



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

# The Birmingham Magazine

Issue 22 2010–11

## A new age

A baby born in the UK tomorrow can expect to live five hours longer than one born today.  
**Why is that a problem?**

**Inside:** The naked truth with zoologist and artist Dr Desmond Morris.  
**See pages 20–23**



Circles of influence

# The first word

A question I'm often asked as Vice-Chancellor is what is the University's vision for the future? Inevitably now, I expect that will be accompanied by inquiries as to what the recent announcements about UK higher education funding will mean for Birmingham.

I believe the recommendations from the Browne Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Support outline a fair and progressive system for prospective students. If adopted, it would be graduates, not students, who contribute to the cost of their higher education, and only when they are in work and can afford it. A generous support package will be available for students with the talent to take up a university place regardless of their financial situation.

These proposals are set against the recent Government spending review, outlining a 40% reduction in the higher education budget, from £7.1 to £4.2 billion by 2014-15. Research funding has largely escaped the cuts and will be protected at current levels – positive news for world-class, research-intensive universities such as Birmingham. However, higher education teaching is not protected and universities will take our share of the pain.

The combination of deep public funding cuts and the changes recommended by Lord Browne's Independent Review herald a period of unprecedented financial turbulence for the sector. At Birmingham we have anticipated these changes, prepared, and made financial provision. Our new strategy sets out an ambitious vision for our future, including our plans to achieve continuing financial strength.

Now it is clear that the stable public funding of the past decade is over, our Circles of Influence fundraising campaign is more important than ever. The campaign, which aims to enhance all our lives by solving practical challenges across areas as diverse as cancer research and heritage, has been running for a year and has raised £57 million towards its £60 million target so far. To learn how to play your part, and see how your gifts have transformed lives at Birmingham and beyond, turn to p18-19.



When alumni ask me to outline the future of Birmingham, I usually give the following answer.

Over the next five years we will build on and diversify from our existing areas of excellence to become an institution of international preeminence. We will produce exceptional graduates and impactful research which makes a significant contribution to the global economy and society. This is a challenging aspiration, but we have the resources, expertise, and vision to meet it.

Best wishes

Professor David Eastwood  
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

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### With your news, memories and feedback

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Or leave us your latest news at  
[www.your.bham.ac.uk](http://www.your.bham.ac.uk)

The views and opinions expressed in the University of Birmingham Magazine are not necessarily those of the Alumni Office or the University of Birmingham.

## Support the University

You can support the University in a range of ways:

- Direct Debit – making regular giving safe, easy and cost-efficient
- Online – visit our online giving site at [www.ecommercegateway.co.uk/bham/eDonate/](http://www.ecommercegateway.co.uk/bham/eDonate/)
- Via your tax return – you can give the University all or some of any tax refund through your tax return. Simply add the code FAH 59JG in section 19A.3 and call Fiona Newell on +44 (0)121 414 8136 for a donation form. You can also reclaim tax on the gift on next year's return
- Shares – most donors can claim tax relief via share gifts. Visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving/givenow.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving/givenow.aspx)
- Legacies – email Martha Cass on [m.cass@bham.ac.uk](mailto:m.cass@bham.ac.uk) for more information
- Company matched giving – contact Louise Binder on +44 (0)121 4148136 for details
- Giving from overseas – you can make a gift to the University from anywhere in the world. Visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving/givenow.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving/givenow.aspx)



**A 21st century website** The University's new website is now online, with a modern, easy-to-use design and much more multimedia content. Alumni can access the latest news, events and information from Birmingham at a new web address and the site includes a brand-new section for former students, friends and supporters.

Find us online at [www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni)

## In focus

The excitement of the general election filled campus when the final televised Prime Ministerial Debate was broadcast live from the University's very own Great Hall. Gordon Brown, David Cameron and Nick Clegg took to the podium to focus on the economy in a final push before polling day. Vice-Chancellor Professor David Eastwood described the event as 'a major coup for the University', and it attracted huge media interest internationally.



# The year in pictures



## Alumnus crowned BBC Masterchef

More than 6.6 million UK viewers tune in to see Dhruv Baker (BA Hispanic Studies, 1999) named as the country's best amateur cook. Dhruv beat 126 other hopefuls through months of gruelling cooking challenges, impressing the judges with his combinations of Indian and Western flavours. He beat finalists Alex Rushmer and fellow Birmingham alumnus Dr Tim Kinnaird (MBChB Medicine, 1995).

## Bolt to Birmingham

News breaks that the fastest man in the world will be training for the London 2012 Olympics at the University.

Sprinter Usain Bolt is part of the Jamaican track and field team which will be based at Birmingham during the run up to the games.

Athletes from the US will also be fine-tuning their Olympic preparations in the second city and the two partnerships are worth an estimated £15 million to the local economy.



## Beech Boys complete Atlantic row

UBSport staff member Norman Beech and his son James become the first British father and son team to row across the Atlantic after taking part in the Woodvale Atlantic Rowing Race 2009. James, who turns 19 during the row, also becomes the youngest man to row the Atlantic. They cross the finish line after 83 days, four hours and 29 minutes at sea and raise in excess of £50,000 for WaterAid in Tanzania.



## Exploring music and space

Students, staff and alumni join professional composers Vic Hoyland and Jonty Harrison for a night of new music at Birmingham's drum and bass venue, The Q Club. Squares-Circles-Labyrinths is an ambitious project to explore the concept of music and space, and the performance, which features 20th Century European avant garde works and choral works from the Renaissance period, receives critical acclaim.



## English department on tour

The Department of English celebrates the 21st anniversary of its cricketing tour to Wales which many alumni have joined and played in over the years.

Increasingly blustery and rainy conditions and the team losing both games doesn't detract from the annual reunion's conviviality.

## Friends reunited

Two guests at this year's annual alumni reunions arrive back on campus in style on the University's hydrogen-powered canal barge, the *Ross Barlow*. Ros Jervis (BA English, 1970) and her husband Eddy (seen front) had travelled almost 100 miles to Birmingham on their own barge, before being collected in the city and brought to campus by Professor Rex Harris (seen far right).



## The gift of music

Recognising the extraordinary support they have given the University, Liz and Terry Bramall are inducted into the Chancellor's Guild of Benefactors, the highest honour the University can bestow on a donor. The gift from Liz and Terry (BSc Civil Engineering, 1964) is helping to realise the University's longstanding ambition of completing the Aston Webb Building, with the final dome to be called the Bramall Music Building in tribute to the couple's support.



## Hidden gem regains its sparkle

Winterbourne House reopens after a major project to restore it to its original splendour. Set within a beautiful, seven-acre, grade two listed botanic garden, the Edwardian house is home to beautiful antiques and more than 6,000 plant species from around the world. Offering a full calendar of events, exhibitions and courses, and meeting rooms available for events and conferences, Winterbourne is now open to visitors all year round.



## From politics to polka

Swapping affairs of state for satin and sequins, former politician Ann Widdecombe (BA Latin, 1969) joins the cast of BBC television series *Strictly Come Dancing*. The broadcaster, novelist and former Conservative MP said of her role on the show: 'I will definitely prefer the ballroom dances to the Latin ones, as I'm not interested in sexiness.'



## Celebrating community spirit

To celebrate more than a century of being part of the city of Birmingham, the University throws open its doors to 4,500 visitors for its first ever Community Day. Aiming to encourage the local community to find out about the University and its work, plus the many facilities open to the public all year round, anyone was welcome to come onto campus for the day and enjoy hydrogen car rides, sports tournaments, a funfair, barbecue and much more.

# News

## Social networkers more likely to lie

People who frequently use social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter lie more often about where they are, University researchers have discovered. But they also found the deception was usually for altruistic reasons.

Professor Russell Beale explains:

'We found that this group are so socially connected, they might have several invitations from different groups of friends and have turned down one in favour of another, so the lie was to protect people's feelings. Another kind reason for hiding their location was that they were also often planning surprises for friends and family.'

In a related study, Professor Beale's group is investigating mobile tracking technology that allows users to share information about where they are at any given time. The research began by exploring what level of detail people were happy to share with their different social groups, but the technology could have other potential applications.

'We've developed three different mobile phone interfaces for location disclosure – two graphical and one text,' Professor Beale explains. 'Most people want to avoid giving

away their exact location, which is easier with a text version, but we're working to overcome those difficulties then tie the technology into social networks more so it could even show something as simple as: who's around to meet for a coffee?'

'It essentially accesses networks of people so it could be used to share information such as: which engineers are available locally to fix this particular problem? Which doctors in a certain location can help me with this patient? It also has applications in logistics, military and battlefield planning.'

Find out more:

[www.cs.bham.ac.uk/research/groupings/language\\_and\\_interaction/human\\_computer\\_interaction/](http://www.cs.bham.ac.uk/research/groupings/language_and_interaction/human_computer_interaction/)

Read more about the University's research in security and technology versus personal freedom on pages 26–27.



### Social media fact file

- Social media is highly accessible, based on social interaction and led by users
- The best-known social media outlets include Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, MySpace and blogging
- Facebook is the most popular site globally with more than 400 million active users
- In 2010, Twitter reported 50 million tweets per day – an average of 600 per second
- Network with fellow alumni at the University's online alumni community [your.bham.ac.uk](http://your.bham.ac.uk). Visit [www.your.bham.ac.uk](http://www.your.bham.ac.uk)
- Find the University's official alumni groups on Facebook (called University of Birmingham Alumni Office) and LinkedIn (called University of Birmingham Alumni and Friends)

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The University is a charity and a gift of just £2 a month can make a real difference.

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[www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving)

## Become a lifer

A new society called 'Birmingham. For life.' is bridging the gap between alumni and current students.

The group, sponsored by the Development and Alumni Relations Office, promotes a lifelong relationship with the University and shows how students can benefit from alumni experience and advice. All Birmingham. For life. members pay a £5 fee to join, £1 of which is donated to the Circles of Influence campaign to create a culture of philanthropy among students.

Clare Gordon, Alumni Events Officer, says: 'Birmingham is one of only a handful of universities with a student alumni association,

encouraging students to keep in touch through both social and professional elements. We hope that Birmingham. For life. will become the top student society and the leading society of its kind in the UK.'

### Want to get involved?

To find out more about Birmingham.

For life. email:

[birminghamforlife@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:birminghamforlife@contacts.bham.ac.uk) or search for Birmingham.For life. on Facebook.

Any alumni can support Birmingham. For life. by attending events including The Table for 10 Dinner, an alumni vs students pub quiz, and a networking workshop. Your support will help students develop their networking skills and gain the benefit of your career experiences.

## 'Greater hardship' for twins' families

**Families of multiple births face significant financial hardship and are more likely to separate or divorce, according to a major new study by University researchers.**

The report found that, following multiple births, families were more likely to experience a drop in income level, use some or all of their savings, and describe 'quite difficult' financial stress. It also found that twins and triplets experienced higher levels of material deprivation, including families' inability to afford key basic items.

'We found that twins or triplets are more likely to be born to married and older couples who are in paid employment,' says Stephen McKay, Professor of Social Research and the report's author. 'These factors should provide some degree of protection against low incomes and deprivation, so our findings in this report are deeply concerning.'

Cheryl Lloyd is mum to three-year-old twins Ryan and Kyle Deakin. She says: 'The cost

of childcare for twins would have meant I couldn't go back to work if we weren't lucky enough to have help from my parents. Most people aren't in that position so I think there should be more help from the government for multiple birth families.

'Having twins has definitely put pressure on our relationship too because it's a lot to ask someone to take both the boys so it's hard to find quality time to spend together.'

The Twins and Multiple Births Association (Tamba) supported the report. Chief Executive Keith Reed says: 'Many families with multiple births are in dire straits because successive governments have ignored their needs. We call on the government to join other countries, like the Republic of Ireland, in common sense measures including amendments to child benefit provisions.'

The report is available online at [www.tamba.org.uk/Document.Doc?id=268](http://www.tamba.org.uk/Document.Doc?id=268)



**Perfect pair:** The families of twins, such as three-year-old Ryan and Kyle Deakin, are more likely to experience financial hardship or family breakdown



**Twenty years of learning:** David Hemsoll heads the History of Art Department

## Anniversary shows the art of success

**Marking a major milestone, the University's History of Art degree will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2011.**

From modest beginnings with just eight joint honours students, the department has grown to incorporate almost 100 undergraduate students and also teach postgraduate programmes. Its research is also widely respected, with 70% classed as world-leading or internationally excellent in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE).

Still taught mainly in the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, the programme has evolved from its original focus on the old Masters

to include strengths in 20th century and contemporary art, and more vocationally-focused content such as devising exhibitions.

'I am very proud of this department,' says David Hemsoll, Head of History of Art (2001-10). 'We performed well in the RAE and have a very committed and industrious staff. External examiners consistently comment on the exceptional quality of our undergraduate dissertations and our students continue to achieve remarkable results.'

Dr Anthony Geraghty (BA History of Art/Music, 1993) was among the first group of students to graduate from the course. 'Being in the Barber, we had daily access to one of the world's great picture galleries and the teaching was genuinely inspirational. It taught me not only how to study works of art, but how to love them.'

Among the planned celebrations is an alumni reception next June, and the department is gathering alumni memories and photographs. To send in memories or photos, or if you know of anyone with whom we have lost touch, contact Marion Fleming-Froy, College Alumni Relations Manager for Arts and Law, via [m.flemingfroy@bham.ac.uk](mailto:m.flemingfroy@bham.ac.uk).

## Help us inspire the next generation

**As Birmingham alumni, your experiences, expertise, and advice are worth their weight in gold to students and recent graduates making their career choices.**

Your contribution is also invaluable to the Careers and Employability Centre as it enriches staff's knowledge, making them more effective in their work as careers professionals.

The University would therefore be immensely grateful for any offers of support in the following areas:

- Offers of work experience / internship opportunities
- Being a mentor to a student or recent graduate seeking insight into your profession
- Allowing us to feature you as a case study
- Coming back to your department and participating in careers events

If you are interested in supporting any of the above, please email [careers-centre@bham.ac.uk](mailto:careers-centre@bham.ac.uk)

# News

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Job skills award recognised

An award scheme designed to help Birmingham students develop their employability skills has itself won an accolade.

### Trial aims to fight surgical infection

Trainee surgeons are investigating if a wound-edge protection device can be used to reduce infection following major abdominal surgery in a national clinical trial being led at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham.

### Word dominoes

Powerful tea anyone? A Birmingham language expert has created a smart phone game to help learners of English avoid using word combinations that may sound a little odd to a native speaker.

### Blood cancer tumours have 'Achilles heel'

A drug used to treat breast and cervical cancer can also target a weak point in some blood cancer tumours, researchers in the School of Cancer Sciences have discovered.

### Appeal for Barber Institute memories

To mark the Barber Institute of Fine Arts' 80th birthday in 2012, early memories are being sought for an oral history project.

To contribute, please contact [collections@barber.org.uk](mailto:collections@barber.org.uk).

### Guild Build

The Guild of Students' £4 million development project opened in September following 18 months of extensive building work.



Learn more about all these stories at [www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/news](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/news)

# Heroic campaign promotes Birmingham

Have you noticed the striking black and white posters that have promoted the University of Birmingham's research this year?



**Birmingham hero:** Dr Bruno G Pollet

The Birmingham Heroes campaign featured more than 50 key academics from across the University, highlighting both existing areas of research excellence and areas currently receiving investment. From history of art to nuclear energy, a broad range of subject areas were covered.

Posters and advertisements were placed in a variety of key locations including the London Underground, Virgin trains, at Birmingham International Airport and in publications including the *New Scientist* and *Manufacturing Today*.

By demonstrating how academics are working to solve tomorrow's problems today, the campaign aimed to help Birmingham achieve its goal of becoming one of the top 50 universities worldwide by attracting students

from both the UK and overseas, investors and industry partners.

For hydrogen fuel cell expert Dr Bruno G Pollet, the benefits of being a 'hero' were clear. 'I had a lot of enquiries about hydrogen and fuel cell technologies from the general public, prospective students and industry. I also received in the region of 100 applications from degree students hoping to complete postgraduate study in hydrogen fuel cells,' he says.

As a result of the campaign, Bruno was offered £100,000 of funding from Unilever, which is interested in working in hydrogen fuel cell systems.

'Furthermore, when the Home Secretary Alan Johnson and the Minister of State for Universities and Science David Willetts visited the University in the spring, they told the press they were very impressed by the hydrogen fuel cell work we are doing at Birmingham,' Bruno says.

Planning is underway for a new Heroes campaign for 2011, so look out for new posters and magazine advertisements early next year. Feedback from alumni about the campaign is welcome; please send your comments to [alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk). To read about the academics involved in the campaign and their work, visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/heroes](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/heroes)



**Going underground:** The campaign on the London Underground





**We have lift-off:** The launch of the Kepler spacecraft. Picture courtesy of NASA/Kim Shiflett

## The sound of the stars

Investigating stars in a bid to find life on other planets may sound like the stuff of sci-fi movies but Birmingham physicists are doing exactly that.

Reader in Solar and Stellar Physics Dr Bill Chaplin is leading an international research collaboration as part of the NASA Kepler mission. The Kepler spacecraft, which was launched in 2009, is aiming to find habitable earths around other stars

like our Sun. Bill is involved in the asteroseismology programme, applying techniques similar to those used by seismologists after earthquakes to 'sound out' the interiors of stars. He says: 'This project has the potential

to lead to huge improvements in our understanding of stars, the building blocks of the universe, and how our galaxy has evolved. Closer to home, the project could help us understand the Sun's solar cycle, and how it can influence climate change, because we will be able to study in detail the stellar cycles of other stars like our Sun.'

By studying soundwaves that penetrate to the centre of a star, Bill and his colleagues can work out its age, mass and what it looks like. This links back to the Kepler mission's main brief because knowing these things about a star helps to elucidate all kinds of facts about a nearby planet, including its size and age and whether it is at the right distance from the star to harbour liquid water.

Bill leads a working group of 150 scientists who received their first data on three bright solar stars from the Kepler spacecraft late in 2009.

'Our first paper, published in April, showed the data to be of fantastic quality and we've now been given 1,500 more stars to analyse,' he says.

'Before Kepler, scientists had only studied the oscillations of about 20 solar-type stars in our galaxy. Now, rather than looking at stars individually, we can look at them together and search for trends; a proper stellar ensemble!'

Learn more about Kepler at <http://kepler.nasa.gov/>

## Plant a mighty oak.



**Leave a legacy to the University of Birmingham.**

Contact Martha Cass on +44 (0)121 414 6679 or email: [m.cass@bham.ac.uk](mailto:m.cass@bham.ac.uk)



# Alumni events calendar

Get together with friends and classmates, network with fellow professionals or simply come along for a free drink. To find out more about any of our events, or for help organising your own reunion, please visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/events](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/events), email [alumnievents@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnievents@contacts.bham.ac.uk) or call Clare Gordon on +44 (0)121 414 8904. Event invitations are usually sent by email – update your details at [www.your.bham.ac.uk](http://www.your.bham.ac.uk) to ensure you don't miss out!

## 'A Rage for the Lakes', 22 October 2010 – 9 January 2011

This autumn, there's no need to travel to Cumbria to admire beautiful views of the Lake District! The Barber Institute will be showing 40 glorious watercolours and drawings of Lake District views dating from 1770 to 1900, from the outstanding collection held by the Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal. Visit [www.barber.org.uk](http://www.barber.org.uk) for further details.



## London Christmas Party, 2 December 2010

Join your fellow alumni to celebrate the start of the festive season in style. This year's party will be held at The Langley in Covent Garden. Your first drink is free and there's 50% off all drinks until 7pm. Nibbles will also be provided. Please RSVP to Clare Gordon in advance, all alumni welcome.



## Festive drinks at the Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas Market, 10 December 2010

Pop along after work for a complimentary glass of German beer or a mug of Glühwein while you soak up the festive atmosphere of the largest Christmas market outside Austria and Germany. Your first drink is on us! Please RSVP to Clare Gordon in advance, all alumni welcome.

## University Carol Service, 13 December 2010, Great Hall

This annual event, organised by the University Chaplains and the Department of Music, is a joyful Christmas celebration for staff, students and families. All are welcome, no booking or ticket required and the service starts at 6.15pm.

## London Professional Network, 24 March 2011

Network with fellow alumni from the fields of finance, insurance, property and legal related professions whilst enjoying wine and canapés. Further details will follow shortly.



## Senior Road Executives Programme April 2011

This unique programme provides continuing professional development for senior executives, managers and engineers working in the road sector. Contact Dr Michael Burrow ([m.p.n.burrow@bham.ac.uk](mailto:m.p.n.burrow@bham.ac.uk)) for more details

## Melbourne reception, May 2011

Join fellow alumni at a reception hosted by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Eastwood. Visit the website for details.

## 'Court on Canvas', 27 May 2011

Enjoy an exclusive private viewing of the latest exhibition at the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, 'Court on Canvas', a celebration of tennis. Wine and nibbles will be provided. Further details will follow shortly.

## Students v Alumni Pub Quiz, March 2011

Pit your wits against current students at the second pub quiz organised by *Birmingham For life*, and held in the new Joe's bar at the Guild. Further details to be confirmed.



## History of Art Anniversary Reunion, 11 June 2011

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of History of Art at the University, all alumni who studied the subject are invited to a day of special events at the Barber Institute of Fine Arts. Come along and meet current staff and students, take part in a range of activities and celebrate at the evening reception.



Anniversary Reunions

### Alumni Sports Day, 11 June 2011

Meet up with old team-mates to take on current students in one of 11 sports at the tenth annual Alumni Sports Day. Tickets include a day of sport, a free drink and your ticket to Fab at the Guild. Keep checking the website for details.

### London Summer Party, June 2011

Celebrate the start of summer with an after-work drink on us! This is a great opportunity to meet other recent Birmingham graduates living or working in London. Free event, please RSVP.

### Ironbridge Alumni Family Day, 23 July 2011

More details to follow

### MBChB 30 year reunion, 2 September 2011

The Class of 1981 are invited to celebrate the 30th anniversary of their graduation from the Medical School with a tour of the School, followed by a drinks reception and reunion dinner. Further details to follow.



*The Class of 1985 at their reunion lunch*



*The Class of 1975 pose for their photo in the Great Hall*



## Fab 'n' Refresh

– we want to hear from you!

For the past five years, we have run a Guild night exclusively for alumni at the end of April.

If you've attended Fab 'n' Refresh (formerly known as fab n frenzyreunited) previously and would like us to continue running this event, we want you to get in touch! Drop us an email to [alumnierevents@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnierevents@contacts.bham.ac.uk) with your ideas of how we can improve the night for you and your friends.

### Guild of Graduates and Alumni Association AGM, September 2011

Further details to follow.

### School of Dentistry 30 year reunion, 7 October 2011

The Class of 1981 are invited to celebrate the 30th anniversary of their graduation with a reunion dinner. Further details to follow.

### House of Lords, 14 October 2011

Join more than 300 alumni and guests at the eighth annual reception at the House of Lords. Enjoy wine, canapés, great conversation and the stunning views over the River Thames. There will also be the opportunity to explore the Houses of Parliament on a guided tour. Tickets on sale in August 2011.

## Save the date

### Anniversary Reunions for the classes of 1986, 1976, 1971, 1966, 1961 and the pre-1961 'Golden' classes, 18 June 2011

Come back to campus to celebrate the anniversary of your graduation. Activities planned for the day include visits to departments, a reunion lunch, campus tours, the chance to visit Winterbourne Botanic Gardens and the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, and an evening reunion dinner. There will also be plenty of free time for you to explore campus and catch up with your classmates. To book your place please complete and return the enclosed booking form, visit the website or contact Clare Gordon.

Classes of 1987, 1977, 1972, 1967 and 1962: save the date now for 16 June 2012!

### Community Day, 19 June 2011

Why not make a weekend of it and come back to campus on the Sunday for a day of family fun! Get involved in the University's latest research, learn how our students support the local community and enjoy fun activities with our many student societies. Alumni of all years and subjects and their families are welcome.

For details of accommodation, please visit our website.

# Groups and societies

For full reports and contact information for more than 30 alumni groups and societies in the UK and worldwide, visit [www.your.bham.ac.uk](http://www.your.bham.ac.uk)

## UK groups



**Station event:** From left: Birmingham alumni Heather Cannon, Peter Borcherds, David Ince and Celia Adams with (centre) Gary Woodward, Principal Planning Officer at Birmingham City Council

### Guild of Graduates and Alumni Association Midlands Branch

Alumni from two Birmingham universities heard and saw first-hand what has been achieved so far by the award-winning team redeveloping New Street Station.

Gary Woodward, Principal Planning Officer at Birmingham City Council, explained the redeveloped station's importance within the regeneration of the city centre to the University of Birmingham and Aston University Midlands alumni groups on Friday 11 June.

Birmingham alumna Celia Adams (BSocSc Economics, 1973) organised the event. 'We were all excited to hear how the city and business life will be completely transformed as a result,' she said.

### BUGS (Birmingham University Graduates in Scotland)

BUGS members have enjoyed quite a number of events during 2010.

These have included a 'Spring Sensation' tour and meal at the Dynamic Earth exhibits in Edinburgh in March and a summer awayday and walk in the beautiful Pentland Hills in June. Events concluded this year with the very popular AGM and annual dinner in October at Ross Priory, Loch Lomond.



**Leominster visit:** The Birmingham Scout and Guide Club 2010 reunion

### University Scout and Guide Club 60

The 2010 reunion of 29 of the mid-1960s Birmingham Scout and Guide Club members in Leominster included visits to Ludlow, Hereford (with viewing of the Mappa Mundi in the cathedral) and a couple of nearby National Trust properties.

This was the third reunion since 2005 and it looks like becoming a biennial event. Watch this space for details of the 2012 event.

## your.bham

Find details of all alumni groups at [your.bham](http://your.bham)

Learn more  
[www.your.bham.ac.uk](http://www.your.bham.ac.uk)

## Reunions

### Duannians reunion 2010

Duannians were students on the teacher training course which ran from the late 1800s to 1951 when teacher training changed from a two to a three-year course.

Norah Grocott, herself a Duannian, started our reunions, which are held at Birmingham Business School on the first Saturday in June. This year eight of us met for a shared picnic, catching up on news, remembering our time at the University and visiting the garden where we were delighted to see the tree and the new plaque given as a memorial to Norah. Our next reunion will be on Saturday 4 June 2011. Please contact Betty Wright (née Beard) on +44 (0)121 744 6919 for further details.



**Holiday reunion:** Earth Sciences alumni Ian Finch, Martin Culshaw, Terry Parker, Peter Thompson and Clive Fowler celebrated the 40th anniversary of their graduation with a trip to National Parks in northwest America



**Sixty years on:** Chemical Engineering alumni and their partners met at Gerrards Cross in Buckinghamshire on the exact date of their graduation in 1950. Pictured are Peter Reid, Shirley and Tony Froome, Chris Lowery, Brenda Johnson (wife of Eric Johnson now deceased), Bruce Ross, Briga Reid and Ted Quiney

## International groups

### Birmingham University Alumni Association China

The association is planning a festive party including food, drink, dancing, games and a lucky draw for 11 December; please check our website for details. Our golf club is recruiting new members and both experienced and novice golfers are welcome. Email [buaac@hotmail.com](mailto:buaac@hotmail.com) for details.

### The Birmingham University Alumni Association Hong Kong

Our inaugural meeting was successfully held on 29 May 2010. It was a pleasure to celebrate this special occasion and see such a large assembly of those who have worked

to make the name of the University so important. We hope the association will provide a platform for all Hong Kong alumni to stay in touch with Birmingham.



**Staying in touch:** The inaugural meeting of the Birmingham University Alumni Association Hong Kong



**Summer fun:** Canadian alumni enjoy a party

Photo courtesy of Stefan Cojocaru

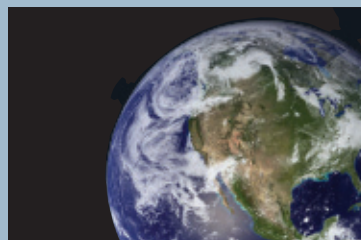
### Canadian Alumni Chapter Garden Party

The 11th annual garden party was held on 12 September 2010 at the Boulevard Club in Toronto overlooking Lake Ontario. A lovely location and a great party attended by 60 guests.

We were pleased to hear that the Canadian Scholarship fund is doing well and that the recipient for the coming academic year will be a young medical student from Mississauga, Ontario. Appreciation was also expressed to the Ameli family, who will be establishing a neurosurgical scholarship in their father's name. Thanks to the committee for organising the event, particularly Danny Linehan and Elizabeth O'Neil.

## Calling all international alumni

The University would be delighted to hear from alumni interested in setting up an international group. Plans are already underway for groups in Melbourne and Korea and anyone interested in joining these, or forming a new group, should email [alumoffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumoffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk)



## Guild of Graduates and Alumni AGM

In the midst of a very well attended University Open Day on Saturday 11 September, the Annual General Meeting of the Guild was held in the Chemical Engineering building.

Holding the meeting on the same day as the open day again ensured that all the buildings were open, the whole campus was a hive of activity and alumni were able to mingle with aspiring students and their parents.

President Joe Biddlestone (BSc Chemical Engineering, 1958; PhD Chemical Engineering, 1961) welcomed those attending and then chaired the AGM. The following were elected Guild representatives on Court for a five-year period commencing January 2011: Joe Biddlestone, Ian Dillamore, Matthew Gorman, Calliope Harrison, John Payne, Christopher Smith, Steve Tomlinson and Matthew Watson. Guild Officers and Committee for 2010-2011: President, Joe Biddlestone; Vice-President, John Craggs; Secretary/Treasurer, Stephen Parsons; Alumni Awards Officer, Norma Broadbridge; Committee members, Maureen Edge, Nick Emery, Arthur Lee, Calliope Harrison, Lesley Payne and Christopher Smith.

After an excellent lunch there followed a very interesting talk, with musical intermissions, from Colin Timms, the Peyton and Barber Professor of Music. Colin presented a history of the development of music on campus from the appointment of the first Professor of Music, Elgar, through to the current construction work on completing the Aston Webb semi-circle which will provide a new base and concert hall for music at the University.



**High note:** The new Bramall Music Building

# Live long and falter?

A timebomb. A burden on society. As big a threat as climate change. But this seemingly epic catastrophe isn't a global war, pandemic or natural disaster. It's simply people living longer.



A child born in the UK tomorrow can expect to live five hours longer than one born today. This triumph of modern medicine and social care offering us all a little more time on this mortal coil is mirrored in almost every country across the world.

The World Health Organisation expects the global population aged 60 and over to reach two billion in 2050, and it is estimated that 5% of the UK population will be aged 85 and over – the 'oldest old' – by 2034.

Unfortunately, the effects of people's increasing longevity aren't straightforward. While some highlight the benefits of a more mature society, the negative implications are never far from the headlines – greater strain on health and social care services; ever-increasing numbers of unpaid carers struggling to cope; and an unprecedented ratio of current taxpayers versus those no longer working.

But there are rays of hope between the grey clouds, with University researchers fighting to reduce the problems of population ageing for this generation and into the future. Teams across different schools and departments are looking at everything from breaking the link between ageing and illness, to innovative uses for new technology and advising on social care reform.

'Our longer lifespan hasn't been matched by an increase in 'healthspan' meaning many people spend much of their old age in ill health – six years on average for UK men and 11 for UK women,' says Janet Lord, Professor of Immune Cell Biology. 'I don't believe ill health should be an inevitable part of growing old so we are working across the University to ensure old age can be enjoyed, not endured.'

## Profound

In the School of Immunity and Infection, Janet's team is focused on combating the profound effect of ageing on immune health, including greater susceptibility to infectious and inflammatory diseases and poorer responses to vaccinations.

'Ageing is a complex process but reduced immune function will certainly contribute to increased illness in the elderly,' says Professor Lord. 'We have already shown how the usual immune response fails in chronic inflammatory diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and we're now using this to develop new patient treatments. This work not only has huge implications for improving older people's

health and quality of life, which in itself would be tremendously positive; it will also relieve pressure on carers and health services, saving money and raising awareness of how to better support older people.'

In directly related research, a team in Sport and Exercise Sciences is investigating the impact of stress and bereavement on the aged immune system, and the link between hip fracture and depression. 'My earlier work showed that stressful events, such as bereavement, cause immune suppression and reduce vaccinations' effectiveness, which led me to question how those effects could be reduced,' explains Dr Anna Phillips, Roberts Research Fellow (BSc Psychology 1998; PhD, 2005). 'I'm now investigating the link between hip fracture and depression in older people and considering how psychological, biological or even nutritional interventions might help reduce both the incidence of depression and high mortality rates.'

'I also believe the effects of stress on immune health aren't limited to older people,' adds Dr Phillips. 'We are following up our finding that parents caring for a developmentally disabled child also suffer poorer immunity, which could have far-reaching implications for their support in the future.'

## Controversial

Often misunderstood and controversial to some, another weapon in the fight against ageing is stem cell therapy. Replacing damaged tissue with new cells, such therapy could potentially reverse diseases as diverse as Parkinson's, heart failure and macular degeneration of the eye, but there are complications for its use in the elderly.

'Replacement of diseased or damaged cells with ones derived from stem cells is like putting a new engine into an old car,' says Jon Frampton, Professor of Stem Cell Biology. 'We are working to understand how older tissues and organs have altered so we can make cellular replacements more successful.'

The body's own stem cells can also be used as therapies, for example in a bone marrow transplantation to treat blood cancers that affect the elderly. However, as Professor Frampton points out: 'Blood stem cells are less potent in older people and we are trying to understand why and then find ways to give these cells a new lease of life before being transplanted.'



*Continued from page 15*

So, much of the University's research has a clear focus on reducing the incidence and issues of poor health in old age, but what happens when illness does strike, as it undoubtedly still will for some?

Harnessing the power of robotics and the newest imaging technologies, researchers in the Centre for Computational Neuroscience and Cognitive Robotics (CN-CR) are aiming to improve patient rehabilitation after brain injury such as a stroke or for those with degenerative problems such as dementia.

Glyn Humphreys, Professor of Cognitive Psychology, explains: 'We can train computers to interpret brain activity, such as whether someone wants to steer a wheelchair left or right, and we are also developing assistive devices and intelligent environments that can help patients become more independent by supporting simple, everyday activities.'

'These innovative developments are much needed as current forms of treatment have relatively limited effects. These are exciting times for the University and for the field of neuroscience and robotics, and we are confident the coming years will be full of breakthroughs.'

## Virtual reality

The potential role of technology in mental health is also a focus for a team in Electrical Engineering who are working to use virtual reality as restorative therapy for immobile patients. Through 3D models of 'green' scenes such as parks and forests, and 'blue' environments featuring water, the therapy aims to immerse people completely with sights,

sounds and even smells. And far from simply being picturesque, the displays have a proven medical benefit.

'Exposure to natural environments has a positive effect on mental wellbeing, with one study showing that patients with a view of trees spent less time in hospital and needed reduced levels of medication compared to those who could only see a brick wall,' says Professor Bob Stone, Director of the Human Interface Technologies Team. 'With this technology, we can open up a whole new world to people who are bedridden or immobile, giving them a walk in the fields or along the coastline.'

'We use technology that is simple and readily available to keep the costs low which means this treatment could be used around the world. Improved patient recovery and rehabilitation also has clear benefits for carers and medical professionals, including reduced costs and pressure on health services. Our work in using virtual worlds for restorative therapy is unique so we are pushing to be pioneers in the field.'

## Social investment

Working to support patients, carers and health professionals in a very different way, the Health Services Management Centre (HSMC), based in the University's School of Social Policy, is one of the UK's leading centres in policy, development, education and research in health and social care services.

Adult social care (the state helping people who are vulnerable, isolated or unwell) costs the UK around £16 billion per year, with more than one million people using the system at any one time and six million carers around the country. In a report produced for the Department of Health

earlier this year, HSMC found that, under greater pressure than ever before, the adult social care system is simply no longer fit for purpose.

'Our report looked at the system in the context of our ageing population and showed the unequivocal need for long-term reform,' says Jon Glasby, Professor of Health and Social Care and Director of HSMC (BA History, 1997; MA Social Work, 1999; PhD Social Policy, 2001). 'The current system was designed for 1940s demography which makes it completely unsuitable for today's needs and, if we do nothing, the cost will double in the next 20 years.'

He admits: 'Current spending cuts mean reform is incredibly challenging for everyone, but our recommendations for change, including greater personalisation of support and increased use of IT, would act as a long-term social and economic investment. Spending in this area can actually achieve tremendous savings elsewhere in the welfare state, such as fewer hospital beds, reduced spend on unemployment and incapacity benefits; and increased tax contributions as more older people and carers are able to work.'

Ultimately, Professor Glasby believes people living longer has to be a good thing. 'Our ageing population is a major achievement of the welfare state and modern medicine,' he says. 'So although there are problems to respond to, there are people alive today who would have died previously, which I can't see as a bad thing.'

Professor Lord adds: 'Our work at Birmingham is unique in that we have everyone from clinicians and psychologists to scientists and engineers working together to tackle ageing in a way that encompasses the whole body and mind. You could say we're working to ensure people enjoy a long healthy life and a short death.'

Find out more about ageing research: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/heroes](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/heroes)



**Get involved**

Alumni can play a crucial role in supporting ageing research at Birmingham. Philanthropic funding has a significant impact so please contact [alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk) if you are interested in donating to any of the research projects mentioned.

Volunteers are also needed, for example healthy older people to act as a control group during studies. If you are aged 65 or older, in good health and live within an hour of Birmingham, please contact Professor Janet Lord via [j.m.lord@bham.ac.uk](mailto:j.m.lord@bham.ac.uk). If you are aged over 65, have recently experienced a bereavement and could volunteer your time, please contact Dr Anna Phillips via [a.c.phillips@bham.ac.uk](mailto:a.c.phillips@bham.ac.uk).



# An age-old problem

'It's a race between extending life and keeping people healthy as they age. Research in this area is very important because I think the key is to keep older people as contributing members of society. At 82, I still paint and write, working until 3 or 4am every morning to keep my mind active.'

**Dr Desmond Morris**



Dr Desmond Morris (BSc Zoology, 1951), zoologist, painter and bestselling author

**5** } The percentage of the UK population it is estimated will be aged 85 and over, the 'oldest old', by 2034.

**£50 billion**

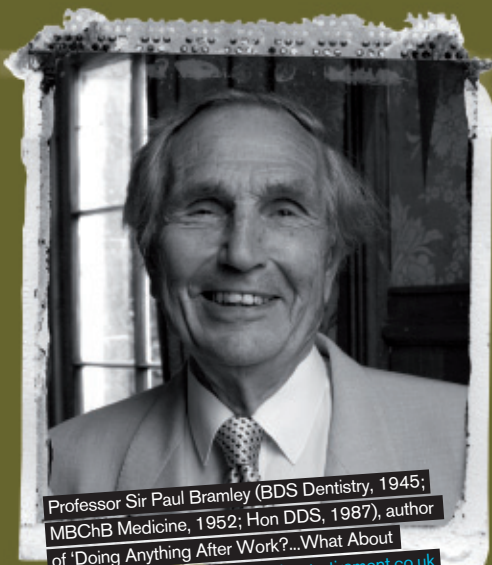
The amount per year it's estimated UK families save through grandparents providing free babysitting and childcare.

'From games to ward off dementia, to virtual communities for carers and tele-medicine saving the NHS time and money, everyday technology is key in battling the negative effects of ageing. We're investigating how face recognition software can trigger memories for people with dementia, and using GPS in mobile phones to help carers track a patient who's likely to wander off. We've also worked on a government-funded Smart Homes project using technology to prolong independence in old age, for example pressure sensors to alert carers that the person is out of bed.'

**Dr Dave Haniff**



Dr Dave Haniff (MSc Cognitive Science, 1997; PhD Augmented Reality, 2005), founder of the Pervasive Technology Lab. Visit [www.pervasive-technology-lab.org/](http://www.pervasive-technology-lab.org/)



Professor Sir Paul Bramley (BDS Dentistry, 1945; MBChB Medicine, 1952; Hon DDS, 1987), author of 'Doing Anything After Work?...What About Retirement?' Visit [www.whataboutretirement.co.uk](http://www.whataboutretirement.co.uk)

'Many, otherwise excellent, retirement seminars fail to indicate the important emotional aspects and associated challenges of ageing. The only persons who know how this part of the journey feels are those experiencing it. I persuaded members of my local Probus group that we had a responsibility to tell it from the heart. The result is a unique, personal and very varied compilation of prose and verse. It is about the joy, the pain, the pitfalls, the freedom, the opportunities and how they coped with the sudden change in social status and relationships.'

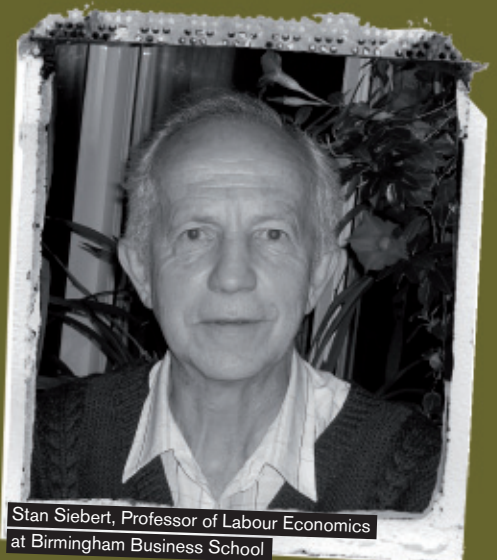
**Professor Sir Paul Bramley**

**11** } The average number of years UK women spend in ill health in old age. For men it is six.

'The UK made a wonderful change in its Finance Act of 2004 (in force 2006) which moved in the direction of allowing people both to work and receive their state and private pensions. Prior to this, you had to resign once your pension started and find work elsewhere, which is obviously difficult, leading to most people dropping out of employment.'

**Professor Stan Siebert**

**68** } The point to which the UK state pension retirement age will increase by 2044 (now 65 for men and 60 for women). This would make it the highest in Europe, above Germany, the current highest at 67.



Stan Siebert, Professor of Labour Economics at Birmingham Business School



# Campaign picks up pace

Momentum is growing as the Circles of Influence campaign enters its second year with £57 million of our £60 million target raised so far. In spite of a global recession, 2010 has been one of our best ever years for fundraising and we would like to thank alumni, charitable trusts, supporters and friends for their generosity.

The University is a charity and your gifts support research and teaching in areas in which we excel.

Our campaign is called Circles of Influence because it focuses on projects that transform the lives of people in Birmingham, the UK and worldwide, from the new Bramall Music Building on campus to cancer, obesity,

ageing and brain injury rehabilitation research. Below you can read more about just a few of the different areas that have benefitted from the Circles of Influence campaign.

To find out how you can help us continue to make a difference, visit:

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving/circlesofinfluence](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving/circlesofinfluence)

Watch videos about all the projects mentioned on these pages and Birmingham's other key research areas on the University's YouTube channel at:  
[www.youtube.com/user/unibirmingham](http://www.youtube.com/user/unibirmingham)



**Free legal advice:** Law students at the launch of the Birmingham FLAG scheme

## Legal eagles help others

**Students were able to offer free legal advice to members of the local community thanks to support from the Annual Giving Programme.**

Part of the £250,000 raised during this year's direct mail and telephone calling campaign was used to help fund the Birmingham FLAG (Free Legal Advice Group) scheme, run in partnership with national law firm Mills & Reeve LLP.

Lecturer and Clinic Director Bharat Malkani says: 'From the students' point of view the opportunity to gain practical legal experience was invaluable and our group of student volunteers were bright, articulate and enthusiastic.'

To find out more about the Annual Giving Programme, visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving/](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving/)

Learn more about FLAG at [www.law.bham.ac.uk/probono](http://www.law.bham.ac.uk/probono)



**Talking finance:** Professor Karen Rowlingson speaks at the CHASM launch conference

## Filling a CHASM

The Centre on Household Assets and Savings Management (CHASM) was launched in May at a conference attended by more than 100 academics, policy makers and practitioners.

Your gifts are helping CHASM address key financial issues which affect us all such as financial capability in schools, students' attitudes to money both before and after leaving university, the rise of personal debt and the role of wealth taxes.

Centre Director Professor Karen Rowlingson says: 'Through rigorous, relevant, inventive and timely research, and engaging with financial services, the third sector, and central and local government, we hope to make an impact on policy and practice in this key area.'

Learn more about CHASM at [www.chasm.bham.ac.uk](http://www.chasm.bham.ac.uk) and to support CHASM's work, contact Matt Mangan on [m.a.mangan@bham.ac.uk](mailto:m.a.mangan@bham.ac.uk)



## Circles of influence



**Vital:** Laboratory technicians such as Dr Souad Messahel (BSc Medical Biochemistry, 1993; MSc Toxicology, 1994; PhD Neurosurgery, 1999) in the School of Cancer Sciences perform vital work that will ultimately help save lives

### Battling brain tumours

A new laboratory technician post has been created specifically to support brain tumour research in the School of Cancer Sciences.

Around 4,500 people are diagnosed with brain tumours in the UK every year, and unfortunately treatments have lagged behind the improvements seen in other areas of cancer therapy. The School has a large brain tumour clinical practice headed by Professor Garth Cruickshank, a national leader in brain tumour surgery. The new appointment will work with the clinical team to process tissue samples which will then be available to research leaders to start new projects.

'This role will open up a new series of brain cancer research programmes which we hope will lead in time to new patient therapies,' explains Professor Paul Moss, Head of the School of Cancer Sciences. 'This has unlocked a whole new area of research to us that would simply not have been feasible without philanthropic funding.'

### Scholarship success

Your gifts to the Circles of Influence campaign have supported more than 230 Access to Birmingham scholarships for students from families with little or no experience of higher education. Adnan Shabir (BSc Mathematics with Business Management, 2010) graduated this summer as one of the first students to have received an alumni-funded scholarship and hopes to become an investment banker in the City. 'In ten years time, I hope to be in a position where I too can give back to the University which has supported me so greatly,' he says. For more information on giving to scholarships at Birmingham, contact Phil Addy on +44 (0)121 414 8641 or p.w.j.addy@bham.ac.uk



**Graduation day:** Adnan Shabir (BSc Mathematics with Business Management, 2010)



**Interactive:** Dr Richard Clay uses a touch table

### In touch with heritage

Using new technology to bring the past to life, the Heritage and Cultural Learning Hub has its first interactive touch table. Allowing up to 32 'touches' from multiple people, the table will let users experience everything from videos and multilayered maps to images in detail too minute to be seen by the naked eye.

'The table could have children playing an Egyptology game at one end and their parents reading detailed historical text at the other,' explains Dr Richard Clay, Co-Director of the Hub. 'It will allow museums, libraries and archives to engage their visitors like never before and is just the beginning of our plans to open up heritage through technology.'

# The naked truth

From apes to art, the life of Dr Desmond Morris (BSc Zoology, 1951) is like the man himself – enduring, playful and fascinatingly unique.

The life and career of Desmond Morris has always had a split personality. But his competing passions have actually proved essential in sating both his fascination with nature and his somewhat lesser known need to rebel.

As author of one of the world's all-time bestselling books, *The Naked Ape*, and *Manwatching*, which is credited with introducing the concept of body language, the ebullient Dr Morris became the first zoologist to document man in animal terms, demystifying the subject for many while facing his peers' vexation for doing the same.

The 82-year-old's other abiding obsession is unbeknown to many. A respected painter, he is one of just three surviving members of the surrealist movement, using his works to create a fantastic realm far removed from the logical, ordered world of science. It wasn't until he came to Birmingham in 1948 that the two halves of his life began to form a whole.

'I have always been very grateful to Birmingham because it changed my life,' he says. 'Until then, painting was dominant but the influence of my professor, Peter Medawar, meant I became totally immersed in scientific research so both hemispheres of my brain were being developed for the first time.'

The grandfather-of-four also credits Medawar (who later won the Nobel Prize for Medicine) with opening another pivotal chapter in his life. 'My problem as a zoologist was that I didn't want to experiment on animals. Medawar took me to a lecture by Niko Tinbergen, who showed that you could do serious, quantitative research and unravel the whole reproductive

pattern of an animal's life by being an observer. It was like a lightbulb going off in my head.'

After persuading Tinbergen (who also became a Nobel Laureate) to accept him as a graduate student – 'he would only take me if I got a first so I crammed three years' study into less than a year' – he moved to Oxford, where he would complete his doctorate and marry fellow student Ramona Baulch, who remains his wife almost 60 years later.

His doctorate finished, the next step was as obvious to him as it was unprecedented. 'I wanted to work with chimps and Tinbergen said the only place in the country I could do that was London Zoo. They offered me a job starting their film unit and when I arrived, I was surprised to be employed by Granada TV and not the Zoological Society.' His new employers asked him to present 'a little programme on the side', *Zootime*, the country's first wildlife series aimed at children. On Morris' suggestion, a residential studio was built to give the animals familiar surroundings and the programme was broadcast from there weekly.

'It wasn't my goal to popularise science but I ended up doing 500 *Zootime* programmes over the next 11 years. I was surprised at the response but I think people watched because I was obviously passionate and I never dumbed down to the viewers. The programme only stopped because I left the country, otherwise I think it would still be running!'

The reason for this sudden exile was that *The Naked Ape* had hit bookshops, bringing an unanticipated and extreme level of public exposure.

*Continues on page 23*



**WIN** a signed copy of  
The Naked Ape Trilogy  
Find out how  
on p38



Zoology and surrealist art: Dr Morris' two abiding passions bleed together between the studio and library of his Oxfordshire home





**The exhibitionist:** The artist shows his surrealist paintings for the first time



**Early research:** A trip to the Isle of Man Marine Biology Station as part of his degree course at Birmingham

Continued from page 20

'I knew some people would be upset but if I'd thought about it too much, I would have been too scared to do it at all, which is probably why I wrote it in four weeks.'

The book – the first to describe man in purely animal terms including feeding, sleeping, fighting, mating and rearing young – went on to be translated into 23 languages and sell more than ten million copies worldwide. It also paved the way for Morris to pen more than 60 further titles so far including *The Human Zoo*, *Manwatching*, *Catwatching*, *Dogwatching*, *Baby* and *Owl*.

In the wake of the book's epic success, Morris still marvels at the irony of facing criticism for equating man with animals. 'I wrote *The Naked Ape* as a celebration of humans because all our truly animal qualities are good ones such as maternal behaviour. I was elevating humans to the level of my beloved animals so I was amazed people could think it was insulting.'

This warmth towards his fellow man was a long time coming, as the young Morris felt strong antipathy towards humans as a result

of watching his father die slowly from injuries suffered in World War 1. 'My father came back with just half a lung and throughout my first 14 years, I watched him decline. He was a very tough man but gradually it overtook him. Then WW2 started and I was being trained as a soldier which horrified me. So as a child, I thought humans were revolting – a ridiculous species who just wanted to harm one another. It took me a long time to get to like them.'

The manner of his father's death left another permanent scar on the teenager's psyche. 'It made me very angry and I only became aware as an adult of how it formed this rebellious quality. My rebellion wasn't going to be destructive, because that's what I was rebelling against, so I found creative outlets. I became a fanatical exponent of jazz, which was then seen as outrageous, and even earned my first money playing drums in a jazz band. And I discovered the surrealist movement and felt an immediate affinity for its ideals.'

He has painted ever since and his distinctive art, which jostles for space alongside thousands of books at the studio and library

adjacent to his Oxford home, has been exhibited everywhere from London and Paris to New York and Sydney. But despite this, the belief that his work could have commercial worth is relatively recent. 'I either destroyed or gave away my early paintings because I didn't think they were of value. Then years later, they started coming up at Sotheby's. But I suppose you can't win them all.'

Now as an octogenarian, the irrepressible Morris shows no signs of losing pace. This year has included an exhibition of collages, more painting, writing and visiting everywhere from Australasia to Greenland. Next year will see more of the same, plus a follow-up to his book *Baby*, this time detailing human development from ages two to five. He still keeps an old school report which testifies: 'Although his ability may be rather limited he will certainly make the best of it', perhaps setting the schoolboy a subconscious challenge he has long since surpassed.

## Dr Desmond Morris at a glance

**Born:** 24 January 1928 in Purton, near Swindon

**Family:** Married to Ramona with one son and four grandchildren

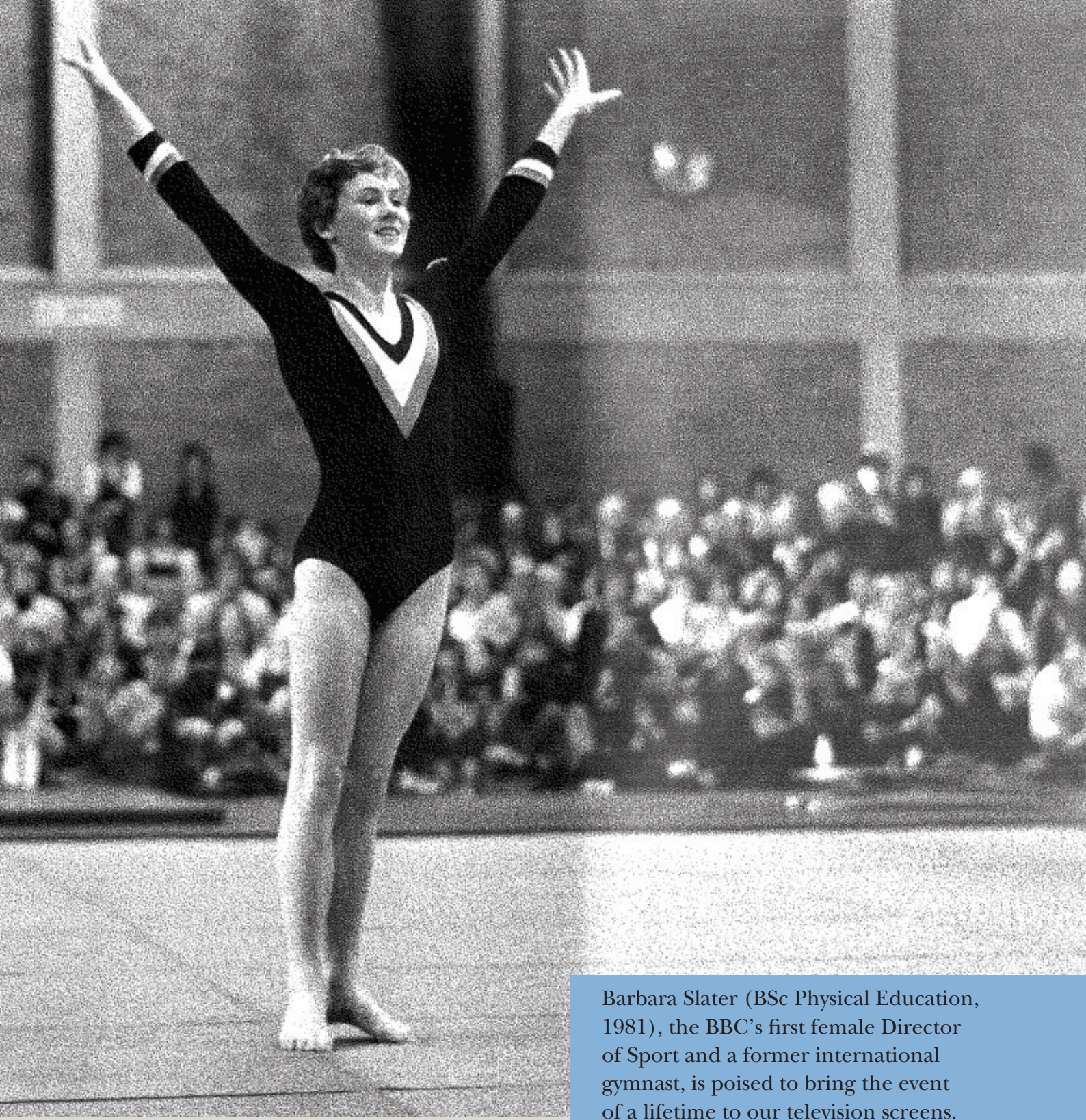
**Career:** Spanning 60 years, including writing, television presenting and exhibitions of surrealist art. Credited with developing the concept of body language, he also wrote *The Naked Ape*, one of the bestselling books of all time

**Interests:** Animals, surrealist art, cinema, travel (he has exceeded a childhood ambition to visit 100 countries)

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'I wrote *The Naked Ape* as a celebration of humans because all our truly animal qualities are good ones such as maternal behaviour. I was elevating humans to the level of my beloved animals so I was amazed people could think it was insulting.'

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Barbara Slater (BSc Physical Education, 1981), the BBC's first female Director of Sport and a former international gymnast, is poised to bring the event of a lifetime to our television screens.

**Perfect poise:** Barbara competing in the 1970s

# From springboard to broadcasting





**On parade:** The British team at the 1976 Olympics in Montreal. Barbara is in the front row, third from left



If you studied at Birmingham in the 1970s and remember seeing lights on in the Munrow Sports Centre late at night, there's a good chance it was a young Barbara Slater practising gymnastics under the close supervision of her father.

Before she began her successful career in television production, Barbara was an international gymnast who represented England in competitions including the 1976 Olympics in Montreal. With the London 2012 Olympics fast approaching and BBC Sport moving to a new base near Manchester next year, the onus is on Barbara's team to deliver better sports coverage than ever before, but she is confident BBC Sport can handle the task.

'Broadcasting is a high pressure environment but in comparison with standing at the end of a vault runway where you're about to try something completely new with multiple somersaults and twists, there is nothing I have ever done since that's quite as frightening. All you can think is "Am I going to land on my feet and still be alive?";' she says.

Barbara has fond memories of Birmingham as the place where her sporting career blossomed after her father Bill, a professional footballer who played for Wolverhampton Wanderers and England, took over her coaching when she failed to be selected for a national competition. When she began her degree in Physical Education in 1978, she had finished competing at the top level and was able to enjoy student life while studying a subject she was passionate about.

'In some ways I was lucky in that I was still able to get to a university as good as Birmingham having spent so many hours in the gym. When I visited recently I was very impressed with what some of the current body of students are achieving in sport combined with their academic studies,' she says.

Achieving a first class degree at Birmingham led to further study, a Masters in Human Biology at Oxford and PGCE at Loughborough, and she seemed destined for a career in academia. But Barbara had developed an interest in television fuelled by helping ITV with production and commentary for gymnastics coverage during her student years.

'I remember seeing all the different cameras and monitors and just thinking that's got to be the best job in the world. I was really lucky in that I knew what I wanted to do and it was very much hands-on production,' she says.

She joined the BBC as a trainee assistant producer and worked on natural history, news and regional programmes before moving to BBC Sport in 1983 and going on to produce, direct or edit most major sporting events. As a woman in a male-dominated environment, she says she was 'an oddity' when she first joined but this is not the case in 2010.

'If you're a woman with genuine passion and interest in sport, who is ambitious, I believe that you will have every opportunity to have a successful career that will absolutely be based on your own abilities and talents. The doors are open for women in sports broadcasting in a way that they weren't when I joined the industry 20 years ago,' she says, citing the on-screen achievements of Sue Barker, Clare Balding, Gabby Logan, Hazel Irvine and fellow Birmingham alumna Celina Hinchcliffe (BA English, 1997) as examples.

Barbara believes BBC Sport's team of hugely experienced journalists and producers, who have learnt lessons from delivering events such as the World Cup in South Africa this summer, will be critical when it comes to broadcasting the 2012 Olympics.

'2012 is just the biggest event in the UK and I don't think it's any exaggeration to say in our lifetimes. I think it's a quite fantastic opportunity for sport and for broadcasting too; people will want to immerse themselves in the games in a way that they haven't done before. I think the choice that we offer and the depth of coverage are among the challenges we face.'

She is often asked to justify why BBC Sport is moving to Salford the year before such a major event and it is quality and range of coverage she turns to. 'We love TV Centre. It's a wonderful, iconic building but it does not have the sophistication and connectivity we require,' she says. 'Salford is our opportunity to future proof the production operation, to make it more efficient, more streamlined and high definition, and that's what viewers expect.'

An important aspect of Barbara's job is ensuring the BBC retains a broad portfolio of broadcasting rights, often facing intense competition from Sky and digital channels, so as many people as possible can watch sporting events on terrestrial television.

'The World Cup games were attracting audiences of 10 million people night after night and this increased to almost 20 million during England games. These are really unique moments and I think it's incredibly important they are preserved; some governing bodies [which award broadcasting contracts] have those choices to balance,' she says. 'Exposure is something that we would argue is really important because that's how the next generation are attracted into sport, by witnessing the achievements of our sports teams and individual sportsmen and women such as Kelly Holmes, Andy Murray, Rebecca Adlington and so many others.'

Of all the sports television that she has produced, from Wimbledon to the Grand National, it is golf that is Barbara's favourite. 'Not only do you have the challenge of trying to create wonderful pictures but also of trying to track an evolving story over 18 holes and the complexity of lots of simultaneous action. I think that's what's really wonderful about sports coverage. We don't write the script, but we really want to tell the story,' she says.

Eventually, she would like to play golf herself but is currently too busy juggling her job at the BBC with being a mother of three. If she is as driven and successful on the green as she has been with her gymnastics and television careers, Tiger Woods better watch out.

## Barbara Slater at a glance

**Born:** Birmingham

**Family:** Married with three children aged 22, 18 and 14

**Enjoys:** Watching sport

**Did you know?:** As a teenager in Liverpool, Barbara was a diver and competed at a national level. She only became a gymnast due to the lack of diving facilities when the family moved back to Birmingham.

# Watching those watching us

Freedom or progress is the dilemma facing many of us as technology able to track our every move is developed. Birmingham researchers are working to address the complicated question of liberty versus security across areas as diverse as computer science, ethics and engineering.



You may not be aware of it but every time you visit a website, turn on your mobile phone or use a supermarket loyalty card, someone, somewhere can see what you are doing.

Physically being watched can be a very uncomfortable experience but the use of technology removes this sensation, meaning we are often unaware that data is being

gathered about us. Should we be concerned that developments in technology are infringing our personal freedom or does the threat of terrorism mean a high level of monitoring is needed to create a secure society?

Ensuring security processes are ethical, particularly those relating to terrorism, is the concern of DETECTER (Detection

Technologies, Terrorism Ethics and Human Rights), a major European research project led by the University.

For the past two years, Tom Sorell, the John Ferguson Professor of Global Ethics, and a team of academics from across the University have been surveying the different kinds of technology developed to fight terrorism and

advising on what is questionable ethically, and what is necessary. For example, when full body scanners were introduced at airports, DETECTER advised that a graphical representation of a person's body, like a stick man drawing, be used to assess risks rather than intrusive, detailed pictures. 'Law is often made and revised on the hoof for counter terrorism and we need to ensure that it is consistent with human rights law,' Tom says.

While public security measures such as CCTV have attracted a lot of media attention, Professor Sorell is more critical of practices such as data mining, tracking people's internet usage and secret surveillance of email. 'What's meant by the surveillance state? People think about CCTV cameras but they're almost always located in a public place. Everyone can see what everyone else is doing so the idea that it's an intrusion is questionable,' he says.

The University's Computer Security Group also exists to tackle problems relating to security which are relevant to society. Examples include devising a safe, secure electronic voting system and examining the security of passports and online banking. Mathematical modelling is used to analyse systems' security properties and identify flaws and solutions.

For group leader Professor Mark Ryan, the key to achieving a balance between liberty and security is to have verifiable controls on the way information is used. The policies that determine how data is used need to be clarified, and there need to be procedures enabling citizens to verify that those policies are in force. 'Enabling people to check that information about them is used and disseminated according to agreed policies is the key to gaining public acceptance,' he says.

Mark sees the combination of different pieces of information as the greatest threat to people's personal freedom. 'Everything you do on your computer is logged by your place of work or by your internet service provider. Every email you send, every website you access, each Twitter, each Facebook action you take is logged and that combination of information can lead to you being identified,' he says.

He believes that we too readily embrace new technologies without considering their effect

on our liberty, and it seems the problem may only worsen as technology develops, but is it time to turn off our laptops and smartphones?

Professor Chris Baber, Head of the School of Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering says understanding is the key. Chris's current research involves using a variety of sensors to collect information about a person's activity and using models built from the sensors' data to work out what they are doing. This has applications in everything from rehabilitation to aircraft maintenance. 'The challenge is to describe what a person's doing but somebody else could take that data and use it to describe under-performance,' he says. 'Yes, it can be used for maintenance, reducing errors and following procedures, but it could also be used for spying on people to make sure they're working hard enough.'

Chris predicts sensor networks as the next big thing, with data from a blood pressure monitor being combined with test results from other medical equipment to make a 'decision' on what tests a patient needs, or a mobile phone's

global positioning system linked to some understanding of its owner's taste and interests. Already applications exist to support the following scenario: you may be walking near a restaurant that your smartphone 'knows' you like, it 'knows' it is near lunchtime and it will send you a message recommending you go to the restaurant.

He believes the best way for individuals to protect their liberty is by taking control of the technology they utilise. 'Of course you can opt out, but it's increasingly difficult to do so. What works more is the idea of informed participation. The idea of you collaborating with your technology in terms of what's being found out about you, the ways in which it is being used and whether that is an appropriate use,' he says.

'As we move into a world where much of our behaviour is being sensed and shared with other technology and other people, we have to consider our privacy and liberty but it doesn't mean we have to give up on those ideas, just renegotiate them.'

## Security alert

**Academics in the University's Computer Security Group have identified flaws in security systems used by millions of people in the UK and worldwide. Examples include:**

### Online banking

Doctoral researcher Ben Smyth has shown that online banking services provided by Halifax, RBS and NatWest are vulnerable to an attack which allows hackers to commit financial fraud. The attack exploits 'credential recovery mechanisms' which are reliant on just a few easily available pieces of information. A similar vulnerability was discovered with Barclays, which Barclays fixed further to publication of Ben's work.

### Electronic passports

New generation passports contain a radio chip which is supposed to keep your personal information secure but Dr Tom Chothia has found that an attacker can uniquely identify the signature in the chip, which is supposed to be randomised, and

send it a message to locate the passport's owner. If it becomes compulsory to carry ID cards and they contain the same chips, this becomes a much wider issue.

### A dangerous chip

Professor Mark Ryan discovered vulnerabilities in the Trusted Platform Module, a hardware chip used in 300 million laptops and desktops worldwide. He worked with HP on a Royal Academy of Engineering secondment to reconfigure the chip so it was no longer susceptible to receiving spoof messages.

Learn more about the group at [www.cs.bham.ac.uk](http://www.cs.bham.ac.uk)



Making a difference: The Project PAPA team

## Project PAPA empowers youth sport

**'Can't you do any better than that?' and 'what's wrong with you?' are among the negative expressions heard all too often from the sidelines of a grassroots football game.**

Negative coaching behaviour is the reason many children stop playing sport and Birmingham is leading a major European research project which aims to solve this global problem.

Funded initially through a €3 million grant

from the European Commission, Promoting Adolescent Physical Activity (PAPA) is the School of Sport and Exercise Sciences' biggest project to date. Led by Professor Joan Duda, the work involves sport psychology researchers training expert football coaches (known as 'coach educators') to understand how they can help grassroots coaches motivate young players in a healthy and positive way.

Professor Duda says: 'Research already carried out at Birmingham clearly indicates that when coaches create a more positive and supportive environment, their young athletes will be more likely to continue playing and feel better about themselves. Our goal is to help coaches understand how they can help make youth sport more enjoyable, engaging and empowering.' After a pilot series of training workshops were held in the UK, the PAPA programme is being rolled out through Birmingham's partner institutions across Europe. Thanks to a generous gift from alumni David Gill (BCom

Industrial Economics and Business Studies, 1978) and Victoria Gill (BA Geography, 1978), the project is also being extended to involve more coaches and young players from ethnic minority groups in the UK.

When the project ends, the PAPA team hopes to take Empowering Coaching to other sports and integrate it within junior elite sporting programmes.

Project Manager Eleanor Quested says: 'At this stage what is most exciting is being able to see it makes a difference; seeing the faces of the coaches at the workshops light up when they understand how it could improve the quality of their coaching.' Joan adds: 'We also look forward to seeing more smiles on the children who play for empowering coaches!'

Learn more at [www.projectpapa.org](http://www.projectpapa.org) or contact the PAPA team: [info@projectpapa.org](mailto:info@projectpapa.org)



Well read: Head of English Professor Michael Toolan

### **Red Dust, Ma Jian**

In 1983, when he was entering his 30s this Bohemian Chinese artist (writer/painter/photographer) took off on a two-year wander through every region of China, in search of himself and the meaning of existence. His *laissez-passer*? His camera, various letters of introduction, authentic or forged, and evidently considerable personal charm — or just chutzpah. The book is part Huck Finn, part Don Quixote, part Franz Fanon, absolutely captivating.

### **Too Much Happiness, Alice Munro**

I couldn't name five of the recent best fiction books without recommending one by Alice Munro. This brilliant Canadian analyst of diverse human psychologies has devoted her whole career to the short story form, of which she has produced some flawless examples that I would rank with the best of Joyce, Mansfield, Chekhov, etc.

All her story collections contain wonderful work and *Too Much Happiness* ends

## My favourite books

In the first of a series of regular features on books recommended by Birmingham academics, we asked Professor Michael Toolan, Head of English, to select five of the best literary titles.



with a long piece fictionalising the final days of a remarkable real 19th-century mathematician, Sophia Kovalevsky. My friend Professor Norrie Everitt, Emeritus Mathematics Professor here at Birmingham, confirms that the mathematics in the story is correct.

### **The Blue Flower, Penelope Fitzgerald**

Back to an earlier mathematician, who found greater fame for his philosophy and literary work at the revolutionary-romantic end of the 18th century: Friedrich von Hardenburg, known as 'Fritz' and later as Novalis. This superb novel by the late Penelope Fitzgerald manages to make the young Hardenberg, his parents and his siblings come wonderfully alive, as distinct, passionate, quarrelling individuals, in their social milieu. As you read it you keep thinking the language is strange because it is in translation — but of course it isn't! Fitzgerald's finest novel.

### **On Stealing Horses, Per Petterson**

This novel, on the other hand, is a translation (a very fine one, by Anne Born) of the Norwegian novelist Per Petterson's beautifully free-flowing

depiction (as it feels) of a man of 67 who in 1999 has retreated from Oslo to a remote and run-down house in the country, where he plans to occupy himself in old age with making the house habitable. The details of the old man's reactions are particularly compelling.

### **Olive Kitteridge, Elizabeth Strout**

Up-and-coming American writer Elizabeth Strout's book is more a linked series of stories than a conventional novel, the main link being Olive herself, an intelligent but overbearing figure who spends her whole life in a small town in Maine.

The stories follow Olive from early adulthood, through marriage to the gentle put-upon pharmacist Henry, her teaching career, her 'weight issues', and other insecurities. Her hurt and powerlessness when her husband suffers a stroke, or when their only child distances himself from her interference by moving to California, are palpable. Best of all are the individual sentences of these stories, so pithy, arresting, and fresh.

For a chance to win all five of Michael's recommended books turn to p38.

# THEN

# FUELS FOR THOUGHT

From mining in the 1950s to nuclear power in 2010, Birmingham has always produced the graduates that industry needs. Below an alumnus and an academic describe one old and one brand-new undergraduate course.

## Mining

Mining was a major industry in the Midlands at the turn of last century and the University recognised this by running a mining degree course from 1902 until 1966, when the course became known as Minerals Engineering. The Department of Minerals Engineering merged with Chemical Engineering in 1984. In 1905, a model mine was completed on campus, which comprised more than a mile of mine galleries with different layers and roads just off the Edgbaston Road entrance. Students received instruction in everything from coal winning, ventilation and surveying to medical training, commerce and mechanical engineering.

From 1911, students could study oil mining alongside coal mining and oilfield drilling rigs were installed in 1912.

Alan Rozelaar (BSc Mining, 1949) began his mining degree at the end of the Second World War, after joining the army straight from school. His memories of the model mine include a large fan blowing air through the galleries so that students could conduct experiments with ventilation and the distribution of clean air. The mine was filled with smoke for the emergency services to practice rescue operations but was occasionally put to less serious uses. 'It was not unknown for a barrel of beer



**A popular subject:** Alan Rozelaar (front row, second from right) with the Mining Society in 1961–62 – read more of Alan's memories at [www.your.bham.ac.uk](http://www.your.bham.ac.uk)

to go down into those rooms. The mining department had a big influence on student society and we were on a par socially with the medical students. A song sung at every Saturday night hop originated from the mining students,' Alan says. He remembers Dr Hancock, who had survived a gas attack at the end of the First World War and was an expert in mine rescue as a particularly inspirational teacher.

The model mine was in operation up until 1984, when a new road was constructed to the Aston Webb Building and it was decided the roof was not strong enough to withstand traffic going over it.

After graduating, Alan worked in tin mines in West Africa before returning to Birmingham and teaching in the Chemical Engineering department for 25 years.

## AND now



**New technology:** Students on the nuclear engineering course will be using the latest equipment

## Nuclear Engineering

With four new nuclear power stations set to come online in 2018, and 12 in total planned by 2025, the UK will need at least 5,000 graduate nuclear scientists by 2020. The University is helping to answer this demand with a new undergraduate course in nuclear engineering starting in 2011. Nuclear power stations are required because the UK currently generates two thirds of its power from fossil fuels, which are a finite resource. Coal pollutes the environment, gas and oil are going to run out and renewable energy sources such as

wind and sun are too dependent on the weather to guarantee the continuous power production needed by the country. The course will be a joint venture between the Schools of Physics and Astronomy and Metallurgy and Materials, as many of the challenges of building and sustaining new generation nuclear power stations are to do with advances in materials technology. Currently nuclear power stations have a limited lifetime of 25 years because the materials used in their construction corrode and wear down in the extreme environments within the plant.

Building on the expertise gained from the University's postgraduate course in Physics and Technology of Nuclear Reactors, which has been running for more than 50 years, the undergraduate course will combine learning the fundamentals of how nuclear reactors work with solving materials science problems encountered with the new builds and indeed in problems associated with the existing ageing fleet of stations.

Course co-ordinator Dr Brian Connolly says: 'If the UK gets it right, we could be one of the first countries in Europe to come on stream with new 'next generation' builds. If we can develop the people who know how to build and operate these sites it could be a huge export business and if we can get a nuclear power plant to last beyond 25 years, it's a licence to print money – we want to produce undergraduates that can make this happen.'

Dr Connolly is hoping to establish the course with 30–40 students with an interest in Physics and Materials Science. For further information, please contact him on [b.j.connolly@bham.ac.uk](mailto:b.j.connolly@bham.ac.uk)

# Building bonds for a global goal

From the US to China, India and Australia, the University is strengthening international connections to support its goal of becoming a global top 50 university.



**Raising a glass:** University Registrar and Secretary Lee Sanders (far right) with Chicago alumni



**Recognition:** Former US Foundation President Mike Smith receives a Foundation Fellowship from Vice-Chancellor Professor David Eastwood

Chicago has been Birmingham's sister city since 1993 and, following a visit from key University staff including Vice-Chancellor Professor David Eastwood in March this year, Chicago City Council passed a resolution recognising the University's work in cementing the two cities' relationship.

'Chicago and the greater city area has three of the world's top 50 universities and that's company we want to keep,' says Dr Edward Harcourt, Director of International Relations. 'Our mutual connections offer opportunities from academic workshops and research collaborations to arts and cultural links and even staff exchanges, all of which have real long-term benefits.'

This well established bond is mirrored in India, where the University's first ever overseas office opened in New Delhi in 2009 to support

alumni, work with academic institutions, maintain public and private partnerships, and engage prospective students. 'Having this base of operations helps us to better meet the needs of the local population, which is important in sustaining a worthwhile relationship,' explains Dr Harcourt. 'It also helps us to identify and capitalise on new opportunities.'

Prospective new collaborations are also being investigated elsewhere, with senior University delegations travelling to everywhere from Malaysia to Melbourne in the past year, and an imminent visit planned to Guangzhou in China's south, another Birmingham sister city.

The University already has offices in India, Shanghai and Beijing, and Birmingham's commitment to educating young Chinese scholars was confirmed in October when the Vice-Chancellor announced in Shanghai a

new programme of doctoral research fellowships, co-funded by the China Scholarships Council and named in honour of Birmingham alumnus Professor Li Siguang.

Dr Harcourt says: 'Our strategy will be to foster links with more cities like Chicago and Guangzhou which are intentionally similar to Birmingham – second or provincial cities within industrial heartlands and with a full economy of academic institutions. Our aspiration to become a leading global University is undoubtedly challenging, but it is also realistic and achievable thanks to the remarkably strong position we are now in.'

Find out more about the University's International Relations:

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/international](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/international)

Did you know the University has its own US Foundation? Find out more at [www.bhamf.org](http://www.bhamf.org)

Are you interested in setting up an international alumni group? Please contact [alumnievents@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnievents@contacts.bham.ac.uk) to find out how. For details of alumni groups already established around the world, visit [www.your.bham.ac.uk](http://www.your.bham.ac.uk)

# FELLOWSHIPS FOSTER FUTURE WORLD LEADERS

Working to promote democracy around the world, the University is helping to school the leaders of tomorrow through its involvement with the Chevening Scholarship and Fellowship Programme, and the UK Government Security and Justice programme.

Run by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the Chevening Programme provides scholarships and fellowships at prestigious UK universities to students around the world.

Birmingham's International Development Department has been delivering Chevening Fellowship courses since their inception in 2005 and security and justice courses since 2006. The fellowships are intended for mid-career professionals from emerging democracies who have been identified by British Embassies as being important to the development of democratic institutions, practice and culture in those countries.

The courses – such as 'What makes democracy work?' – all support UK government goals including preventing and resolving conflict and countering terrorism and weapons proliferation.

Professor Paul Jackson, Head of the School of Government and Society, says: 'Any university that is a serious international player needs to be part of the Chevening Programme and there are now well over 200 Birmingham Chevening alumni. Our involvement gives us a strong link with the FCO, DFID and a network of future leaders all over the world.'

Find out more about IDD and Chevening at Birmingham: [www.idd.bham.ac.uk](http://www.idd.bham.ac.uk)



## Case study – Subindra Bogati, Project Coordinator with independent non-governmental organisation (NGO), Saferworld

'A varied career path led me to the Chevening Programme at Birmingham. I worked in television and print media before doing a masters in International Relations and a research internship with the International Business Leaders Forum in London. After initially working with Saferworld in London, I moved to Nepal to support their work on small arms, security and justice sector development and conflict prevention.

'I was thrilled to be selected for the fellowship as it gave me the opportunity to deepen my knowledge of key issues in my field. I spent three months reading, interacting with experts and practitioners and sharing a wealth of experience from colleagues from 16 countries.

'I'm now working with Saferworld to coordinate projects covering subjects as diverse as justice provision in Nepal and understanding armed violence in the Terai. I hope these programmes will help enrich the understanding of security policy issues and help policymakers formulate better security policies.

'Security issues are global in nature and the Chevening Programme brings professionals from around the world together and gives them an invaluable opportunity to interact, reflect and plan for future.'



## Case study – Geja Wagle, Project Coordinator with the Nepal Institute for Policy Studies (NIPS)

'I was really surprised to be selected for the programme and felt it was one of the best opportunities of my life. I found the University's academic environment really encouraging and the city beautiful with friendly people. The course helped to widen, deepen and sharpen my knowledge on issues including democratic control, the role of

security agencies, national and rebellion armies, and the dynamics of conflict and sustainable peace.

'I'm now using everything I learned at Birmingham alongside my other career experience in my work with NIPS to support the fragile peace process in Nepal through a historic transitional phase.

'To achieve sustainable peace, a new democratic constitution must be drafted and former Maoist Army combatants need to be integrated and rehabilitated, and I am supporting this vital work in my role as a NIPS project coordinator. Security is one of this century's most prominent issues so I believe the programme is important to educate the next generation of world leaders.'

# News

## The year in sport



Record-breaking triathlete and three times Ironman world champion **Chrissie Wellington** (BSc Geography, 1998) was named *Sunday Times* Sportswoman of the Year 2009 following a four-week online public vote.

The 32-year-old beat off tough competition to collect her award in front of an audience of more than 250 distinguished guests including rugby World Cup-winner Lawrence Dallaglio and former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash.

Olympian hockey forward **Simon Mantell** (BCom Commerce, 2007) was chosen to represent England in the Hero Honda FIH World Cup in February. Unfortunately Mantell picked up an injury in an uncapped training match against New Zealand, and was forced out of the World Cup, but this didn't stop the team from achieving a respectable fourth in the competition.



Manchester United Chief Executive **David Gill** (BCom Industrial Economics and Business Studies, 1978) and a panel of special guests took part in a guest lecture in February. They discussed topics

including elite football and profit, footballers as role-models, globalisation and corporate responsibility. David first joined Manchester United as Finance Director in 1997, before becoming Chief Executive in 2003. He is also a board member of The Football Association and European Club Association.

**Jon Pepper** (BSc Sport and Exercise Sciences, 2009) represented the University and GB at the World University Cross Country Championships in Kingston, Ontario, Canada in April. With a time of 30 minutes 53 seconds, he was the first Brit to cross the line in the men's 10K race, placing 10th and helping the GB team to take home bronze. UBSport athletes past and present achieved some outstanding results at the Aviva European Trials and UK Championships held at Birmingham's Alexander Stadium in June.

**Joel Hinds** (BSc European Politics, Society and Economics, 2009) claimed the men's individual gold for Great Britain in the World University Squash Championships at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia.

**Hannah England** (BSc Biochemistry, 2009) was just one of UBSport athletes past and present who achieved some outstanding results at the Aviva European Trials and UK Championships at Birmingham's Alexander Stadium in June. Hannah took first position in the women's 1500m, finishing in 4:33.23. This outstanding performance reserved Hannah a place in the GB team for the Spar European Championships, where she finished in 10th position.

Alumni who represented England at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi, India, in October included **Louise Hazel** (BA French Studies, 2008), who won a gold medal in the heptathlon and also competed in the 100m hurdles, and hockey players **Alys Brooks** (BA Sociology, 2010), **Simon Mantell** (BCom Commerce, 2007), and **Margaret Rees** (BSc Sport and Materials Science, 2003). **Hannah England** ran in the 1500m and 800m, **Luke Gunn** (BSc Sports and Materials Science, 2006) competed in the 3000m steeplechase and **James Rodwell** (BCom Commerce, 2005) was a member of the sevens rugby team.

## The invisible plan

From the Lord of the Rings to Harry Potter, invisibility has always been a fantasy. A new Metamaterials Research Centre at Birmingham could make this most magical of properties a reality.

Metamaterials are laboratory manufactured artificial materials which have properties far beyond those of natural materials.

The University is providing £1.5 million in funding for a centre combining theory and experiment into this revolutionary materials science led by Dr Shuang Zhang, formerly of the University of California at Berkeley.

'With these artificial materials it's possible to release electromagnetic properties which do not exist in nature and have never been seen before,' Dr Zhang explains.

'For example, if you put a chopstick in water, which has a positive light refractive index, you can see it bend, but if you replace the water with a metamaterial whose light refractive index is tuned to become negative it would seem like the chop stick is above the surface.'

The invisibility cloak is created by a metamaterial manipulating waves of light away from an object, concealing it from view. So far, academics at other universities have only been able to achieve this on a very small scale but a Harry Potter-style cloak is possible in the not too distant future and the new centre will put Birmingham at the cutting edge of this research.

Dr Zhang's team will focus on development of new optical metamaterials with an aim for applications in energy harvesting, imaging, detectors and optical communications. Imagine computers that react as fast as the human eye and a new generation of microscopes that help scientists see things in tiny detail.

'The most exciting thing about this field is that it's only been around for ten years and there are many new things to explore,' he says.

Learn more at: [www.ph.bham.ac.uk/research/metamaterials](http://www.ph.bham.ac.uk/research/metamaterials)



# Fighting childhood cancer

Helping children like three-year-old Teegan Lyn-Kew recover from cancer is the aim of a pioneering research centre at Birmingham.

The University has been chosen to host the Cancer Research UK Children's Clinical Trials Team due to the world-class expertise of its existing clinical trials unit.

In July last year, Teegan, from Dudley, was diagnosed with a rare form of soft tissue cancer called rhabdomyosarcoma after complaining of stomach pains.

Her dad, Chris, says: 'I lost my mum to cancer so my first thought was that we would lose Teegan as well. Her tumour was about the same size of a bag of sugar so she looked like she was pregnant. After the first three blocks of chemotherapy the tumour had shrunk by half, which was great news.'

Teegan's treatment has involved participation in an international clinical trial called EpSSG RMS2005. The first question researchers are trying to answer is whether patients

given an additional drug within the first ten weeks of treatment will benefit. They will also assess whether patients will benefit from a further six months of less intensive chemotherapy after surgery and completing the standard chemotherapy treatment.



**Recovering well:** Teegan Lyn-Kew with dad Chris Lyn-Kew and mum Angelina Love

'We're amazed at how well she's done,' says Chris. 'She's bounced back from the treatment and is enjoying everyday life at nursery with her friends. It's fantastic that Birmingham is the new co-ordinating centre for clinical trials as it will mean more children like Teegan will benefit.'

Each year around 1,500 children are diagnosed with the cancer and leukaemia in the UK and it claims around 300 lives. The Birmingham team is currently co-ordinating 21 clinical trials in the network of 21 children's cancer treatment centres across the UK.

The team are working with national and international experts in childhood cancer and leukaemia to develop new trials to improve future treatments. A combination of basic research and clinical trials has made a huge difference in the number of children surviving cancer. Today, 75% of children are successfully treated, compared with 25% in the 1960s. Find out more about cancer research at Birmingham at [www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving/circlesofinfluence](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving/circlesofinfluence)

## Beyond the earthquake



Victims of the major earthquake in Haiti earlier this year aren't being forgotten by staff, alumni and students at the University.

Moustafa Osman (PG Diploma Development Administration, 1997) travelled to Haiti immediately after the disaster to lead an international response team from the charity Islamic Relief. Moustafa, who also teaches in the University's International Development Department (IDD), helped provide humanitarian aid for the quake's victims including supplying and distributing food, clean water and tents

offering vital shelter. Doing their part to raise awareness and funds in the quake's aftermath, students established the Birmingham Action for Haiti group via Facebook, which went on to raise more than £7,000.

As part of the campaign, a series of cultural events called 'Haiti: Beyond the Earthquake' was coordinated by Dr Louise Hardwick in the Department of French, including Haitian film screenings, a reading group and an anthology of creative writing co-edited with students. She says: 'The events aimed to raise awareness of the rich diversity of Haitian culture and formed the cultural

element of our campaign to raise money for the earthquake victims. Haitian history and literature are both extremely important to an understanding of the Caribbean on a local and international scale.'

Find Birmingham Action for Haiti at: [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=256648273839](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=256648273839).

The foreword to the anthology and details of forthcoming events are available at [www.french.bham.ac.uk/research/francopoco/index.shtml](http://www.french.bham.ac.uk/research/francopoco/index.shtml)



# A principled man

For lawyer Phil Shiner (LLB Law, 1978),  
there is no hierarchy of human rights.

## More than 100 Iraqi citizens who allege they or their family members suffered at the hands of British soldiers have Phil Shiner fighting their cause.

Hoarding, along with wall standing, food and water deprivation, subjection to noise and sleep deprivation, are the so called 'five techniques' of torture Phil is determined must be outlawed. These practices were supposedly abolished in British law in 1971 after they were used on prisoners in Northern Ireland but he is convinced they were used frequently during the Iraq war.

After years of work by Phil and his team, all of it *pro bono* or publicly funded, the government is now under greater pressure to respond positively to allegations of misconduct within the British Army. For example in July, the High Court gave permission for a judicial review into the failure to hold a public inquiry into claims of systematic abuse from 102 men detained after the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

A public inquiry is currently being held into the death of Baha Mousa, the hotel receptionist found to have suffered 93 separate injuries after his death in the custody of British soldiers in Basra. Phil is representing the Mousa family and nine other victims of alleged abuse at an inquiry chaired by Sir William Gage which is now in its final stage.

'I want them to nail the issues of individual culpability so that Baha's father, Colonel Mousa, can get some closure. He's still wondering "If my son was murdered, why has nobody been brought to account?"' he says. 'Secondly, I want the systemic issues nailed so that we have a hope that our proud nation has actually got something to be proud about. At the moment I'm not getting why we'd be proud of the way some of our armed forces behave.'

Asked if the system or the individual soldier is to blame, Phil replies that much of what went wrong was systemic and the Ministry of Defence needs to completely revise the training of both interrogators and doctors.

'The MOD says it was just a few bad apples but I believe the problem is systemic. The whole barrel, as we put it, is rotten and there's so many things that the MOD themselves have now accepted at the Baha Mousa Inquiry were completely wrong.'

Phil is quick to dismiss critics who say he is unpatriotic, citing the numerous times he has represented soldiers, including achieving parity on pay and pensions for the Gurkas and acting in the House of Lords for the families of dead British soldiers who wanted an independent inquiry into the legality of the Iraq war. 'I'm a practical man and a realist. I'm not perceived as unpatriotic in the legal profession or by judges or by anybody who's actually got any intelligence. They would just see, I hope, that there's no hierarchy of human rights. The human rights of British soldiers are no greater than the human rights of Iraqis and if these things have happened then there must be accountability,' he says.

## 'The human rights of British soldiers are no greater than the human rights of Iraqis and if these things have happened then there must be accountability.'

It is ironic that a man who very obviously has a vocation rather than a job says he fell into human rights work by accident. After studying at Birmingham, where he says his political thinking 'blossomed', he completed a Masters in Law and Society at Warwick University.

He has always been a radical lawyer, working for not-for-profit Law Centre practices on poverty, urban issues, housing and social security cases before setting up Public Interest Lawyers in 1999. At first the firm specialised in environmental law and planning cases, and it still does a lot of this work, but in 2002 Phil was asked to represent the CND to try and stop the Iraq war and his expertise in human rights grew from there. His profile increased and he was named Human Rights Lawyer of the Year by the Joint Liberty and Justice Awards in 2004.



**Grieving father:** Colonel Daoud Mousa holds pictures of his grandchildren outside the High Court in London

In the future, Phil has hundreds more cases relating to Iraq on his files and he is also pushing for a judicial review into alleged civilian killings by British forces in Afghanistan on behalf of peace campaigner Maya Evans. He believes the revelations contained in secret military files published by the website Wikileaks about British soldiers' behaviour in Afghanistan are just the 'tip of the iceberg'.

Phil's work has led to him receiving death threats and hate mail but he explains they do not bother him. 'I'm lucky enough to live in a democratic state and my strong set of principles and values means I have to continue,' he says.

A sculpture currently standing in his office explains his inspiration. Created by David Moore, it shows Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German theologian who denounced the Nazis publicly and was executed shortly before the end of World War Two, springing away from the gallows surrounded by flowers. 'For him the Gospel was a real, living directive to stand up to evil,' Phil says.

### Phil Shiner at a glance

**Born:** December 25, 1956

**Family:** Phil is married and has five children aged from 23 years to 18 months

**Likes:** Keeping fit, music and comedy, food and wine

**Did you know?:** Phil has a keen interest in the Tour de France cycle race and supports Liverpool and Coventry City football clubs

# News

## Alumna of the Year

Jane Slowey, (BA French and Italian, 1974)



**A driving force:** Alumna and Foyer Federation Chief Executive Jane Slowey visits the Coventry Foyer

**As Chief Executive of The Foyer Federation, Jane is heading a drive to help disadvantaged young people all over Britain make a successful transition to adulthood.**

The Federation is made up of a network of 136 integrated learning and accommodation centres – known as Foyers. Run by agencies

such as Housing Associations, the Foyers offer a residential place for up to two years as part of a package of individually tailored services including education, training, health and employment.

'In exchange we expect the young person to commit to the process, with a contract to that

effect,' explains Jane. 'Foyer isn't just about accommodation. It's about equipping young people with a whole range of skills for life that enable them to achieve their full potential.'

Jane's passion for her cause has not gone unnoticed and she was awarded the CBE in 2009 for services to disadvantaged young people.

Claire O'Sullivan, Acting Head of Alumni Relations, says: 'The Foyer Federation's work with young people is truly outstanding and we are delighted to name Jane as our alumna of the year.'

Find out more about the Foyer Federation at [www.foyer.net/](http://www.foyer.net/)

Nominate your Alumni of the Year 2011 by emailing [c.f.osullivan@bham.ac.uk](mailto:c.f.osullivan@bham.ac.uk)

## Queen's Honours

Congratulations to the alumni listed below, who were awarded Queen's Birthday and New Year's Honours in 2010.

### New Year Honours

**Sharon Bailey** (MBA Public Service, 1996), MBE  
**Dr Anthony Best** (MEd Education, 1981; PhD Education, 1983), OBE  
**Janet Clarke** (BDS Dentistry, 1981; MCDH Dental Health, 1989), MBE  
**Barry Cockcroft** (BDS Dentistry, 1973), CBE  
**Paul Deneen** (BEd Education, 1978), OBE  
**Dr Peter Donohoe** (DMus, 1992), CBE  
**Professor Stephen Field** (MBChB Medicine, 1982), CBE  
**Dr Colin Harrison** (BSc Chemistry, 1969; PhD Chemistry, 1972), CBE  
**Professor John McDermid** (PhD Computer Science, 1981), OBE  
**Sir David Nicholson** (DUUniv, 2007), KCB  
**Richard Priest** (Strategic Social Care Leadership, 2007), OBE  
**Dr Sian Rees** (BA Ancient History and Archaeology, 1971), CBE

**Professor Richard Williams** (MBChB Medicine, 1972), OBE  
**Professor Michael Wright** (LLB Law, 1969; LLM Law, 1970), CBE

### Queen's Birthday Honours

**Sally Arkley** (BA Ancient History and Archaeology, 1977), MBE  
**Mary Armitage** (Interc BSc Biochemistry, 1977; MBChB Medicine, 1980), CBE  
**Rodney Carr** (BSc Geology, 1972), CBE  
**Michael Hurley** (BA Community Justice (Probation Studies), 2004), OBE  
**Roger Legate** (Special Education: Visual Impairment, 2000), OBE  
**Catherine Marshall** (PG Diploma Education, 1999), MBE  
**Angela Maxwell** (DUUniv, 2010), OBE  
**Olawale Ogunshakin** (MSc(Eng) Civil Engineering, 1988), OBE  
**Kathleen Page** (MBA Public Service, 1995), MBE  
**Keith Palmer** (BSc Geology, 1968; PhD Geology, 1971), OBE  
**Cornelia Parker** (DUUniv, 2005), OBE  
**Honor Rhodes** (BA History, 1981), OBE  
**Angela Sibson** (BA French, 1970), OBE  
**Deborah Smith** (BSc Metallurgy Engineering, 1981; PhD Metallurgy Engineering, 1985), OBE

**Eric Walker** (MBChB Medicine, 1967), MBE  
**Chrissie Wellington** (BSc Geography, 1988), MBE

### Alumni MPs

In the 2010 General Election, the following alumni were elected or re-elected as Members of Parliament.

### Newly elected

**Luciana Berger** (BCom Commerce with Spanish, 2004) – Labour and Co-operative MP for Liverpool Wavertree  
**James Morris** (BA English, 1988) – Conservative MP for Halesowen and Rowley Regis  
**Julian Smith** (BA English, 1993) – Conservative MP for Skipton and Ripton  
**Anna Soubry** (LLB Law, 1978) – Conservative MP for Broxtowe

### Re-elected

**Jessica Morden** (BA Medieval and Modern History, 1989) – Labour MP for Newport East  
**Andrew Turner** (PGCE, 1977) – Conservative MP for the Isle of Wight  
**Maureen Watt** (PGCE, 1973) – Scottish National MSP for the North East of Scotland

If you are a Birmingham alumnus or alumna who was awarded an honour or became an MP in 2010 but your name is not included on this list, please accept our apologies and email [alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk) to let us know.

## Honorary graduands

The outstanding alumni below were among the honorary graduands named at degree ceremonies involving 4,500 students this summer.



**Professor Barry Everitt FRS (PhD Anatomy, 1970) Doctor of Science, DSc**

Renowned as an international authority on the neural mechanisms of drug addiction, Barry is Professor of Behavioural Neuroscience and Master of Downing College at Cambridge University.

He was awarded a PhD from the University of Birmingham and undertook post-doctoral research at the University before moving to the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. He has served on several national and international advisory committees.



**Honourable Justice Dr Robert Kisanga (LLB Law, 1964) Doctor of Laws, DDL**

Robert retired in 2008 after serving as the First Chairman of the Tanzania Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance. Prior to taking up that role, he was Justice of Appeal at the Court of Appeal in Tanzania, the highest Court of Tanzania, and had served as a Judge in the High Court of Tanzania. He attained an LLB (Hons) from the University of Birmingham before being admitted as a Barrister in Middle Temple Inn, London.



**The Rt Rev Dr Alan Smith (BA Theology, 1978) Doctor of Divinity, DD**

Alan was appointed the Bishop of St Albans in 2009 and is a former Area Bishop of Shrewsbury. He was educated at the University of Birmingham, from where he attained a BA (Hons) Theology and an MA before moving to Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, where he trained for the ministry. He was also awarded a PhD from the University of Wales. He has served as curate in Pudsey, chaplain in Devon, Team Vicar at St Matthew's, Walsall, Archdeacon of Stoke-on-Trent and Honorary Canon at Lichfield Cathedral.



**Dr Tim Harris (BSc Biochemistry, 1971; PhD Virology, 1974) Doctor of Science, DSc**

Tim is Chief Technology Officer and Director of the Advanced Technology Program at the US-based SAIC-Frederick, Inc, the contractor who runs the Federally Funded Research and Development Center for the National Cancer Institute.

He obtained a BSc (Hons) in Biochemistry and a PhD in Molecular Virology from the University of Birmingham before starting work as a government research scientist at the Animal Virus Research Institute. His industrial work includes periods at Celltech (now UCB Pharma), Sequana/Axys and Glaxo Group Research. He founded SGX Pharmaceuticals, where he spent six years as CEO.



**Professor Robert Lamb (BSc Biochemistry, 1971) Doctor of Science, DSc**

Robert is Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in the US. He is editor-in-chief of *Virology* and is on the editorial board of *Journal of Virology*.

He attained a BSc (Hons) in Biochemistry at Birmingham before being awarded a PhD in virology and later an ScD at Cambridge University. He is Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology at Northwestern University and Professor of Microbiology and Immunology at Northwestern University Medical School.



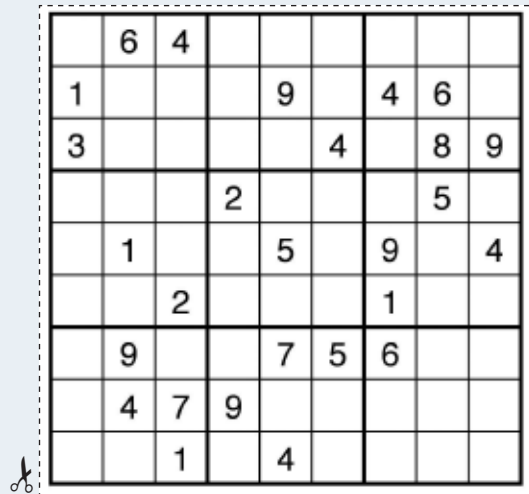
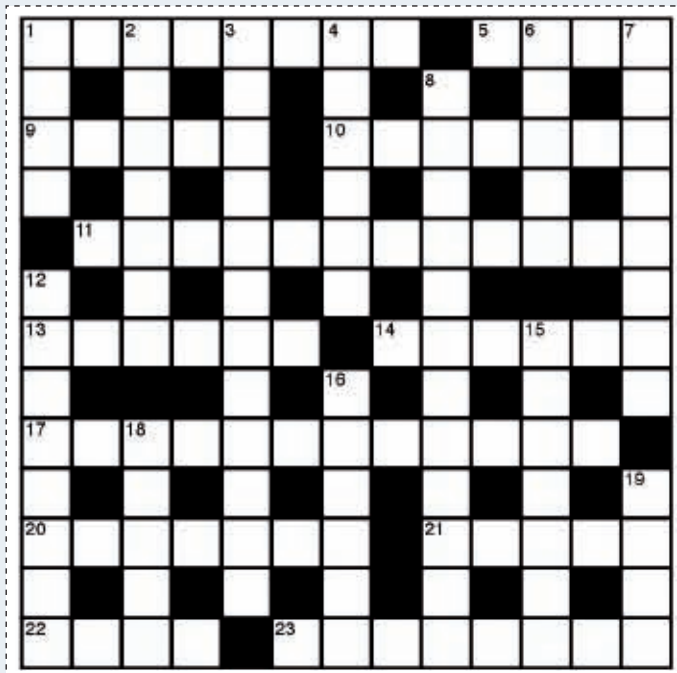
**Dr Ranjit Sondhi CBE (BSc Physics, 1972) Doctor of the University, DUniv**

Born in India, Ranjit came to the UK on a scholarship and has since worked on many community action projects in inner city Birmingham. He was a Senior Lecturer in the University's Community and Youth Studies Department where he also created a Degree in Race and Ethnic Studies. He has served as a Deputy Chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, a Governor of the BBC and a Trustee of the National Gallery.

He is currently a Civil Service Commissioner and is Chairman of the Heart of Birmingham Primary Care Trust. He is a Visiting Professor at Coventry University and was awarded the CBE for services to the community in 1999.

# Puzzles – Benefits – Giving

**Competitions** Test your brain with our challenging crossword and strenuous Sudoku for a chance to win some University merchandise.



## ACROSS

- Russian monk who greatly influenced Tsarina Alexandra until he was murdered by nobles in 1916 (8)
- A very small particle of which all matter is composed (4)
- The supreme spirit of evil (5)
- Disease affecting the bones: caused by an absence of Vitamin D (7)
- Title of a hit song for Peter Gabriel in 1986 (12)
- Wall painting, done before the plaster is dry (6)
- Blanket-like overgarment, originating in South America (6)
- Novel by Charles Dickens in which he evoked his memories of the Marshalsea Prison (6,6)
- No longer existing (7)
- Leading character in a traditional puppet show (5)
- Chinese dynasty in power from the 7th to 10th Century AD (4)
- Freshwater fish with a long dorsal fin (8)

## DOWN

- Film for which Warren Beatty won Best Director Oscar in 1981 (4)
- City of southern Spain, once the centre of a Moorish kingdom (7)
- Despised member of the family in Hans Christian Andersen's story (4,8)
- Independent republic of the Middle East, set up in 1948 (6)
- Unit of heat used in the measurement of domestic and industrial gas (5)
- An edible fungus (8)
- The scientific study and description of the ocean (12)
- Liquid industrialised waste (8)
- A red or white wine from Tuscany (7)
- One who prepares work for publication (6)
- Saturn's largest satellite (5)
- Type of cormorant, having a green gloss on its plumage (4)

## Win fantastic prizes

### Dr Desmond Morris competition

For your chance to win a signed copy of *The Naked Ape Trilogy* by alumnus Dr Desmond Morris, just answer the following question: What subject did Desmond Morris study at the University of Birmingham?



### Books competition

For your chance to win the five books recommended by Professor Michael Toolan on p28, answer the following question:

Name another book by Ma Jian, the author of *Red Dust*.

### How to enter:

To enter the crossword and sudoku competitions, cut out and return your completed entry (photocopies will be accepted) to:

**Alumni Office, University of Birmingham,  
Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT, England**  
by 31 January 2011.

Entries for the other competitions can be emailed to [alumniconmunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumniconmunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk) or posted to the address above by 31 January 2011.

Please mark your email or envelope with the name of the relevant competition and remember to include your name, address, contact telephone number, subject and year of graduation.

Terms and conditions apply.



Circles of influence

## Benefits and discounts

Our alumni benefits and discounts include the offers below. For further details, please visit [www.your.bham.ac.uk](http://www.your.bham.ac.uk)

**University discounts** Alumni are entitled to discounts on a range of University services, from reduced price sports membership to 20% off accommodation on our conference park. Visit [www.your.bham.ac.uk](http://www.your.bham.ac.uk) for details.

**Avis Car Rental** Rent an Avis car for less by visiting [www.avis.co.uk/premierpartners](http://www.avis.co.uk/premierpartners) or calling +44 (0)844 581 0187 quoting AWD K072101.

**City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO)** Enjoy CBSO-promoted concerts at the Symphony Hall, Birmingham, ([www.cbso.co.uk](http://www.cbso.co.uk)) for less. To receive your 10% discount, quote 'CBGT Offer' when booking on +44 (0)121 780 3333.

**City Inn** Take advantage of weekend offers at City Inn Hotels. Visit [www.cityinn.com](http://www.cityinn.com) and quote 'University of Birmingham Alumni Rate' when booking.

**InterContinental Hotels Group** Discounts of up to 35% are available on weekend stays at participating Crowne Plaza, Holiday Inn, and Express by Holiday Inn hotels until 31 December 2010. Visit [www.ihg.com/alumni](http://www.ihg.com/alumni) or call +44 (0)871 423 4874 quoting 'exclusive.'

**Radisson Blu Hotel, Birmingham city centre** Alumni can receive special weekend discounts at designer hotel the Radisson Blu. To book your stay, call +44 (0)121 654 6100 quoting 31889.

**Choice Hotels UK** Save a minimum of 10% when you stay in any Comfort, Quality or Clarion property throughout the UK. Call +44 (0)800 444 444 or visit [www.choicehotelsuk.co.uk](http://www.choicehotelsuk.co.uk) and quote 66219.

**Little Soap Company** Emma Heathcote-James (BA Theology, 1998) is offering fellow alumni a 15% discount on her natural handcrafted soaps until 31 November 2010. Visit [www.littlesoapcompany.co.uk](http://www.littlesoapcompany.co.uk) and quote UOBalumni.

**Travel Indigo** Quote the University of Birmingham and receive either £20 per person or an executive lounge pass per person off all long haul flights from all departure points in the UK at [www.travelindigo.co.uk](http://www.travelindigo.co.uk) or +44 (0)208 123 1216

**Travel Programme** The University has launched a dedicated travel programme offering alumni and friends the opportunity to visit exciting locations accompanied by a University academic. Dr Gillian Shepherd from the Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity will join the first alumni tour in 2011. To find out more, visit [www.your.bham.ac.uk](http://www.your.bham.ac.uk).

Terms and conditions apply. All benefit and discount information may be subject to change and the University does not endorse any of the products or services offered by independent companies.

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By making a Gift Aid declaration, your gift will be worth an extra 25% to the University at no additional cost to you. To make your gift tax effective in this way please sign this declaration.\*

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\* To make a tax effective gift, you must have paid an amount of UK income tax or capital gains tax that equals or exceeds the amount of tax to be reclaimed. Gift Aid is calculated as follows: 25% from the tax reclaimed and 3% from the transitional relief provided by government following the fall in basic tax rate from 22% to 20% in April 2008. Find out more at [www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving)

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\* To be distributed annually to invest in creative and innovative ideas that will have an immediate impact on the student and staff experience at Birmingham

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All data is kept in accordance with our data protection statement. A copy is available on [www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/stayingintouch/data-protection.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/stayingintouch/data-protection.aspx) or by ringing (0)121 414 2771



On site: Members of the archaeological team with geophysical imaging equipment pulled using a tractor and quad bike

# Discovering the second henge

When an international team of archaeologists found a major ceremonial monument just 1km away from Stonehenge this summer, 45 million people around the world were fascinated. *Birmingham Magazine* gets the inside story from the University's Professor Vince Gaffney.

Unlikely as it may seem, the team was just ten days in to a four-year study of the 14 km<sup>2</sup> site around Stonehenge when the second henge was discovered. With their collaborators from the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Archaeological Prospection and Virtual Archaeology in Austria, and the University of Bradford, the Birmingham archaeologists had selected a flat area of field to test new, very advanced geophysical imaging equipment, which explores beneath the surface of the ground to find structures without the need for excavation.

The equipment collects data through a variety of geophysical techniques and uses it to create a digital map of the landscape. Data from the survey was produced very quickly and was sent to different collaborators to analyse. Although experts in Vienna had told Vince about the discovery of a circle of pits which possibly contained wooden monuments, it was only when he was driving home for the weekend that he realised just how important it was likely to be.

'The first thing we did was to arrange to survey it again to make sure we weren't wrong, which we did, and then the world went mad. We spoke for two days solid to dozens of radio and television channels and newspapers. A total of 45 million people read or heard about it and the

story generated an estimated £800,000 of publicity for the University. It was stunning,' he says.

The discovery of the second henge happened very quickly but the Birmingham team was building on years of experience in both geophysical imaging and in surveying the Stonehenge site. In 1996 the University won a Queen's Award for Higher Education after carrying out the first geophysical survey of the entire Roman city of Wroxeter near Shrewsbury. 'At the time we couldn't imagine a better survey but now we can collect the same amount of data in the first two days in what used to take us a couple of months,' Vince explains.

Birmingham archaeologists have been carrying out work at Stonehenge for more than a decade and had previously carried out a comprehensive digital analysis of the site *Stonehenge Landscapes*, which outlined the importance of the visual 'envelope' in which the monument lies.

Vince believes other important discoveries will be made around Stonehenge during the remainder of the project. Although the second henge was found using technology, he says the entire site still requires a full excavation. 'If this is another henge it suggests other ritual activity was being carried out on the landscape around the main henge and we need to understand how that landscape was used. We're reasonably convinced this was another monument but we need another generation of archaeologists to find out for sure,' he adds.

To learn more about the Stonehenge project, visit [www.vista.bham.ac.uk](http://www.vista.bham.ac.uk)

## Did you know?

- The Stonehenge project is a family affair as Vince's brother Chris, an archaeologist at the University of Bradford, is also involved
- Less fêted discoveries made at the site include toilets dug for the Stonehenge Free Festival in the 1960s
- Training trenches used during the First World War were found just 200m away from the main monument
- After Stonehenge, the geophysical imaging equipment will be used to survey other world heritage sites including the Viking island of Birka in Sweden and the Roman town of Carnuntum in Austria



'The world went mad': Professor Vince Gaffney

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