

## Bend it like Beckie

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West Bromwich Albion player Thomas Gaardsoe was on hand before the womens' football team's recent relegation battle against De Montfort to share his experiences from the Premiership team's 'great escape' last season and give the girls some last minute tactical tips. It must have worked because the girls won 3-0 in their best performance of the season. See the back cover for the full report.

## White paper fails to crack admission impossible

Too many older people are not receiving the right care at the right time and in the right place, according to a leading social care expert from the University's Health Services Management Centre (HSMC).

Despite government spending of £900 million to promote care closer to home, the recent health White Paper fails to build on this investment, says Dr Jon Glasby.

*'The White Paper is strong on rhetoric but needs more practical detail'* says Dr Glasby. *'At present, people are queuing for services in the community, queuing to get into Accident and Emergency, queuing to get from Accident and Emergency into a hospital bed and queuing to get out of hospital again at the other end. Tackling this requires a long-term commitment, and it's not clear if the White Paper is sufficient to deliver.'*

The Paper was published on the same day as the launch of a three-year evaluation of intermediate care - halfway house services between hospital and the community - carried out by the Universities of Birmingham, Leicester and Sheffield.

This and other recent national studies found that new intermediate care services have the potential to make a crucial difference to the lives of older people and to be

a key element of current government attempts to promote services in community settings.

Despite this, the White Paper made very little reference to intermediate care and did not draw on key messages from the emerging evidence

Dr Glasby continues: *'In 2000, the government announced an extra £900 million for intermediate care and commissioned several large-scale national evaluations. They now seem to have moved on to the next 'big idea' without seeing the first one through - this is a long-term agenda and one that needs ongoing commitment and leadership.'*

Read and listen to Jon's recommendations on the University website newscentre [www.bham.ac.uk](http://www.bham.ac.uk)

*'Many people prefer to say we should be 'businesslike'. But we have to become more commercial to generate returns and to invest in research and teaching. People in the academic environment can find it embarrassing to talk about such matters. They want the money to do their work but don't necessarily want to think about where it will come from. This is changing now; there is a cultural shift as we get new people on board, but there's still a long way to go.'*

Finance Director Gill Ball speaks frankly about tuition fees to Jenni Ameghino. Find out where the money is going on pages 6 and 7.



## A quick word

February always seems to come and go so quickly. Barely have I finished putting together one edition for the beginning of the month and it's time to start the next one.

Harnessing the energy around the recent Chinese New Year celebrations, the University, in partnership with Involve at the Guild, held a Creative Energy workshop complete with a Chinese Dragon. See page 3 for details and sun nien fai lok!

With the introduction of variable tuition fees looming, Buzz sent reporter Jenni Ameghino to speak to those people around the campus who know where the money is going. Read her feature on pages 4 and 5 to find out more.

And finally, the Business and the Medical Schools both had reasons to celebrate recently. In the *Financial Times'* top 100 global league table for full-time MBAs (Master of Business Administration), the Business School has gained five places on last year's ranking, moving up from 93rd to 88th (see page 3 for the full story) while the Medical School was celebrating and saying a big thank you to generous alumni donors who have made the new Medical School development possible.

**Sam Smith**

Content Editor

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## Taking a hands on approach to poverty reduction

Two students on the International Development Department's MSc in Poverty Reduction and Development Management have come to their studies with more than an academic interest in the subject matter.

As undergraduates, both Tamzin Kensett and Nick Renshaw were involved in setting up organizations that would allow students to do constructive volunteer work in communities in developing countries. In 2002, Nick and a group of fellow Oxford undergraduates founded Oxford Development Abroad, while in 2003 at Birmingham, Tamzin and some other Birmingham students set up InterVol. Both organizations are still active, with ODA involved in some 15 projects and InterVol in 8.

Nick and Tamzin are now part of the University of Birmingham chapter of U8, a global initiative providing a framework for the interaction, integration and expansion of university development societies and to use their collective voice as a platform for lobbying. U8 aims to harness the enthusiasm of university students in response to the Make Poverty History campaign and the G8 in 2005 while keeping abreast of the most contemporary discussions in order to increase the quality of their work and voice.



**U8 will bring together the shapers of tomorrow, today.**

U8, inspired by the theme of the G8 summit 2005, will strengthen the voice of students across the UK on global poverty.

U8 was conceived by three Department for International Development (DFID) interns, inspired by the UK's willingness to put developing nations at the forefront of its agenda, have created U8, a catalyst for spreading future thought and action in this field. U8 will unite devoted students, the makers and shapers of tomorrow, from across the UK to develop fresh, innovative and informed ideas, and for the first time, be heard.

What can U8 achieve?  
U8 will motivate large scale thinking geared towards improving economic, social and human conditions in the world's poorest



nations. An annual U8 summit will act as a forum for discussing development problems and solutions without a hidden agenda. This united voice will not only stimulate the creation of new development societies, on has been achieved at Warwick, but will also play a crucial role in influencing long-term pro-development policies from governments to multinationals.

How will U8 achieve this?  
U8 will act as an umbrella encouraging discussion and debate between development societies. Similar to the G8 there will be an annual rotating presidency to each member university. The presiding university will select a specific development related theme, from which, topics related to this will be prepared in the build up to the summit, where the findings will be discussed. The summit is an extension to each societies' respective individual aims, but where common ground can be reached, the U8 summit will amplify its resonance.

What is the first U8 summit?  
Cambridge University through its development society [CUD] will be hosting the first summit in March 2006. As well as an active debate on the issue, high profile figures in development will be present to give their various insights.

What will the summit achieve?  
The conclusions of the summit will be presented and used in a diverse number of ways. A publication outlining the key issues, themes and projections will be distributed at the very least, through every university in the UK. Beyond this, by U8 representing the future composition of the UK population, will act as a driver for change to achieve its ultimate goal: the end to world poverty.

More information...  
To find out more information or to get involved please either:

email: [info@u8development.org.uk](mailto:info@u8development.org.uk)  
visit: [www.u8development.org.uk](http://www.u8development.org.uk)

U8 Summit @ Cambridge



In March 2006, Cambridge University will be hosting the first U8 summit. This inaugural event will feature many high profile speakers as well as representatives from each of member universities including representatives from each of the Times Top Ten in the UK. The key issue to be discussed at this event will be determined shortly; visit the website for more info.

'A brilliant idea, the future looks very bright for developing countries'

## Neuberger puts mental illness under the spotlight

The current treatment of those with mental illness was last month put under the spotlight at the University, when rabbi, author and former health think-tank leader Baroness Neuberger DBE, delivered the 3rd Chaplaincy public lecture.

Baroness Neuberger, author of *The Moral State We're In*, and Spokesperson on Health for the Liberal Democrats gave a lecture entitled 'The moral state we're in; How we treat people with mental illness' which focused particularly on the current treatment of those with a mental illness and how the situation could potentially be improved.

Baroness Neuberger became a rabbi in 1977 and served the South London Liberal Synagogue for 12 years before going on to the King's Fund Institute to work on research ethics committees in the UK. Following a return to the UK from a fellowship at Harvard Medical School she took up the positions of Chairman of Camden and Islington Community Health Services NHS Trust in 1993 and Chief Executive of the King's Fund until 2004. She is the author of several books on Judaism, women, healthcare ethics and on caring for dying people.

Through the Chaplaincy lecture, the University invites prominent speakers of different faiths who represent the range of faith traditions represented in the Chaplaincy itself.

## Making an impact on European integration

**Just as EU leaders were gathering in Brussels to hammer out a final budget deal, German and British experts on European integration gathered in Birmingham to debate common and competing visions for the future of the EU.**

The conference on 'The Future of European Integration: British and German Perspectives' was jointly hosted within the European Research Institute, by the Institute for German Studies and the German Embassy, London. The event drew an audience of over 50, from academia, government, local businesses with interests in Germany and the media.

*'This event could not have been taking place at a more crucial time for the EU', explained Professor Thomas Poguntke, Director of the Institute for German Studies. 'Our conference has provided an excellent means of linking the policy communities in Germany and the UK, two of the countries most affected by future changes to the EU budget'.*

MP for Edgbaston, Gisela Stuart (pictured), who was born in Germany, joined Professor William Paterson, former Director of the IGS, to lead the conference's final session, assessing the state of the art in terms of German and British perspectives on the future of European integration.



MP for Edgbaston, Gisela Stuart



## Local students harness creative energy

Dragons bringing fortune and a carbon dioxide monster made an appearance at the University when children from Chandos Primary School and Hillcrest School hit campus for a day of activities. Around 60 local children visited the Guild of Students to celebrate Chinese New Year in creative style.

The event, organised by the University and the Involve Department at the Guild, gave the children the opportunity to enjoy a day of fun and educational activities, run by the Chinese Society and the Arts Society. Creative activities centred on Chinese New Year, with children making a giant dragon, which traditionally brings fortune, learning Chinese writing techniques and making Chinese

cutouts, which people display in their windows over the new year period.

University physicist Richard Lycett from the condensed matter physics group, made smoke without fire for the dragon's mouth, which was the focus of the celebration procession.



**Top.** The Chinese Student Society showed children from Hillcrest and Chandos Schools how to make origami birds.  
**Right.** Left to right: Khardene Blake, aged 12 from Hillcrest School (left) and Abdulnoor Mohammed, aged 10 from Chandos School (right) see how physicist Richard Lycett, aged 24 from the Physics School, makes smoke without fire!  
**Left.** Sherelle Warren (left) and Daviann Walker (right) from Hillcrest School race to see how many sweets they can pick up with chopsticks

## Spin Cycle

The Business School's **Pat Hanlon** appeared on Central TV's lunchtime and 6 o'clock news talking about the possible expansion of Birmingham and Coventry airports; the Business School's **Isabelle Szmigin** appeared on BBC One's *Inside Out* talking about old people's purchasing behaviour; Humanities' **David Lodge** plus a number of images of the University were featured in BBC4's *Time Shift* programme on the history of the British university; **Richard Gray** from the Clinical Trials Unit (Medicine) gave expert comment to Central News for a piece on bowel cancer; **Steven Smith** of Law spoke to Saga Radio about euthanasia; Social Sciences' **Peter Webb** spoke to BBC Radio WM about George Galloway and the Big Brother phenomenon and Medicine's **Michael Frenneaux** spoke to BRMB and Central News about aneurysms and to BBC Radio 4's *Case Notes* about heart treatments.



## Business School moves up global league

Following the publication of last month's *Financial Times*' top 100 global league table for full-time MBAs (Master of Business Administration), the Business School has gained five places on last year's ranking, moving up from 93rd to 88th.

The full-time MBA is also placed 13th in the UK, 23rd in Europe and has achieved a ranking of 7th in the world in the 'value for money' category. This success builds on recent results in the 'Economist Intelligence Unit' rankings that placed the School 12th in the UK in a list of leading providers of MBAs, 3rd globally for student diversity and 8th for student quality.

Professor Jonathan Michie, Director of the Business School, says: 'Our MBA is one of the largest UK programmes with around 100 students. We have an outstanding group of staff who continue to deliver innovative and challenging programmes, along with leading-edge research and a number of new developments such as in Executive Education, our targeted short courses aimed at individual companies, so it is gratifying to see their hard work and initiative recognised by being included again in the global top 100.'

*'One of the founding aims of the University was to educate business leaders who would make a difference. The views of our alumni play an important part in these rankings, so it is always pleasing to receive such positive feedback.'*

The School's Executive MBA is flourishing in Singapore, Hong Kong and Mauritius as well as in the UK, with applications increasing steadily. A number of new programmes have been introduced recently including an MSc in Human Resource Management and an MSc in Corporate Governance and Corporate Responsibility. A 500% rise in applications has been seen this year for its BSc in Business Management programmes.



The coming rise in annual tuition fees will generate millions of pounds in extra revenue for the University. But how is it going to be spent and who stands to benefit most? **Buzz** decided now was a good time to ask the people in charge of the coffers.

# Where will the money go?

By Jenni Ameghino



Unless you have been off-world in the last year or so, you are probably aware that from the autumn full-time home undergraduates at Birmingham will have to pay annual tuition fees of £3,000.

Part of the government's shake-up of higher education in England, the switch to so-called top-up fees has prompted months of ardent debate, both in academia and society generally.

This campus is no exception. Staff and students are nervously wondering how the changes are likely to affect them. The move has also brought into sharp focus a wider issue: the evolution of university funding as institutions continue to shrug off the arcane 'ivory towers' image and prepare to meet the stark commercial challenges of the twenty-first century.

Whatever your feelings about the rationale behind tuition fees, the fact is the additional income will generate some £39 million for the University in the period up to 2008-9, student intake targets permitting. It may sound a huge sum, but talk to anyone involved in managing or allocating the money and it soon becomes clear that, without considerable thought and planning, it could easily be swallowed up by an institution which has an annual turnover of around £330 million.

Those in the financial know stress they are keen to make sure everyone benefits fully from the extra cash - crucially the people who form the lifeblood of the University: staff and students. But they would say that, wouldn't they? So what, in practical terms, is the money going to be spent on?

Under the new rules, the University is obliged to make a substantial investment in bursaries, scholarships and widening participation. This will take up to a third of the fee income, leaving another third to be allocated to staff costs and the rest to be earmarked for buildings and infrastructure.

Pay remains a priority for academic and related staff, and accounts for almost 60 per cent of the University's annual spending. From October this year, around £13 million of tuition fee income will be injected into staff costs.

Most employees will benefit directly through pay modernisation since more money is going into salaries and jobs, points out Academic Registrar Dave Hall. *'Why would anyone think universities are trying not to pay people the most they can? We need to pay to attract and retain staff and to motivate them.'*

He believes income from tuition fees will start to address the major problem of underfunding in universities. But making students pay more means their expectations are also raised, he says. *'That means you have to invest in the learning environment and the broader student experience. We need to invest in infrastructure, library resources, IT facilities. Lift aspirations and you have to invest just to stand still.'*

*'Anything we do to enhance the institution's reputation also benefits the reputation of the staff. In the context of an organisation with such a significant annual turnover, it's not a huge sum of money, a net increase of about five per cent, but it is welcome and we have to get the maximum benefit from it.'*

He adds: *'Market forces are having a positive impact on universities because we are being forced to think about the quality of teaching and learning and the student experience. When you have pressures on you like student choice and student demand, you start to manage things better and invest differently and it will lead to improvements. The advantage for a university is we are not at the beck and call of shareholders; it's not about generating a profit for someone else, any surplus we generate is reinvested into the organisation: in pay, posts, support services, whatever.'*

Adrian Buckley, Assistant Director of Policy, explains that following national and local restructuring deals, starting salaries for academic staff have increased significantly, in particular for lecturers on the first pay level. *'From December 2005 to October 2007, at today's prices, starting salaries for lecturers will have gone up by 30 per cent. That's a lot of money, and you don't do that at zero cost.'*

Pay progression arrangements for academic-related staff have also improved. *'Until December 2005, progression*

**'we are putting in place a system which will improve salaries and we are bringing in more academic staff so the load can be spread a bit more thinly, enabling staff to devote more of their time to research.'**

*was entirely dependent on performance, there was no automatic annual increment. Now it will be the normal expectation that they progress up the scale, subject to assessment and performance.'*

He adds: *'There has been a perception in the last 20 years or more that academic salaries have been eroded compared with like groups such as teachers and civil servants. Also, there is the idea that things like quality assurance of teaching and research assessment exercises have increased pressure on academics while student numbers have also gone up: in effect, giving people more work to do.'*

*'Here, we are putting in place a system which will improve salaries and we are bringing in more academic staff so the load can be spread a bit more thinly, enabling staff to devote more of their time to research.'*

*'We want to let members of staff know that we're not frittering away the additional money on new carpets; we're spending a lot of it on staff. It's not all going into pay packets necessarily but on a variety of important infrastructure costs, such as the local environment.'*

Sally Ells, Personnel Consultant (Policy and Pay) adds: *'The pay scales here were set with an eye to the fact that*





*we wanted to position Birmingham so that it was best able to compete with other like institutions - for example those universities within the Russell Group - in recruiting the best academic and related staff.'*

According to Jayne Dowden, Assistant Director of Personnel, some £6 million will be invested in additional staff posts via a range of initiatives, 'including new research leaders and professors. We've also devised an innovative scheme known as Birmingham Research Fellows (to catch rising stars) which will clearly be beneficial for the University.'

*'One must remember that one has to compete in the market to remain world class. If we stood still we would find it increasingly hard to recruit students and offer them an excellent education. You need to be able to bring on the next generation of research so we need to be up to date with skills and equipment.'*

She is aware that some academics are worried about changing student expectations. 'People used to think they had no right to make demands. One Dean recently made the analogy between students and customers. He said if you go into a tailor's shop and someone says you look great in a particular jacket but after you have bought it someone else tells you it looks rubbish, you can always take it back. But if you are encouraged to come and invest three years of your time in an academic institution but you don't come out with a degree at the end, you aren't going to get your money back.'

*'There's a difference between how we view customers and the definition in a retail sense.'*

Some fee income will be spent on how the campus looks and feels, benefiting everyone, she says. 'We have wonderful building stock from the original redbrick university through some significant architectural development representing good twentieth-century architectural phases, but it gets tired and has to be maintained and developed.'

*'A smart campus gives everyone a lift. We have to keep looking good,' she says. 'Our support staff, our landscape gardeners and maintenance staff, put in tremendous effort to achieve this and*



*it's clear to visitors, if not to some people who are here all the time, that we care about the quality of our environment.'*

No one knows this more than the University's Director of Estates, Ian Barker. He believes the cash boost will be 'a significant help in allowing us to do a lot of upgrading and improvements to the quality of the University buildings, which have an acute need.'

Improvement projects currently require about £40 million worth of investment, he says, part of which will come from the Higher Education Funding Council and part from university funds, including tuition fees. Current projects include the refurbishment of Muirhead Tower (with its lecture theatres and seminar rooms) plus the 'long-overdue' enhancement of the East Gate entrance.

*'We need to get rid of the clutter and provide an attractive area that gives people a sense of arriving while giving uniformity to the university's boundaries.'*

Further developments include landscaping a new road created along the south-west boundary, where the route of the new relief road will go, which will help to make the Bournbrook an attractive feature of the university complex.

*'We are also installing a unified signage system which will be helpful and consistent rather than the hotch-potch we have currently.'*

*'We are doing a lot to enhance the working and learning environment; improving lecture theatres, upgrading lifts. We need to replace worn-out boilers, which is another unavoidable cost. This is all intended to significantly improve the quality of people's working lives.'*

Finance Director Gill Ball points out that while modernisation of pay structures is vital, caring for the fabric of the University is too. 'The estate is insured for a billion pounds. If we wanted to rebuild it over a 20-year period we would have to spend £50 million a year doing it. That's quite significant.'

**'Can a big institution like us afford to invest in everything? Everyone values what they do. We have to be a broad-based university but not everything is financially viable. We are now getting some help. The fee income will be a big help but it won't cover everything, such as cutting-edge equipment. We will have to develop new forms of income generation as well to help ourselves.'**

*'At the moment, we have only been able to set aside from our own resources about £10 million a year, plus we can use some capital grants. So using some of the additional fee income to help us with renewal of estate is very important, because to be a successful research and teaching institution, we need good staff and good facilities, and you can't invest in one without the other. You have to balance those areas.'*

Another concern is the University's pension scheme deficit, which has recently been addressed. She is also mindful of the focus on sustainability in institutions today. 'You need to be able to look after yourself, pay the right people the right money; invest in the right facilities and look after students. The level of investment we need to make in our estate is huge. We have to keep up with the pace of change and stay at the cutting edge here, but to be first and innovative comes at a price.'

*'That brings us to selectivity. Can a big institution like us afford to invest in everything? Everyone values what they do. We have to be a broad-based university but not everything is financially viable. We are now getting some help. The fee income will be a big help, but it won't cover everything, such as cutting-edge equipment. We will have to develop new forms of income generation as well to help ourselves.'*

Part of the equation is deciding whether the University is a business. 'That's a very emotive issue. Many people prefer to say we should be 'businesslike'. But we have to become more commercial to generate returns in order to invest in research and teaching.'

*'People in the academic environment can find it embarrassing to talk about such matters. They want the money to do their work but don't necessarily want to think about where it will come from. This is changing now; there is a cultural shift as we get new people on board, but there's still a long way to go.'*

February events highlights

The ‘new-look’ Events page will highlight the variety of events and activities taking place across campus. You can access a full list of events at [www.events.bham.ac.uk](http://www.events.bham.ac.uk) or by phoning the events team on 0121 414 2950.

If you have any comments or feedback on the changes we’ve made, please feel free to contact Kirsty Mack, Events Manager, on 0121 414 7254 or at [k.a.mack@bham.ac.uk](mailto:k.a.mack@bham.ac.uk)

For details/queries on any University event please contact Katy Prakash, Events Assistant, on 0121 414 2950 or [k.a.prakash@bham.ac.uk](mailto:k.a.prakash@bham.ac.uk)

Arts and culture

Barber Celebrity Concert

22 February  
7.30pm, Barber Concert Hall

**Fidelio Piano Quartet**  
Tamas Andras violin                      Gemma Rosefield cello  
Sarah-Jane Bradley viola                      Inon Barnatan piano

**Dvorak**                      Piano Quartet in E flat, op. 87  
**Francis Brown**                      Piano Quartet  
**Brahms**                      Piano Quartet No. 3 in C minor, op. 60

The Fidelio Piano Quartet, comprising four young international soloists from the UK, Hungary and Israel, were formed in 2000 at the Royal Academy of Music, with the aim of exploring the great, and sometimes neglected, repertory for piano quartet. The youthful ensemble have performed to critical acclaim at prestigious venues across the world, helping to establish them as one of the most promising chamber ensembles to emerge from the UK in recent years.

Tickets available from the Barber Institute of Fine Arts on 0121 414 7333. £10, £7.50 concessions, £5 Friends, £2 Students



Retail

Staff House sale

Shoes and bags  
15 February



Staff House sale

Sock Man  
23 February



Sport

Frank Moreton Sports Day



16 February

Over 40 years ago a football match was played between the Chem Eng departments of Birmingham and UMIST, organised by Professor Frank Morton. Today this event is a fully fledged national sports day including football, rugby, ultimate frisbee and squash, to name a few. The University of Birmingham is hosting this year's event featuring a Bucking Bronco, Giant Scalextric and the Shell Pit-Stop Challenge! For full information visit [www.buces.bham.ac.uk/tom/7465613/brochure.doc](http://www.buces.bham.ac.uk/tom/7465613/brochure.doc)

University Chamber Orchestra Concert

24 February  
1.10pm

Conducted by Daniel Walton and Sarah Forbes.  
Programme to include: Ravel's *Ma mere l'oye* Suite.  
Admission free

Final year recitals take place every Tuesday this term, at 1.10pm in the Barber Concert Hall. For details of these and other concerts, see [www.events.bham.ac.uk](http://www.events.bham.ac.uk)

Devised Production



22-25 February  
7.30pm

A new ensemble work made by Performance Artist, Graeme Rose, in collaboration with third year undergraduate students, being performed in the Allardyce Nicoll Studio Theatre.

Tickets are on sale during the week of the performance in the foyer of the Muirhead Tower from 1.00-2.00 pm. Tickets may also be bought on the door from 7.00 pm, or booked in advance by calling 0121 414 5997 (24 hour answering service).

Barber Celebrity Concert

1 March  
7.30pm, Barber Concert Hall

The Academy of Ancient Music  
Pavlo Beznosiuk director and violin



C P E Bach	String Symphony No. 1 in G
Benda	Concerto in D minor for violin
C P E Bach	String Symphony No. 4 in A major
Mozart	Adagio and Fugue in C minor, K. 546
Haydn	Concerto in C major for violin
Mozart	Divertimento in D major, K. 136

The doyen of British period-instrument performance return to the Barber Institute with a concert highlighting the stylistic development from the late baroque to the classical period. Tickets available from the Barber Institute of Fine Arts on 0121 414 7333. £10, £7.50 concessions, £5 Friends, £2 Students

Lectures

Inaugural lecture

16 February  
5.15pm

**Who should bear the burdens of global climate change?**  
– Professor Simon Caney, Professor in Political Theory, School of Social Sciences. G51, European Research Institute.

Spreading Fires:  
The Globalization of Pentecostalism  
in the Twentieth Century

2 March  
5.15pm

Professor Allan Anderson  
Barber Lecture Theatre, Barber Institute of Fine Arts

Baggs Memorial  
Lecture on the  
subject of happiness

1 March

This year's lecture will be delivered by Lord Richard Layard at 6.30pm in the Leonard Deacon Lecture Theatre at the Medical School.

There are currently no more tickets available but if you would like to add your name to the reserve list for any cancellations, please contact Katy Prakash on 0121 414 2950 or [k.a.prakash@bham.ac.uk](mailto:k.a.prakash@bham.ac.uk)



Charles Clarke, MP

Issues in Criminal Justice lecture series  
14 March  
5.00pm

The first of this annual series will take place on Tuesday 14 March at 5pm in the School of Law and will be given by The Rt Hon Charles Clarke, MP, Secretary of State for the Home Department.

To reserve your place, please contact Kelly Chilton in the School of Law on 0121 414 6282

Inaugural lecture

28 February  
5.15pm

**The palaeobiology of conodonts - multifarious uses for a dead fish** - Professor Paul Smith, School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences  
Please complete the booking form on [www.deans.bham.ac.uk](http://www.deans.bham.ac.uk) or contact Sarah Jenkins on 0121 414 7452



## Staff news

The School of Law announced last month the appointment of three scholars of international standing. All three join Birmingham from the University of Durham. They are:

**Professor Colin Warbrick**

**Professor Bob Sullivan**, who will take up the Barber Chair in Jurisprudence

**Dr Ronan Deazley**, who joins as a Reader

These appointments confirm the determination of the School of Law to maintain and enhance its reputation for high-level research and teaching.

The Head of the School of Law, Professor John Baldwin, said: *'This has been a great week for this Law School and a defining moment in its history. The fact that we continue to attract scholars of this calibre makes me very optimistic about the School's future.'*

The recent House of Commons Health Committee report on Changes to Primary Care Trusts (January 2006) summarises some important School of Public Policy work.

In a written submission, the Department of Health cites a number of studies about the relationship between the NHS and local government - all of which are the product of the School.

These include **Tim Freeman** and **Edward Peck**'s work for the NHS Alliance, **Chris Skelcher**'s book on Working across Boundaries, and **Richard Poxton**'s chapter in **Jon Glasby** and **Edward Peck**'s book on care trusts.

## Buzz on the street

We're constantly cleansing our data and updating our records. Please let Sam (below) know if you want extra copies of **Buzz** or if you think we need to amend your distribution details.

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### News, Views, Pictures

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### Small Ads

University members: £5.00 per 20 words  
Non-members: £10 per 20 words  
Payment in advance required.

### Display Ads

Ratecard available on request.

Views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the University or a statement of University policy. The publication of advertisements does not imply any endorsement by the University of the goods or services advertised. All submissions may be subject to editing. The Editor's decision is final.

## Events at Winterbourne

### Thursday 16 March

7.30pm

Friends of Winterbourne Garden AGM

Followed by 'Garden plants heritage and conservation'

Rachel Salisbury

Winterbourne Annexe

### Tuesday 4 April

7.30pm

Royal Horticultural Society regional lecture

'Creating a life-rich garden' – Nigel Colburn

Hosted by the Friends of Winterbourne Garden

Vaughan Jeffries lecture theatre, School of Education

Tickets £5 members, £6.50 non-members

Contact Wendy Stirling Tel: 0121 454 6565



## Moving on up

An opportunity for all staff across the University to access long-term career development opportunities

### Next closing date 28 February

Moving on up is an internal mechanism for meeting the following objectives:

- ☐ To develop in-house talent
- ☐ To support long-term career development

### Why should I take part?

You will get a chance to:

- ☐ Be pro-active in your career development planning
- ☐ Receive a one-to-one career development discussion
- ☐ Formulate a personalised development plan
- ☐ Succeed in meeting your career objectives

If you are interested in taking part in 'Moving on up', please contact Barbara Gordon in the Staff Development Unit for an application form.  
ext. 47917  
email b.gordon@bham.ac.uk

## Clangers

A double apology to **Peter Ricketts** (note correct spelling) for the mistakes in last edition's Staff News notification of his OBE award. Peter is an Honorary Professor attached to the Department of French and not Emeritus Professor as was stated.

Apologies also to **Andrew Pryke** for mis-spelling his surname.



## Small ads

### Accommodation

**For sale:** A conveniently situated (walking distance to the University) 2BR modern ground floor maisonette in a good cul-de-sac location includes partial gas central heating and secondary glazing: £134,950 Shipways Harborne 0121 427 3305

Pretty village near **Ludlow**, St Milburga Chapel has been converted to a **2-bedroom luxury holiday let**. Ideal for walking – unwinding – gastronomy. Summerhouse with terrace and fantastic views, c/w BBQ. [www.stmillburga-holidayhomes.com](http://www.stmillburga-holidayhomes.com) Tel: 01584 823626. Email: [claud@clbodenham.com](mailto:claud@clbodenham.com)

**1954 4-bedroom house** on large corner plot in popular area of Halesowen – convenient University £320,000. Details/viewing Tel: 01299 403334 (evenings)

**Tuscany holiday cottage.** Superb setting near mountains. Florence, Siena, Arezzo easily accessible. Ideal walking, sight-seeing, swimming, etc. <http://freespace.virgin.net/gp.ck> Tel:020 8699 8883 email: [gp.ck@virgin.net](mailto:gp.ck@virgin.net)

**House for sale.** Charming Victorian two-bedroom house in Greenfield Road, Harborne. Recently re-decorated. Sought after area. Convenient to the High Street. Approximately 15 minute walk to the University. £185,000. Enquiries; 43306 or 07915220003

### Services

**Have those jobs done now.** Large or small. No mess. No VAT. Guild of Master Craftsmen member. Now in the 22nd year of service exclusively to University staff and their friends. Telephone Paul Davis on 0121 427 7179

**South Birmingham Paving & Drainage.** Specialists in hard landscaping (paving, tarmac, slabbing and concreting). Drains unblocked and new piping laid. Call for a free quote. 0121 624 6459, 07773784610 or email: [info@sbpd.biz](mailto:info@sbpd.biz) [www.sbpd.biz](http://www.sbpd.biz)

**DPM Roofing Services.** Built-up felt roofing specialists UPVC, fascias, soffits and guttering. All work guaranteed. Tel: 07739 553574/0121 532 4914

**Just Sew.** All alterations, garments made to order also soft furnishings. No job too small. Tel: 07866 973011

**All house and garden maintenance.** Kitchens, bathrooms, carpentry, painting, doors, patios, brickwork, gardens, fencing, etc. No job too small. Ring Andy for a free quote. 07976 678863. Class One Maintenance Services 0121 785 0553 email: [andy.classone@gmail.com](mailto:andy.classone@gmail.com)

**Handmade Greetings Cards** BMB Cards presents the 'Pictures of Britain' range, a collection of greetings cards, pictures and notelets. Visit [www.bmbcards.co.uk](http://www.bmbcards.co.uk) for details

### Miscellaneous

**Wanted. Healthy males** (no prescribed medication) and **males with high blood pressure**, aged 60 years and older, to participate in an experiment exploring the link between stress and heart disease. Participants will need to attend City Hospital on four separate occasions and will receive a thorough health screen by a Cardiologist. If you are interested, please contact Graham Thrall on 0121 507 5669



## A Western Princess in Byzantium

With love and romance in the air this week thanks to Valentine's Day, Buzz takes a look at a coin from the Barber Institute that demonstrates an arguably more pragmatic and political side of marriage...

An important component of medieval diplomacy, also encountered in Byzantium, was marriage between members of the Byzantine, Western European, Balkan, Armenian and Georgian aristocracies and royal houses. Intermarriages sealed political alliances, and offered military and economic benefits to the parties involved. Such an example was the marriage of emperor Andronikos III Paleologos (1328-1341) with Anna, the daughter of Count Amadeus V of Savoy.

After her arrival in Byzantium Anna, retained her entourage and remained passionately Western in her outlook. Consequently, Western customs and pastimes were introduced in the Byzantine imperial court.

The death of her husband in 1341 provided Anna with an ideal springboard for her role in Byzantium's political life. As her son, John V, was only nine years old, Anna was to become the regent. But the period of regency (1341-1347) proved a difficult once.

Following Andronikos III's death, his close friend and high imperial official, John VI Cantacuzenos, challenged the legitimacy of John V – and Anna's regency – declaring himself emperor. A civil war broke out, with disastrous results for the unity, socio-economic life and defense of the empire.

The most effective way for Anna to underline her role as regent and to secure the throne for her son was through coinage, the mass medium for the dissemination of political and artistic ideas. The particular silver coin (pictured above right), a *basilicon*, from the Barber Institute's coin collection, encapsulates the political agenda of her regency. The image of enthroned Christ occupies the obverse. On the reverse, the position of Anna to the left (from the spectator's point of view), holding a sceptre, is indicative of her seniority. John V's position to the right, holding a cross and an *akakia* (a purple silk roll containing dust, held by Byzantine emperors during ceremonies, and symbolizing the mortal nature of all men), denotes his inferiority. Traces of an inscription, mostly illegible, refer to Anna and John.

Images on coins of female rulers and regents in Byzantium are extremely rare. Hence, the surviving example, struck during Anna's regency, is a precious mirror to the life and political presence of a Western princess marrying into the Byzantine imperial family.

Provided by Andriani Georgiou  
MA in Byzantine Studies  
Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity



www.bham.ac.uk

## Women's football escape to victory

Braving the bitter cold to lend some good old fashioned Brummie support to the women's football team, supporters lined the Bournbrook sports pitch to bring a carnival atmosphere to campus as the Women's 1st team took on De Montfort University in a fight for relegation survival.

Team sponsors T-Mobile helped to bring a bit of Premiership glamour to the game, handing out giant pink T- inflatable hands to the crowds and cheering the team onto the pitch with their own flag waving Soccer Squad to the sound of Robbie Williams' *Let Me Entertain You*.

Kicking off the game with an early goal from Birmingham's No. 10 Helen Taylor, the home team put in their best performance of the year to take a well-earned 3-0 victory. Perhaps they were inspired by the pre-match talk from West Bromwich Albion player Thomas Gaardsoe or maybe it was the popularity of the team's new calendar (see pictures right)

many of which seem to have found their way into the flats of Birmingham's male students!

Voted Player of the Match, Helen Taylor celebrated the team's victory in true champion style, spraying champagne over her team-mates and the pitch! (See below).

Toby Hester, Head of Sponsorship at T-Mobile commented, 'The team proved their talent and ability in front of a strong home crowd tonight. The players have become some what of 'celebrities' around the Edgbaston campus with many of the team being asked to sign their infamous calendar after the match!'

