

UniLife

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World-leading robot makes
UK debut in Manchester



Letter from the President



academic excellence, but that, in the end, is what we all try to do, driven by a profound sense of the importance of higher learning for the future of humankind.

For negotiating the 21st Century is likely to be the greatest test for *Homo sapiens* – our species – the knowing, learning, technically adept, morally aware, ethically flawed creatures who, for a little while, have held dominion over the earth. We now know enough to destroy the world as a human habitat, while understanding too little, perhaps, to be able to build the kind of just, sustainable civil societies without which an over-crowded planet will surely descend into irrecoverable barbarism.

The clock is running down for humankind to resolve these potentially fatal human flaws. Advances in knowledge and technology have carried us into peril, abetting prodigious population growth, driving exponential economic development and devouring carbon fuels to the brink of terminal environmental degradation.

But, ironically, only further advances in knowledge and new, environmentally friendly expressions of the human genius for technological solutions, offer hope of rectifying the global environmental threats now upon us.

It is an even deeper irony that without civil and moral leadership, the command of awesome technology actually makes humankind more dangerous to itself. A Promethean failure to master the “moral arts” required to build sustainable civilisations has become, in a truly globalised world, perhaps the greatest threat of all to human survival.

Universities – perhaps more than any other institutions - are in the vanguard in this 21st Century race to acquire not only the knowledge and skill to manage our threatened environment, but also, simultaneously, the wisdom to empower forever the better angels of our nature, and to learn at last to live together as a civilised species.

Universities, as knowledge institutions par excellence, must accept that they exist not, ultimately, to help humankind understand the world, but rather to help make the world a better, safer place. Universities, as learning institutions, must accept their responsibilities as custodians of the tertiary education of successive generations of the young people who will lead the world during the most dangerous decades of this fateful century.

So once again (and this is becoming a habit) I find myself quoting H.G. Wells. “History”, he observed, “is more and more a race between education and catastrophe.”

In the early 21st Century that is truer than ever, and is what makes a modern university so extraordinarily important an institution.

It is these fundamental principles that should guide us as we consider the core goals at the heart of the University's strategic plan for the future.

Professor Alan Gilbert
President and Vice-Chancellor

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Most academics probably ask themselves from time to time whether they might have achieved more by choosing a different profession. While such introspection can be profoundly disempowering, especially during moments of disappointment or frustration, it is entirely natural and can also be rewarding. Indeed, it is important to pause from time to time to remind ourselves of the ideals, motives, values, hopes and expectations behind the personal and professional choices that have shaped our careers.

We have chosen to be members of a university community for a range of reasons, including, usually, a good measure of idealism. Some of us wanted most of all, as researchers, to pierce the boundaries of human knowledge, whether by adding to our understanding of the physical universe, enriching our insights into the subtleties of human nature or deepening our appreciation of the complexities of human culture; others were passionately committed, as scholars, to enriching our understanding of the intellectual and cultural heritage of humankind; most of us entered the academic profession inspired by the prospect, as teachers, of being able to help gifted young people mature into civilised, discriminating, well-educated human beings and superbly trained professionals.

To the extent that such dreams fade, a university becomes an arid, unrewarding place to be a researcher, scholar, teacher or student. Where they thrive, a university – whatever other problems assail it – remains an authentic knowledge institution, a vibrant place of intellectual light and learning.

There is an equally important imperative for idealism among other members of a university community, whether they are people (like me) who have moved wholly or partly from direct academic endeavours into university management, or non-academic colleagues who (as I do) derive personal and professional satisfaction from striving to make their university a wonderful environment for scholars and students alike.

Ideally, every member of a university should share the idea of a university as one of the central, defining institutions in a civilised human society. We all have different roles to play in facilitating

University is recommended bidder for National Nuclear Lab

A consortium of Serco, Battelle and The University of Manchester has been named Recommended Bidder to run the UK National Nuclear Laboratory (NNL).

The announcement was made last month by the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC), and the consortium management team will now work with the Department to ensure a swift and effective transition to the new management team under the 'GOCO' (Government Owned Contractor Operated) model. The new contract is expected to be signed in time for service commencement at the beginning of April. The contract is for an initial three-year period with two further option years.

Professor Alan Gilbert, President and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Manchester, said: "The University of Manchester has a long tradition of being at the forefront of nuclear research, and we are delighted to be part of the consortium that has been named as Recommended Bidder for the NNL. The NNL already has a highly skilled workforce. Working with our consortium partners, we are committed to ensuring it becomes a world-renowned centre of nuclear science and technology."

The NNL was launched formally in July 2008 by John Hutton, then Secretary of State for Business.



The lab brings together expert nuclear research capabilities of Nexia Solutions with world-class nuclear facilities, such as the new Central Laboratory at Sellafield. The objectives are for the lab to become an international centre of excellence in nuclear research, to play a central role in cleaning up the UK's nuclear waste legacy and to contribute

to the programme of nuclear new build. As such, it will be at the heart of delivering the government's nuclear energy policy as part of creating a low-carbon economy.

Mike Lawrence of Battelle will lead the new NNL management team as Managing Director.

Manchester wins national status in health care research bid

The Manchester Academic Health Science Centre (MAHSC) – a new partnership between The University of Manchester and six local NHS trusts – has been awarded official national status.

Health Secretary Alan Johnson announced last month that Manchester was one of just five national centres to have been designated as an Academic Health Centre – the only one outside London and Cambridge.

MAHSC was formed last year but March's announcement will help bring in significant additional investment over and above the £100 million a year that is currently invested in health research in Greater Manchester. It will also enable the Manchester partnership to compete globally with established centres, such as those in the United States, Canada, Singapore, Sweden and the Netherlands.

Research in Manchester is already leading, both nationally and internationally, in areas such as cancer, cardiovascular medicine and respiratory medicine and the new partnership will also include the full range of health research undertaken in hospitals, mental health and in the community.

Professor Alan North, Dean of the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences and Director of MAHSC, said: "We are delighted to have received formal designation from the Secretary of State for Health, which followed scrutiny of our application by an eminent international panel of experts.

"It is recognition that our member Trusts and the University have the expertise, the motivation and the vision to lead the delivery of innovation into health care. Most importantly, it is good news for patients and the public in Greater Manchester and the North West who can expect advances in medical science to be more rapidly introduced into improvements in their health."

MAHSC's application for national status was particularly praised for its vision over the next 10 years: by 2013 it plans to establish a number of internationally competitive health research programmes together with a world-class research infrastructure, and by 2020 aims to ensure Greater Manchester will have become one of the world's leading health research centres.



The seven members of Manchester AHSC are:

- The University of Manchester
- Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Christie Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust
- Salford Primary Care Trust
- Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust

• University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust

The four other successful centres are:

- Cambridge University Health Partners
- Imperial College
- King's Health Partners
- UCL Partners

In brief

Service of thanksgiving for body donors

The University of Manchester is to hold its second annual service of thanksgiving for people who have donated their bodies for medical research in the past year.

Each year the University accepts a number of human bodies, which are used to teach anatomy to our medical, dental and science students. The bodies are those of people from the Manchester area who have indicated, prior to their death, that they wish to donate their bodies for this purpose.

This selfless and public-spirited action benefits the education of around 2000 students each year.

"Last year the University introduced what we hope will be an annual Service of Thanksgiving, in memory of those who have donated their bodies to the University in the previous academic year," said Alan Crossman, Professor of Anatomy. "The Service is unrelated to the final committal or funeral service of any individual, but, rather, is intended as an opportunity for the public-spirited actions of the donors to be acknowledged.

"The Service last year was attended by about 400 people, including many relatives and friends of the deceased, current students, academics, senior University representatives, senior civic officials and clergy. From the feedback we received, it is clear that the Service was greatly appreciated by the families of the donors."

The Service this year will be held at 10:30am for 10:45am on Wednesday, 29 April, in the Holy Name Church, adjacent to the Stopford Building.

"This will be a non-denominational Service and all are most welcome to attend," added Professor Crossman.

University Challenge update

The University of Manchester has won University Challenge 2009, following an investigation into the eligibility of a competitor in this year's contest.

In a joint statement issued on 2 March, the BBC and producers Granada concluded that the original winners, Corpus Christi College, Oxford, had unintentionally broken the rule that contestants must be registered at their university or college for the duration of recording of the series. This meant that their hard-fought title must now go to The University of Manchester team, the statement read.

Manchester team captain, Matthew Yeo, said: "While we accept the decision of the University Challenge judges, we are saddened to have been awarded the trophy under such circumstances.

"As far as Simon, Henry, Reuben and I are concerned the final was a great experience and we believe Corpus Christi College were outstanding opponents."



Royal visit to University's nuclear research centre

The University's Dalton Nuclear Institute has been visited by the Duke of York, who is senior representative for UK Trade and Industry and who has been a champion of the nuclear industry.

And during his visit to the University he was keen to learn more about the role of the Institute and how it supports the nuclear industry.

HRH was welcomed to the University by President and Vice Chancellor Professor Alan Gilbert and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences Professor John Perkins.

Then he was shown around by Executive Director of the Institute Dr Paul Howarth, where he witnessed research experiments associated with legacy waste management, involving real Pu

sample encapsulated in cement, as well as work on nuclear fission fragment detection.

HRH also toured one of the nuclear teaching labs, where he talked to students about their particular interests in nuclear physics and their future career options in the nuclear industry.

And he also looked at nuclear relevant research such as computational modelling work, graphite research, and materials performance work.

Dr Paul Howarth said: "This was an excellent opportunity to show HRH the extent of nuclear expertise at The University of Manchester in research and educational activities. HRH proved to be very knowledgeable of the industry and was able to engage in some good technical dialogue".

The University's interest in nuclear science dates back as far as 1907, when Ernest Rutherford embarked on the final stages of his research into the nature of the alpha particle.

In 1999 the University's continuing importance in this field was cemented by the establishment of the Centre for Radiochemistry Research. And in 2002 with the launch of the Materials Performance Centre, which researched materials for the nuclear, power and chemical industries.

The Dalton Nuclear Institute, which was launched in July 2005, continues to build on the success of these centres and drives the co-ordination and growth of Manchester's nuclear expertise base.

Teaching Excellence Awards 2008-09

Six members of staff have been successful in the Teaching Excellence Awards 2008-09:

Marion Birch, School of Physics and Astronomy

Keith Brennan, Faculty of Life Sciences

Grant Campbell, School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Sciences

Joseph McGonagle, School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures

Julia McMorro, School of Environment and Development

Marcia Ody, 'Students as Partners', Teaching and Learning Support Office

All the successful candidates demonstrated both excellence in their core role, and achievements in the wider University and sector. They have made contributions in a wide range of areas including e-learning, curriculum development, student development, research-informed teaching, enquiry-based learning and formative assessment.

Profiles of the successful candidates are now on the Teaching and Learning Support Office website and the awards will be made formally at the University Teaching and Learning Conference on 11 May 2009, at Chancellors Conference Centre.



Kenyan 'street boy' miracle continues

Sammy Gitau, who rescued a Manchester prospectus in a pile of rotting garbage on the outskirts of Nairobi, has been continuing his work with the young people of Mathare, Kenya following his studies at the University.

University Media Relations Officer, Mike Addelman, visited Sammy in February to see how he was putting his studies to work since graduating with a Masters from the Institute of Development Policy Management (IDPM).

Aged 13, Sammy became his family's breadwinner when his father, was killed in a hammer attack. After he was beaten by angry mobs for

stealing he became a drug dealer in 1997, hitting rock bottom when he overdosed on drugs soon after, ending up as a 'Street boy'.

Sammy has put his studies to good use at his community resource centre which operates out of four painted containers on the edge of the slum.

Each container offers something different: a library of books rescued from a waste paper tip, a rudimentary recording studio and a sewing machine used to train young people.

But it's his latest project - thought up during his studies - which he hopes will make the greatest impact: Mathare community radio will, he hopes, be up and running by the

middle of 2009.

Sammy says he will never forget Manchester and what it helped him achieve: "Manchester is like the waters in a well. You get to drink the water because you're thirsty but my thirst grows daily.

"The people from The University of Manchester showed me so much love. I would like one day to return."

Mike Addelman became friends with Sammy while he was in Manchester.

He said: "I was deeply moved by my experience in Mathare - and have never really witnessed such drive and determination to do such good.

"It's even more remarkable when you

realise that when Sammy returned to Mathare in March 2008 - the Luo and Kikuyu tribes were in the middle of a violent struggle in the aftermath of disputed elections.

"But because of the respect, authority and international attention he gained by his being at Manchester, he was able to convince young people to put down their machetes."

You will be able to read more about Sammy in the alumni magazine "*Your Manchester*" which staff will receive along with the June issue of *UniLife*. A BBC film broadcast on "Inside Out" is available at the web address below.

www.bbc.co.uk/insideout/northwest

'I enjoy the money but not the writing,' confesses top author

One of the world's most respected authors has revealed how he sees writing as a compulsion in a candid interview with the online arts journal The Manchester Review.

Fans of Irish novelist Colm Toibin were able to read the rare interview in the Review's second edition.

The Manchester Review is published by The University of Manchester's Centre for New Writing, home to leading literary figures including Professor of Creative Writing Martin Amis.

The question and answer style article with fellow novelist M.J. Hyland - a creative writing lecturer at The University of Manchester - captures Toibin's wit and frankness.

When she asked the author: "Which of your books did you most enjoy writing?" he answered: "No enjoyment. No, none."

And in response to her question: "What do you enjoy most about your life as a writer?" he answered: "The money. I never knew there would be money."

The acclaimed author, who has published six novels, a book of stories and more than 10 works of non-fiction describes why he is driven to write.

M.J. Hyland, who herself is a Booker Prize shortlisted author said: "The interview with Colm Toibin was candid, unusually frank, and often amusing.

"Toibin's wit and honesty combine to make for a sharp and engaging read."

The Manchester Review appears online each Spring and Autumn offering a mix of new music, public debate, visual art and video as well as fiction and poetry.

It is edited by the Centre's co-directors John McAuliffe and Ian McGuire.



www.themanchesterreview.co.uk



High-achieving students offered a helping hand

Students at the University of Manchester are to benefit from a new package of scholarships as a result of a partnership between the University and BP plc.

Thirty students from the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences were awarded £2,000 University scholarships, as a result of a £190,000 gift from the company.

And BP has also announced it will be sponsoring three further levels of Scholarship for students applying to BP's graduate and internship recruitment programs.

The University awards - which have been made possible as a result of the three-year £190,000 philanthropic gift from BP - are designed to make it easier for students to concentrate on their studies.

They have been made to first and second year students who have already proved through examinations and other criteria that they excel in their particular subject area.

They have been established in recognition of the financial pressures now faced by students, who often juggle their academic studies with part-time employment.

As a result of BP's support, the University will also be able to repeat the awards in 2010 and 2011.

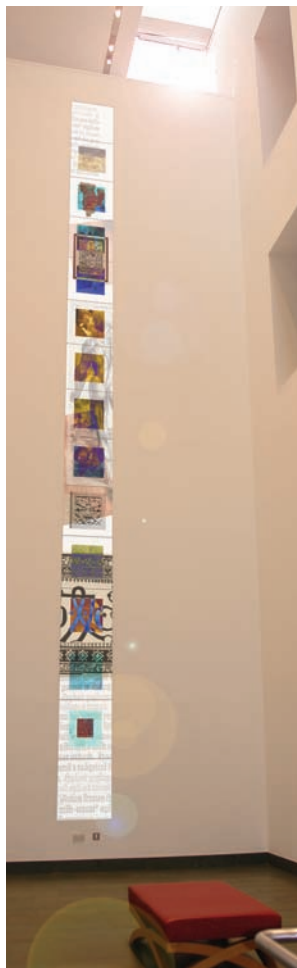
Professor John Perkins, Vice-President and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, said: "The scholarships we have awarded recognise those students who have proved they have the potential to excel.

"They are all committed to putting their knowledge to work on the great challenges facing today's world.

"As a result of BP's generosity and vision, these young scholars will be able to devote more of their time to their academic studies, which is good news for them, for us, and for society at large."

BP also outlined its own £614,000 package of scholarships for students at the University to support internships, final year undergraduates and MSc students who are interested in pursuing a career with the company.

Totem in pole position at iconic library



Artist's impression

The University of Manchester's world-famous John Rylands Library has commissioned an 11-metre high piece of public art.

Artist Derek Hunt's "Totem" was the top choice after judges waded through more than a hundred applications from across Britain, Europe and the United States.

Funded by the Oglesby Charitable Trust, the glass and steel sculpture will be installed in the Library's new entrance wing close to the original 1890s building famed for its gothic architecture.

The Leicestershire-based artist's design referred to the original Victorian colour scheme of the John Rylands Library's architect Basil Champneys, as well as iconic images from the Library's archive.

The £40,000 commission is a coup for the artist whose work is seen around the UK in mosques, churches, public buildings, theatres, schools and shopping centres.

He said: "I wanted to create a glass installation which would embody the spirit of the John Rylands Library, reflect and celebrate its many collections of rare books, manuscripts and

archives, and help to create a sense of place.

"The design refers to some of the internationally famous collections within the Library, such as the St John Fragment, the earliest piece of the New Testament in existence, bought by the Library in 1920.

"I'm very pleased indeed to receive this commission."

The glass structure will be assembled in 15 700mm x 700mm glass panels. It will also use antique glass etched, textured, sand blasted and shaped to fit the detail of the design.

Dr Stella Butler, Deputy University Librarian and Associate Director of the John Rylands Library, said: "The John Rylands Library is one of Manchester's finest buildings, housing collections of international importance.

"The architecture, both old and new, is quite breathtaking.

"We are immensely grateful to the Oglesby Charitable Trust for generously funding what promises to be a remarkable piece of modern art, which will enhance visitors' appreciation of the building and its collections."

First class

A group of students in Kenya supported by UK charity Mildmay have been the first to graduate from a University of Manchester-validated degree programme, designed to develop a qualified workforce to tackle HIV/AIDS.

The approach of the programme BSc (Hons) "A Health Systems Approach to HIV/AIDS Care and Management", in line with the other Mildmay education programmes, is work based and facilitates course members, who are professionals working in the field of HIV/AIDS, to influence change and build capacity by developing leadership, communication, teaching and networking skills as well as giving them deeper insight into a health care systems approach to the management of HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa. There is also an emphasis on strengthening links with the Ministry of Health (MoH), NGO's and communities.



The graduation at the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) in Kisumu, Kenya, saw 12 students graduate awarded First Class Honours.

The Programme also had 26 Level II students who graduated on the same day and were

awarded the University of Manchester Diploma in the same subject. Ongoing funding is required if these Health Care Professionals are to continue to a full degree (Level III) and to strategically work to improve health care systems in their countries.



Modahl launches 2009 Two Cities Boat Race

Former Olympic athlete Diane Modahl visited Salford Quays this week to officially launch the 2009 Two Cities Boat Race, which takes place on Sunday 10 May.

Speaking at the launch, Manchester-born Diane said: "It's wonderful to spend time with such committed young athletes. The students are really determined and dedicated to their sport, so it's definitely going to be a nail-biting event this year. I'll be there cheering them on!"

Money raised during the 2009 race will be donated to SPARKS, the children's medical research charity. On Wednesday, Diane presented SPARKS representatives with a £4,000 cheque raised during last year's race.

The crews will compete along the traditional River Irwell course, finishing at the Lowry Bridge. The event is now recognised as one of the top events in the region's sporting calendar and thousands of

spectators are expected on the day.

The universities are also challenging local businesses to do battle in the fast and furious dragon boat contest during the morning of the Two Cities Boat Race. It's a fun day for everybody, providing a festive atmosphere along the quayside with food, drink and live entertainment throughout the day. Admission is free.

www.twocitiesboatrace.co.uk

Lottery go-ahead for Whitworth Art Gallery

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has given the green light to The Whitworth Art Gallery to work up plans to open its collections up to more local people and re-connect the Gallery to Whitworth Park. Development funding of £152,000 was awarded to help progress their plans.

The HLF first-round pass means that the Whitworth Art Gallery can now progress to the second stage of the HLF application process. They have up to two years to submit more detailed plans and apply for the £6 million of HLF support that they are seeking for their £12million project.

The Gallery plans to create a second, park-facing entrance which will house a Centre for Landscape Study, a fully accessible study room, a new shop and an informal café. The entrance will open out onto a new artist-designed outdoor environment for relaxation and play. The Gallery will be able to offer better facilities for schools and informal learners in a new workshop space, access for

disabled visitors will be improved and additional exhibition space will enable it to show bigger, more ambitious exhibitions.

The next stage of the HLF application process will see the Gallery working with architects to create an extension to the building that uses sustainable building materials and cutting-edge 'green' technologies, creating a Gallery fit for the 21st century.

Commenting on the award, Maria Balshaw, Director of the Whitworth said "We are delighted that we have the opportunity to take the proposed plans forward. The Whitworth's founding fathers established the Gallery and the Park 'for the perpetual gratification of the people of Manchester'. We still believe this is what we are here for - and this development will make the Whitworth an even better place for local people and visitors to the city to enjoy our fantastic collections".

www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth

In brief



Professional Development Programme for North West museum staff

The University of Manchester in partnership with Renaissance North West has launched a brand new professional development programme for museum staff throughout the region at a reception held at the Whitworth Art Gallery.

At the launch, the first seven trainees (some pictured above) on this pioneering scheme were introduced representing museum and heritage sites across the region and a broad range of disciplines, including a member of staff from each of Manchester Museum and Whitworth Art Gallery.

The new programme is for anyone working in a North West museum who wants to develop their skills and understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing museums today. Museum staff who join the scheme will draw upon the expertise of the learning and research community in the Centre for Museology.

www.arts.manchester.ac.uk/museology

Leaders gain leadership skills

A leadership programme, delivered by the Centre for Educational Leadership (CEL), will support those delivering the Government-led 14-19 Diploma to teenagers in the North West.

The 14-19 Diploma is a vocational qualification which can be equivalent at different levels to GCSE and A-Level. It is aimed at young people with capability but who do not want to continue with an academic qualification after school or college.

The Diploma is led by line leaders and leadership coaches who are experts in various subjects and careers but to be able to deliver this complex range of courses effectively across a range of institutions, the leaders need extra support and coaching.

It deals with issues such as how to work across different organisations and deal with leadership issues, as well as personalisation and mapping out a curriculum for each child. The programme will end in July and will then be reviewed by CEL.

CEL receives funding from NCSL to run this local development and is hoping to secure extra funding for phase two of the programme. CEL is also working with 14-19 specialists from Bolton Council.

Computers 'as safe' as medical experts

The largest ever study into the administration of blood thinning drugs, principally Warfarin, has now proved that dosages calculated by computer are at least as safe and reliable as those provided by expert medical professionals.

Professor Leon Poller, of the Faculty of Life Sciences, and his international, multi-centre team, now have for the first time clinical validation of the UK developed computer-dosage programme used in 60% of UK hospitals, DAWN AC.

Their report demonstrates the clinical safety and effectiveness of this programme. Increasing evidence of the value of these anticoagulant drugs has led to a rapid rise in their use.

However, prescribing the right oral dose of anticoagulant to patients, even for experienced medical staff, can be problematic as individuals differ greatly in response to a given dose and a single patient's response can change over the period of an illness. Too high a dose for an individual and the blood becomes too thin and can lead to internal bleeding, too low and the blood clots too readily.

This five-year clinical trial has shown that computer-assisted dosage is as good, if not better, at prescribing the correct dosage to patients as expert medical professionals.

Wellcome Trust Strategic Award for iSEI

The Institute for Science, Ethics and Innovation (iSEI) has been awarded a prestigious Wellcome Trust Biomedical Ethics Strategic Award, which provides funding of more than £800,000 over five years. This Strategic Award, one of four made by Wellcome and the only one based in the north, began last month.

The award funds a multidisciplinary programme – the Wellcome Strategic Programme in The Human Body, Its Scope, Limits and Future – that follows five strands of innovative research in: human biomaterials, genethics, enhancement, reproduction and methods in bioethics. The programme enables an exciting new collaboration with Sarah Cunningham-Burley, Professor of Medical and Family Sociology at the University of Edinburgh.

John Harris, Director of iSEI and lead on the Wellcome Strategic Programme, said: "Building on established research groups with diverse expertise, we will create an innovative nexus between bioethics, medical jurisprudence and sociology. The programme will offer many opportunities for collaboration and new research initiatives."

For more information visit the new website at:



iSEI Chair Director, Professor John Sulston (left) and Director, Professor John Harris

www.isei.manchester.ac.uk

University bags £2.5 million of research funding

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) has awarded £2.5 million to the University under a new funding scheme.

The total amounts to 221 postgraduate awards in a wide variety of subject areas over five years.

The news follows changes to the way in which the AHRC provides funding to postgraduate students in the arts and humanities.

The previous AHRC Open Competition for all applicants will be replaced from 2009/10 funding by Block Grant Partnerships (BGP) with universities, and a new open competition for candidates at universities which do not have studentships available under the BGP scheme.

Maria Nedeva, Associate Dean for Graduate Education in Humanities said: "We are delighted that the AHRC has graded Manchester as 'Excellent' in terms of its supervision and training provision for postgraduates under the BGP scheme.

"This is in recognition of our excellent track record in postgraduate teaching, training and research and will enable us to continue to recruit the highest quality postgraduate candidates within our arts and humanities subjects."

Is art in the eye of the beholder?

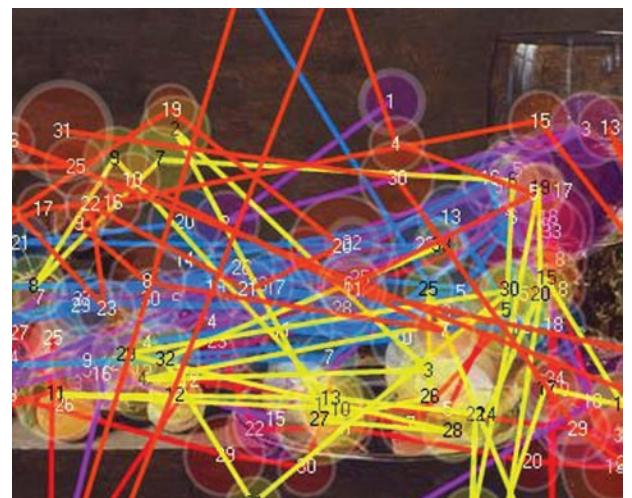
Scientists from the University transformed an art gallery into a laboratory to determine whether or not people experience art in the same way.

Under normal circumstances it's impossible to know whether any two people look at the same parts of a painting or whether their attention is drawn to different elements.

But researchers from the University's School of Computer Science and Manchester Art Gallery have used state-of-the-art technology to determine whether reaction to art is a common experience.

They used infra-red technology to determine the order that people look at different elements in 12 selected paintings from the gallery, as well as the length of time they spend looking at them.

And now they will be scrutinising the findings to determine whether or not we all look at art in the same way or whether our experience is more individual.



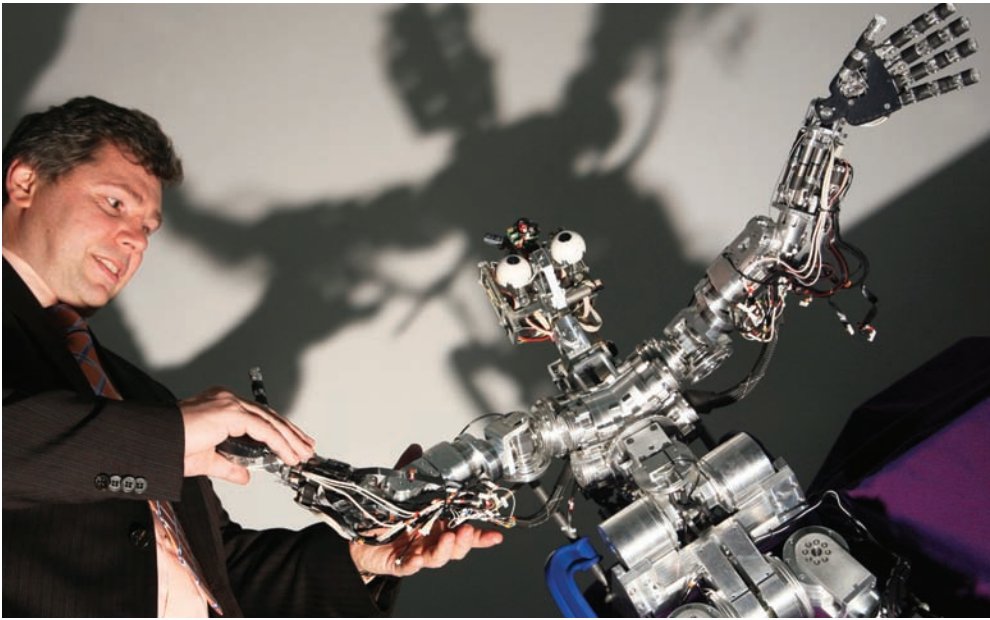
Researchers - led by Dr Simon Harper, Dr Caroline Jay and Dr Andrew Brown - believe the findings could have implications for the way websites are designed in the future.

"We can't yet say if there's a definitive order that people look at things," said Dr Jay. "But this may help us to understand how and why people focus on particular areas in sequence, what attracts them and what is the

deciding factor for this sequencing.

"If people do experience these in similar waysthis may inform the design of websites."

Drs Harper and Jay believe the findings of this research could be of particular relevance to work on the 'translating' of web pages into an audio-described resource for blind users or for sites designed for mobile phone users.



World-leading robot makes UK debut in Manchester

Europe's most advanced humanoid robot has made its first UK appearance, as part of a major robotics symposium at the University.

The 'open source' iCub is being developed in Italy as part of a 8.5million Euro project to develop a highly dexterous humanoid robot.

And it builds on work being conducted across Europe - including research by scientists at the University's Centre for Interdisciplinary Computational And Dynamical Analysis (CICADA).

Modelled on a three-and-a-half-year-old child, the iCub is already capable of eye and head motion, leg movement, object recognition and a grasping movement that is incredibly reminiscent of a human - as well as playing the drums.

But ultimately the aim is to develop a robot that can crawl on all fours, sit up, handle objects with precision and have head and eye movements that echo those of human beings.

It's also hoped it will be able to see, move, hear and touch in a human-like manner.

Development of the iCub is now based at the Italian Institute of Technology. And it made its UK

debut at the University's 'Symposium on Humanoid Robotics: the iCub Project'.

Professor John Gray, who is a visiting professor at The University of Manchester's Control Systems Centre, was involved in the early development of the iCub in Salford.

He said: "It's a tremendous coup to have the iCub here in Manchester.

"One of the great things about the iCub is it is an open systems platform. Users and developers in all disciplines, from psychology, through to cognitive neuroscience, to developmental robotics, can use it and customise it freely.

"It's hoped the iCub will develop its cognitive capabilities in the same way as a child, progressively learning about its own bodily skills, now to interact with the world, and eventually how to communicate with other individuals."

The symposium included a talk by Professor Darwin Caldwell, Research Director at the Italian Institute of Technology (IIT), who also delivered the public lecture.



Deepening tolerance makes British Obama 'possible' says Putnam

The UK could see the emergence of a black Prime Minister according to a joint study by Harvard University and The University of Manchester.

The project, to be published in book later this year co-authored by Guardian writer Tom Clark, is led by Harvard's Professor Robert Putnam (pictured above) - Visiting Professor at The University of Manchester.

The "deepening tide of tolerance" emerges in survey data covering over 50 years - it tracks attitudes on both sides of the Atlantic towards mixed race marriage, working for a black boss and black and ethnic minority participation in politics.

The findings show that racial prejudice in Britain and America has been declining during that period - chiefly thanks to the greater tolerance of younger generations.

"Despite the continuing racial divides in America, we have seen how a slow and deepening tide of tolerance has made possible the election of a black President," said Professor Putnam.

"At the same time, we have seen how a generation of black politicians in America - that goes well beyond Barack Obama - has emerged, and is starting to seize the opportunities this change presents.

Despite some caveats - especially the small though growing black British political class - the researchers believe the "Obama phenomenon could happen in the UK."

"The good news is that in terms of the underlying attitudes of the majority, Britain is in the same place as the United States," said Professor Ed Fieldhouse Executive Director, of The University of Manchester's Institute for Social Change at the school of Social Sciences.

"Whether it is willingness to work for a black boss or to welcome a non-white person into the family, majority British opinion - just like majority American opinion - is gradually getting more tolerant."

Drug Discovery Centre

The Paterson Institute for Cancer Research has embarked on an exciting new development of a Drug Discovery Centre.

This is a new Cancer Research UK strategic initiative aimed at increasing their capacity and capability in small molecule drug discovery to complement existing activities at the Institute for Cancer Research in Sutton and in Newcastle.

It is an important component of their recently announced strategy and will be backed to

the tune of £8 million over the next five years; this is funding over and above the usual core funding for the Institute.

To head this exciting development, Donald Ogilvie has recently joined the Institute from AstraZeneca. Donald brings more than 15 years of oncology drug discovery and development experience and a remarkable track record of delivering a large number of oncology drug candidates to development, three of which are currently in clinical trials.

The centre will be located on the ground floor of the Paterson and work will begin shortly on the refurbishment of the laboratories to make them fit for purpose. Recruitment into the Centre will begin shortly and will include a significant medicinal chemistry team.

"This is an important step in the continuing growth and development of the Paterson and the Manchester Cancer Research Centre," said Director of Operations Pippa McNichol.

Birth brain defect could be treated with vitamin supplement

Pioneering research suggests that a vitamin supplement taken during pregnancy could prevent hydrocephalus - one of the common forms of birth brain defect.

Dr Jaleel Miyan, at the Faculty of Life Sciences, says laboratory tests have shown that administering a combination of naturally occurring vitamins (tetrahydrofolate and folic acid), dramatically reduces the risk of hydrocephalus.

Dr Miyan said: "Hydrocephalus is a condition arising from an abnormal build-up of fluid within the chambers of the brain.

"This fluid build-up – usually caused by a blockage in the fluid's pathway due to trauma, infection or abnormal development – is associated with an increase in the pressure on the brain resulting in brain damage. When this happens, doctors can relieve this pressure only by performing surgery.

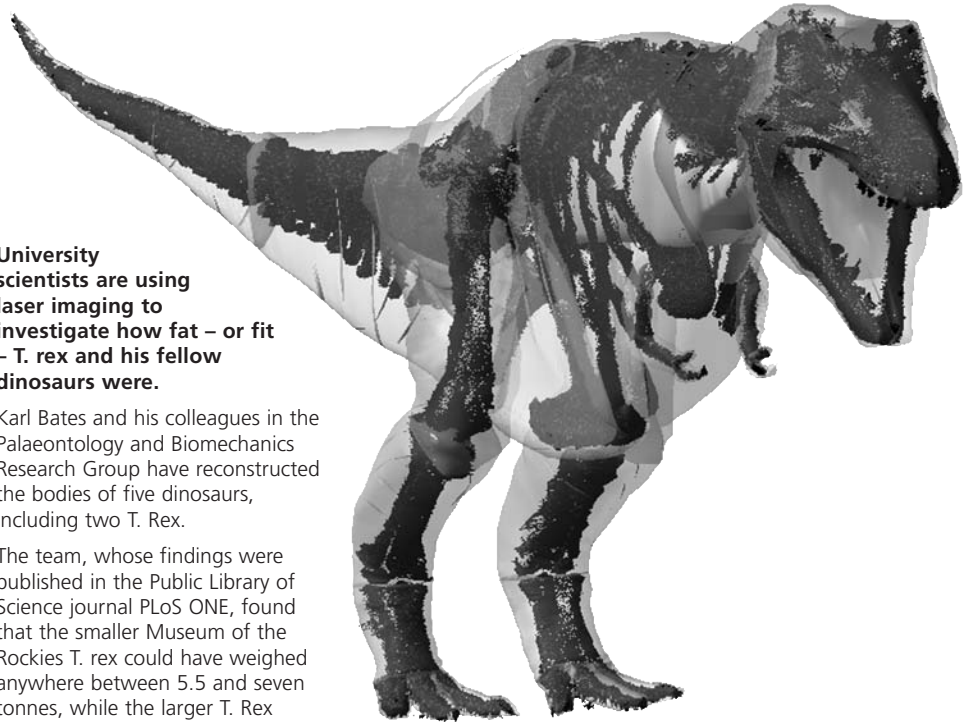
"Our studies have revealed that hydrocephalus is associated with a change in the composition of the cerebrospinal fluid and it is this chemical change that prevents normal growth of the brain cells resulting in arrested brain development. This occurs prior to any brain damage due to raised pressure."

The findings of the study – carried out in collaboration with the University of Lancaster, funded by Association for Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus (ASBAH) and published in the *Journal of Neuropathology and Experimental Neurology* – led the team to examine ways of stimulating cell division to encourage normal brain development. They found the supplement worked at any stage during pregnancy and may be effective even if given after the diagnosis of hydrocephalus is made at an 18 to 20 week pregnancy scan.

Women who are planning on becoming pregnant are already encouraged to increase their daily intake of another, synthetic, folate – folic acid – to help prevent birth defects.

The combined folate supplement is not currently available. Further studies are underway to translate this important laboratory finding so that patients can benefit from it.

Sizing up the dinosaurs



University scientists are using laser imaging to investigate how fat – or fit – T. rex and his fellow dinosaurs were.

Karl Bates and his colleagues in the Palaeontology and Biomechanics Research Group have reconstructed the bodies of five dinosaurs, including two T. Rex.

The team, whose findings were published in the Public Library of Science journal PLoS ONE, found that the smaller Museum of the Rockies T. rex could have weighed anywhere between 5.5 and seven tonnes, while the larger T. Rex specimen Stan might have weighed as much as eight tonnes.

The team looked at several dinosaurs used laser scanning (LiDAR) and computer modelling methods to create a range of 3D models of the specimens, attempting to reconstruct their body sizes and shape as in life.

The laser scanner images the full mounted skeleton, resulting in a detailed 3D model which allows the calculation of body segment masses, centres of mass and moments of inertia for each animal – all the information that is needed to analyse body movements.

They will now use the results to further investigate the locomotion of dinosaurs, specifically how they ran.

Karl said: "Our technique allows people to see and decide for themselves how fat or thin the dinosaurs might have been in life. You can see the skeleton with a belly. Anyone from a five-year-old to a Professor can see it and say, 'I think this reconstruction is too fat or too thin'.

"This study will help us in our research on how dinosaurs ran in 3-D rather than 2-D as in previous studies."

Forgotten stories of Britain's Irish migrants told

A book published last month has mounted a challenge to British stereotypes of Irish people living in the UK.

Dr Liam Harte from The University of Manchester discovered obscure autobiographical accounts written by petty criminals, political activists, navies, nurses, a doctor, a policeman, a chimney sweep, a Protestant street preacher and many others written over a period of 300 years.

The book also examines autobiographical texts of more well known Irish migrants to British shores including Bob Geldof (pictured), W.B. Yeats and Sean O'Casey.

"This book makes it clear that the Irish living in Britain have always been more than mere

hod-carriers or anti-British agitators," said Dr Harte, who is based at the School of Arts Histories and Cultures.

"In fact the material shows that the Irish and the British have many shared experiences. We should celebrate how much we have in common and appreciate the diverse contribution of Irish men and women to British culture and society."

He added: "Second generation voices are often absent from Irish accounts of Irish history and literature. I hope my book will correct that anomaly."

"Some of the writers cling to their Irishness and are hostile to Britain, while others seek to become more British than the British themselves.



"Perhaps James Joyce has hoovered up all notions of exile. That's a shame as there are plenty of other voices which need to be heard."

Scientists in space race to discover how Solar System began

Scientists at the University are continuing in their quest to answer questions about the creation of the Solar System - after being given £3.5million by a leading research council.

Researchers in the University's Isotope Cosmochemistry and Geochemistry group use specially developed technology to scrutinise tiny samples of material gathered from space.

They painstakingly identify the gases and other elements contained within meteorites or dust particles. And ultimately they hope that information will help them to work out how and when different parts of our galaxy were formed.

Now their ground-breaking research has been given a £3.5 million boost from the Science and Technology Funding Council (STFC).

Dr Ian Lyon, who is a Reader in Isotope Geochemistry, says the funding reflects the success of their ongoing research and the quality of the instruments that they have already developed, including the Laser Resonance Ionization Mass Spectrometers and Time-of-Flight Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometers.

The Laser Resonance Ionization Mass Spectrometer is 100 times more sensitive than any other instrument across the globe. And it is used for the analysis of the noble gas xenon, which is very rare on Earth and is particularly important when found within meteorites and other samples.



The cosmochemistry research team - which is based in the School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences - is made up of physicists, chemists and geologists.

Current research include The Prehistory of the Solar System, The Formation and Early Evolution of the Solar System, the Stardust and Genesis Missions and Early History and Evolution of the Moon and Mars.

And among the items currently being analysed are meteorites, inter-stellar grains and other materials brought back from NASA Space missions.

The £3.5million grant from the STFC will be used to continue the development of instruments and to fund six post-doctorate members of staff over five years.

Great Depression spurred 'amazing' period of creativity

The hardships of the Great Depression spurred a period of unparalleled creativity according to a University of Manchester historian.

Dr Charlie Wildman says the modern high street and great architecture are a lasting legacy of one of the most traumatic times in British economic history.

According to her study of archives in Liverpool and Manchester from the 1920s and 30s, councils invested massively in public transport, civic and commercial architecture as well as civic exhibitions and official celebrations.

If history repeats itself, the findings may provide a crumb of comfort for people enduring current economic woes.

Iconic landmarks such as Manchester Central Library, Manchester Town hall extension, the Mersey Tunnel, and the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall were all built during the early 1930s.

"Without doubt, the Great Depression caused huge hardship for millions of people -



but that was not the whole story," she said.

"Municipal rulers, civic leaders, and businessmen were the spur for amazing levels confidence, innovation and civic pride.

"The jury's out on whether the similar levels of creativity will result from today's economic crisis - but I don't see why not."

According to Dr Wildman's research, department stores used innovative ideas to attract shoppers. Examples include a

zoo at George Henry Lees and an appearance as a shop assistant by Gracie Fields at Bon Marche, both in Liverpool.

An ambitious Liverpoolian archbishop called Richard Downing raised £1 million - a huge sum in those days - to build the largest Cathedral outside Rome.

And Trafford Park in Manchester - one of the oldest industrial estates in the world - was revitalised during the Depression.

Experts turn to web to combat distressing skin disease

People experiencing the skin disease psoriasis may get relief from their symptoms and the psychological distress they can cause through a new web-based therapy programme.

Skin experts and psychologists at the University, have teamed up to design a computer program known as 'electronic Targeted Intervention for Psoriasis' or eTIPS to help sufferers cope with and manage their condition better.

"Psoriasis is a skin disease that usually appears as patches of raised, red skin anywhere on the body and is believed to be related to faulty signals sent to skin cells by the body's immune system," said Dr Christine Bundy, senior lecturer in psychological medicine and a member of the research team.

"The condition affects between two and three per cent of the UK population and can have an effect on the way people think and feel about themselves, as well as how to cope with day to day life.

"Psychological discomfort is made worse by the visible nature of the condition and people may feel reluctant to expose parts of their body affected with psoriasis, often covering up with long sleeves, trousers and polo necks.

"Psoriasis has been known to affect people's work, relationships and the activities they do, leading to anxiety, stress, worry, low self-esteem and difficulties with coping."

The eTIPS study, funded by the Psoriasis Research Trust and supported by the Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Alliance (PAPAA), will ask participants to complete up to four web-based questionnaires over a six week period with a further follow-up questionnaire at six months.

The programme is based on cognitive behaviour therapy - a successful psychological treatment that helps individuals understand that the way they think about a situation can affect the way they feel and behave.

For further information visit the PAPAA website

www.papaa.org/



Scientists around the world, especially Life Scientists and clinicians, have reason to be grateful to Professor Carole Goble, leader of the UK's e-Science programme. Her mission, pursued with great enthusiasm and vision, is to enable scientists and, indeed, citizens to find and link their information and resources, to open up their knowledge, systems and protocols to each other. And all for free. She fervently believes in sharing information and in collaboration – and she has no time for the selfish scientist.

Hers is a remarkable story, most recently recognised by her being chosen in a worldwide search by Microsoft to be the first recipient of the Jim Gray e-Science Award, in recognition of achievements in the application of computer technology to scientific insight and innovation. (Jim Gray was one of Microsoft's most distinguished computer scientists, who disappeared whilst sailing solo at sea).

"I'm very honoured," she says.

And the great thing is that she is one of our own graduates. It is just 30 years since she arrived here as a Computer Science undergraduate. Even then she was special – one of only six students making up the first entry to do primarily software, under such luminaries as Professors Frank Sumner, Hilary Kahn and Tom Kilburn. She was one of the first graduates in Computing and Information Systems.

Following graduation, she decided to stay for just one more year to work with Sumner on the use of microcomputers in business. She's been here ever since.

"I intended to go off and pursue a career in industry, not be an academic," she says. But she met and married Ian Cottam, now a University IT Manager, and "that was that".

She managed to get a Teaching Lectureship. "In those days, there were so many jobs and so few people applying for them," she says. Again she was breaking new ground, becoming one of the first people to teach undergraduates IT management databases.

She made exceptionally rapid progress up the academic ladder, becoming a full professor in 2000 and winning wide acclaim from the start for her papers and publications, which now run into

hundreds. And she is one of the University's biggest grant holders, with around £4 million at any one time.

The key event was joining Professor Alan Rector's research group, which focused on the use of IT for clinical and medical informatics. Through the nineties, she worked with Rector, and with Andy Brass, Professor of Bioinformatics, founding the Information Management Group with Norman Paton.

With Brass and Paton she launched TAMBUS, the influential biological database linking system, was launched. This was followed in 2001 by the launch of the UK's eScience programme to develop the application of computer technologies, mechanisms and infrastructure to science.

"It enables scientists to be highly collaborative," Carole says enthusiastically.

"We developed computing techniques for high throughput data analysis. For example, there are more than 1,000 sets in biosciences, but before we came up with our scientific processing pipelines they were not connected. Now, our automated research discovery pipelines can run whilst you're in the pub. Before that, the scientists had to do it by hand."

As Director of the myGrid project, part of Workflow Management Systems, she has developed the highly popular Taverna Workflow Workbench. Now, more than 350 organisations around the world and 30 universities in the USA use that software.

"We had good successes early on," she says. "We pick out key people, usually individual PhD or postdoc scientists working at the bench. They are the ones that do the work. If we can solve that individual's problem, we know that there are thousands more people doing similar work who can use our solution."

Her motto is: "Act local, think global" – "we start with just one, in the knowledge that there will be a wide application". And another motto is: "Just enough, just in time" – "we do a little bit that helps them and they give us something back."

Following the stunning success of Taverna, which has influenced the setting up of Microsoft's Trident

programme, the Open Middleware Infrastructure Institute-UK (OMII – UK) was opened in 2006 to fund development. It involves Manchester, Edinburgh and Southampton – and Carole is principle investigator.

"That has enabled me to employ software engineers to work alongside researchers – a key development," she says.

Now, her interest has also been drawn to bringing scientists closer together as a virtual social network, a sort of Facebook for scientists. "We discovered, with some surprise, that we had users all over the world," she says. "Workflows are quite complicated, like protocols, but we found that people were exchanging them. I want to encourage that and to push for open science."

So, she is developing the myExperiment social networking and collaboration platform for workflow using eScientists. She is interested in new ways of publishing scientific results of all kinds, in mass curation and the analysis of social interaction to better support workflow exchange and development to improve scientific practices.

Her energy, enthusiasm and thirst for innovation know no bounds. Although with Ian, combining the exotic with the homely, she does find time to holiday in Hawaii and to support Blackburn Rovers.

Name

Professor Carole Goble

Position

2000-present Professor, School of Computer Science, The University of Manchester

Education

1979-1982 The University of Manchester
BSc Computing and Information Systems

Career

1995- 2000 Senior Lecturer
Department of Computer Science, The University of Manchester

1985-1995 Lecturer
Department of Computer Science, The University of Manchester

1982-1985 Research Assistant/Associate
Department of Computer Science, The University of Manchester



The Children's University of Manchester "Road-show"

The first in a new series of exciting HE awareness and aspiration raising activities for primary learners has been successfully launched in a local school by the University.

The Children's University of Manchester "Road-show" took a newly developed interactive campus map out to Manor Green Primary School in Denton, Tameside, to show primary pupils what life was like on campus without them needing to step outside their school gates.

The new "Road-show" idea, developed by Alison Gregory in SRAIDD, is a novel approach to raising pupils' awareness about the variety and breadth of student life on university campus. The activity starts with pupils building a giant model of the University's campus along Oxford Road piece-by-piece on their school floor.

When all 48 squares are in place 'tours' are led around this virtual campus by trained student ambassadors. Along the way pupils are given questions and scenarios about their educational future. They also complete interactive activities such as dancing in the Students' Union, a mini 'career-check' in the Careers Service and finally get to graduate complete with hats and photos in the Whitworth Hall.

Feedback from teaching staff at the school was overwhelmingly positive, where pupils most enjoyed the chance to meet students and engage in activities that corresponded to real-life scenarios.

Julian Skyrme, Head of Undergraduate Recruitment and Widening Participation, commented: "The Government's National Council for Educational Excellence has recommended that primary schools and universities strengthen links to enhance pupils' aspirations. The Children's University of Manchester



Road-show is a fun and interactive way to widen our reach into primary schools by taking our campus to them!"

The series of "Road-shows" will continue throughout this academic year. If academic staff are interested in getting involved contact Alison Gregory for further information. alison.gregory@manchester.ac.uk

This is just one element of The University of Manchester's Primary HE Programme run by staff in Student Recruitment, Admissions and International Development Division (SRAIDD) and has been developed to meet recent recommendations by the government's National Council for Educational Excellence (NCEE) for primary learners to engage more with higher education.

Students and residents team up to clean up Withington

More than 40 Manchester Leadership Programme (MLP) student volunteers joined forces with local residents to "clean sweep" local neighbourhoods as part of the 'Love Withington' campaign.

The students and residents removed litter and swept up the streets of Withington and Ladybarn and discussed how the area could be improved.

Chloe Warner, an MLP student said: "As a student living in the area, I'm delighted to be involved with Love Withington. It gives me a great opportunity to give back to the community."

Love Withington is run by a steering group which aims to improve Withington and its surrounding vicinity. It links together the efforts of local residents, students and organisations who wish to see Withington prosper. Love Withington's key themes are Respect, Pride, Engagement and Celebration.

Kirsty Hutchison, Volunteering & Community Engagement Manager said: "The event was a great success. All the MLP volunteers thoroughly enjoyed making a positive impact on their local community. Events like these show how residents and students can work together and celebrate the area they live in."





All aboard the Brain Bus!

How do you recreate the sound of church bells with just a serving spoon and a piece of string?

Just ask Dr Stuart Allan and Dr Ellen Poliakoff, who showed schoolchildren the rather ingenious technique – and in the process taught them all about the brain – when they took to the road in their Brain Bus.

They took hands-on activities to test the senses to the suburbs, to show young and old alike how the brain works and how science can answer some of life's most captivating questions.

Dr Allan, lecturer at the Faculty of Life Sciences, explained: "Three-year-olds and upwards can understand the senses and it's an area that is intriguing to all ages.

"It takes effort to get out of bed on a Saturday morning and go to the Museum. We are bringing science to your doorstep and going further afield this year in the hope of finding new and different audiences.

"We want people to see that science is interesting as well as important in our lives, and to encourage people who may

not consider it possible to go to University."

Dr Poliakoff, of the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences, added: "We get a lot out of it too. A lot of our students volunteer and it's good for their development – I have seen shy students really come out of their shell explaining research to different groups.

"Plus we get asked some very interesting questions, questions that we might not have thought of, and this inspires our research."

The activities also included how to measure your nerve endings with a paper fastener and using smell pots to stir up memories.

The Brain Bus called at schools and libraries in Warrington, Frodsham, Macclesfield, Whitefield, Walkden and Ashton-u-Lyne, as well as Piccadilly Railway Station.

The tour was part of Brain Awareness Week, an international campaign involving 2,200 partners in 76 countries dedicated to advancing public awareness about the progress and benefits of brain research.



MAP to success

The Manchester Access Programme (MAP) has recently celebrated recruiting its largest ever intake of students. MAP is the University's flagship equity and admissions programme developed to aid the progression of talented young people across Greater Manchester from underrepresented backgrounds into The University of Manchester and elsewhere.

Since MAP started in 2005, 400 students have successfully completed the programme and are now studying disciplines ranging from Accounting right through to Zoology. Most of these students now act as Ambassadors to help recruit and support further generations of students onto the programme.

Students are carefully targeted and selected onto the programme because they have the potential to go to university but are from backgrounds that are severely underrepresented in all Russell Group Universities. This year the programme has further expanded and the University has taken in more than 300 sixth form students from across schools and colleges in Greater Manchester.

A key feature of MAP is that students undertake an assessed academic assignment developed by the Teaching, Learning & Assessment Office under the guidance of an academic or postgraduate researcher. To complete this they must become enrolled at the John Rylands Library to access printed and electronic resources. This assignment offers 40 additional UCAS points towards entry to every degree programme at the University and students also benefit from an additional £1,750 annual Manchester Achievement Scholarship when enrolling at Manchester.

During this year's Welcome Day, students took part in a group task organised by the Staff Training and Development Unit and found out about information about the programme of activities ahead, which includes a series of personal development and skills workshops; a three-day 'University Life' conference; online e-mentoring from undergraduate students and one-to-one UCAS application guidance interviews with staff.

Dr Tim Westlake, Director of the Student Recruitment, Admissions & International Development Division, said "We are delighted to have received record applications and enrolments for this year's Manchester Access Programme. MAP has gone from strength-to-strength and has now been recognised by the Department for Innovation Universities and Skills and HEFCE as a model to roll out to 11 Universities who are working together to recognise and share best practice in this area."

For further information about the Manchester Access programme you can visit the website below or email Manchester Access Programme Coordinator: Katie.howley@manchester.ac.uk



What's On



Music and Drama at Manchester

Thurs 23 April, 1.10pm, FREE
Cosmo Rosewald Concert Hall

Quatuor Danel Lunchtime Concert

The Danels revisit their legendary interpretation of one of the twin peaks of the French quartet repertoire, preceded by Schubert's quartet debut, composed at the age of 13, and Camden Reeve's first venture into the medium.

Fri 24 April, 7.30pm, FREE

The Manchester Grammar School, Old Hall Lane, M13 0XT

Quatuor Danel Evening Concert

The Danels reach out to a young audience, with a classic example of musical humour from the founder of the string quartet, a second chance to hear Camden Reeves new work, and the first of Beethoven's late quartets, composed in the aftermath of the Choral Symphony.

Fri 24 April, 5pm, FREE

Cosmo Rosewald Concert Hall

Psappha – Beat the Rush Hour Concert

Premiers of new works by Jae Hong Lee, Joy Chou, Louis Brehony and Steven Calver, plus Three Ancient Nightclubs by Kevin Malone.

Thurs 30 April, 1.10pm, FREE

Cosmo Rosewald Concert Hall

Sundanese Gamelan Degung

The University of Manchester Music students, with Rachel Swindells and guests, offer a dynamic programme of music for gamelan degung, a small gamelan orchestra unique to the mountainous region of Sunda in West Java.

Thurs 7 May, 1.10pm, FREE

Cosmo Rosewald Concert Hall

Quatuor Danel Lunchtime Concert

Only the two outer movements survive the teenage Schubert's B flat Quartet, but they are gems. Now in his thirties, Bruno Mantovani (no relation!) is one of the foremost French composers of his generation.

Thurs 7 May, 2.30pm, FREE

Cosmo Rosewald Concert Hall

Quatuor Danel Seminar

The University of Manchester's aspiring composers submit their compositions for scrutiny.

Fri 8 May, 7.30pm, £12/£8/£3

Cosmo Rosewald Concert Hall

Quatuor Danel Evening Concert

A welcome return for Robin Ireland of the Lindsays, in a sunny, uplifting postscript to this season's Mendelssohn quartets.

The Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama

Bridgford Street, Manchester M13 9PL

0161 275 8951/8950

email boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk

www.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre

International Society

WINTER TRIPS

Sat 4 April

Blackpool

Sun 5 April

Peak District visiting The Heights of Abraham and Bakewell

Sat 11 April

North Wales visiting Llangollen and Powis Castle

Sun 12 April

Oxford with guided tour

Sat 18 April

Peak District visiting Castleton's Peak Cavern and Lyme Hall and Park

Sun 19 April

Chester Zoo

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

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

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 rabiyy@hotmail.com

www.rabiyy.com

Muslim Chaplaincy

South Campus Mosque, McDougall Centre

Jammaat (Group Prayer) Daily

Juma Prayer Friday 1.15pm

Honorary Imam:

Imam Habeeb, h_chatti@hotmail.com

North Campus Mosque,

Basement of Joule Library, Sackville Street Building

Jammaat (Group Prayer) Daily

Juma Prayer Friday 12.30pm

The role of Volunteer Muslim Chaplain is to provide pastoral support, guidance and a listening ear to Muslim staff and students

Chaplains' email: a.sami99@yahoo.co.uk,

mbm1411@hotmail.com,

assia_shah61@yahoo.co.uk, hawwah@hotmail.com

Jodrell Bank

Ask an Engineer/Astronomer

Mon 6-Thurs 9 April & Tues 14-Fri 17 April, 2pm

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

Trees in Spring, a guided walk of the Arboretum

Wed 29 April, 11.30am

Join the Arboretum Curator on a guided walk of the Arboretum and see our fantastic National Collections of Malus and Sorbus, crab apple trees in full blossom. No extra charge

Jodrell Bank Observatory Visitor Centre

Macclesfield, Cheshire

01477 571339

www.manchester.ac.uk/jodrellbank/viscen

Gig Guide

MANCHESTER ACADEMY 1, 2 and 3

Eskimo Joe Tue 7 Apr - £10 Adv

The Rasmus & Backyard Babies Wed 8 Apr - £15 Adv

Danko Jones Thurs 9 Apr - £10 Adv

IAMX Tues 14 Apr - £12 Adv

Bombay Bicycle Club Wed 15 Apr - £7 Adv

Give it a Name Introduces...feat: In This Moment +

Lights + Versaemerge + Whole Wheat Bread

Wed 15 Apr - £5 Adv

And You Will Know Us By The Trail Of Dead +

Middle Class Rut Thurs 16 Apr - £10 Adv

Supersuckers/Nashville Pussy Fri 17 Apr - £12.50 Adv

Eville Fri 17 Apr - £8.50 Adv

Eskimo Cowboy Sat 18 Apr - £8.50 Adv

Deathstars Sat 18 Apr - £12 Adv

Sharon Shannon Big Band Sun 19 Apr - £18 Adv

Eli Paperboy Reed & The True Loves Sun 19 Apr - £8.50 Adv

The Living End Tues 21 Apr - £12 Adv

Camera Obscura Wed 22 Apr - £10 Adv

Kaboom Thurs 23 Apr - £6 Adv

The Rakes Thurs 23 Apr - £11 Adv

Focus Fri 24 Apr - £16 Adv

The Derek Trucks Band Sat 25 Apr - £15 Adv

Senses Fail Sat 25 Apr - £12 Adv

Art Brut Mon 27 Apr - £9.50 Adv

Jon Allen Tues 28 Apr - £8 Adv

Easy Star All Stars Wed 29 Apr - £15 Adv

Duke Special Thurs 30 Apr - £12.50 Adv

Madina Lake Fri 1 May - £12.50 Adv

Karma Fri 1 May - £5 Adv

Decorate in Flames Fri 1 May - £6 Adv

Calvin Harris Sat 2 May - £10 Adv

Jeffrey Lewis & The Junkyard Tues 5 May - £10 Adv

Tickets from:

Students' Union, Oxford Road

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

0871 2200260

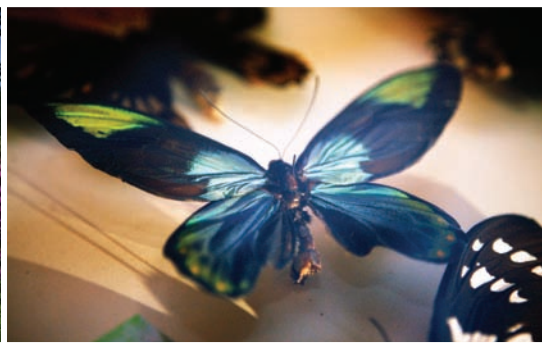
Royal Court (Liverpool) 0151 709 4321 (c/c)

Students' Union

Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL

0161 275 2930

www.manchesteracademy.net



The Manchester Museum

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

Manchester Gallery (opening 4 April)

Lindow Man: A bog body mystery (until 19 April)

Lindow Moss: A place of finding (until 12 July)

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Easter Holidays

6-9 April & 14-17 April, 11am-4pm

Join in activities throughout the Easter holidays to celebrate the opening of our new Manchester Gallery and say a fond farewell to Lindow Man. Find out more at: www.manchester.ac.uk/museum

Magic Carpet – Meet Maharajah!

Friday 24 April, 11am-12 noon

Join us for elephant stories and activities and visit our new Manchester Gallery. Book (from 17 April), £1 per person, Under five's

TALKS AND TOURS

Showcase Rethinking disability representation

Wednesday 22 April, 3-5pm

With Jocelyn Dodd, Director, Research Centre for Museums and Galleries, University of Leicester. Drop in free.

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

Contact Theatre

AIR: Stephanie Ridings - The National Express

Wed 8 April - 8pm, FREE

An exclusive work-in-progress performance.

RAW Jam

Thurs 16 April - 1pm, FREE

Join us for regular FREE lunchtime sharings of the latest rhythm and word product from Contact

CYAC Spring Show

Thurs 16 April to Sat 18 April - 8pm £8/5, (Limited FREE tickets for FreeAct members)

Contact Young Actors Company's first show of 2009.

Destino on the Road

Fri 17 April to Sat 18 April - 8pm (plus post-show

discussion on Fri 17) £10/6

New dance from Russell Maliphant, Adam Benjamin, Hofesh Shecter and more.

Adventures of Wound Man & Shirley

by Chris Goode

Thurs 23 April to Sat 25 April - 7.30pm, £8/5 (Limited

FREE tickets for FreeAct members)

A new solo performance by 'British theatre's greatest maverick talent' The Guardian

Kitchen (You Never Had It So Good)

Fri 1 May to Sat 2 May - 8pm, £10/6 (Limited FREE

tickets for FreeAct members)

A new live film with bad coffee, nervous breakdowns, wild parties and modern hairstyles.

Oxford Road, Manchester

Tickets/Info 0161 274 0600

www.contact-theatre.org



John Rylands Library (Deansgate)

A Small Eternity: The Shape of the Sonnet Through Time until 27 June

Using sumptuously illuminated books, early printed editions, unique literary manuscripts and writers' letters, this exhibition traces the stories told by the sonnet.

Histories of Healing: Celebrating 175 years of the Manchester Medical Society until 1 June

Including a selection of work by Daksha Patel and L S Lowry's, 'Ancoats Hospital Outpatients' Hall', courtesy of the Whitworth Art Gallery.

Caring for your Family Archive Tues 7 April, 10am

Many families have collections of important documents, family Bibles or other treasured books from childhood. You are invited to bring your objects along and learn from our Conservation Team how best to care for them.

Histories of Healing – Collection Close-Up Tues 7 April 12pm

With the curator of Histories of Healing, explore the history of medicine through a closer look at the fascinating collections held in the Library.

Unusual Views: Library Tours for Photographers Sat 11 April, 12pm

Take the opportunity to photograph the Library building from spectacular viewpoints not normally open to the public!

Rubbing Away at the Past: Textural Tours of the Library Wed 15 April, 12pm

On this tour you will be encouraged to take rubbings of the textured and decorated surfaces found throughout the Library.

Open Studio – Conservation Close-Up Wed 15 April, 12pm

Come behind the scenes and see the team at work in the studio. This will include the opportunity to visit one of our collection storage areas, not normally open to the public.

Happy Birthday Shakespeare! Poetry Reading Thurs 23 April, 1pm

To celebrate the birthday of the Bard, some of the students from Manchester University's Centre for New Writing will give a reading of their poems.

Sephardi Haggadah Thurs 2 & Sat 25 April, 12pm

Come and view the magnificent 14th Century Spanish Sephardi Haggadah, one of the most significant and visually impressive manuscripts in the Library's collections.

Manchester's Place in the History of Medicine Thurs 30 April, 5.30pm

In a public lecture to accompany the Histories of Healing exhibition, Prof John Pickstone will discuss Manchester's contribution to medicine – both past and present.

Poetry Lives! Sun 3 May, 2pm

Join us for an afternoon of performance poetry and readings delivered by local writers and performers. This event is free, but booking is advisable as spaces are limited.

Conservation in Action Tues 5 May, 10am

The Conservation team will be out and about in the galleries and Historic Reading Room. Take the opportunity to meet them and to talk about their work.

The Works of John Gould Wed 6 May, 12pm

Enjoy the opportunity to take a closer look at some of the most beautiful bird books ever produced, before they go on display later this year in our forthcoming exhibition A Natural Selection: The Life and Literature of Charles Darwin.

Collection Close-Up with Library Tour every third Thursday in the month, 12.15pm

With one of our curators, enjoy a closer look at material from the Library's world famous collections and find out more about this magnificent building.

Public opening hours

Mon 12-5pm, Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 12pm-5pm

Reader opening hours

Mon-Wed 10am-5pm, Thurs 10am-7pm, Fri-Sat 10am-5pm
FREE ADMISSION

The John Rylands Library

150 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 3EH

0161 306 0555

email jrl.visitors@manchester.ac.uk

www.manchester.ac.uk/library



The Whitworth Art Gallery

DISPLAYS/COLLECTIONS

Subversive Spaces, Surrealism and Contemporary Art until 4 May 2009

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 2009

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 2009

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,

Felt Making

Wed 8 & 15 April, Friday 10 & 17 April, 1.30-3.30pm,

FREE

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

Surreal Sculptures Thurs 9 & 16 April,

1.30-3.30pm, Free

Create your own Super Sculpture 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

The Whitworth Art Gallery

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email whitworth@manchester.ac.uk



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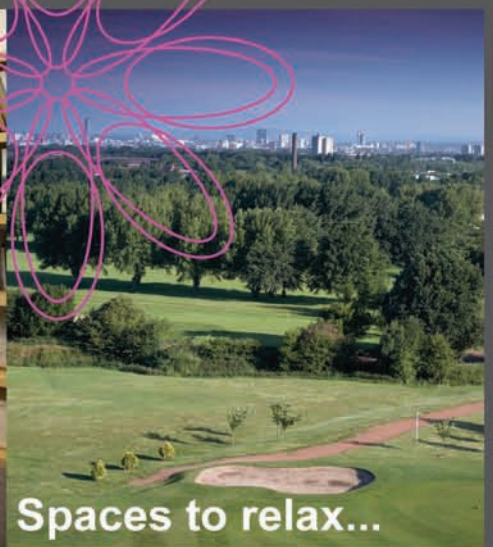
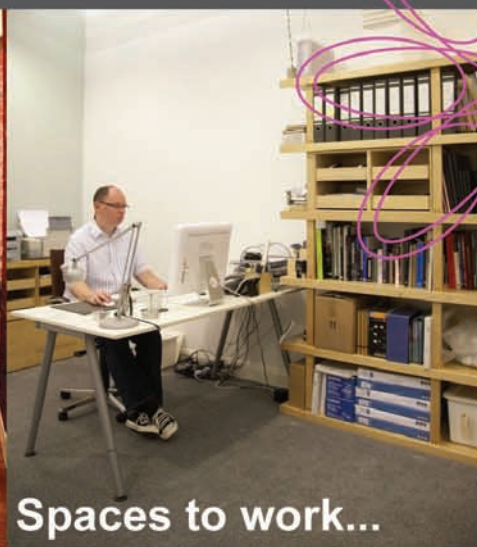
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Want to be part of a dynamic and lively new community?

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.

Houldsworth Village



Broadstone Mill provides cost effective and flexible work space in a supportive environment to grow your business.

Avoid the daily commute and keep your travel costs to a minimum by living in Millshomes' neighbouring Victoria and Elisabeth Mills comprising 1, 2 and 3 bed apartments. Prices start from only £495pcm to rent or from £89,000 to purchase. Ideally located only five miles from Manchester city centre and minutes away from Didsbury.

For more information please visit:

www.houldsworthvillage.co.uk or call **0845 603 8731**

Millshomes Ltd./Broadstone Mill Ltd., Broadstone Mill, Broadstone Road, Houldsworth Village, SK5 7DL.

*Terms & conditions apply.

Discover the Museum

Maharajah

The story of Maharajah begins in 1872, when he arrived in Edinburgh as part of a travelling circus. While in Edinburgh, Mr. Alexander Fairgreave, the owner of Maharajah's circus decided to retire, selling all the circus equipment and animals. Maharajah was sold for £680 pounds during the auction to James Jennison, the owner of the Belle Vue Zoo in Gorton, Manchester. Eight years old at the time, he stood at over two metres tall with very impressive 20-inch tusks.

In April 1872, Maharajah was boarded onto a horse carriage on the train headed for Manchester. Before the train left, Maharajah began to get distressed and uneasy, so his keeper Lorenzo Lawrence decided to walk the 200 miles from Edinburgh to Manchester, a journey which took ten days.

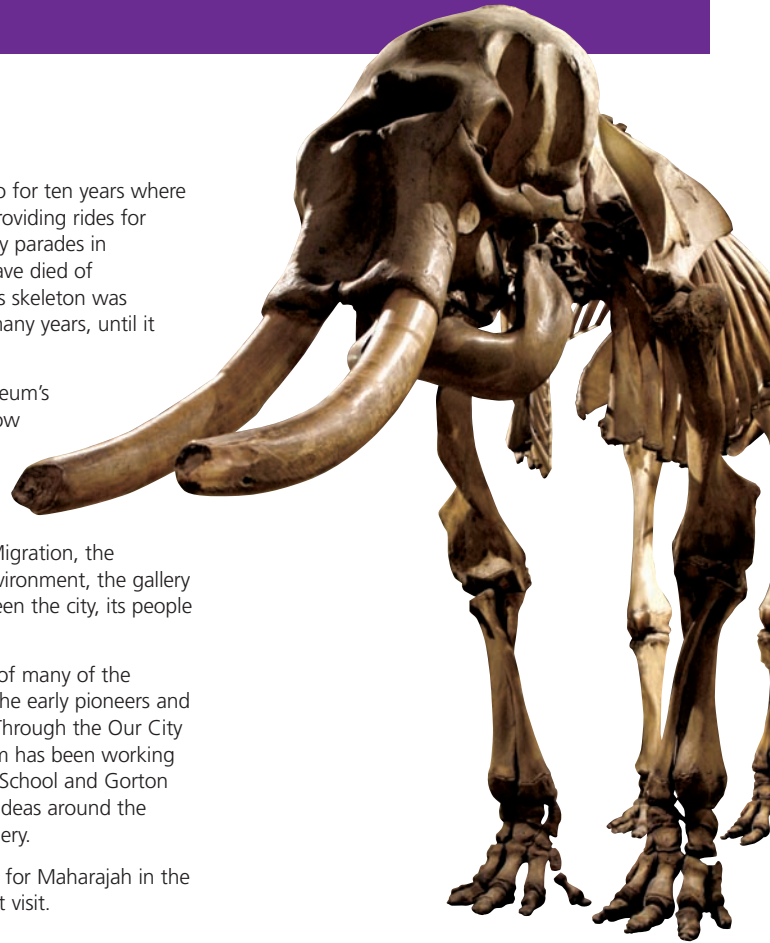
Several famous stories have been told about this incredible journey. One of them recalls that during the trip, Lorenzo Lawrence and Maharajah came upon a tollgate keeper. The two men could not agree as to how much an elephant should pay to go through the gate, so Maharajah settled the dispute himself, by opening the gate with his trunk. Although no evidence of this incident actually exists, the story was captured in a painting by Hayward Hardy, which can be seen on display at Manchester Art Gallery.

Maharajah lived in Belle Vue Zoo for ten years where he became the star attraction providing rides for visitors and participating in many parades in Manchester. He is believed to have died of pneumonia at the age of 18. His skeleton was displayed at Belle Vue Zoo for many years, until it was donated to the Museum.

Previously on display in the Museum's Mammals Gallery, Maharajah now takes pride of place in the new Manchester Gallery at The Manchester Museum, which opened on 4 April. Through its five main themes of Journeys, Migration, the Museum, Collectors and the Environment, the gallery uncovers the connections between the city, its people and the Museum.

Also highlighted are the stories of many of the Museum's collectors, including the early pioneers and present day Museum curators. Through the Our City project The Manchester Museum has been working closely with Abbey Hey Primary School and Gorton Local History Group to develop ideas around the content for the Manchester Gallery.

Don't forget to keep an eye out for Maharajah in the Manchester Gallery on your next visit.



www.manchester.ac.uk/museum

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News and story ideas

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Deadline 12 noon 16 April 2009

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Deadline 12 noon 16 April 2009

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