

Question Time

Ian Grosvenor



- 1 What do you do?**
Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Cultural Engagement and Professor of Urban Educational History.
- 2 What do you really do?**
Trying to develop a strategy to make the most of the University's cultural assets and building local, national and international partnerships to engage with them.
- 3 How do you get to work?**
I walk.
- 4 What's the best aspect of your job?**
Having a key cultural role within the University which is new and uncharted in terms of what is expected, what the opportunities are, and what the outcomes will be.
- 5 What's the worst aspect of your job?**
Not enough time to do all the things I want.
- 6 What would you like to be doing in five years' time?**
Enjoying life – as I am now.
- 7 What do you enjoy most about University life?**
Seeing and being part of change.
- 8 How do you unwind?**
Listening to jazz, cooking for friends, losing myself in a novel.
- 9 Which book is on your bedside table?**
I usually have a couple of books on the go at the same time – at the moment Joe Sacco, *Footnotes in Gaza* and Vasily Grossman, *Life and Fate*.
- 10 What is your favourite tippie?**
Red wine or a cold Belgian beer.
- 11 What makes a good night out?**
Live music or a good meal or both if possible.
- 12 Which animal are you most like?**
My favourite colour is blue so I would choose a Kingfisher, and as anyone who has ever seen a Kingfisher knows – once seen, never forgotten!
- 13 Describe your favourite holiday.**
Renting a house by the sea in Corsica or the south of France.
- 14 What is your favourite sport?**
Football. Having been born locally I follow the family tradition of supporting the Albion.
- 15 Who are the top three people on your fantasy dinner party list?**
Kathe Köllwitz, Alan Lomax, Orson Welles.
- 16 If you were a superhero, who would you be?**
Green Lantern as he was the superhero in the first DC Comic I bought as a child.
- 17 What has been the highlight of your life to date?**
Having had a childhood fear of water then learning to swim when I was in my mid 30s.
- 18 If you could banish one thing from the world what would it be?**
Poverty.
- 19 Describe yourself in three words**
Cool, calm and collected – or I try to be.
- 20 What is your personal motto?**
Recognising the problem is half the solution.

Would you like to appear on Question Time?
or know a colleague who would?
Contact: university-buzz@bham.ac.uk

and finally...

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September 2010



Founders' Awards



Counting our pennies



Question Time

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM



Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Eastwood

YOUR BUZZ

Next edition: 20 October 2010
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Edited by Kate Pritchard

Cover shot: Clare Gordon from Development and Alumni Relations.

Vice-Chancellor's View

Challenge, change and our commitment

We stand on the brink, but of what none of us quite know. The coming year will be a year of unprecedented challenge and change for higher education in this country. No-one knows, or no-one I know knows, quite how this drama will unfold.

The Browne Review of Funding will report. About the same time the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review will be completed. Research Councils and other funders are modelling funding cuts on a quite eye-watering scale. The press claims to know that funding for non-protected programmes (and these include higher education) might be cut by 30 or 40%. The politics of the Coalition might make implementing the Browne recommendations, however well-judged, impossible. And thus the world's second best higher education system will be the principal casualty of the current crisis.

Just as Hollywood has an insatiable appetite for disaster movies, so some commentators are already writing the script for *Universities: the Day of Destruction*. A funding meteorite hits our university system, few are spared in the ensuing inferno. Tom Cruise is cast as the heroic Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tewkesbury which, alone, rises from the ashes.

Difficult decisions

These are difficult times, and difficult decisions will have to be taken. Some universities might close, or more likely seek mergers with stronger and better-managed partners. We are already seeing new providers entering the market, private institutions with different cost structures, and a commitment to delivering low-cost courses by new teaching technologies, in ways in which some, but by no means all students, might welcome. The Government wants efficiency, and it will change the pattern of higher education to achieve this.

The real impact

But, as we get to the point where rhetoric gives way to real decisions, realities dawn. The UK desperately needs a world-class science base. New private providers will not teach, still less research, high-cost, cutting-edge science. The pharmaceutical industry will rapidly relocate out of the UK if the handful of universities (including ours) that

are at the forefront of biomedical research are strangled by funding cuts. Companies across the land will squeal if the supply of high-quality graduates is choked off.

Here in Birmingham, the city will suffer grievously if our university falters. We are now worth approaching £1 billion to the regional economy. Who can capture inward investment on a scale like that? For every job in the University we create more than one job outside. Put crudely, 10,000 families or perhaps 30–40,000 people in all are dependent on the success of our university for their livelihoods.

When these and other realities dawn, the difficult challenges don't dissolve, but they are put into perspective. Spending on higher education is an investment, and one of the best investments a country can make.

That said, the future of a university like ours thankfully does not depend exclusively on public investment. As we keep telling Government, we are not part of the public sector, but an independent institution that receives significant public funding. In fact, the majority of our income comes ultimately from non-public sources. This is part of our strength: diverse income, a dynamic strategy, and independent governance. We give excellent value to the taxpayer, just as we do to international students, fee-paying postgraduates, our industrial partners, and public and voluntary agencies that partner with us.

Shaping our future

Given these challenging times there is, perhaps, no more propitious moment to launch our new strategic framework, *Shaping Our Future: Birmingham 2015*. This has been a year in the making. Hundreds of colleagues across the University have contributed to it. We have taken our time, reflected deeply, challenged ourselves, been challenged by our Council, and we will have a strategy that is stretching, appropriate, but above all owned by the University as a whole.

When you see it you may be surprised. It is short rather than turgid. It focuses on key actions and key indicators. It operates at a high level. It combines realism with high ambition. One senior colleague from outside the University who read it thought it 'scintillating'.

Continued on page 3

Save the date; VC open forum

The VC's next open forum will take place on 3 November, 12.30pm onwards and is focused on the strategic framework, *Shaping the Future: Birmingham 2015* and how we will achieve its ambitious goals. More details will follow in *infocus*; the all staff e-newsletter and keep up-to-date at <https://www.intranet.bham.ac.uk/staff/events>

Continued from page 2

Challenging commitments

It commits us to being a global university with civic roots. It commits us to providing not just a high quality, but a distinctive student experience. It commits us to raising still further our research quality, increasing our share of research income, and achieving still greater impact. It commits us to regaining our place as the leading university for international recruitment. All this, and more, in a mere five years.

A strategic plan is no more than a framework and a call to arms. Only by working together, by committing ourselves to do still more for the University, can we make it a reality. The passion and commitment that was evident in the planning process is a fine place to start; indeed, convinces me that we will succeed.

So, even in these difficult times, our future as a university is in our hands. We have the breadth, history, financial strength, and quality to succeed. Indeed others envy what we have and where we are going. **But, envy is not what we should seek, but rather admiration for what we will achieve.**

Centre for Learning and Academic Development (CLAD)

now in place

Centre for Learning and Academic Development (CLAD) is a new unit within Academic Services that aims to work collaboratively with Colleges to improve the student learning experience.

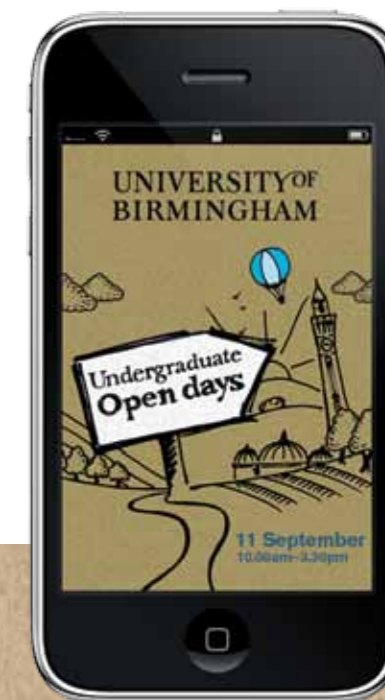
Educational Enhancement Fellows are being appointed in each College and they will spend a proportion of their time working with CLAD.

The new Centre will harness the resources and expertise we have in the University community to provide a more coordinated approach to educational enhancement. Specialist expertise was previously split between Learning Development (Academic Services) and Academic Practice (APOD in HR).

Enhanced services will be available including dedicated support and guidance for teaching enhancement work and an improved focus on learning and teaching technologies, as well as some valuable existing services such as accredited training, an annual teaching and learning conference and teaching reward and recognition programmes.

Recruitment is currently underway for the new role of Director of CLAD. Brendan Casey, Director of Academic Services, will fill this post in the interim until an appointment is made.

The CLAD team is currently working on a new intranet area for staff and students. Visit www.intranet.bham.ac.uk/university/clad to find out more.



Undergraduate Open Days and Birmingham UCAS Higher Convention

During the last two weeks of June the University opened its doors to thousands of prospective students and parents as well as schools and colleges from across the country for the Undergraduate Open Days and the Birmingham Higher Education Convention. These events, organised by the Student Recruitment team, are core recruitment activities for the University and over the course of the

two weeks approximately 45,000 visitors attended as well as over 230 schools and colleges and 155 exhibitors from other universities. Student Recruitment would like to say a huge thank you to colleagues from across the University for all of the hard work, time and effort that made these events a success and look forward to another successful Open Day on 11 September 2010.

Top 10 for University iPhone application

The University's iPhone application piloted during this time saw it reach tenth position in the Apple download chart under free applications for the education sector.

Taking charge:

Doctoral Researchers organise Adept Careers Conference

The inaugural Adept Careers Conference took place on campus in June with around 500 Doctoral Researchers attending the employer events, careers workshops and alumni talks. Doctoral Researchers from all colleges were recruited in early 2010 to work on the Adept team and played a key role in organising their College event. Eve Davies, Doctoral Researcher and Adept coordinator, College of Arts and Law, shares her experience: 'It is a fantastic opportunity to work on a team strategising the provision of postgraduate career services. In terms of my own personal development, I have gained contacts, experienced event organisation and focused my own career trajectory. The Adept project recognises

that Doctoral Researchers are instrumental in both their own success and the University's research and administration.'

The Adept programme is managed by the Careers and Employability Centre and supported by partners including the Graduate School and Alumni Relations. Jayne Sharples, Postgraduate Careers Consultant, concludes 'We adopted an innovative approach to organising the conference resulting in high satisfaction from the Doctoral Researchers and engagement with a diverse range of key internal and external stakeholders. We are very pleased to have secured funding to continue developing career management support for Doctoral Researchers through the Adept programme. The Conference is just one element of the service designed to support postgraduates in a competitive employment marketplace.'

Learn more about Adept services including the 'Taking Charge: Researcher-led activity' workshop at the forthcoming Vitae conference www.as.bham.ac.uk/adept



Supporting our students

Many students face difficulties when starting a new University course – emotional, financial, social and academic. Even those who are not new to University may find that a new course or new academic session brings fresh challenges.

The Student Support and Development Division has developed a Student Support website designed to inform students of the different support options they have available to them across both the University and the Guild of Students: www.as.bham.ac.uk/support.

Dr Chris Twine, Director of Student Support and Development explains: 'Research on student retention shows

that the key point for students experiencing transition difficulties is actually several weeks into the first term. The Student Support website is designed in an issue-based, jargon-free format, so that students can clearly see what options they have and the help that is available.'

The website will be launched in early October and highlighted through a series of posters, postcards and announcements on the student portal. If you have any comments about the website, or would like to receive some posters or postcards, please contact Sara Kinahan, s.kinahan@bham.ac.uk.

Staff views inform new guidance on internal communications

The **Have Your Say** staff survey in March 2009 found that there were concerns across the University about staff communication. In response, the Leadership Group of the Unified Administration (LGUA) – which brings together Corporate Services Senior Officers and College Directors of Operations and is chaired by the Registrar and Secretary – commissioned a review of this important area. During the past year, two groups of professional services staff, each including staff from both the Colleges and Corporate Services, have been exploring how to improve internal communication. As a result, a guidance note on internal communications has been developed for professional staff in Corporate Services and the Colleges and will be circulated during September.

Learn more <https://www.intranet.bham.ac.uk> and click on the link on the right for LGUA communications project.

Get HEaTED

HEaTED (Higher Education and Technicians Education and Development) is a UK-wide training and career development framework that aims to provide the tools and opportunities to meet the training and development needs of technical staff in Higher Education. It provides a number of different services including discussion forums, a web-based learning package Virtual Learning Environment and training courses. All technical staff are members of HEaTED as this is funded by the University.

You can access the HEaTED website via www.hr.bham.ac.uk/development/guides/cpdspecialists.shtml. Click on Institute of Science and Technology then on HEaTED project. For more information contact Jayne Gilbert j.gilbert@bham.ac.uk.



New ground: (L-R) Barry Addison (Construction Director BAM), Sir Dominic Cadbury, Dr Charles Gillett, Liz Bramall, Terry Bramall, Professor David Eastwood and Professor John Whenham perform the turf cutting ceremony

A groundbreaking new music building

New ground was broken for music at Birmingham at a ceremony marking the official start of work on the Bramall Music Building that will complete the historic Aston Webb semi-circle.

Supporters of the project joined representatives from the University, builders BAM Construction, architects Glen Howells and alumnus Terry Bramall to celebrate a historic moment. The Liz and Terry Bramall Charitable Trust is a major benefactor of the project.

Vice-Chancellor Professor David Eastwood said the building would become the beating heart of campus and complete the vision of Joseph Chamberlain, the University's first Chancellor.

'With a fifth dome and matching

architecture, the new building will perfectly complement our strategy to build on our deep civic heritage and to exploit our outstanding estate,' he added.

Thanks to the generosity of supporters, including alumni, charitable trusts and friends, the University has exceeded the £5 million needed to complete the new building. When the exterior building work is finished next year, all donors will be invited to a topping out ceremony celebration.

Further donations for the project are welcome via a seat naming campaign and will support an organ being built as an integral part of the auditorium. To find out more about naming a seat, please contact Philip Addy on 0121 414 8641 or p.w.j.addy@bham.ac.uk.

Cycling Roadshows return

Cycling Roadshows for staff and students return during the autumn term. Events include the sale of second hand bikes, free maintenance and cycle training, West Midlands Police Crime Reduction Team security tagging bikes and support and advice from Birmingham City Council's TravelWise Team.

Where? Front of the Law arches by the clock tower.

When? 13 and 20 October and 3 and 10 November, 10.00am to 3.00pm.

It's a great opportunity to have brakes checked, tyres pumped and chain oiled, all for free!

If you are interested in having a free cycle training lesson contact Caroline Radnor, University's Sustainable Travel Coordinator at sustainabletravel@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

West Midlands Police will be selling Squire D-locks at a heavily subsidised rate (£15 for staff and £10 for students instead of £30) and lights, high visibility jackets and waistcoats will also be on sale at a discount. Remember your ID card as this gets you access to the discounted items!

Learn more www.bham.ac.uk/travel



88 keys for The Bramall Music Building

To support the fundraising for the organ, Kenneth Hamilton will be giving a special piano recital in the Barber Institute of Fine Arts on Wednesday 13 October at 7.30pm with a pre-concert talk at 6.30pm. He will be performing music by Chopin, Liszt, Wagner and Rachmaninoff, as well as giving the world premiere of transcriptions by Ivor Novello and Richard Tauber.

Tickets for the fundraising concert are £12, £9 (concessions), £3 (students) and available from the Barber Institute of Fine Arts 0121 414 7333 www.barber.org.uk

Europe's Lost World: the re-discovery of Doggerland wins Best Archaeological Book of 2010!

Europe's Lost World: the re-discovery of Doggerland by Vince Gaffney, Simon Fitch and David Smith from the College of Arts and Law has won the Best Archaeological Book prize at the prestigious British Archaeological Awards. The book presents the results of the work carried out by a team from VISTA at the University of Birmingham to explore the land underneath the North Sea that was flooded at the end of the last Ice Age approximately 10,000 years ago. Using data collected for petroleum exploration, the project has been able to map the rivers, lakes and hills of this so-called 'Doggerland', an area the size of a small European country that once linked us to the continent.



Winner: Professor Wiebke Arlt

Winner: Professor Jon Glasby

Winner: Dr Mark Jolly

Inaugural Founders' Awards

At this year's degree congregation dinner the University launched the first Founder's Awards ceremony. These awards, named after some of our most influential founders and benefactors, recognise the very best academic work which has significantly contributed to the advancement of the University's reputation both nationally and internationally.

The Joseph Chamberlain Award for Academic Achievement

Nominees

- Professor Wiebke Arlt, College of Medical and Dental Sciences
- Professor Veronica Franklin-Tong, College of Life and Environmental Sciences
- Professor David Parker, College of Arts and Law

The Charles Beale Award for Policy Advancement

Nominees

- Professor John Bryson, College of Life and Environmental Sciences
- Professor Jon Glasby, College of Social Sciences
- Professor Stephen Gorard, College of Social Sciences

The Josiah Mason Award for Business Advancement

Nominees

- Professor Vic Hoyland, College of Arts and Law
- Dr Mark Jolly, College of Engineering and Physical Sciences
- Dr Martin Toms, College of Social Sciences

Winner: Professor Wiebke Arlt

Wiebke is an outstanding clinical academic, who has a well-deserved national and international reputation in endocrinology, specifically in the areas of adrenal and gonadal disorders. Her laboratory-based research has had a direct and positive impact upon patient care, including for conditions such as polycystic ovarian syndrome and adrenal tumours.

Winner: Professor Jon Glasby

In 2009–10 Jon was commissioned by Downing Street and the Department of Health to produce a high-level review of adult social care funding and reform. The report was launched by Gordon Brown in February 2010 and his work is also quoted in the subsequent White Paper that appeared a few weeks later.

Winner: Dr Mark Jolly

Mark has been working with DePuy, Johnson & Johnson in Cork for the last three years, helping to improve the manufacturing processes of artificial knees. The process improvements Mark recommended, including reducing defect formation from 45% to below 20%, saved the company around £250,000.

Registrar and Secretary named AHUA Officer

Registrar and Secretary Lee Sanders has been named Honorary Secretary for the Association of Heads of University Administration (AHUA). AHUA is the national professional group for university

registrars and secretaries. It is influential in policy discussions with Universities UK, HEFCE and the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills and other groups.

It also provides professional networking and support for individuals leading professional services at universities.

Honorary degrees Summer 2010

Honorary degrees are given to individuals who are eminent in their field and whose work is of regional, national and international significance.

- **Honourable Justice Dr Robert Kisanga**, Doctor of Laws
- **Dr Sir Eric Anderson**, Doctor of Letters
- **Dr Rita McLean**, Doctor of Letters
- **The Rt Revd Dr Alan Smith**, Doctor of Divinity
- **Dr Ranjit Sondhi**, Doctor of the University
- **Dr Lin Homer**, Doctor of the University
- **Dr Tim Harris**, Doctor of Science
- **Dr Haile Gebrselassie**, Doctor of the University
- **Professor Robert Lamb**, Doctor of Science
- **Dr Simon Singh MBE**, Doctor of Science
- **Professor Richard Fortey**, Doctor of Science
- **Dr Angela Maxwell OBE**, Doctor of the University
- **Dr Chris Sims OBE**, Doctor of Laws
- **Professor Sir Keith O'Nions**, Doctor of Science
- **Professor Barry Everitt**, Doctor of Science
- **Mr Terry and Mrs Liz Bramall**, Inductees to the Chancellor's Guild of Benefactors

Learn more

www.newscentre.bham.ac.uk/press/2010/07/05Jul10HonGradsJuly2010.shtml

The University Council

Our governance structure

The University is a legally independent chartered institution. It is also an exempt charity. Within our University there are three main bodies responsible for decision-making and governance; these are the **Council**, the **Senate** and the **University Executive Board (UEB)**.

The **Council** is the University's supreme governing body, responsible for approval of the mission and strategic vision of the University; monitoring institutional performance against plans; and controlling its finances and assets. The Vice-Chancellor is the Chief Executive of the University and is appointed by and responsible to the Council.

The **Senate** is the principal academic body of the University, responsible to Council for the overall academic policies, and regulating the academic work of the University.

UEB is chaired by the Vice-Chancellor and is the executive body with responsibility for the strategic management and leadership of the University.

Introducing Council

The Council has 24 members comprising:

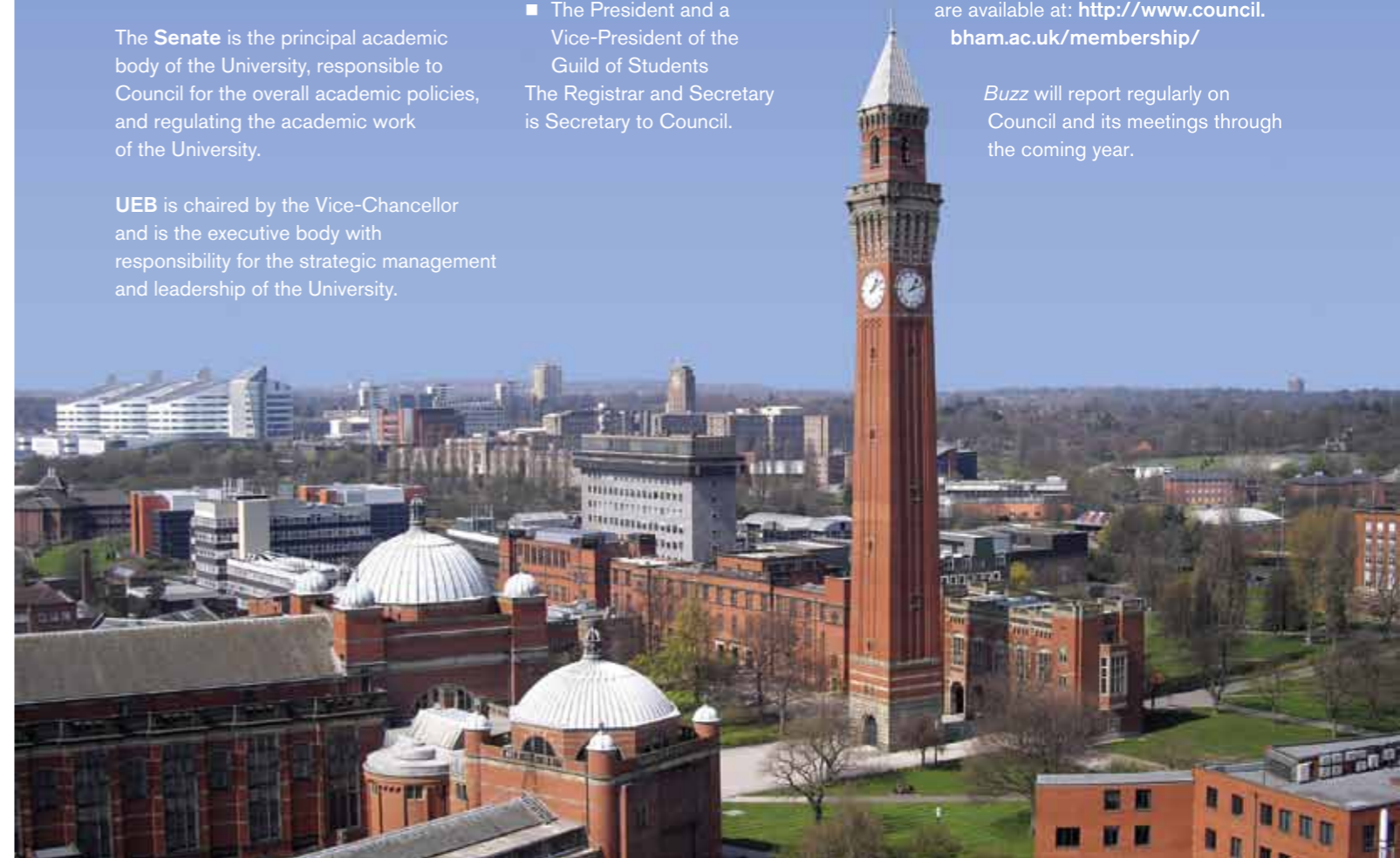
- 16 lay members, from whom is elected the Pro-Chancellor (the Chair of Council)
- Vice-Chancellor
- Provost and Vice-Principal
- Four academic members of staff, elected by and from the Senate
- The President and a Vice-President of the Guild of Students

The Registrar and Secretary is Secretary to Council.

Lay members are members who bring external experience and perspective to the Council; they are neither staff nor students of the University. They are usually appointed following advertisement and interview, and serve for four years in the first instance.

Further details on members of Council are available at: <http://www.council.bham.ac.uk/membership/>

Buzz will report regularly on Council and its meetings through the coming year.





COUNTING OUR PENNIES

In difficult economic times do we need more help in managing our personal finances? **Jenni Ameghino** learns how experts in the College of Social Sciences are investigating how we can best safeguard our financial future.

'As many people are learning the hard way, money management is a life skill'



Karen Rowlingson (centre) with the CHASM team

Chances are, if you are rich you have independent financial advice. If you are very poor you have access to debt counseling, free advice and state support. But, what practical advice is available for the rest of the UK population, struggling to keep afloat during these difficult times?

Not much, it seems. 'It's the middle-income earners, a very large number of people, who are often left out,' observes Karen Rowlingson, Professor of Social Policy and Director of CHASM (the Centre on Household Assets and Savings Management) in the Institute of Applied Social Studies. 'Those in the middle are increasingly expected to make financial decisions around mortgages, pensions and savings but without enough support and advice to do this confidently.'

As many people are learning the hard way, money management is a life skill; and one that Karen believes should be encouraged much earlier. 'Here at CHASM we are focusing on individual financial

capability as well as looking at the role played by the banks and the Government,' she explains.

One study, which CHASM team member and PhD student Louise Overton is involved in, is working with people who have released equity in their home (obtaining an additional loan secured against the value of their property). Such schemes are in vogue, particularly as more people retire without an adequate pension. 'But people have worries about this, which is where the government could potentially step in to back a scheme, or allow a charity to do so, giving further regulation to make people feel more secure.'

In the classroom

Along with Research Fellow Lindsey Appleyard, Karen is also heading research into personal finance teaching in Birmingham schools. 'The National Curriculum is very full, there are so many demands on teachers and timetable time,

but this is a key skill that people will need later in life; to be able to manage money, spend your income wisely, know about and find the right pension and avoid debt. We also want to look at how university students cope once they have graduated, in managing the debt they have accrued.'

Awareness should start early on, she believes. 'There is evidence that as soon as children start to handle money and learn about it the better they become at managing it. There is a plan to introduce some kind of financial literacy education into the Personal Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) curriculum in schools. And more could be done to encourage awareness in other areas, such as maths, economic geography and citizenship. Teachers will need to be given training and support to deliver this.'

Other help may be in the pipeline too. A Government-sponsored scheme called Money Guidance is aimed directly at those in the middle income group, along with a

proposed second state pension called NEST. 'If you are employed and not in a pension scheme you will automatically be enrolled, although you can opt out.'

Don't put it off

Part of the solution lies within, she says. 'I still think that for many of us, and I'd include myself in this, there is an element of "we'll sort it out next week" thinking. You get your pension statement, put it in a drawer and forget about it. We need to develop a willingness to learn more and to seek out support from the increasing number of information sources, such as moneysupermarket.com etc. But we also need the banks and the Government to play their part in delivering appropriate services and behaving responsibly.'

A personal interest

Karen's interest in personal wealth was simulated while working at the Policy Studies Institute in the early 90s, working

with people using credit and getting into debt. 'I found that research fascinating and I wanted to look more closely at people's money lives. More recently I have been turning the mirror around to focus on the wealthy. There has been considerable research on poverty, but very little on wealth. This raises issues of fair taxation and whether in the UK we tax people fairly compared to other countries.'

Inheritance tax, branded the 'death tax' remains a political hot potato. 'Most people inherit without having to pay because of the £325,000 (single person's) threshold so it really only affects the top 5% of people,' she points out.

'With anticipated cuts to essential services and people's pay to fund economic recovery, perhaps this isn't such a bad way to raise money. We would suggest maybe reforming the inheritance tax policy so that instead of it being a death tax, you focus on the person receiving the money and make it almost

an income or capital gains tax, so the more you receive, the higher the tax rate. This might make it easier to justify.'

Does money buy happiness?

It's said money doesn't buy happiness but in today's consumer-led society you could be forgiven for thinking the adage has been turned on its head. Not so, says Karen 'There is evidence that contentment increases as income goes up, but only to a point. Once you are on a relatively modest, average income, more money doesn't seem to make that much difference compared to, say, good physical and emotional health and good relationships with your friends and family.'

Learn more

www.chasm.bham.ac.uk

BUAFTA finalist Clare Gordon with two members of DARO's student society Birmingham, For Life.



The BUAFTA award winning Circles of Influence campaign team



Alumni from the class of 1985 at their reunion lunch

Defining DARO

The Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARO) is charged with doubling the University's gift income to £10 million annually by 2015 but what exactly does it do?

About DARO

Since our founder Joseph Chamberlain built the University through the support of benefactors, millions of pounds have been donated to Birmingham. As we strive to become a global top 50 institution, philanthropy is more important than ever. The University is a charity and funds generated through gifts are added to other income to support research and teaching in areas in which we excel.

DARO exists to urge former students, known as alumni, and friends to support a range of projects and works with colleagues to provide alumni and volunteers with opportunities to engage with the University.

The Circles of Influence fundraising campaign aims to raise £60 million for projects that transform the lives of people in Birmingham, the UK and worldwide by 2012, and has raised £54.5 million to date. From cancer and obesity to ageing, brain injury rehabilitation and the Bramall Music Building, donations have helped to fund world-class research and facilities across the University. Gifts also support scholarships to ensure the most talented students can come to Birmingham, whatever their circumstances.

The department

There are four key areas within DARO, working together towards an overall aim of engaging with the alumni community. In addition, College Alumni Relations Managers specifically tailor programmes to address each College's needs.

Alumni Relations

Alumni are proud of their time at the University and committed to its future success. The Alumni Relations team provides opportunities for current and former students to stay connected with Birmingham, and one another, through events, communications and volunteering.

- The Birmingham Magazine and Newsletter are sent to more than 150,000 alumni around the world each year and the monthly e-newsletter, Birmingham Bite-size, has a readership of 57,000.
- A total of 1,280 former students worldwide have attended an alumni event this year. This includes an annual reception at the House of Lords for 350 alumni, students vs. alumni pub quiz and anniversary reunions. The 2010 reunions were attended by more than 400 people and class gifts at the

event raised £41,907.70.

- Alumni volunteers are critical to the success of events such as careers days for current students, guest lectures and international recruitment. We estimate alumni have given the equivalent of £250,000 worth of their time to the University, Schools and Departments since 2008.

Annual Giving

All departments are encouraged to apply for funds raised by Annual Giving Programme, which supports projects with immediate impact on the campus environment, teaching and learning experience and student activities. More than 100 projects totalling £1.5 million have been funded since 2002.

As well as a direct mail campaign, a team of 80 student callers telephone former students to update them on what it is like to be a Birmingham student today and to ask them to support the Circles of Influence campaign. Of all the people contacted by callers this year, 20% decided to make a gift. Annual Giving generates an average annual total of £250,000.

Development Operations

Data sourced by Development Operations can be accessed across the University, in order to support the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey, help Colleges to contact alumni and for the development international links.

It is essential to have a complex database of alumni for the office to function effectively and the Development Operations team is responsible for its maintenance. The section also provides invaluable technical and office background support.

Major Gifts

The Major Gifts team encourages individuals and alumni to support the University. Income is also raised through applying to charitable trusts and foundations and through alumni and friends leaving legacies to Birmingham.

Saying thank you to donors is another vital part of this section's work and the team runs a full stewardship programme. Donors are acknowledged in a variety of different ways including giving clubs, drinks receptions and an annual Roll of Honour.

Did you know?

- Around a sixth of the University's staff are also alumni, including eight of the DARO team.
- As part of the Circles of Influence campaign, alumni have funded 230 Access to Birmingham and 29 Excellence Scholarships for our most talented students
- Famous Birmingham alumni include the Nobel prize-winning geneticist Sir Paul Nurse, comedienne and actress Victoria Wood and Manchester United Chief Executive David Gill
- More than 15,000 former students contact the Alumni Office each year
- In the last three years almost 8,000 donors have made a gift to the University

Cancer research funded by Circles of Influence



The impact of giving

Birmingham's oncologists are at the forefront of the fight against cancer in the UK. Our scientists have already modified cold viruses to kill cancer cells and have reduced breast cancer mortality by 30%. The Circles of Influence campaign is helping our researchers make more breakthroughs by funding new equipment, improved laboratory space and world-class academics. Support from anyone is welcome, whether it is volunteered time, an idea or a financial gift. If each staff member gave £2 every month for three years, we would raise £430,000. This total increases to £537,000 when the 25 per cent Gift Aid received on donations from UK tax payers is added – enough to buy a vital piece of equipment for a cancer research laboratory. If you would like to make a gift to the University, please contact Laura Clark on 48894 or email l.clark.1@bham.ac.uk

£60 million

£54 million

Circles of influence
Totaliser

Working with us

DARO's work would not be possible without the support of colleagues in the Colleges and Corporate Services; thank you for your time, enthusiasm and ideas.

Need us to help? Have an idea? Want to contact alumni?

Get in touch through your College Alumni Relations Manager or DARO itself.

- **Arts and Law:** Marion Fleming-Froy, m.flemingfroy@bham.ac.uk
- **Engineering and Physical Sciences**
Temporarily via alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk
- **Life and Environmental Sciences:**
Temporarily via alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk
- **Medical and Dental Sciences:** Michelle Morgan, m.morgan@bham.ac.uk
- **Social Sciences:** Jade Maxwell, j.e.maxwell.1@bham.ac.uk
- **Corporate Services:** Claire O'Sullivan, c.f.osullivan@bham.ac.uk

www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni

By Day...By Night

Andrew Read



By Day

I work as an Administrator in the School Office of the College of Medical and Dental Sciences. I facilitate the day-to-day running of the fourth year MB ChB (medical) degree curriculum specifically but also oversee the third year curriculum. Main duties include allocating hospital placements, organising handbooks and the end of year exam period.

The most important part of my role is the compiling of, and organising the printing of, the exam question papers for both years, and ensuring all answer papers are duly marked and the results recorded correctly.

I have worked at the University for seven years, the first four years facilitating the Student Selected Component of the MB ChB course.

Prior to joining the University I worked for 12 years in the steel trade, the last seven years for the Spanish Stainless Steel manufacturer Acerinox.

I am a husband of 17 years, have a 14 (going on 30!) year old daughter, and live in Oldbury.

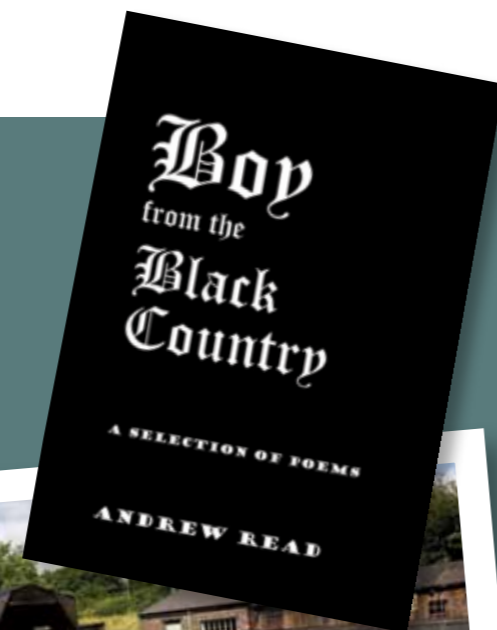
By Night

I have two main interests in life. Poetry and music.

My debut book of poems *Boy from the Black Country* has recently been released, through Xlibris Publishing. The poems are based on family, personal experiences and pretty much anything my fertile imagination conceives. I am very proud of my Black Country heritage. Theers summa thu powims ritt thu wayuz we spake in thu Black Country, su yowull problee need summun tu intairpritt ferya! I am definitely more Pam Ayres and Marriott Edgar in style and approach than Tennyson or Wordsworth. I try not to take myself too seriously (well no-one else does!). My granddad, who was always reciting odes and ditties, some of which he composed, inspired me to start to write poetry and I have been writing, off and on, since my early teens.

I am currently in the throes of writing material for my next venture, which I hope will be out sometime next year.

Musically I am a rock and blues lover and have been writing songs for as long as I have been writing poems. I front a band, Infra Red, and we are working on an album of self penned songs, entitled *Vision of Reality*, which we are hoping to complete before the end of 2010. As well as being the singer, I am also the lead guitarist in the band.

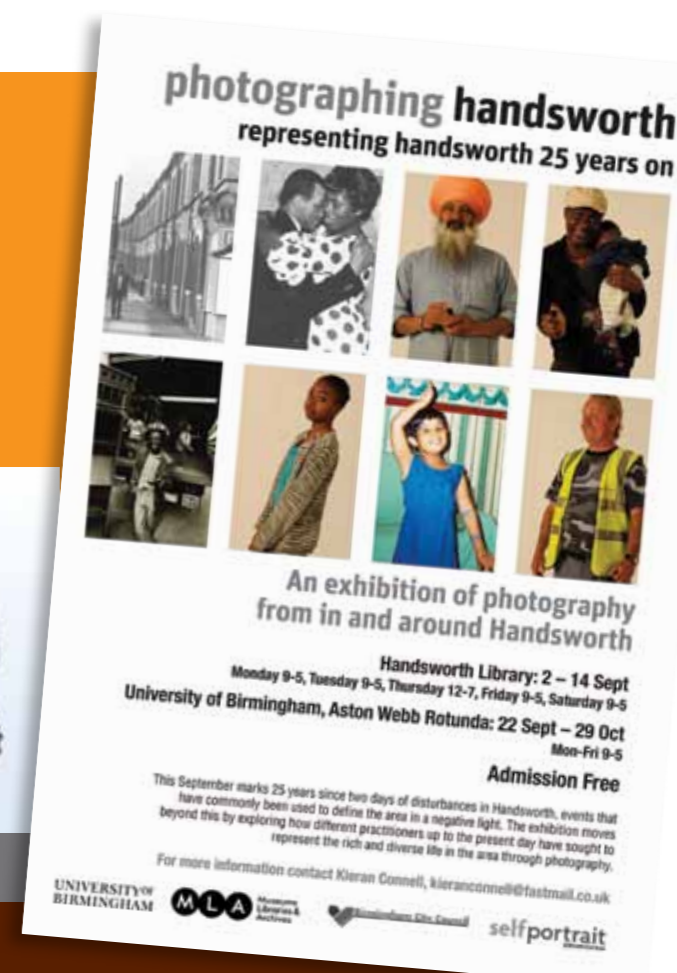


October

Celebrating Black History Month



(L-R) Danford Collection of West African Arts and Artefacts, Research and Cultural Collections The Barber's West African Altarpiece and Photographing Handsworth



A selection of exhibitions and events will help to celebrate October as **Black History Month**. More information is online at www.equality.bham.ac.uk/bhm.shtml.

Organised in conjunction with Research and Cultural Collections.

Danford Collection of West African Art

Centre for West African Studies (Arts Building)

Every Friday afternoon, from 12.00pm, during October

The University's Research and Cultural Collections, Danford Collection of West African Art and Artefacts celebrates the extensive cultural traditions and artistic expression of the countries of West Africa. Ranging from historical utensils to contemporary art, it is one of the finest collections of its kind in Europe.

Dexterous Designs

Barber Institute of Fine Arts Saturday 16 October, 11.00am-4.00pm, free, just drop in

Experiment with different ways your fingers and hands can be used to make artwork. The Barber's West African Altarpiece, which was used to strengthen hands and encourage action, and objects on display from the Danford Collection of West African Arts and Artefacts, will prepare you for a dynamic day of handicraft and storytelling.

Artist Michael Butler, founder of 'Soulkingz-Designz', experiments with the ways music and rhythm can facilitate creative expression and story teller, Jeanette Angela Barrett will draw from her African and Caribbean Heritage and its rich oral/musical tradition.

Photographing Handsworth

Aston Webb Rotunda 22 September - 29 October, 9.00am-5.00pm

This September marks 25 years since two days of disturbances in Handsworth, events that have commonly been used to define the area in a negative light. This exhibition moves beyond this by exploring how different practitioners have sought to represent the rich and diverse life in the area through photography. The exhibition includes work by established artists such as George Hallett, Vanley Burke and Derek Bishton, a series of 'self portraits' taken by the people of Handsworth and the photographs of a group of year nine students at Holte Visual and Performing Arts College, Lozells.

September/October 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

Adult education courses



Creative Textiles (H)

28 September Tutor: Jackie Lawrence
Learn how to use fabric and thread to make small embroidery pieces which enable people to create distance in the landscape.

Full Day (F): £70

Half Day (H): £40

(both include lunch and teas/coffees)

www.winterbourne.org.uk

Exhibition:

Reflections

by Nikki Williams

13 August – 30 September

The collection illustrates the chameleon-like quality of glass, being strong but exquisitely fragile, amazingly transparent yet also densely opaque.



Conferences and seminars

Wednesday 13 October,
5.15pm for 5.30pm

The impact of the global financial crisis on development thinking

The Max Fry Global Finance Lecture, supported by Money, Macroeconomics and Finance Research Group with speaker, Professor John Williamson, the Peterson Institute for International Economics, Washington, DC.

Venue: G12, Birmingham Business School, University House

Cost: Free

Contact: Gabrielle Kelly

Tel: 0121 414 2724

Email: c.g.kelly@bham.ac.uk

Thursday 14 October, 2.00pm

Safe Care: Enabling partnerships between Clinicians and Managers

Health Services Management Centre (HSMC) will run a free seminar to discuss strategies and possibilities for creating sustainable partnerships in healthcare to deliver safe care. It will be chaired by Professor Russell Mannion of HSMC and the Keynote speaker is Professor Jeffrey Braithwaite, Director, Centre for Clinical Governance Research and Foundation Director, Australian Institute of Health Innovation, University of New South Wales.

Venue: Health Services Management Centre, Park House

Cost: Free

Contact: Ann Thomas

Tel: 0121 414 7058

Email: a.d.thomas@bham.ac.uk

Friday 29 – Saturday 30 October

Scratching the Surface: the history of skin, its diseases and their treatment

An international conference, hosted by the History of Medicine Unit and sponsored by the Wellcome Trust and the Society for the Social History of Medicine, about skin disease and the way in which such diseases are experienced by practitioners, patients and the public.

Venue: Professional Development Centre (PDC), Medical School

Cost: £90 (refreshments and lunch provided)

Contact: Kiran Hallan

Email: k.k.hallan@bham.ac.uk

Inaugural lectures

Wednesday 6 October, 5.15pm

Searching for ghosts

Professor Ciaran Woodman,
Professor of Cancer Epidemiology
School of Cancer Studies

Wednesday 13 October, 4.30pm

How to decipher the brain code: from ions to circuits

Professor Attila Sik, Professor of Cellular Neuroscience, School of Clinical and Experimental Medicine

Details for all inaugural lectures

Venue: Medical School,

Leonard Deacon Lecture Theatre

Contact: Keeley Dudley

Email: k.dudley@bham.ac.uk

Tel: 0121 414 4045

Wednesday 22 September
6.00pm

Corporate Relay Challenge 2010

The University of Birmingham Sport (UBSport) and Queen Elizabeth Hospital Charity (QEHC) present a unique evening of enjoyment, fitness, teamwork and camaraderie. Join us at Cannon Hill Park for this year's Corporate Relay Challenge and help raise funds for Building a Home for the Heroes and University sports scholarships.

For more information visit: www.sport.bham.ac.uk/events/2010/09/corporaterelaychallenge2010.shtml

Venue: Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham

Cost: £10 Childrens Team (7–13yrs), £15 per Womens Team, £20 per Mens or Mixed Team

Contact: Jenna Hadley

Email: j.v.hadley@bham.ac.uk

Tel: 0121 414 2262



F Schenk, Erabus obscura, iridescent paint on canvas



Research and Cultural Collections,
University of Birmingham
and Birmingham City University,
School of Art presents:

The Art of Iridescence: Beauty in the Eye of the Beholder

14–24 September

Franziska Schenk is Artist in Residence at the School of Biosciences and a Lecturer in Fine Art at Birmingham Institute of Art and Design (BIAD). Her work focuses on butterflies and is inspired by Darwin.

Venues:

■ The Rotunda, Aston Webb Building,
University of Birmingham
7–19 September, 10.00am–5.00pm
(Sunday 19 September 11.00am–4.00pm)

■ School of Art, Foyer Gallery,
Birmingham City University,
Margaret Street, B3 3BX
14–24 September, 10.00am–5.00pm (Saturday 10.00am–4.00pm and Sunday 11.00am–4.00pm)

For further information and examples of artwork visit www.biosciences.bham.ac.uk/artists-in-residence or view the article in Buzz issue September 2009 www.buzz.bham.ac.uk.

Accommodation to let

Kings Heath. Double room £210/mth. Beautiful house (wooden floors, wireless-Internet, dishwasher, large garden). Buses to University/town. Staff/Postgrad preferred. Tel: 07766 660312.

Edgbaston. Room in private house. University, one mile. Lounge and bathroom shared with one other. Garden. Near 636 bus. £270pcm inclusive. Tel: 0121 454 3071.

Accommodation wanted

Rent/swap/sit: Visiting Australian Academic requires 3/4 bedroom accommodation for 4–6 months in second half of 2011 (dates flexible). Please contact Matthew Clarke mclarke@deakin.edu.au.

Visiting lecturer looking for furnished room for Autumn term – preferably close to campus in Edgbaston or Harborne and with broadband facilities. Please contact Simon De-Lay. Email: s.e.de-lay@bham.ac.uk.

Foyer sales

Muirhead Tower

4 Corners Jewellery: 29 October

University Centre

Beauty Supplies: 29 September,

5 October, 8 October, 28 October

Select Silver: 30 September, 26 October

4 Corners Jewellery: 1 October

Sock Man: 13 October

Moda Jewellery: 25 October

Services

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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.

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

Central heating/plumbing. Gas safe registered engineer. All aspects of plumbing and heating undertaken. Bathrooms and kitchens a speciality.

www.mwplumbingandheatingservices.co.uk

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.

Purple Gallery. An Exhibition of Paintings and Sculpture: Richard Burel, Terence Clarke, Stephen Henderson, Anthony Yates. Sunday 3 – Sunday 31 October 2010 www.purplegallery.com

Popular 'bench' sculpture leaves campus

Have you noticed something missing from outside the Main Library?

Anthony Caro's sculpture Scorched Flats, on loan to the University for the past five years, has now left campus. The sculpture was often mistaken for a bench and Sir Anthony Caro, who has always believed that sculpture should be part of the real urban world, accepted that if it looked like a bench, 'well, people would sit on it, wouldn't they?' So they did.

Dr James Hamilton, University Curator has plans for 'the bench' to be replaced by another sculpture. 'The benefit of loans of this kind is that not only do they add to the variety and interest of the campus, but they also bring a new dimension, an encounter with challenging and vibrant art that stretches imagination, dismisses preconception and provokes debate... watch that space!'

