

Question Time



James won Gold for Drinks Service Assistant of the Year at the MARCHE (Midland Association for Restaurants, Caterers, Hotels and Entertainment)

James Hyde

- 1 What do you do?**
Assistant manager of 'Raising the Bar' in the Munrow Sports Centre.
- 2 What do you really do?**
Day to day running of the bar, ensuring customers are happy and staff are doing their job right.
- 3 How do you get to work?**
I drive to work in my Peugeot 206.
- 4 What's the best aspect of your job?**
The social side, being able to chat to customers and not being stuck in an office all day.
- 5 What's the worst aspect of your job?**
The hours. There are a lot of weekends and late nights.
- 6 What would you like to be doing in five years' time?**
I would love to be a lottery winner and not do an awful lot except play golf in the sun.
- 7 What do you enjoy most about University life?**
Nice setting and the friendly, relaxed people. With the odd exception of course!

- 8 How do you unwind?**
Playing or watching sports, especially football.
- 9 Which book is on your bedside table?**
I, Alex Cross by James Patterson.
- 10 What is your favourite tippie?**
Pear cider.
- 11 What makes a good night out?**
Friends, beer and a BBQ.
- 12 Which animal are you most like?**
A silverback gorilla because I'm massive, imposing and scary at times!
- 13 Describe your favourite holiday.**
Somewhere very hot, in a big villa with a private pool and no-one else around for miles.
- 14 What is your favourite sport?**
Football, which is questionable being a Birmingham City fan.
- 15 Who are the top three people on your fantasy dinner party list?**
Christophe Dugarry, James Corden, MC Hammer.
- 16 If you were a superhero, who would you be?**
Dangermouse because he is cool.
- 17 What has been the highlight of your life to date?**
The birth of my daughter Chloe on Boxing Day 2008.
- 18 If you could banish one thing from the world what would it be?**
Aston Villa FC!
- 19 Describe yourself in three words**
Funny, friendly and fat.
- 20 What is your personal motto?**
Though you are tired and weary, still journey on till you come to your happy abode, where all you love and dream of will be there at the end of the road.

Would you like to appear on Question Time? or know a colleague who would?

Contact... university-buzz@bham.ac.uk

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A historic house

June 2010



Outstanding scientist



Perspectives



Question Time

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

and finally...



YOUR BUZZ

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Edited by Kate Pritchard

Cover shot: Lee Hale, Curator, Winterbourne House and Garden. See pages 8–9.

Vice-Chancellor's View

I write this as my wife is taking her brother and his family to Winterbourne House and Gardens. And, yes, you are supposed to feel a pang of admiration of my forgoing pleasure to meet the Buzz deadline.

Winterbourne was reopened, on a glorious Thursday evening in May, after a brilliantly imaginative restoration. The house was built for John and Margaret Nettlefold in 1903, and is one of the finest examples of a grand Arts and Crafts home in Birmingham.

From this house John, the 'N' in GKN, used his wealth and vision to help pioneer Town and Country planning. Margaret laid out the garden as her own outworking of the ideas from designs she found in the books of Gertrude Jekyll.

In 1944 the house and gardens were bequeathed to the University on the death of their then owner John MacDonald Nicolson. They served the University well in a number of guises, including as a hall of residence. Tastes, and statutory regulations, change and while the gardens continued to serve as an icon and research and teaching facility, the house was in need of a new vision.

Thanks to the vision and energy of Alison Darby and her team, the house is not merely restored but transformed. Like my wife and others this morning, families and friends will find their way into the ground floor of the house, marvelling not just at the free entry, but at the recreation of a domestic house and the interpretation of John's and Margaret's lifestyle and legacy. Uplifted by the house and gardens, they will seek refreshment in the tea-room.

Others, like the recent meeting of the University Leadership Forum, will use the second and third floor conference facilities, and the co-located Nicolson Building: all rare combinations of taste and quality for conferences and events.

If this was the only cultural asset our University enjoyed, it would be notable. But, of course, it isn't. A short walk from Winterbourne takes you to the Barber, hailed by The Observer and many others as one of the finest small art galleries in Europe.

Carry on to Aston Webb and you come to the Lapworth, one of Britain's oldest and most exciting geological museums. Then you can move on to Muirhead and

see displays from our remarkable Special Collections, at present showcasing part of the University's Chamberlain Collection.

As we approach Graduation, Open Days, and reunion weekends I hope that the reopened Winterbourne might spur many to explore the University's cultural treasures. I hope graduates might show their families and friends assets that most other universities could only dream of. I hope applicants and parents at Open Days will see that, beyond our outstanding academic offer, Birmingham is a real university, with cultural assets and a distinguished campus to rival leading universities in the United States. And I hope all staff and students will take time out to savour the rich and diverse resources of the University, perhaps, by special arrangement, even seeing the stunning collection of physics instruments in Physics West.

This year we are doing more, opening up the University on a Community Day on 13 June and encouraging our friends in the City to do what they can do most days: drop into the University and savour assets we are delighted to share not just as the inheritance of our University but as part of the cultural riches of Birmingham.

With this in mind, we have recently appointed Professor Ian Grosvenor as Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Cultural Engagement, who will co-ordinate a strategy to make still more of the University's cultural assets, which reach as far as Ironbridge in the West and the Shakespeare Institute in Stratford. Ian is also working closely with those in the City who are promoting Birmingham's City of Culture bid.

So we are no longer hiding our cultural lights under a bushel. Indeed, when you are walking round, peep into the cleared space that will become the Bramall Music building with its state-of-the-art concert hall. We'll then be a university with two concert halls, which also has the latest integrated group of STEM disciplines in the country, and drives forward path-breaking research in cancer, brain function, and...

I could go on, but Jan's back and you get the point: there's plenty to talk about over coffee in Winterbourne!

See pages 8–9 for more about the new-look Winterbourne



David Willetts viewing the stained glass window his great grandfather worked on

New Minister for Universities and Science on campus

David Willetts MP, the new Minister of State for Universities and Science at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, chose the University to deliver his first keynote speech since being appointed to the cabinet.

Prior to his keynote speech, the Minister travelled in one of the University's hydrogen powered cars to visit the School of Chemical Engineering's Centre for Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Research, and, also meet key people from Birmingham Science City; the region-wide participation

of public sector, businesses and the research base, which is facilitating the use of science and technology to improve the quality of life and prosperity of the West Midlands.

Willetts who was born in Birmingham and attended King Edwards School, has two family connections with the University: his father graduated with two engineering degrees and his great grandfather was one of the glaziers who worked on the Great Hall's stained glass window.



David Willetts with Professor Kevin Kendall and Dr Bruno G. Pollet from the School of Chemical Engineering

University achieves Carbon Trust Standard certification

The University has recently been certified with the Carbon Trust standard in recognition of the work that has been done, through a range of activities, to reduce emissions across the University. It also means the University can use the Carbon Trust Standard logo to demonstrate to our external audiences, our commitment to reducing our environmental impact. Recertification will take place in two years.



New centre investigates the wealth CHASM

The University is to launch a new centre dedicated to understanding how we manage our personal savings and assets, from pensions to mortgages.

The current economic downturn has brought the issue of personal savings, particularly the accessibility of credit into sharp focus. The new Centre on Household Assets and Savings Management (CHASM) will investigate how people handle their finances and the potential of financial education to change behaviour.

The new centre is based jointly in the School of Social Policy and the Birmingham Business School.

Learn more www.chasm.bham.ac.uk



Proposed new design

A new look for Staff House

Built in the early 1960s by influential architect Sir Hugh Casson, a primary figure in British art and culture throughout the last century, the Staff House building with its distinctive 'upturned boat' roof has long been a hub for staff and students to eat, relax, meet, and socialise. Apart from a general refurbishment programme 20 years ago the building remains much as it was.

This Summer will see the University investing in a significant refurbishment for Staff House as part of a general drive to create a better experience for staff, students and visitors. The focus will be on creating a café lounge style environment for the 1st floor and a versatile dining and function space on the 2nd floor.

Stuart Richards, Director of Hospitality and Accommodation Services commented

'Like the recent renovation of Winterbourne House we plan to create an offer in which we can take pride, where the quality of our product and service will be significantly better for all our customers'.

An ambitious target has been set to complete the refurbishment of The Noble Room and Staff Common Room over Summer 2010 with minimum disruption for staff and students in the process. Work on the Bratby Bar and 3rd floor Astor Suite will follow in 2011.

The intended designs, styles and moods will shortly be on display in Staff House and we would welcome your feedback.

Updates on service provision during this time will be communicated through infocus; the all staff e-newsletter.

UBSport at the cutting edge of Sports Nutrition

University of Birmingham Sport's Senior Sports Scientist, Eleanor Jones, has graduated from the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Diploma in Sports Nutrition.

The globally recognised course ensures UBSport is using the most up-to-date and advanced knowledge in sports nutrition. This information can be tailored and applied to help UBSport athletes and clients, perform to their absolute highest standard.

On her achievement Eleanor said, 'Completing this course has taken a massive commitment but I am thrilled to be able to apply the nutritional strategies to the wide range of athletes here at UBSport and be part of helping them reach their potential.'



Photographic artwork celebrates diversity

Journey, a 2.2 metre long artwork celebrating the rich cultural diversity of the student body is now on display in the Medical School. The piece, by photographer Adrian Burrows, depicts 26 students from the College, and was inspired by The Forum; a group of students and staff from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds who meet to discuss how diversity impacts on patient care and professionalism. The artwork can be seen in the corridor outside the Wolfson Common Room.

Main image: Adrian Burrows commission. Insert image: Dr June Jones, who commissioned the artwork, with photographer, Adrian Burrows and one of the students who took part in the picture, Rehnuma Hossain.



New IT Service Desk for enhanced user support

On 21 June the current IT Services Helpdesk will go live with a new name **IT Service Desk** and a new service, making IT help and support easier to find and, more widely available. When logging onto the new service you will see a new home page giving you a clear choice of where to go for help.

Users will be able to:

- Find an answer**
- Do you want to know how to do something?**
 - protect your own computer from viruses?
 - archive your email?
 - connect your laptop to the wireless network?

The Knowledge Base will help you find the answer.

Make a request

- access to a shared network drive?
- a new user set up on Banner?
- new software installed on public cluster PCs?

Submit your request via a simple web form.

Report a fault

If you have a problem that needs fixing.

IT Services would like your feedback on this new service and for the first month when you leave feedback you will be entered automatically into a prize draw. To access the new IT Service Desk from **21 June** visit www.itservicedesk.bham.ac.uk

New website coming soon

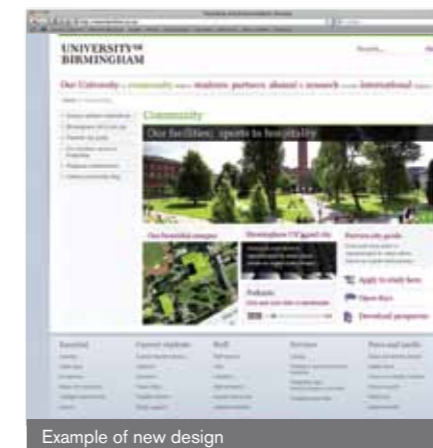
On Monday 6 September the University launches it's new externally facing website. The new website will be a significant departure from our current site and we're keen to tell you more.

Along with presentations to each of the Colleges, we're running two open sessions for all staff to find out more about the new website, the rationale behind the new design and structure, and how it will benefit the University.

The first session will be on **Monday 28 June from 10.00am-12.00 noon in Lecture Theatre G33, Aston Webb.** The second session will be on **Thursday 1 July from 2.00-4.00pm in Lecture Theatre G17, Nuffield Building.**

To register your interest in this sessions please contact Lydia Platt,

Web Implementation Assistant, l.platt@bham.ac.uk.
Look out for more messages in the coming weeks about the changes to the website and what this means for you.



Example of new design



Important travel and parking information

Undergraduate Open Days and Birmingham UCAS Higher Education Convention

The University will be holding its annual Open Days on Thursday 24 and Friday 25 June and hosting the Birmingham Higher Education Convention (HEC) on Wednesday 30 June and Thursday 1 July.

These events are core recruitment activities for the University and will bring up to 7000 prospective students to the campus each day as well as over 230 schools and 155 exhibitors from other universities over the two weeks. As a result, there will be increased traffic in and around campus and further pressure on parking.

Thursday 24 and Friday 25
South car park will be **closed** to staff to accommodate exhibitor and visitor coach parking.

Tuesday 29 June – Thursday 1 July, inclusive
Munrow car park will be **closed** to staff as it will be used for exhibitor parking and deliveries.

Wednesday 30 June and Thursday 1 July
South car park will have **restricted** parking for staff. Major road works are currently in operation on the A38 Bristol Road and Vincent Drive and the high number of visitors to these events is likely to result in further disruption to traffic around campus. Your cooperation and patience is appreciated. If you can use an alternative mode of transport on these days this is recommended.

NEWS IN BRIEF

ASA shortlisted for THE award

Academic and Student Administration in Academic Services has been shortlisted for a 2010 THE Leadership and Management Award in the category of 'Outstanding Registry Team'. The nomination relates to work undertaken by different sections within ASA in 2008/09 in support of the restructure of the University into five Colleges, the QAA Institutional Audit and the ongoing BIRMS student systems project.

More information can be found at www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/lmawards

EISU awarded Centre of Excellence title

The English for International Students Unit (EISU) has been awarded the title of Centre of Excellence by the *English Language Gazette* who assessed 500 institutions, accredited by the British Council.

Extreme duo in kayak charity race

Two colleagues from the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences, have completed a gruelling 125 mile kayak race in memory of former classmate Dr Kevin Lilley.

Dr Liam Grover and Dr Gary Leeke finished the Devizes to Westminster race in 22 hours 3 minutes, raising over £1,000 for the Kevin Lilley fund which helps to fund students undertaking scientific research.

Kevin passed away on Christmas Day 2006 following a vigorous fight against lymphoma.



Brown? Brown... No, You're not on my list

Interim Head of Security Rob Derbyshire and MP Gordon Brown at the Leader's Debate, 29 April 2010. Cartoon by Chris Horton, Security.



The Personal Skills Award wins national accolade

The Personal Skills Award (PSA) has won the national award for 'Graduate Development Preparation in Higher Education' from the Association of Graduate Recruiters (AGR); an organisation that supports all aspects of graduate recruitment for over 800 organisations.

The PSA is Birmingham's optional employability award, designed to enable undergraduate students to develop, recognise and articulate their employability effectively. Students can choose to take accredited modules in employability related skills on the PSA (Modular) pathway; or receive recognition for being involved in

extra-curricular activities both on and off campus by taking the PSA (Activity) pathway. There are currently over 700 undergraduates participating on the PSA this academic year.

The AGR highlighted the PSA's innovative and robust design, and its rigorous approach in developing students for integration into work. The PSA is now the only university programme that has been shortlisted for the overall winner for the Graduate Development Award at the AGR Annual Conference in July.

Learn more
www.as.bham.ac.uk/psa

Recognition for outstanding scientists



■ Dr Anna Phillips

Birmingham Hero, Dr Anna Phillips from the School of Sport and Exercise Science has won the Neal Miller award for 'outstanding contribution to the field by a young scientist' from the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research.

Learn more
www.sportex.bham.ac.uk/news/2010/phillips_hero.shtml

■ Dr Andrew Welcham

Dr Andrew Welchman from the School of Psychology has won the David Marr medal for his work on the psychophysics and neuroimaging of 3-D motion and 3-D shape. This award, open to all working in the area of vision, recognises the achievements of an outstanding vision scientist in the early part of their research career and is named in memory of one of Britain's most distinguished vision researchers.

Vice-Chancellor's open forum

We've heard about 'key areas of investment' for the University but at the recent Vice-Chancellor's open forum it was an opportunity to meet the staff involved and learn more. **Emma D'arcy and Kate Pritchard** reflect on the event.

The Vice-Chancellor's open forum on Wednesday 12 May, the last in this academic year, was again a little bit different. Not only had the action moved to the Wolfson Centre in the Medical School but, after the Vice-Chancellor's presentation, there was an informal 'expo' showcasing key areas of investment for the University.

How did the event work?

Colleagues gathered together in the Wolfson Common Room for an informal networking session before moving to the Leonard Deacon Lecture Theatre to hear the Vice-Chancellor present on:

- Highlights of the past year
- Looking ahead to the future, a new Government and the implications for Higher Education
- Strategic Framework 2010–2015

After a question and answer session, attendees then returned to the Common Room for the 'expo' event. Representatives from each investment area were available to talk about their work, engaging with staff from across the University.

Feedback so far

The event was well attended with many positive comments on the new location. For many staff it was their first time there and it echoed the themes of investment and looking to the future. Participants enjoyed the opportunity to network with each other and new contacts and potential collaborations were made, both between investment participants and other attendees to the event.

What's next?

Each Vice-Chancellor's open forum so far has been organised to encourage involvement in different ways, from the first open Q&A session, a videoed live debate with broadcaster Michael Collie and, 'Ask UEB', where staff from across the University had the opportunity to talk directly with members of the University Executive Board (UEB).

The next Vice-Chancellor's open forum will be in November 2010 and is likely to be a 'select committee' style event. This will be followed by another forum in January/February 2011.

If you were unable to attend the open forum, you can view the Vice-Chancellor's presentation online at www.intranet.bham.ac.uk/staff/news/investment

'I'd heard about CN-CR but didn't really know what it was all about, talking to those involved it started to make sense.'

Participant comments

'I really liked the venue, it gave a different dynamic to the event.'



Top image: Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Eastwood talking to Professor Martin Freer from the Centre of Excellence in Nuclear Engineering. **Bottom image:** The Birmingham Heritage and Cultural Learning Hub 'expo' stand.

Areas of investment:

Some investment areas have already been featured in Buzz and the remainder will be featured over the coming months. An overview of each area was included in Buzz 120, January/February 2010.

Phase one

- Computational Neuroscience and Cognitive Robotics (CNCR) – Buzz 119, December 2009
- Metamaterials

Phase two

- BRIDGE: The Birmingham Policy Commissions
- The Birmingham Heritage and Cultural Learning Hub
- Centre of Excellence in Nuclear Engineering
- Global Infection – Buzz 122, May 2010
- Resilience and Urban Living
- Stem Cells and Ageing Research (SCAR) – Buzz 123, June 2010
- Systems Science for Health

Learn more

To find out more about these areas of investment visit www.intranet.bham.ac.uk/staff/news/investment

Following a £3 million renovation,
Annabel Illes welcomes us in.

WINTERBOURNE HOUSE

Overlooking a beautiful seven acre botanic garden, Winterbourne House has been restored to its original Edwardian splendour, opening as a heritage attraction where visitors can experience how the Nettlefold family lived more than 100 years ago.



John Nettlefold

A historic house and garden

Built in 1903 for the prestigious Nettlefold family, Winterbourne was designed by Midlands-based architect JL Ball in the style of the Arts and Crafts movement.

John Sutton Nettlefold was involved in the family firm GKN, the largest screw, nut and bolt manufacturer in the world. However his real passion was his pioneering work as the chair of Birmingham's first housing committee, instigating improvements in back to back housing and slum clearance. He also designed the historic Moorpool Estate in Harborne.

His wife Margaret (nee Chamberlain) was a keen gardener and designed the garden at Winterbourne, having been inspired by the books and garden designs of Gertrude Jekyll. Winterbourne is now one of the best surviving examples of an Edwardian Arts and Crafts garden and received Grade II listed status by English Heritage in 2008.

The Nettlefolds left Winterbourne in 1919 to relocate to Oxfordshire and the house was lived in by the Wheelock family for the next six years. Birmingham businessman John MacDonald Nicolson and his wife Blanche then bought the property in 1925 and were the last private owners of the house. Nicolson was a keen gardener and developed many new areas.

When Nicolson died in 1944 he bequeathed the house and garden to the University, with the desire that 'it

be maintained in something like its present form'.

Winterbourne garden became the University's botanic garden with new areas for teaching and plant conservation developed within the historic layout. In comparison Winterbourne House took on varying roles, serving as a halls of residence in the 1950s and 1960s then providing classroom space for various University departments before remaining empty for the past five years.

Recreating history

Alison Darby, Head of Winterbourne says: 'The house was really looking sorry for itself and I always felt it was wrong that the garden and the house weren't one. They were designed as a whole and that's how they should be seen. People came to the gardens and they wanted to see the house. We had to do something, we had to act.'

A successful bid was put forward to the University and renovation work began to restore the property. After a year of extensive work, visitors can now explore the estate in full through interactive diaries, oral histories and hands-on exhibits.

Exploring the house

Downstairs, the furnishings represent how the rooms would have appeared when the Nettlefold's occupied the house, with Arts and Crafts furniture and ornaments.

An exhibition room highlights the

importance of Winterbourne within the community through interactive interpretation including a train-set where different stops highlight the stories of the house through the people who lived and worked here. Children can take a step back in time and try on dressing up costumes, play with vintage toys and have a go at performing a puppet show.

In the Study, learn more about John Nettlefold's revolutionary work as the chair of the first housing committee in Birmingham. Visitors can pick up the telephone and listen to stories from residents of the Moorpool estate.

Hands-on exhibits in the Drawing Room reveal who influenced Margaret Nettlefold to design Winterbourne's Grade II listed garden, with its sandstone rock garden, unusual nut walk and striking colour-themed borders. Household diaries and travel journals can be flicked through on screen, revealing how much staff were paid, where the family holidayed and the kind of gifts they received at Christmas.

A new tea-room offers refreshments including light-lunches and cream teas, enabling visitors to relax and take in the view of the gardens.

Alison Darby, Head of Winterbourne says: 'Everyone who comes to Winterbourne says it's a fantastic way for the University to be part of the community. We are a gateway to the community and for many this will be the first time they have contact with the University. Once here



'They were designed as a whole and that's how they should be seen. People came to the gardens and they wanted to see the house. We had to do something, we had to act.'

they realise the University is relevant for them. I'm really proud of it. I'm really proud of the way everyone's worked together.'

Meet, learn and enjoy

Upstairs the house has meeting rooms which have been individually themed with William Morris prints to echo the Arts and Crafts origin of the house. Additional meeting spaces can be hired in the adjacent Nicolson Building, and the largest conference room has capacity for up to 100 delegates.

The old kitchen has been transformed into a unique education space, hosting interactive schools sessions covering history, art and science together with over 70 creative courses for adults. These include photography, gardening, botanical illustration and crafts including textiles, jewellery making, patchwork and pottery.

Winterbourne hosts family weekend events including a Gardeners' Open Day, Summer Jazz concert and Autumn Festival.

Winterbourne House and Garden is open from 10.00am–6.00pm. Winterbourne House is free of charge and entry to the botanic garden costs £4.50 for adults. Entrance to both is free for all staff during normal opening hours from Monday to Friday. Admission prices apply at weekends.

Learn more

at the newly launched website
www.winterbourne.org.uk



Clockwise from top left: Hallway, A drawing room, Ladies enjoying tea and cakes in the tea-room, Painting of Margaret Nettlefold.

Andrew Davies learns how lasers link ancient Egyptian relics with the future of display and analysis.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

The ancient world is being brought up to date and projected into the future as two very different, but connected, exhibitions open at the University this month.

A cache of priceless antiquities from the Myers Eton College is currently being housed on campus, with highlights on display in the exhibition *Sacred and Profane: Treasures of Ancient Egypt*, which opens at the Barber Institute on Friday 18 June.

Ancient Egypt has been a source of fascination for Western civilisation since the sixteenth century. In Victorian times, the tombs and burial grounds became a magnet for collectors. Tour companies such as Thomas Cook introduced mass tourism to Egypt in the 1860s, and Egypt fever reached such a height that lectures and even private soirées in Europe and the United States often culminated in mummy-unwrapping sessions.

Eton-educated William Joseph Myers started collecting in Egypt in the 1880s, and, on his untimely death in 1899, his collection of some 3,500 objects, his diaries and library were bequeathed to his alma mater for the enhancement of its students' education. Now, as part of a collaboration between Eton, Birmingham and Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, the artefacts are being lent to the two universities to enable their digitisation, academic study and exhibition.

The Barber's exhibition, which opens on 18 June, is a treasure trove of artefacts dating from around 3,000BC to 100AD. Statuettes of mortals and gods, mummy masks, jewellery, pottery and papyrus will be displayed alongside the Barber Institute's own Egyptian collection of coins from Roman and Byzantine Alexandria.

But, while the Barber's exhibition is a visually dazzling 'conventional' museum display, a second, virtual exhibition of the objects also goes live, created by the

University's Visual and Spatial Technology Centre (VISTA).

Already on the 'virtual exhibition' website, a selection of the artefacts are now viewable as video-clips, their scanned, virtual, three-dimensional equivalents rotating through 360 degrees so visitors can view from all sides. By following a link through to the University's Collections Online website (www.collectionsonline.bham.ac.uk) objects from Eton Myers collection can be downloaded to the user's desktop, and, with free-to-download software called Meshlab, virtual visitors can zoom in to view close-ups of the artefacts' surfaces, rotate the objects themselves

'It is exciting that a collection that hasn't been seen much before is now being made available for anyone to download'

in three virtual dimensions to view them from any external angle, as well as examine the form or surface texture. In addition, the objects will even be able to be reproduced as three-dimensional polymer simulacra for anyone with a three-dimensional printer. In the next few months, VISTA's virtual *Sacred and Profane* exhibition will be reconfigured to enable the virtual objects themselves to be accessed directly from the website; the first virtual museum of its kind in the UK and, along with the Virtual Hampson Museum, University of Arkansas, and the Virtual Museum of Iraq, at the leading edge of virtual museum displays.

By the time the real exhibition at the Barber opens, some 140 objects from the 3,000 in the Eton Myers collection will have been digitised at VISTA. Scanned from between 40 and 160 different angles by the laser scanner and its built-in cameras, the virtual objects are then reconstituted on screen by software that 'stitches together'

the multiple images of the many different faces, literally joining up the dots or coordinates in three dimensions. On screen, the result is a web of green lines, which resembles a three-dimensional model made of fluorescent green chicken wire. This framework is then given a skin, which enhances the three-dimensional nature of the virtual object, and then surface detail, such as texture and colour, are applied to complete the effect.

Helen Moulden, Research Associate for the VISTA project, says

'It is exciting that a collection that hasn't been seen much before is now being made available for anyone to download.'

It is fascinating that we will have this online museum which will make these objects far more accessible.'

'It is a major step forward for the display and interpretation of historical artefacts,' said Dr Eurydice Georganteli, the Barber Institute's Coin Curator and, with Dr Martin Bommas, the University's Senior Lecturer in Egyptology, co-curator of the Barber exhibition. 'While there is nothing better than seeing the actual object, we would be the first to acknowledge that conventional museum display has limitations. Obviously, each object can only ever be seen from a certain number of angles because of the demands of the space in which it stands. Because the objects are also too fragile to be handled or physically rotated, the museum visitor cannot view the object from every angle. With the virtual museum, this is no longer the case – it really is access all areas.'

Sacred and Profane: Treasures of Ancient Egypt

At the Barber Institute of Fine Arts from 18 June until 18 January 2011. Visit the Eton Myers Collection Virtual Exhibition at www.vista.bham.ac.uk/projects/Eton_Myers.html



By Day...By Night

Chris Miall

School of Psychology



By Day

I have two roles, the first as Professor of Motor Neuroscience in the School of Psychology. I took this position in 2004, moving to Birmingham from a research career that started in Zoology, in London, Texas, and Cambridge, but was spent mainly at the Physiology Department at Oxford. This part of my job involves teaching, in my case a second year course and a Masters in Brain Imaging and, leading a research team working on the question of how the human brain controls movements. We use brain imaging, measurements of eye, hand and arm movements, and various ways to trick the brain, including brain stimulation with magnetic or electrical devices, or simple virtual reality systems to fool participants about where they see their hand. My other role as Head of the School of Psychology started last summer, and seems to involve a mixture of strategic decisions, lots of meetings and emails, and many surprisingly mundane decisions and questions, usually things that I feel totally unqualified to judge! On a good day, I get away from my desk and spend a few hours in the lab helping to set up new experiments, or programming a computer. On a bad day I spend four hours in meetings and the rest of the day answering emails.

By Night

Or more accurately at the weekend, I spend as much time as I can outside, either gardening in the summer, or chopping firewood in the winter. When my family moved – one by one – from Oxford to Birmingham, via a University flat, a University house and a rented property, we ended up buying a house in Alvechurch with a large garden. Living there means I now have a civilised walk to and from the train station, with a 20 minute journey in between.

Our two acre garden certainly gives me plenty to do and keeps my mind off the day job. Since moving there just over four years ago, we have got more and more involved in the gradual process of reshaping the gardens, planting fruit trees, making a vegetable plot and digging a fish pond. The pond kept a heron alive over the cold winter and now seems to have rather few fish left in it. I also enjoy trying my hand at sculpture, in wood or metal, so if the weather isn't good enough for gardening, I'm usually 'pottering' in my workshop.

We open our garden to the public for charity, as one of several gardens in Alvechurch that take part in the National Garden Scheme. This year ten gardens in the village will be open from 1.00–6.00pm on Sunday 11 July. Entrance is only £5 for all ten gardens and all proceeds go to a group of eight charities. Another six gardens in Withybed open on 20 June. Please come and see!



ngs
gardens open
for charity

To find out more about the National Garden Scheme visit www.ngs.org.uk and search for Alvechurch on the garden finder to find directions to Chris and the other nine gardens that will be open on 11 July.



A new political landscape, a new approach to local government?

Ian Briggs, Senior Fellow at the College of Social Sciences', Institute of Local Government Studies (INLOGOV) assesses how national politics should impact local Government.

12 May 2010, Conservative Prime Minister, David Cameron shares a podium with Liberal Democrat Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, signalling that the national political landscape has changed.

It's a change that also applies to local governance and there are significant opportunities for local politicians and leaders to move swiftly to enable the coalition in parliament to build a new balance of power between local and central Government. This needs to reflect the emergent national political agenda and engage citizens and localities in a renewal of commitment to local democracy. Following 12 May every local council in the country needs to be asking themselves:

- What change is needed so that local councils become local, democratic, political institutions rather than the delivery arm for central Government policy at local level?
- How can we ensure that local leadership is exercised by a wide range of people, through a variety of different processes, with the local authority being the unifying and representative local parliament?
- How can local Councillors be granted real political power to represent their constituents and to influence the strategic direction of local policy and services?
- What opportunities lie within the 'new localism' for political power to grow up from citizen to Government with political decision-making resting at institutional points close to citizens and, local communities?
- What change is needed for significant legislative powers to be transferred to local Government so that they can truly represent the views of local individuals,

communities and citizens and, translate their aspirations into effective service delivery outcomes?

- Should local Governments be able to raise locally, democratically accountable, taxes?
- What immediate steps can be taken for local Governments to embrace place shaping as the central aspect of their political and strategic roles?
- How can we replace the fear of a 'postcode lottery' with the assertion of a 'postcode democracy' which recognises and, responds positively to, the diversity of different localities and communities by encouraging the development of policy and service solutions reflecting local circumstances and preferences?
- How can upper tier councils move to engage councils representing smaller geographical areas, such as parishes, towns and districts, with real and substantial powers enabling people and communities to reconnect with their Councillors and local Government?
- Can we make the central-local concordat a force for change by implementing it in spirit as well as to the letter?

These questions, drawn from INLOGOV's written evidence to the parliamentary select committee on the balance of power between central and local Government, provide a creative agenda for reinvigorating local Government and local democracy in the context of the changed politics, represented by the formation of the new coalition Government.

Learn more: www.inlogov.bham.ac.uk

The local Council view:

Chris Elliott, Chief Executive, Warwick District Council
In words at least, the coalition speaks a localist agenda; of rebalancing the distribution of power to the individual citizen and to local communities. That ought to offer local Government the opportunity to state its case as the local community leader and to seek greater autonomy. As well as making public services more responsive to local needs it also offers opportunities for making effective financial savings without service cuts.

There are two broad issues relevant to whether the words will be made into deeds. Firstly, will the emphasis on dealing with the public sector budget deficit dominate all policy thoughts and initiatives? If it does, local Government will not be allowed to

take a more intelligent approach to reducing the deficit and we will end up with a return to 'slash and burn'. Local Government will then be consumed with how simply to cover its deficits than on how it can take advantage of a new approach that could make it more relevant locally. Secondly, even if the opportunity really exists, is local Government really up for the debate and, is it capable of delivering?

Over the last few years local Government has shown the ability to forge ahead of other parts of the public sector in terms of delivering efficiencies and improved service delivery. But, this is a new era and I think the questions stated here should be prompting senior officers and Councillors to think of the way ahead. I'm not sure that we really are.

June/July highlights

The events pages highlight the variety of activities taking place across campus. For a full list visit www.events.bham.ac.uk or contact Events Co-ordinator Eleanor Leftwich on 0121 414 2950 / e.g.leftwich@bham.ac.uk.

www.events.bham.ac.uk

Conferences and seminars

Wednesday 23 June, 12.30pm–1.30pm
Enterprising Birmingham Business Plan Competition Launch Event

This exciting new competition is open to all internal research staff and PhD students (supported by their supervisor) with a research related business idea. Come along to find out more.

Venue: Atrium in Sports and Exercise Sciences

Cost: Free lunch included

Contact: Debbie White

Email: d.white.3@bham.ac.uk

Thursday 24 June

The Political Economy of University Governance

Professor David Green, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Worcester will deliver a keynote speech.

Cost: Free, places are limited

Contact: Guvinder Rajania

Email: g.rajania@bham.ac.uk

Tel: 0121 414 8227



WORLD CUP FOOTBALL

If you're a football fan you'll be pleased to know that the Bratby Bar, Staff House and Raising the Bar, Munrow Sports Centre will be showing World Cup matches on the big screen. Bratby Bar will be open all day showing all games and Raising the Bar will be showing games at 12.30pm and 3.00pm. Both bars will be showing the England match on Friday 18 June at 7.30pm and offering special drinks promotions throughout the tournament.

Inaugural lectures

Thursday 17 June, 5.15pm

The Amenity Value of the Climate

Professor David Maddison, Professor of Economics, Department of Economics

Venue: Business School Main

Lecture Theatre

Cost: Free

Contact: Karen Wright

Email: k.r.wright@bham.ac.uk

Wednesday 15 September, 4.30pm

Bladder Cancer:

Cause and Consequence

Professor Maurice Zeegers, Professor of Genetic Epidemiology, School of Health and Population Sciences

Venue: Leonard Deacon Lecture

Theatre, Medical School

Cost: Free

Contact: Keeley Dudley

Email: k.dudley@bham.ac.uk

Arts, heritage and music

21–23 June, Muirhead Tower

The 7th Annual Learning and Teaching Conference

The theme of this year's conference, which incorporates the e-Learning Practitioners' Forum, is 'Teaching and Learning in a Research-Intensive University'. There will be a keynote presentation: The Inner Game of Higher Education, by Professor Sir David Watson, Professor of Higher Education Management at the Institute of Education, University of London on Tuesday 22 June. For more information and to register to attend please visit www.bham.ac.uk/tlconf.

Saturday 10 July 2010, 7.00pm

Jazz by Candlelight

Enjoy a night of music with Casey Greene and Latin Fusion, playing jazz with an Afro-Cuban twist. Bring a rug, food and wine and relax in the tranquil setting of the Botanic Garden by candlelight. Gourmet picnic baskets can be pre-ordered when booking.

Venue: Winterbourne House and Garden

Cost: £15 per ticket

Contact: Tel: 01214143003

ADEPT

Talented researchers
making an impact

Careers Conference – 21, 22, 23 June 2010

Researching for Impact: Career options for doctoral researchers

Are you thinking about your next step after completion of your PhD? Do you want to future proof your career?

Come to the Adept Careers Conference – an exciting multi-location event on campus, our programme includes:

- Keynote presentations on understanding what employers are looking for and how you can find the critical balance for career success
- Employer and alumni presentations and networking
- Employer fair
- Skills workshops and drop-in careers advice
- Work experience opportunities including Talent Pool taster session
- Peer networking and an opportunity to be part of the Adept community
- Refreshments at Monday and Tuesday events
- Careers day for your discipline area in your college

- **Monday 21 June** – cross disciplinary careers day (11.00am–4.00pm Avon Room, University Centre)
- **Tuesday 22 June** – discipline/college-focussed careers days (located in Colleges)*
- **Wednesday 23 June** – workshops on career planning CV writing and drop-in careers advice*

* See website for specific times and locations – sign up required

Learn more

Email: adept@contacts.bham.ac.uk

www.as.bham.ac.uk/adept

careers and employability centre
create your own future

Accommodation to let

Edgbaston: Room in private house, one mile from University. Lounge and bathroom shared with one other. Garden. £270 pcm inclusive. Available July. Tel: 0121 454 3071.

Accommodation for sale

Oldbury: Spacious 2 bedroom house in Oldbury, West Midlands. Recently upgraded bathroom and kitchen, with large garden in a friendly and secure area. Offers in the region of £104,950. Contact Rachel Seyler for more information or to have a viewing. Email: r.m.seyler@bham.ac.uk.

Services

J.E.N Interiors. West Midlands interior and exterior painting and decorating services. Reliable and friendly. CRB checked. Tel Jen: 07824 744240.

Just Sew. All garment alterations. Specialising in bridal and special occasion wear. Also soft furnishings. Tel: 07866 973011 / 0121 459 6046.

Handmade jewellery.

Looking for handmade jewellery? Visit www.dreadyderry.folksy.com for jewellery, homeware, accessories and more, all handmade in Birmingham.

DPM Roofing. All aspects of roofing specialists UPVC, fascias, soffits and guttering. All work guaranteed. Tel: 07739 553574 / 0121 429 8434.

Craftsman. Have those jobs done now. Large or small. No mess. No VAT. Guild of Master Craftsmen member. Contact Paul Davis on 0121 427 7179.

Gardening work in all seasons undertaken including fencing, patios, decking, garden tidying/clearances and gutter clearing call Chris on 0121 459 3292 or 07890 246911.

Class One Maintenance Services. Plastering, carpentry, kitchens, bathrooms, painting and decorating, brickwork, tiling, hard landscaping, etc. Fully qualified and insured, friendly and professional service. Tel: 07976 678863 / 0121 441 3344. Email: andy.classone@gmail.com.

Tax return back in the in-tray?

Mynette & Co (est 1976) offers a local, personalised accountancy/tax advisory service. Tel: 0121 449 7322. Email: a.mynette@btinternet.com.

Proofreading. For all your proofreading needs. Letters, documents, PhDs, novels and textbooks. References available. Contact Liz Broomfield at LIBRO <http://libroediting.wordpress.com>

Entertainment

Theatre Set-Up presents The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare. Friday 18 June, 7.30pm at Westmere (50 Edgbaston Park Road). Tickets from Tourism Centre and Ticket Shop (0121 202 5000) or at gate on night. Bring own seating and refreshments.

Stage 27 Amateur Dramatics Presents 'Bums On Seats' at Old Rep Theatre from 1–3 July 2010. Tickets: £9–£12. www.oldreptheatre.org.uk

Thrive burn it off this summer

UBSport's Munrow Sports Centre is offering a four month membership for the price of three between 7 June and 3 October. Peak gym and swim membership is available to all at £80 for 17 weeks, working out at only £20 a month. Also included is a complimentary participant pack (while stocks last) and opportunity to win an iPod.

Learn more
www.sport.bham.ac.uk

Competition winners get active

Congratulations to two lucky participants of the sports facilities focus groups who have won prizes donated by UoB Sport.

- Sarah Lilly – free gym and swim membership for two, for three months
- Catherine Mansell – free Active Lifestyle classes for the summer term

Ivy League Athletics

A Midsummer's evening of athletics action

Ivy League athletics is returning to the University of Birmingham on **Tuesday 22 June**. The cream of track and field talent from Penn and Cornell Universities in the USA and a team from the University of Limerick, Ireland will take on University of Birmingham's athletes.

The event is free and will be held

on the athletics track adjacent to the Munrow Sports centre with the doors opening at 5.00pm.

Spectators will have a memorable evening watching all four Universities battle it out through a series of events and see who will be crowned winners of the Ivy League Athletics.