



BFA Newsletter

Easter Edition

Welcome

Welcome to the rather more professional looking edition of the BFA Newsletter!

I was inspired by the fantastic editors of The Key magazine. It's available online but there should be a few copies available in Priorsfield if you want to see the finished product. Well done to all involved, there are some really great articles in there.

Easter Break and Exams

There is not long left of the Spring Term—the last day of teaching will be Friday 28th March. Then you will have 4 weeks of holiday to revise for exams, work on end of term assessments and visit friends and family, and maybe some places in the UK. It's not just London and Manchester United! There are some ideas in this newsletter.

There is always lots of information here:

<http://projectbritain.com/easter.html>



Things to remember:

- Public holidays—18th—21st April. Good Friday to Easter Monday
- Priorsfield will be open as usual throughout Easter, EXCEPT for 18th—23rd April so if you need a space to study, come and use the Clarke Room, or play table tennis in the Stewart Room.
- Monday 28th April—return to University for revision and other classes
- Revision week starts on the 28th April
- The official last day of term will be the 20th June. You should be at University until then, although if you need to leave earlier, you just need to come and see David Smith in room 120.



Do you want to explore the UK from a unique perspective, meet British people, or just spend some time away from your studies?

HOST is a charity which arranges for international students studying in the UK to spend a day or a weekend in a British home. It's a chance to experience British culture either locally or further afield, depending on how much you want to spend on travel. You can even go on a HOST visit with a friend if you are nervous of going alone. Hundreds of volunteer hosts across the UK welcome people like you into their homes to promote international friendship and cultural exchange.

Many students have enjoyed HOST visits in

the past; this is what some of them say:

This HOST visit was wonderful! The family was incredibly kind, loving, and became the highlight of my semester. The cultural immersion of their every-day lives was something I am so grateful for and will never forget! Jesus, visiting Cornwall

HOST visits are very popular at this time of year so don't delay in applying. For more information and to apply, please visit our website, www.hostuk.org.

If you have any questions speak to Saroj in room G11 (Ground floor of Priorsfield).

Spend a day or a weekend in a British home!

Easter Eggs-travaganza!

18th-21st April

Get very egg-cited to celebrate Easter with Cadbury World! Hop to Cadbury World to enjoy an action-packed programme of chocolatey fun for the whole family, including an egg-cellent Easter Egg Trail for children. Enter our creative Easter bonnet competition to have the chance to win prizes! We will also have some fabulous seasonal Easter treats in the World's Biggest Cadbury Shop including unique, handmade decorated eggs crafted by our chocolatiers.

Cadbury World!

Why don't you celebrate the chocolate-fest that is Easter by visiting Cadbury World?

You'll have realized by now that Birmingham is Cadbury-mad, and very proud of its products and history—The Cadbury family shaped the City in an impressive way, even lots of the housing stock was originally built for factory workers.

These days the factory is a little more Willy Wonka than history trip, with plenty of free samples.

It's £12 a student and easy to reach, so hop on the train for a visit.

It's advisable to pre-book at

<http://www.cadburyworld.co.uk/>





Prettily painted Easter eggs

Easter in Britain

Like a lot of British celebrations, this is a Christian Holiday, mostly these days celebrated through food!

Hot Cross Buns are marked with a cross and were eaten by the Saxons to honour their goddess Eostre - it is thought the bun represented the moon and the cross the moon's quarters. To Christians, the cross symbolizes the crucifixion and traditionally eaten warm with butter on Good Friday. Get some from your local shop and toast and butter them, yum!

The Simnel Cake signifies the end of Lent, the period of 40 days which comes before Easter. For Christians, Lent is a period of fasting and repentance. It culminates in a feast of seasonal and symbolic foods. The Simnel Cake is rich with fruits, spices and marzipan, all forbidden during the period of Lent.

The name is believed to come from a sister (Nell) and brother (Simon) wanted to make a cake for their mother. One wanted to bake the cake, the other to boil it which was once a common way of cooking a cake. They decided to do both and bring them together in one cake.

Eggs have been associated with Easter celebrations throughout history; in ancient times it was thought the egg represented fertility and new beginnings. For Christians, Christ's resurrection is symbolic of new beginnings and represented by the giving and receiving of eggs.

Since the Middle Ages it is traditional for the eggs to be brightly coloured, celebrating the brightness of spring sunshine. It is still an important custom for Christians, though in modern times the eggs are made of chocolate, another relief from the austerity of Lent.

*Taken from
about.com*



Practical things about Easter

There are 2 bank holidays (closed days).

Good Friday—18th
April 2014

Easter Monday—21st
April

You might find lots of places closed, or at least lots of places working Sunday (shorter) opening hours, so make sure you stock up on essentials!

The University will be closed for 2 additional days, the 22nd and 23rd Easter, although the Library and Learning Centre will still be open.

Beautiful Cheltenham Spa

There are coaches from Birmingham to Cheltenham Spa for as little as £4.50! It's a fantastic day out, a really beautiful spa town with lovely shops and restaurants and a great park that has a yearly Food Festival that is well worth a trip! They currently have Rodin's *The Kiss* sculpture, which is worth a trip just for that!

<http://www.visitcheltenham.com/>



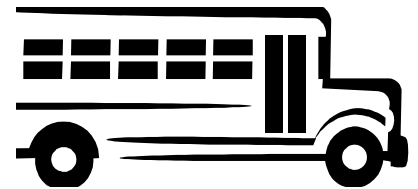
Catch the Coach!

Trains can be expensive, but the coach can be super-cheap!

www.nationalexpress.com/

National Express coaches leave from Digbeth. They work closely with Euro-liners, and occasionally you can get coach tickets from Birmingham to Paris, France for as little as £16!

Check out their website for great deals to places like Bath, Bournemouth, Cambridge, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Oxford and Plymouth.



Alton Towers Trip!

A trip to Alton Towers is being organized for Easter, so keep your eyes out! It's packed full of rollercoasters and rides, so if you are a thrill seeker, make sure you get a ticket!

Basketball trip - 4th April!

Come and see the **Worcester Wolves** play the **Durham Wildcats** on Friday 4th April! There will be a coach leaving the University at 6pm (more details will be sent out). We'll be sitting in the VIP section with free food and drinks so it should be great fun. I don't think we'll spot Kobe Bryant though....

If you want to come, just email J.crompton@bham.ac.uk for a place. Lots of students from last year will be coming too, so it might be a chance to find out how they have found their year!



Worcester Arena!

Services for Holy Week 2014

Edgbaston Old Church: www.edgbastonoldchurch.org.uk

PALM SUNDAY (13th April)

10.30 am Parish Communion with blessing of Palms
6.30 pm Music for Passiontide: a service of hymns, anthems & reading of the Passion

Monday 14th April - 7.30 pm A service of prayer and reflection for Holy Week (1)

Tuesday 15th April - 7.30 pm A service of prayer and reflection for Holy Week (2)

Wednesday 16th April - 7.30 pm A service of prayer and reflection for Holy Week (3)

MAUNDY THURSDAY (17th April)

7.30 pm Commemoration of the Last Supper (followed by stripping of the altars and vigil)

GOOD FRIDAY (18th April) - 2.00 pm An Hour at the Cross

EASTER EVE (19th April)

8.00 pm Easter Vigil and Service of Light (1st Communion of Easter)

EASTER DAY (20th April)

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30 am Parish Communion for Easter Day

St Mary's Selly Oak www.stmarysellyoak.org.uk

Sunday 13th April Palm Sunday 8am BCP Holy Communion
10am Parish Communion

Mon 14 April Monday of Holy Week - 21:00 Compline

Tue 15 April Tuesday of Holy Week - 21:00 Compline

16 April Wednesday of Holy Week - 21:00 Compline

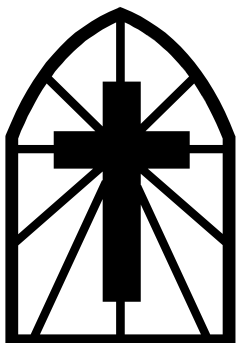
Thu 17 April Maundy Thursday - 19:30 Communion & Watch

Fri 18 April Good Friday - 12:00 – 15.00 - Devotions Round the Cross

Sat 19 April Easter Eve - 10:00 – Children – Junior Church

Sun 20 April EASTER DAY – 8am BCP Holy Communion
10am Parish Communion
6.30pm Said Even. Prayer

More details available from the Chaplaincy which will remain open for all of Easter should you need to speak to anyone. They are always supportive and kind, so if you feel lonely or upset and there isn't anyone else around, they are at St Francis Hall on Campus.



Barmouth, Wales

Located on the coast of Snowdonia, with a long sandy beach and a picturesque harbour bordered by the dramatically beautiful Mawddach estuary - Barmouth is the perfect destination for vintage seaside holidays, walking & outdoor activity breaks, or fresh air getaways at any time of year.

It'll take nearly 4 hours to get to it on the train, but it's a beautiful journey

[Barmouth Tourist Info](#)

Go to the beach? In the UK?!

Yes, there are some beautiful beaches in the UK. We have lots of beautiful places you can get rained on! All of them will involve some travel, but The Gower in Wales is fantastic, featuring the beach pictured below. Norfolk also has some fantastic beaches. Scotland's beaches are legendary—some of the Shetland Isles have beaches as beautiful as any Caribbean beach. Admittedly, the weather isn't so good!

An easy place to get to is Barmouth—it's in Wales and there is a train station there. Hop in the train on a sunny day and get fish and chips on the beach, very traditionally British!

If you fancy Scotland, try Oban, it's a beautiful fishing village that you can catch the train to. You can even catch the ferry across to the Isle of Mull. It's a long way (it'll take about 8 hours on the train!) but it's a gorgeous place! They've got a whiskey distillery that is really interesting, with samples at the end! [Oban Tourist Info](#).



6 Rhossili Bay in the Gower, Wales, has been named the best beach in the UK in the TripAdvisor awards

ISAS Newsletter for more information

ISAS have a monthly newsletter which can be found at the below link. This is packed with useful information for all international students on such things as; immigration issues, housing, careers, and visas. It also includes details of events on campus and day trips around the UK.

[March 2014 Newsletter](#)



Student Services



Student Services provide advice and support in specialist areas such as Counselling and Guidance, Disability and Learning Support, Student Funding, International Student Advisory Service, Customer Services, Equality and Diversity, Welcome and the student experience and Chaplaincy support.

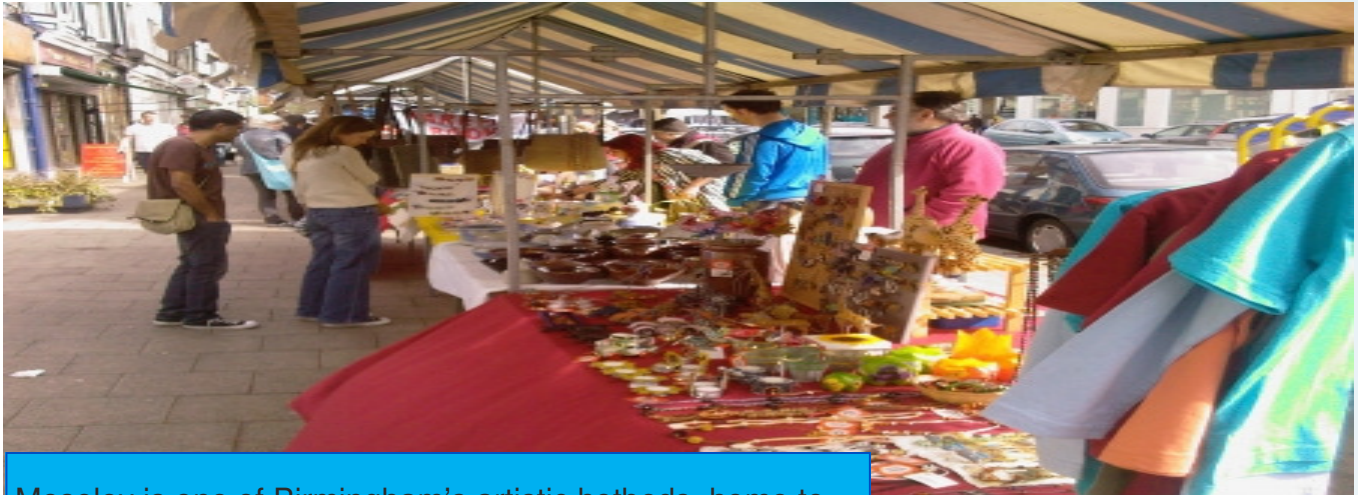
[For more information click here](#)

16-23 March 2014 Arts and Science Festival

University of Birmingham's Arts & Science Festival. Now in its second year, the festival is a week-long celebration of ideas, research and collaboration across campus. This year event organisers were invited to respond to the theme of 'Life & Death' and we have been overwhelmed with the wide-ranging perspectives from which this theme has been approached - from Professor Alice Roberts' exhibition and talk exploring The Art of Anatomy to Professor Carl Chinn's lecture inhabiting Life and Death in Back-Street Birmingham – there's something for everyone.[read more](#)



Events in Birmingham



Moseley is one of Birmingham's artistic hotbeds, home to many creative people. The Arts Market is a showcase for local talent and the best from further abroad.

Held alongside the monthly Farmers' Market you'll find a range of original artworks, traditional and contemporary crafts, and handmade jewellery from professional and semi professional Designer/Makers who will be pleased to talk to you about their work or discuss bespoke commissions.

There's more information at http://www.moseleycdt.com/arts_market



Go SkyRide!

- Love your bike? Or looking to get more involved in cycling?
- Skyride has rides for all abilities, plus women-only rides.
- It's a great way to get fit and meet local people, and they are a really friendly bunch of people, so get involved!
- Find out more information at goskyride.com



Have you been to Urban Coffee? You should! They do poetry slams, story-telling events, film nights and really good coffee! It's a must for culture vultures and caffeine fiends! Located just off St Philips Square (Brummies call it Pigeon Park, or Emo Park) on Colmore Row, it's only 10 minutes from the Uni. Google for easy directions.

Quirky places and vintage clothes

The Custard Factory



The Custard Factory is undeniably the coolest place in Birmingham! From skate shops to wool shops, 50's pin-up clothes to tattoos, The Custard Factory has it all. There's a drama school, a vintage sweet shop, a folk music shop, old-school record store and much more.

B2B Antiques and Vintage Bazaar is back on Saturday 5th April! Taking over the Custard Factory Gallery, the bazaar will have stalls heaving with furniture, clothing, bric-a-brac and much more.

The event is unique in Birmingham, offering visitors a whole day's entertainment, browsing for vintage and antique treasures, grabbing a bite to eat at the café, pop up vintage tea shop or food stands and catching live independent music on the lakeside stage.

It's an amazing taste of independent Birmingham and a real must-visit. Put it on your list of places to see! It's in Digbeth, a short walk from the Bullring, just google for directions.