part, Rob is committed to continuing his research, involving himself in the total culture and helping to find solutions: "On a general level, I'm interested in engaging with the community and in opening up the university as a community resource. In terms of the gang conflict, I work with rival gangs in trying to establish residential weekends and mediation work with rival gang members." Rob also supports local community groups who work with people affected by gangs by regularly running half and full marathons to raise much needed funds.

As part-time Research Associate and Teaching Assistant in the School of Law, and Associate Lecturer in Criminology at Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU), he has a significant academic role, of course, although he is still, aged 40, waiting for his first "proper job". A quietly-spoken man, Rob is a living example of how precarious an academic life can be, for all his expertise, success and recognition. But he is not one to make a fuss – he focuses on his work, paid and voluntary.

Rob has now spent ten years researching how young people in Manchester and across the UK interact with gangs, drugs, crime and violence. He is currently a researcher for projects ranging from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) - funded Governing Drug-Related Crime in the Risk Society to the support needs of parents and siblings of gang members. And he recently completed another ESRC-funded project on Youth Gangs in an English city: Social Exclusion, Drugs and Violence.

Inevitably, he was a late starter. After leaving a notorious comprehensive school, with three GCSEs, Rob was taken into a YTS scheme in the

## Name

Rob Ralphs

## Position

Research Associate and Teaching Assistant,  
School of Law,  
The University of Manchester

## Education

2005  
Manchester Metropolitan University, PhD,  
Department of Sociology

1998  
The University of Manchester, Postgraduate  
Diploma in Sociology and Research Methods  
(Distinction)

1997  
Salford University, BSc (Hons) Sociology and  
Criminology (First Class)

## Career

January 2005 – present  
Research Associate School of Law,  
The University of Manchester

October 2005 – present  
Teaching Assistant, School of Law,  
The University of Manchester

September 1997 - present  
Associate Lecturer, Department of Sociology,  
Manchester Metropolitan University

1998 to 2004  
Temporary Part-Time Researcher,  
SPARC, Department of Applied Social Science,  
The University of Manchester

October 2002 to December 2002  
Temporary Researcher, The Edge, Edge Lane,  
Manchester

2001 to 2002  
Temporary Part-Time Lecturer,  
Department of Applied Social Science,  
The University of Manchester

## MP investigates evolutionary leaps in Manchester

**Labour MP Brian Iddon experienced leaps of evolution first hand when he visited Dr Chris Knight at the Faculty of Life Sciences (pictured right).**

Dr Iddon, a member of the Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Select Committee, watched Dr Knight at work as part of the Royal Society's MP-Scientist Pairing Scheme.

Bolton South East MP Dr Iddon, who is also a member of the School of Chemistry's External Advisory Body at Manchester, says: "As a Member of the Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Select Committee, a Vice-President of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee and Chairman of the Board of the quarterly Journal *'Science in Parliament'* it is very important that I learn about cutting edge science in a cutting edge university so that I can do my bit to keep my Parliamentary colleagues well informed. That's why I like to keep in contact with the University's scientists.

"In reverse, I believe that it is extremely important that scientists understand the tectonic plate shifts that have just occurred in the science budget grant allocations."

Dr Knight uses yeast and other microbes to investigate evolution, specifically their tolerance to alcohol.



Alcohol is a poison but yeast is able to digest it and has been doing so for millions of years. By growing yeast in increasing levels of alcohol, he can investigate how they develop this tolerance, i.e. their evolution.

Dr Knight's research will help us understand how a superbug evolves in a hospital - and potentially how to stop it in its tracks. In addition genome sequencing, such as the human genome project, is revealing

the variety of ways DNA can change. Linking these evolutionary changes to medically important changes - for example how microbes cause disease and evade drugs - is an increasingly important area of research.

## The animation generation

**Computer scientists from the University of Manchester are challenging children and young people in the UK to create their own animated films, as part of a drive to inspire the next generation of computer scientists.**

Staff at the University's School of Computer Science came up with the idea for the UK Schools Computer Animation Competition last year to mark the 60th anniversary of the world's first stored program computer, designed and built in Manchester.

And now in 2009 they are to repeat the competition - which has been called animation09 - to encourage a greater interest in computing amongst young people, aged seven to 19.

More than 430 schools across the country have already registered to take part in the competition.

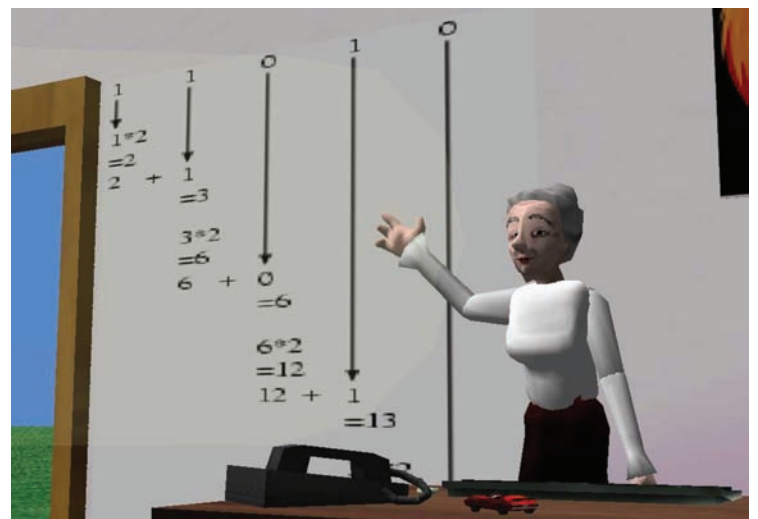
The winners will have their films showcased at a high profile animation festival at the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI) in Manchester in June.

Staff at the University's School of Computer Science hope the competition will give young people a chance to explore computer animation for the first time.

Toby Howard, from the School, said: "The animation must be inspired in some way by the National Curriculum - but the only real limit will be the students' imaginations.

"Since the launch of the first stored program computer at the University of Manchester 60 years ago, the progress of computing has been rapid.

"If that progress is to continue apace, we need to encourage the brightest and the best of the next generation to engage in the challenges facing computing.



"And we hope this competition will go some way to raising the profile of computer science amongst children in a fun and exciting way."

The competition is being run in partnership with Electronic Arts and MOSI.

Further information can be found at the web address below



## Karen's gallery aims to paint a positive picture

**A community art gallery set up single-handedly by a member of University staff, which she hopes will provide a much-needed boost to Eccles town centre, opened its doors last month.**

Lifelong art lover Karen Illingworth (pictured), a research technician in Clinical Neuroscience at Salford Royal Hospitals Trust, ran a successful trial opening last November from an empty shop in the town, and on 21 February re-opened with a special reception attended by members of Salford City Council among others.

Karen said "My passion in life is art, I have belonged to art groups for practically my whole life. I live in Eccles, and have been saddened to see the town centre decline over the last few years. In a chance conversation with the Shopping Centre Manager I said that I could help make the town centre a more interesting place to visit by opening a community art gallery in an empty shop unit in the town."

Karen was offered an empty shop unit on the town's Boothway and after a successful trial run in

November she has now been offered the premises for a longer period, to run most Saturdays for the next six months, the next two opening dates are 7 and 14 March.

"I think we have potentially a really nice town centre with some nice restaurants and interesting shops but times are hard and many are closing.

"I run it by myself on a voluntary basis without any funding what-so-ever and I have incurred considerable costs in fitting out the unit with exhibition display boards," said Karen. "I have tried fundraising to recover these costs but I am still around seven hundred pounds out of pocket at the moment.

The gallery displays the work of local art groups and also invited established artists who have a link to the area. These include former miner Tony Potter whose scenes of the former Newtown Colliery, Pendlebury generated much interest in November.

Anyone who would like to support Karen should contact her on 07981 791 475

## WTCRF Open Day

**The Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility is holding a Public Open Day on 13 March as part of National Science Week. The event will run between 10am and 4pm and will be an opportunity to come into the WTCRF to find out more about what they do.**

The Open Day will be an interactive day looking at clinical research and the impact of clinical research on the health service over the last 60 years. They will be providing a number of activities, tours and presentations for people of all ages, which will be informative, educational but, most of all, fun. The aim of the day is to forge closer links with the local community. There will also be opportunities to meet staff and to see what a difference clinical research makes.

For further information please contact Anna Kaufman on 0161 906 7515 or email: [anna.kaufman@wtcrf.nhs.uk](mailto:anna.kaufman@wtcrf.nhs.uk)

# What's On



## Courses for the Public

### The Poetry of Tennyson

Fri 6th Mar, 10am - 4pm, £45

Dr Roger Holdsworth

### Richard II and Macbeth: The Politics of Power

Sat 7th Mar, 10am - 4pm, £45

Dr Malcolm Hicks

### Technology and Society in the Ancient Mediterranean

Sat 7th Mar, 10am - 4pm, £45

Dr Maria Kostoglou

### Are Addictive Personalities Born or Made?

Sat 7th Mar, 10am - 4pm, £45

Dr Mark Leech and Dr Simon Cassidy

### The American Civil War: A Transatlantic Conflict

Sat 7th Mar, 10am - 4pm, £45

Dr Natalie Zacek

### Plants with Cryptic Lives

Mon 9th Mar, 10am - 4pm, £45

Dr Jennifer Rowntree and Dr Liz Sheffield

### Introducing Beethoven's Late Quartets (2)

Fri 13th Mar, 10am - 4pm, £45

Dr Gareth Curtis

### Anglesey: Archaeology and People

Fri 20th Mar, 10am - 4pm, £45

Margaret Worthington

### Advertisers We're onto You!

Sat 28th Mar, 10am - 4pm, £45

Onyipreye Ekperi

### Altruism: A Dialogue between Science and Philosophy

Sat 28th Mar, 10am - 4pm, £45

Dr Mark Leech and John Ackroyd

### English Antique Furniture 1760-1900

Sat 28th Mar, 10am - 4pm, £45

Janusz Karczewski-Slowikowski

### Roman Trier

Sat 28th Mar, 10am - 4pm, £45

Dr Birgitta Hoffmann

### In the Style of 19th Century Watercolour Artists

Sat 28th Mar, 10am - 4pm, £45

Jill Maguire

### 10% discount for staff on all our course and day schools

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

## Gig Guide

### MANCHESTER ACADEMY 1, 2 and 3

Peter Bjorn & John Fri 6 Mar - £12.50 Adv

Franz Ferdinand Fri 6 Mar - £20 Adv

You Me At Six Sun 8 Mar - £11 Adv

Lily Allen + La Roux Sun 15 Mar - £19.50

Musiq Soulchild Fr 20 Mar - £20/25 Adv

The Enemy + Twisted Wheel + Kid British Sat 21 & Sun 22 Mar - £18 Adv

D12, Obie Trice & Royce 5'9 Tues 31 Mar - £18.50 Adv

Jason Mraz Fri 3 April - £17 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](http://www.manchesteracademy.net)

## Contact Theatre

### Verbally Challenged

Wed 4 Mar, 7.30pm, £5

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

### Wat's So Funny?

Thurs 5 Mar, 8pm, £8/£5

Stand-up comedy with Barbara Nice, Ray Kane, Kelly J Roberts, Godon Zola & The Band.

### The Overcoat

Thurs 5 Mar to Sat 7 Mar, 8pm, £10/£6

A riotous blend of tragi-comedy, physical movement, silent film, and evocative music

### Polarbear: If I Cover My Nose You Can't See Me

Fri 6 Mar to Sat 7 Mar - 7.30pm £10/£6

A 21st century tale from Birmingham storyteller Polarbear

### Word Up Festival

Mon 9 Mar to Sat 14 Mar - Various times, Various prices

A week of new writing and spoken word events

### Another Paradise by Sayan Kent

Thurs 12 Mar to Sat 14 Mar - 8pm £10/£6

A vivid high-tech comedy of mistaken identity

### Sitaare 2009

Mon 16 Mar - 7pm £10/£6

Dance, drama, singing and music from the East

### AIR:Time

Mon 16 Mar - 7.30pm £3/£2

Find out how Contact's AIR Residents are progressing

### Darwin's Worms

Wed 18 Mar to Thurs 19 Mar - 7.30pm £10/£6

Live worms on stage celebrating the bicentenary of Charles Darwin's birth!

### Mission Possible: Dad's & Lads Move!

Thurs 19 Mar - 8pm £10/£6

Hip-hop, physical theatre, street and contemporary dance

### Destiny Chakra (Wheel of Destiny)

Friday 20 March - 8pm £8/5

Indian Diva Swati Natekar invites you to a night of sumptuous sounds

### Hijak!

Sat 21 Mar - Various times FREE

Contact's Creative Leaders take over the building for one night only

### Palaver Festival

Mon 23 to Thurs 26 Mar - Various times Various prices

The Palaver Festival returns with a jam-packed line-up of events.

### Verbally Challenged

Wed 1 April - 7.30pm £5

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

### Paperweight

Sat 4 April - 1.30pm & 7.30pm £10/£6

Edinburgh Fringe award-winning tale of two men trapped in mindless office jobs.

### Oxford Road, Manchester

Tickets/Info 0161 274 0600

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

## Jodrell Bank

### Moon Watch

Sat 4 April, 6.30-9.30pm

As part of the International year of Astronomy and National Science Week, we're holding Moonwatch, your chance to have a closer look at the moon through an optical telescope, weather permitting. Moon talks and 3D theatre presentations are included in the ticket price, along with soup, roll and a hot drink. Tickets are limited. (Adults £10/Children £9)

### Jodrell Bank Observatory Visitor Centre

Macclesfield, Cheshire

01477 571339

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

## 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 two thousand years.

#### Lindow Moss: A Place of Finding until 12 July

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

#### Manchester Gallery opening 4 April

Explore the connections between the people of Manchester, the city's history and the Museum's collection in our new Manchester Gallery.

### FAMILY ACTIVITIES

#### Big Saturday: Sciencetastic

Sat 7 Mar, 11am-4pm

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

#### Magic Carpet: What are things made from?

Fri 27 Mar, 11am-12pm

Explore the different materials on our galleries through stories and activities for aged under five.

#### Lindow Man: The Verdict

Sat 4 April, 1.30pm-3.30pm

Join our Museum court and present evidence to the judges about how Lindow Man died. Book on 0161 275 2648, FREE 10+

#### Elephant Story Time

Mon 6 April, 11.30am-12pm

Stories and activities for under five's and their families.

#### Forensic Science: A Bog Body Mystery

Tues 7 April, 1.30pm-3.30pm

Can you solve the mystery? Become a forensic scientist using DNA analysis and archaeological evidence to unravel the puzzle of the mysterious find in Lindow Moss.

#### Iron Age Technology

Tues 7 April, 11am-4pm

Try out some Iron Age Technology, such as making nettle string.

### TALKS AND TOURS

#### Showcase Death on Display

Wed 4 March, 3-5pm, FREE

With Sam Alberti, The University of Manchester,

#### Human Remains Debate

Wed 11 March, 6-8pm, FREE

The Museum is interested in how people feel about the display of human remains. Join John Harris, Emyr Benbow, Piotr Bienkowski and Malcolm Chapman for this interactive debate.

#### Quiz Night

Thurs 12 March, 8.30-10pm, £1 per person,

Cash Prize

Get those science egghead brains out for a science themed quiz in our café.

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





## Music and Drama at Manchester

Thurs 5 March, 1.10pm, FREE

**Damien Girvin (piano)**

Beethoven's penultimate piano sonata, with its kaleidoscopic array of textures and expressive extremes, is preceded by a much loved work by Bach, a seldom played work by Brahms and a world premier of music by Manchester-based composer Helen Seddon-Gray

Thurs 12 March, 1.10pm, FREE

**Quartet Danel Lunchtime Concert**

The colossal six movement Op.130, with its famous Cavatina, here given with the revised finale

Thurs 19 March, 1.10pm, FREE

**Student Showcase**

A recital featuring the talents of undergraduate and postgraduate star performers from the University of Manchester

**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)

## John Rylands Library (Deansgate)

Visit the historic John Rylands Library on Deansgate, central Manchester, home to one of 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](mailto:jrl.visitors@manchester.ac.uk)  
[www.manchester.ac.uk/library](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/library)

## Centre for New Writing

**Launch of the Research Institute for Cosmopolitan Cultures (RICC), Jackie Kay and Joe Pemberton**

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

**Literature Live with A L Kennedy**

Mon 16 March, 6.30pm, Martin Harris Centre, (£5/£3)  
Kennedy's first book won the John Llewellyn Rhys and Saltire Society Scottish First Book of the Year prizes. Her most recent, Day, won the 2007 Costa prize.

**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

**WINTER TRIPS**

Sat 7 March **Overnight trip to Bath with visit to Stonehenge**

Sat 7 March **Yorkshire Dales visiting White Scar Caves and Skipton Castle**

Sat 7 March **Liverpool**

Sun 8 March **Robin Hood's Bay and Whitby**

Sun 15 March **Lake District visiting Windermere**

Sat 21 March **Chester with guided walking tour**

Sun 22 March **North Wales visiting Blaenau**

Sat 28 March **Ffestiniog Railway and Portmeirion Village**

Sat 28 March **North Wales visiting Anglesey**

Sat 28 March **with guided tour**

Sun 29 March **Alton Towers Theme Park**

Sat 4 April **Blackpool**

Sun 5 April **Peak District visiting The Heights**

Sun 5 April **of Abraham and Bakewell**

**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)

## Chaplaincies

**St Peter's House Chaplaincy**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

11am Holy Communion

12.15am Bible Study

12.45 Lunch (1st Sunday)

6.30pm Evening Worship (term-time only)

**FOYER 10am-5pm**

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

**Precinct Centre**

**0161 275 2894**

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

**RC Chaplaincy, Avila House**

Mass Times (term-time only)

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

Chaplaincy

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

Tues, Thurs: 12.15pm 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)

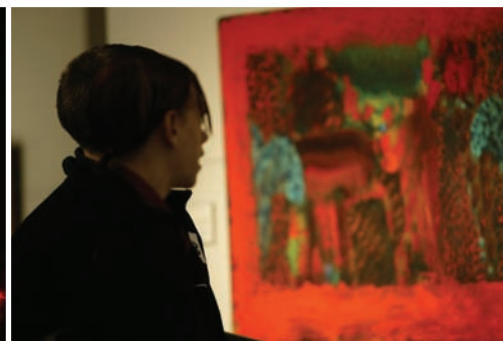
**The Jewish Student Centre and Synagogue**

**Hillel House, Greenheys Lane**

**0161 226 1139**

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

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



## The Whitworth Art Gallery

**DISPLAYS/COLLECTIONS**

**Subversive Spaces, Surrealism and Contemporary Art** until 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. 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,

**Chinese and Japanese Textiles**

Sat 7 Mar 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

**South American Textiles**

Sat 4 April, 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

**Felt Making**

Wed 8 April, 1.30-3.30pm, Free

Join us to create your own Fabulous Felt masterpiece to take home.

**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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**0161 306 4108**

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# Discover the Whitworth



Markus Schinwald, *Contortionists (Rachel)* 2003, Courtesy the artist and private collection Geyer, Vienna, Austria

## Subversive Spaces: Surrealism and Contemporary Art

Uneasy visitors to Gregor Schneider's *Kinderzimmer* grope their way into the blacked-out space of the Whitworth's usually sunlit South Gallery, moving toward a dimly lit room. *Kinderzimmer* is an exact replica of a children's nursery room, taken from a village in Schneider's Rhineland home which was erased to make way for opencast mining. A strange double of a space that no longer exists, it echoes past lives lived in identical spaces, and reflects upon the human and environmental impact of industry.

Commissioned by the Whitworth, this is a significant UK installation by this celebrated artist, winner of the Golden Lion award at the Venice Biennale in 2001.

Visitors are offered little in the way of relief as they continue through Subversive Spaces. In too-small rooms, pieces of furniture threaten to crush, copulate and slice while female bodies writhe and contort in hysterical poses. Nightmarish journeys of the sleepwalker end up in the streets of the city where playfully suicidal cyclists ride against New York traffic. Wastelands and ruins, sewers and subways: the hidden organs of the city's body are exposed.

Tracing affinities between the surrealist past and the subversive present, this major new exhibition explores the spaces where we don't want to find ourselves and records what happens when we do. It



Dorothea Tanning, *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, 1943. © Tate, London 2008. © ADAGP, Paris and DACS, London 2008.

challenges our real and imaginary perceptions of our environment, bringing together painting, sculpture, installation, photography, video and film by artists such as René Magritte, Salvador Dalí, Max Ernst and Brassai as well as contemporary artists including Paula Rego, Lucy Gunning and Francis Alijs

Subversive Spaces is the result of a collaboration between the AHRC Research Centre for Studies of Surrealism and its Legacies and The Whitworth Art Gallery, The University of Manchester. It has been curated by Anna Dezeuze, David Lomas and Samantha Lackey.

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

### News Contact

#### News and story ideas

Internal Communications Office

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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 19 March 2009

### 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 19 March 2009

### Adverts Contact

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Janice Brown

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Deadline 12 noon 19 March 2009

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