



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

# The Birmingham Magazine

Issue 24 2012

## A different tune...

A whole new era for  
music education

**Inside:** Going green – the great outdoors  
is inspiring research at Birmingham  
**See pages 22–23**



Circles of influence

# The first word

When I reflect on the past year at Birmingham, it is with a sense of pride in our achievements and anticipation of what is to come. I hope you will experience a similar feeling when reading this magazine.

Our major successes over the past 12 months include the completion of the breathtaking new Bramall Music Building, playing host to the Jamaican Track and Field Team during the Olympic Games, launching the second phase of our Circles of Influence fundraising campaign, and winning a multi-million pound award for the UK's first Centre for Character and Values. You can learn more about all of these stories in the following pages.

To return to our campaign, we are now focused on fundraising for a variety of innovative research and campus development projects including a new sports centre with the city's first Olympic-length swimming pool, a technology-rich new library, and finding new ways to diagnose and treat cancer. Thanks to your support we have raised £102 million and I am extremely confident

we will reach our ambitious total of £160 million by the 2015 target.

A Circles of Influence-funded project I would particularly like to highlight is the Birmingham Fellowships scheme, which has developed our academic community by bringing 55 world-class early career academics to Birmingham, where we will nurture their talent. Reading about Zoe Schnepf and her extraordinary artificial leaf (pages 22–23), you will understand the calibre of researchers we are recruiting and the impact this will have on our global reputation.

The Birmingham Fellowships project has been emulated by several other leading universities but let me assure you that Birmingham was the first, and will continue to be a University of firsts as we strive to establish ourselves as a leading



global university. If you can help us by offering your support, whether by making a gift, holding a fundraising event or by volunteering your time, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Best wishes

**Professor David Eastwood**  
Vice-Chancellor and donor to the University

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### With your news, memories and feedback:

Amy Cory, Alumni Communications Officer  
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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

- Text giving – send a text to 70070 with CIRC02 followed by the amount you'd like to give eg, CIRC02 £5
- Direct Debit – making regular giving safe, easy and cost-efficient
- Online – visit [www.justgiving.com/universityofbirmingham](http://www.justgiving.com/universityofbirmingham)
- 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 8893 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 – contact Martha Cass on [m.cass@bham.ac.uk](mailto:m.cass@bham.ac.uk) or +44 (0)121 414 6679
- Company matched giving – contact Laura Fairbanks on +44 (0)121 414 8894 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)
- Our tax exempt Inland Revenue charities reference number is X7237

# In focus

## Olympic spirit

Discus thrower Travis Smikle trains on the University's athletics track with Old Joe in the background. Travis is a member of the Jamaican Track and Field Team, which held its pre-Olympic training camp at Birmingham. The world's fastest man, Usain Bolt (inset), and his 100m rival, Yohan Blake, were among the other athletes based on campus during the run up to London 2012 and it is believed the camp generated £2,123,845 of positive PR coverage. Alumni Ronjon Nag (BSc Electronic and Electrical Engineering, 1984) and Alex Merry (BSc Sport and Exercise Sciences, 2009) won tickets for the chance to dine with the team at a gala dinner. Proceeds from the auction and raffle went to the University's new sports centre (see page 19).



Jamaican sprinter: Usain Bolt

# The year in pictures



## Big Bang Fair

In March, the University lined up next to other big-hitting organisations in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) community at the Big Bang Fair 2012 at the National Exhibition Centre. The fair is the largest annual celebration of STEM in the UK and is designed to demonstrate to young people the breadth of exciting opportunities and careers that there are in this field. Over the three-day event staff and students showcased their research to thousands of youngsters through several fun science-based activities.



## Money saving tips for students

As part of National Student Money Week (12 to 16 March) the Student Funding Office held a number of events to show students how saving money can be simple yet make a big difference. Events included a series of live web chats with funding advisors, aimed at educating prospective undergraduates on the changes to student finance. There was also a 'Taste test' event with participants tasting both economy and branded foods, displaying how a change in shopping habits can help your bank balance.



## Student Heroes

For the first time students have appeared in the national marketing campaign 'Birmingham Heroes'. The campaign aims to promote the outstanding work and achievements of the University, emphasising the impact it has on a national and international level. The two students featuring in the campaign are Bryony Whitten (BSc Biological Sciences, 2012) and Kushal Rugjee, a BSc Human Biology undergraduate. Bryony worked at a panda breeding centre in China, her visit funded by the University's work experience scheme. Kushal spent last summer researching the cancer gene in Canada.

## Where that Ben went

Alumnus Ben Wallace (BSc Geography, 2005) completed the challenge of visiting all 101 places in the Time Out London guide before the start of the London Olympics. Ben's blog about his adventures, [www.wherethatbenwent.com](http://www.wherethatbenwent.com), has already gained more than 50,000 visits from all over the world.



## Sporting Showcase event

The University hosted its sporting showcase on 13 July when a panel debated the subject 'Will London 2012 be the first Olympics to deliver a lasting participatory legacy?' Led by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Eastwood, the panel included the Rt Hon Richard Caborn, Jennie Price, CEO of Sport England, the Rt Hon Tessa Jowell and alumnus Richard Horton, Editor of *The Lancet*.

## Snapped!

Business and American Studies student Hannah Keen won the 'Snapped' photography competition run by our Research and Cultural Collections department. Hannah's image of campus represents imagination, education and memories, three of the Cultural Olympiad themes. The photo was taken with Hannah's iPhone on a study break from the library and she hopes it offers 'a modern perspective of the majestic campus'.



## Alumni Leadership Mentoring Programme reception

The Alumni Leadership Mentoring Programme (ALMP) reception took place on 3 July. The evening brought together 15 highly successful alumni, including Tamsin Greig, Cillia Snowball CBE and Sir Charles George as well as several Birmingham students to celebrate the end of the programme's first year. The ALMP paired 15 exceptional students with high-profile, immensely successful alumni mentors who gave their time, wisdom, expertise and support to help these students get a flying start to their careers. Next year the programme aims to support 20 students.

## Birmingham partners in first Institute of Dance Medicine

The University along with five other organisations, including Birmingham Royal Ballet and the University of Wolverhampton, have joined together to form the first National Institute of Dance Medicine and Science. The NIDMS will provide a radical new approach to dancers' healthcare, a growing problem within the industry, with research, education and specialist treatment for dancers.



## Archaeologist named emerging explorer for 2012

University of Birmingham archaeologist, Dr Jeffrey Rose is among the 15 visionary, young trailblazers from around the world who have been named as the 2012 class of National Geographic Emerging Explorers. The programme recognises and supports uniquely gifted and inspiring adventurers, scientists and storytellers, who are pushing the boundaries of discovery, adventure and global problem-solving while still early in their careers.

# News

## Predicting no more riots



London riots: Police close a street after rioters set a shop on fire

Shocking levels of violence took place across Britain during the 2011 riots. Researchers at Birmingham have launched a new centre to prevent similar social unrest from happening in the future.

Last summer, the actions of almost 15,000 people caused widespread fear and panic across England with rioting, looting and damage taking place for five consecutive days. Sadly five people lost their lives during the riots and many more lost their businesses and homes in an unprecedented act, which is said to have cost the economy almost half a billion pounds.

Beginning in Tottenham on August 6 2011, the riots spread to 65 other towns and cities and Birmingham was one of the worst hit. In the wake of these shocking actions, researchers at the University have called for compulsory character building to be built into the national curriculum. This recommendation has been accepted in the final report of the Riots Communities and Victims Panel, which was set up to uncover the cause of the riots and to identify ways to prevent them from happening again. 'The riots happened because the kids were bored,' explains panel member James Arthur, Professor of Education and Civic Engagement at the University's School of Education.

'Increasing numbers of young people have no sense of belonging to a community and society and so they have greater levels of despair. It is an underlying problem and if we don't take it seriously, there will be a repeat of last year's actions.'

Following Professor Arthur's recommendations, the University has established the first research centre dedicated to understanding the character and values that shape UK society, of which he has been appointed director. Supported by a multi-million pound award from the John Templeton Foundation, The Jubilee Centre for Character and Values will conduct research and development activities, crucial to ensure last year's actions do not become a regular occurrence. One of its first tasks will be initiating a national consultation on a proposed curriculum policy for character building in schools.

James explains: 'It is everyone's duty to promote the common good – kids need more things to do after school, more extracurricular activities, as well as more structured character building during their education. Advertisers and the media also need to reconsider the expectations that young people see; they are the most vulnerable and susceptible to ideas and trends and so it is really important that society isn't making us even more insecure.'

### Learn more

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/education/jubilee-centre/index.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/education/jubilee-centre/index.aspx)



## Brum Dine With Me

You are what you eat, as the saying goes, and now the city of Birmingham is being given the chance to discover exactly what it is currently digesting in a one-day interactive exploration of food led by the University.

On Friday 28 September, the citywide public showcase event, *Brum Dine With Me*, will demonstrate the impact the University's research has on our everyday lives.

The University has an array of outstanding ongoing research related to food, spanning psychology, chemical engineering, clinical health, marketing, arts and social sciences. *Brum Dine With Me* will offer fun and thought-provoking activities about food in a number of events across the city, which was recently crowned the UK's food capital.

*Brum Dine With Me* co-organiser Dr Eliot Marston, Bupa Translational Research Manager at the University, explains: 'This is a really exciting opportunity for us to demonstrate how relevant research is to our everyday lives. We often assume the food that we eat magically appears in front of us, but in fact there is a fantastic and fascinating amount of research that goes into every mouthful we eat.'

'Here at the University we aim to inspire people to ask questions and find out more about the world around them. After the event we want people to look at their cereal and think about us, about the research and the process that goes on behind the scenes to get it to their breakfast bowls,' he adds.

Supported by the European Union and led by Alice Roberts, Professor of Public Engagement with Science, *Brum Dine With Me* will include local communities creating art from food; calorie maths calculations and Olympic athletes talking about their own nutrition with our researchers. There will also be a theatre piece exploring attitudes to weight, a giant photography exhibition displaying what the city ate for lunch, hands-on experiments extracting DNA from fruit and vegetables, a free dance class and much more.

For further information, email [brumdinewithme@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:brumdinewithme@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

# I remember...

**For me Old Joe (the clock tower) was just known as Joe. When did he become old?**

Next month is my 70th anniversary of coming to Birmingham as I first arrived on campus in 1942 during the Second World War. People my age were still being called up to join the armed forces but I had reserved status as we scientists were considered more valuable alive.

One of my first memories was a pep talk from the famous physicist and novelist C P Snow, who was working for the Government and came to the University to outline what our responsibilities were in relation to our reserved status. I found out we had to do military training two times a week and an annual camp. We also did firewatching duty, going up Joe, looking out for fires and using a telescope to take a bearing which we reported to a central telephone number.

Due to the war, my degree course was concentrated into four terms over two years with no summer holidays. By the time I got to Birmingham the bombing was almost over, as we had won the Battle of Britain, but I remember watching Bristol burn from the Cotswolds, where I was evacuated to from my home in Harwich, Essex, at the age of 16.

I studied at Birmingham until 1951 as I was always interested in the biological side of Chemistry and decided to do a Pharmacology PhD in the Medical School. I had a wonderful time here. The union (Guild of Students) was going strong and I joined the St Francis Hall Student Christian Movement group and the cross country running team. I also met Edith, my first wife, in the men's common room, where women were only allowed on a Saturday night. I spotted her and it was love at first sight!  
*Peter Sagrott (BSc Chemistry, 1946; PhD Pharmacology, 1949)*

Send in your memories of student life at Birmingham to [alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk)



## New style of degree planned for 2013



**The University is at the forefront of the UK in pursuing a new style of degree which is growing in popularity internationally.**

Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) allows students to develop a bespoke four year programme which reflects their talents and interests and includes alumni mentoring, an internship and a year abroad. It will be available to elite students who achieve A\* or A grade at A Level or equivalent. LAS students will get the opportunity to select from a wide range of

modules before specialising in their chosen major in their last two years.

Professor Cillian Ryan, Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, says: 'Typical British degrees are subject-focused and character development is left up to students. However, our unique degree focuses on the development of high-calibre students, building a range of academic and employment skills before concentrating on their Major.'

The University is keen to involve alumni in this exciting new degree and if you would like to support the course, via mentoring or internship opportunities, please contact Professor Ryan at [las@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:las@contacts.bham.ac.uk).

**Learn more**

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/liberal-arts-and-sciences/careers-and-employability/Stand-out-from-the-crowd.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/liberal-arts-and-sciences/careers-and-employability/Stand-out-from-the-crowd.aspx)

# My favourite books

Best-selling crime fiction author and television screenwriter, Mark Billingham (BA Drama and Theatre Arts, 1983) found it too difficult to pick his all-time top five books for us and instead, has shared his top five crime novels.

***The Maltese Falcon*, Dashiell Hammett**

Fizzing, fat-free prose, and still a startling read 80 years on from its publication. Sam Spade investigates the death of his partner in the novel which kick-started the hardboiled movement. Raymond Chandler and others went on to perfect the style, but it was Hammett's ball they were running with.

***The Talented Mr Ripley*, Patricia Highsmith**

A chilling depiction of a conman, serial killer, and, ultimately, a very American antihero. In an era that celebrated wealth and status above wisdom and accomplishment, Ripley – deceitful, murderous and totally without conscience – is the perfect early-20th century protagonist.

***To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee**

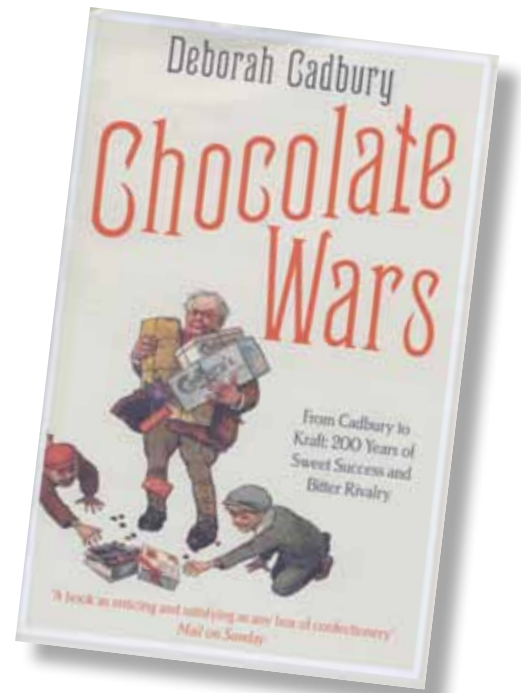
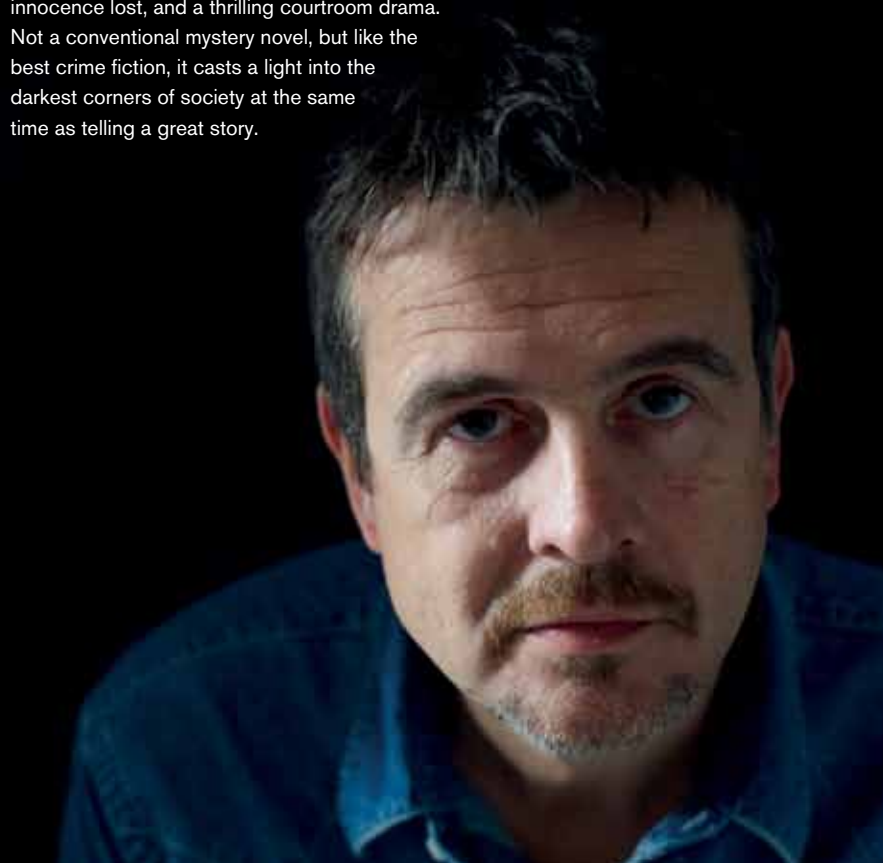
A timeless examination of prejudice, of innocence lost, and a thrilling courtroom drama. Not a conventional mystery novel, but like the best crime fiction, it casts a light into the darkest corners of society at the same time as telling a great story.

***The Big Blowdown*, George Pelecanos**

This tale of Washington's immigrant community, from the early 30s through to 1959, has an epic sweep. Young men take hard decisions in a city which goes to war and then struggles to recover from it. Gripping and heartbreaking in equal measure.

***Red Dragon*, Thomas Harris**

I bought this at an airport 25 years ago, and didn't put it down even when I was eating. Hannibal Lecter's first appearance became the template for a legion of inferior imitations and though filmed twice – once well and once badly – the book still affords the most powerful glimpse into a world where monsters are made flesh.



## Sweet choice for great read

Chocolate is the subject for this year's Great Read at Birmingham reading scheme, chosen in recognition of Birmingham's distinguished history with the confectionery.

All first year undergraduate students have been given a copy of *Chocolate Wars*, by Deborah Cadbury, in their welcome pack and encouraged to read the book before arriving on campus.

The book tells the story of the Cadbury company, from its early days to its purchase by Kraft, and was chosen by a panel of staff and students for its positive portrayal of Birmingham and its links with a wide range of disciplines, from Business Management to Chemical Engineering and Theology.

Launched for the first time last year, the GRAB scheme aims to help students begin to engage with academic ideas and enjoy a shared experience with other freshers when they arrive. They will also be invited to events and seminars exploring and debating the chocolate theme, from examining the methods of chocolate making to the psychology behind eating chocolate treats.

**Learn more**

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/welcome/grab.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/welcome/grab.aspx)

### CHANCE TO WIN

For your chance to win Mark's top five books and *Chocolate Wars*, turn to page 38





## Birmingham heart research redefines global treatment guidelines

Groundbreaking research into atrial fibrillation is having a major global impact on the treatment and management of this most common of cardiac rhythm disorders.

Findings by the Centre for Cardiovascular Sciences have reshaped international treatment guidelines issued by organisations including the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE), the European Society of Cardiology, American College of Chest Physicians and the Canadian Cardiovascular Society.

The Centre's work has not only underlined the importance of screening for atrial fibrillation in primary care, but its Birmingham Atrial Fibrillation Treatment of the Aged trial has demonstrated the value of using anticoagulant drugs for stroke prevention in the elderly.

Atrial fibrillation is the most common type of arrhythmia, a problem with the rate or rhythm of the heartbeat. During an arrhythmia, the heart can beat too fast, too slow, or with an irregular rhythm. Atrial fibrillation is associated with an increased risk of stroke, which can be

effectively prevented, in the appropriate patients, by blood-thinning drugs.

Gregory Lip, Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine, says: 'We investigated the mechanisms of how a clot forms in atrial fibrillation, and – of more practical importance – the impact of risk factors for stroke and bleeding in patients with atrial fibrillation. Specifically, we have developed (and validated) two simple risk scores for assessing stroke and bleeding risk, which have now been adopted in treatment guidelines in the UK, Europe and internationally. These have been referred to as the 'Birmingham risk scores'.

If you would like to support heart research at Birmingham, contact Sally Xerri-Brooks on [s.b.xerribrooks@bham.ac.uk](mailto:s.b.xerribrooks@bham.ac.uk) or +44 (0)121 414 7407.

## News

### New talent joins centre

The success of atrial fibrillation research at Birmingham has attracted two new academics to join the Centre for Cardiovascular Sciences, at the School of Clinical and Experimental Medicine.

Professor Paulus Kirchhof and Dr Larissa Fabritz, who were previously at the University of Münster in Germany, have been in post for a year and will strengthen the centre's clinical and translational research activities into atrial fibrillation and heart rhythm disorders.

They are studying sudden death syndrome, with an emphasis on athlete death. This condition was recently brought into the media spotlight by footballer Fabrice Muamba, who collapsed during a football match but subsequently recovered. 'This isn't a rare problem in young men who put their bodies through endurance training,' says Dr Fabritz.

Also, Professor Kirchhof has just published a clinical research paper in *The Lancet*, focused on the short-term versus long-term use of drugs to correct atrial fibrillation.



Examining the evidence: Dr Andy Hart

## How I became... a forensic scientist to the stars

**Dr Andy Hart (PhD Biological Sciences, 1997) never expected his career choice would lead to him working behind the scenes on some of the BBC's most successful crime shows.**

By day he is a Forensic Scientist to the Metropolitan Police Service but in his spare time Andy works as a Forensic Advisor on crime dramas including *Silent Witness*, *Body Farm*, *Death in Paradise* and *Waking the Dead*.

'Despite some parallels, the two roles are very different,' he says. 'On set I give advice to actors and producers on scripts and forensic techniques, being able to have my own input occasionally subject to artistic licence; whereas with the police I have to be completely impartial, reporting the facts.'

'The actors on set are of a very different mindset to colleagues in the police and so hopefully I am able to give them an insight into the roles they are playing, building on my own experiences,' he adds.

Andy joined the Forensic Science Service (FSS) in 2003 and was transferred to the Metropolitan Police Service in 2011. He has been advising actors on the forensic sciences for six years.

With the FSS and Metropolitan Police, Andy has dealt with more than 1,000 cases, mainly homicidal and violent crimes, recovering evidence which can be used to aid the criminal investigation.

'Helping the victims of a crime can be very rewarding,' he explains. 'The evidence can be anything from fingerprints and blood to foot-prints; it's definitely not a job for someone who is squeamish'.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Andy volunteers with the University by speaking to current students about his career. If you have an unusual job and would like to speak at one of our careers fairs, contact Volunteer Relationship Manager Kerrie Holland on [k.holland@bham.ac.uk](mailto:k.holland@bham.ac.uk) or +44 (0)121 414 4139

# 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 the events team 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!



**Birmingham Heroes Lecture: Fighting Cancer**

**Birmingham Heroes Lecture: Fighting Cancer, Wednesday 31 October 2012**

Hear Professor Paul Moss, Head of School of Cancer Sciences, reprise his lecture on fighting cancer from earlier this year. The lecture, being held in Birmingham, will be followed by lab tours at the University. Further details will follow shortly but register your interest by email now.



**Monday Masterclass, 26 November 2012**

**Monday Masterclass, 26 November 2012**

The 'Monday Masterclass' is a brand-new learning experience aimed at budding young leaders aged between 18–30. Created by local charity the Birmingham Leadership Foundation, the classes offer unique networking opportunities, lively discussions and dynamic talks. Every month the Masterclass is joined by local entrepreneurs and business leaders who openly share their personal and professional stories before engaging in a question and answer session with the audience. Attendees can also learn how to build successful online campaigns by taking part in a social media surgery delivered by Podnosh, recent winners of the Government's Big Society Award. On the evening of Monday 26 November the Masterclass will be run in association with the University and will be held at Birmingham Business School. This is a free event and alumni under 30 are welcome to attend. If you are interested in attending, then please register your interest with Jade Bressington, [j.e.bressington@bham.ac.uk](mailto:j.e.bressington@bham.ac.uk)

**Class of 1957 Medicine Reunion, Saturday 6 October 2012**

Join fellow Medicine graduates from the Class of 1957 for a tour and reunion dinner on campus. Further details will follow.

**Class of 1982 Dentistry Reunion, Friday 12 October 2012**

Join the class of 1982 Dentistry in celebrating 30 years since graduation. The reunion will take place on campus. Please contact Carinna Chilton ([c.chilton@bham.ac.uk](mailto:c.chilton@bham.ac.uk)) for further details.

**Class of 1982 Medicine Reunion, Friday 12 October 2012**

Join the class of 1982 Medicine in celebrating 30 years since graduation. The reunion will take place on campus. Please contact Keeley Dudley ([k.dudley@bham.ac.uk](mailto:k.dudley@bham.ac.uk)) or Karen McNaughton ([k.m.mcnaughton@bham.ac.uk](mailto:k.m.mcnaughton@bham.ac.uk)) on +44 (0)121 414 4046 for further details.



**Medical graduates enjoying a reunion**

**Inaugural Public Conference of the Jubilee Centre for Character and Values, Saturday 15 December 2012**

Join the newly-launched Jubilee Centre for Character and Values for their Inaugural Public Conference, featuring keynotes from world-renowned academics on the topic of 'Character and Public Policy: Educating for an Ethical Life.' Further details will follow.

**West Midlands Military Education Annual Lecture, Thursday 15 November 2012**

This year's annual lecture will be delivered by General Sir Mike Jackson (BSocSc Russian Language and Literature, 1967), Former Chief of the General Staff. Further details will follow shortly on our website.



**Citiescapes: Panoramic Views on European Coins and Medals, until 6 October 2013**

London, Amsterdam, Hamburg, Barcelona, Venice and Budapest... Explore the historical landscapes of all these cities – and more – at the Barber Institute of Fine Arts. Visit [www.barber.org.uk](http://www.barber.org.uk) for full details.

**Birmingham Heroes Lecture, Spring 2013**

Hear one of our leading researchers speak about the latest groundbreaking research taking place at Birmingham. The second lecture in this series will be held in London. A networking drinks reception will be held following the lecture. Further details to be confirmed but register your interest by email now.



**Festive Drinks at the Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas Market, December 2012**

**Festive Drinks at the Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas Market, December 2012**

Come along after work for a complimentary glass of German beer or a mug of Glühwein while you soak up the atmosphere of the largest German market outside Austria and Germany. Your first drink is on us and we have reserved an indoor heated seating area in one of the traditional beer stalls. Details to be confirmed.

**Christmas at Winterbourne, Saturday 8 December 2012**

Festive craft, food and carols to get you in the Christmas mood. Visit [www.winterbourne.org.uk](http://www.winterbourne.org.uk) for full details.



**London Christmas Party, December 2012**

Join fellow alumni in the capital for a festive after-work drink on us! Details to be confirmed.

**House of Lords Reception, Autumn 2013**

Tickets for the tenth annual reception at the House of Lords will be available to book online in August 2013. All alumni will receive an email notification – update your details at [www.your.bham.ac.uk](http://www.your.bham.ac.uk) to ensure we have the correct details for you.



**House of Lords Reception, Autumn 2013**

**Save the Date  
Anniversary Reunions for the Classes of 1988, 1978, 1973, 1968, 1963 and the pre-1963 'Golden' classes, 8 June 2013**

Come back to campus to celebrate the anniversary of your graduation. Activities planned for the day include visits to schools and departments, a reunion lunch, campus tours, the chance to visit Winterbourne House and Garden and the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, and an optional evening reunion dinner. There will also be plenty of 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 the events team.



**Save the Date  
Anniversary Reunions for the classes of 1988, 1978, 1973, 1968, 1963 and the pre-1963 'Golden' classes, 8 June 2013**



**London Professional Network, March 2013**

**London Professional Network, March 2013**

Network with fellow alumni from the fields of finance, insurance, property and legal-related professions while enjoying wine and canapés. Further details will follow shortly but register your interest by email now.

Please note the change of date from 15 June 2013 as previously advertised.

**Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Lecture Series –  
Dame Fiona Reynolds CBE, 30 October 2012**

Join Dame Fiona Reynolds CBE, Director-General for the National Trust for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, for her lecture on 'The nation's love of special places: why nature and heritage matter.' For further information, visit the alumni events website.

**Elgar: the Enigma, 27 November 2012**

How much of what you thought you knew about Elgar was wrong? An illustrated lecture by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Eastwood, on Edward Elgar. Free admission – unticketed event.

**Alumni Sports Day, 8 June 2013**

Meet up with old team mates to take on current students in one of 11 sports at the 12th annual Alumni Sports Day. Tickets include a day of sport, a free drink and your ticket to Fab at the Guild. Further details will follow shortly.

**Community Day, 9 June 2013**

Bring the whole family back to campus for the fourth annual Community Day. 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. All alumni and their families are welcome.

**Fab 'n' Refresh, 20 April 2013**

Join fellow graduates from the past ten years for a special Guild night exclusively for alumni. Further details available in the New Year.

**Happiness Lecture, July 2013**

Keep checking our website for further details of the annual Baggs Memorial Lecture on the theme of 'Happiness – what it is and how it may be achieved by individuals as well as nations.'



**Distinguished Leaders Series**

**Distinguished Leaders Series**

Birmingham Business School (BBS) Alumni Relations have launched an exciting new Distinguished Leaders speaker series. High profile leaders from a range of industries across the world will reflect on their personal journey and discuss the qualities of a great leader. For more information about the series visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/business/alumni](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/business/alumni) and click on Alumni experiences.

# Groups and societies

The University has many alumni groups and societies across the UK and globe, to find out more visit [www.your.bham.ac.uk](http://www.your.bham.ac.uk)

## UK groups

### Midlands Group

The Midlands Group holds regular events throughout the year and 2011–2012 was no different with a variety of students and staff giving talks. Presenters included former Guild President Professor Joe Biddlestone as well as Professor Vince Gaffney talking about his discoveries at Stonehenge.

Later on in the year Dr John Craggs, current President of the Guild, shared his enthusiasm for the American Civil War with stories of the Generals involved and in April, Dr Robert Whitworth talked about the range of important discoveries, inventions and contributions to science that came from the Physics Department, all of them represented in the Physics Museum, where the meeting was held. In June, Midlands alumni met to listen to Brian Gambles (Project Director for the library of Birmingham) talk about the opening of the new Birmingham library which was a great success attracting large audiences.

To find out more about the Midlands group please contact, via +44 (0)121 308 1363 or [midlandschairman@bhamalumni.org](mailto:midlandschairman@bhamalumni.org)

### Birmingham University Graduates in Scotland (BUGS)

A well-attended BUGS AGM and Annual Dinner were held at the Royal Overseas League, Edinburgh in October 2011. A key issue, discussed very passionately at the AGM, was the future of the organisation. Although BUGS has been in existence for 26 years, with well-attended events organised each year, a dissolution proposal was narrowly accepted at the AGM. A final BUGS EGM and Dinner will be held later this year. BUGS members, past and present, are warmly invited to the 2012 event, to be held at Ross Priory, a beautiful location on the banks of Loch Lomond, on Saturday 13 October.

For further details see the alumni website at <https://bhamalumni.org>, or contact the BUGS Secretary/Treasurer Bill Sandham on [w.sandham@scotsig.co.uk](mailto:w.sandham@scotsig.co.uk).



Duannian Ladies

### Duannian Ladies Reunion 2012

Duannians were students who took the teacher training course which ran until 1951. This is the 35th year since our reunions were first held. Six alumni met on 9 June for a buffet lunch which was so successful that we decided to do it again next year on Saturday 8 June.

We would be delighted to receive news from former Duannians. For further details please contact Jocelyn Marshall on +44 (0)121 429 1370.

### BUSGC60 – Birmingham University Scouts and Guides

The fourth reunion of Scout and Guide club members, most of whom were Freshers in the 1960s, took place at Barnes Close Conference Centre just outside Bromsgrove from April 20–23. Alumni came from near and far with 28 members present. The weekend was a success, spent renewing friendships and reminiscing as well as touring the University campus visiting old haunts.

The next reunion will be in two years time and is being organised by Colin and Linda Bullimore in Hampshire.

For more details, contact Colin at [colin.bullimore@btinternet.com](mailto:colin.bullimore@btinternet.com)

## International groups

### Alumni society of Jordan

The first reunion took place on 26 September 2011 with a positive turnout of 15 people. Several alumni who had graduated in the 1970s (some of whom had been class or flat mates) attended, sharing memories with each other.

The group will be planning future events and looking to extend invitations through the Facebook and LinkedIn groups.

### Birmingham University Graduate Association of Nigeria

BUGAN Lagos has held two general meetings in February and March 2012, at Ikoyi and Yaba respectively. The group has a growing BBM network of 18 members. A five-man Managers team and three Trustees direct the group's affairs. Mr Nwuke, Executive Director Corporate Banking Access Bank Nigeria and Honourable Awwal Tukur of the FRN, has been supportive of the group's activities. A year-end award giving ceremony is being planned for successful alumni and patrons/matrons in academia, business and government.

New members are welcome, please contact Lanre Fashina via [cepsed34@yahoo.com](mailto:cepsed34@yahoo.com) or +00 234-8066503868

The Port Harcourt chapter held a meeting on 10 July to discuss the way forward for the group with great success. Four alumni were in attendance with decisions made to hold quarterly meetings as well as participating further in international alumni group events in future.

### US Alumni Groups

The New York Alumni Chapter has been active since 2005 and now has monthly gatherings in various venues throughout New York City. We're having quiz nights, curry nights, weekend brunches and during the summer months enjoying outdoor bars for some cold drinks after a long workday. Please contact David Drinkwater at [davedrink@gmail.com](mailto:davedrink@gmail.com) to find out more information and receive the monthly invites. There is a new alumni group in South California,

You can find details of our international groups at [www.your.bham.ac.uk](http://www.your.bham.ac.uk). If you are interested in setting up a group, please contact Kerrie Holland via [k.holland@bham.ac.uk](mailto:k.holland@bham.ac.uk)

29 March 2012 saw a gathering of Minneapolis alumni at the Melting Pot restaurant. It was a nice event with six alumni in attendance. I hope to organise another event in August 2012 – Melitta George, US



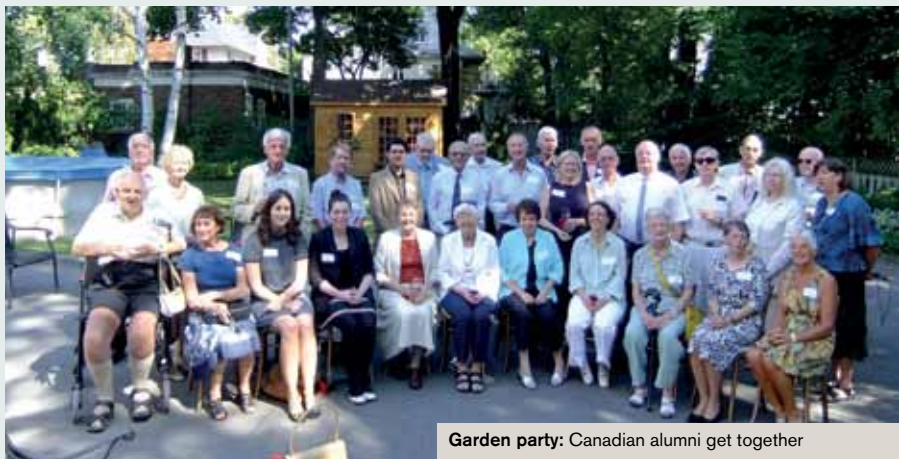
**Cheers:** New York alumni on a night out

which met in San Diego in March and LA in May, and our North California group met in January in a cider pub, with winery tours planned for later in the year. The Chicago group met with a delegation from the University in May and spent an evening at the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, with a behind-the-scenes tour and commentary from Professor Michael Dobson, head of the University's Shakespeare Institute.

We have groups all over the US and details of meetings and events will be on the University of Birmingham US Foundation website [www.bhamf.org](http://www.bhamf.org)

#### Brussels

Alumni in Brussels met for a Russell Group alumni event at the European Parliament in April. Following this, three alumni decided to set up regular informal meetings for GOLD (graduates of the last decade) alumni, with the first being held in July. A total of 12 alumni attended the first gathering and the next event is planned for the autumn. The group plan to meet regularly for drinks on a social basis, and also so that early-career stage alumni can support and advise each other.



**Garden party:** Canadian alumni get together

#### Canadian Alumni Chapter

The Canadian Alumni Chapter held a successful and enjoyable Garden Party at the home of the British Consul General in Toronto, Jonathan Dart, on Sunday 11 September, with more than 30 alumni attending and years of graduation ranging from 1950 to 2009.

A special thanks was given in recognition of the work of Sheila Cann, who started the chapter in 1998. The 2012 Garden Party was held in early September.

#### India

Alumni in India held an extremely entertaining and fruitful get together at the Palika Services Officers Institute in Delhi in June! The group are keen to meet more frequently, and to try and do some purposeful activity for society as well as 'merrymaking' considering the big pool of varied resources available across our alumni. They are investigating particular environmental issues and will be following up at future meetings.

For more information please email [salujavijay@hotmail.com](mailto:salujavijay@hotmail.com)

#### China

The Shanghai group meets monthly for afternoon tea, dinner and even a weekend away. In June, the group met with Professor Lawrence Young, Pro-Vice Chancellor, and other members of University staff for an informal drinks event in the Sky Dome Bar. The Shanghai group maintains a Weibo microblog where they publish upcoming events – search Weibo for BUAAC! In Beijing, a group of alumni met for informal drinks and plan to continue meeting on a regular basis.



**Solid GOLD:** Alumni in Brussels



**Informal drinks:** The Shanghai group gathering

# A different tune

The completion of the Bramall Music Building is just the start of a whole new era for music education at Birmingham.



Music has a long and distinguished history at Birmingham since the appointment of Sir Edward Elgar as the first Professor of Music in 1905. More than 100 years on, the University continues to inspire, foster and nurture the next generation of musical greats and is set to become a beacon for a new model of musical higher education.

Led by the vision of a new Head of Department and a world-class teaching space, this autumn's opening of the Bramall Music Building, made possible by the generosity of alumni, supporters and friends, is just the start of the transformation of music at Birmingham.

'Bricks and mortar look great, but they don't teach classes,' reasons Professor Andrew Kirkman, Head of the Department of Music, who hopes to use the construction of the cutting-edge venue to inspire a new sector-leading musical curriculum at Birmingham. 'Now that we have such a fantastic new facility, we have the opportunity to forge a new model of university teaching which will focus on an increased role of performance and outreach to the larger community.'

A performer as well as an academic, Professor Kirkman joined the University in September 2011 from Rutgers University, USA; and has ambitious plans for the department to attract world-class performers, academics and students to Birmingham. This will strengthen

the practical component of Birmingham's musical education, enabling it to live up to its new state-of-the-art auditorium, teaching spaces and 450-seat concert hall.

'Music is powerful because it speaks to us,' explains Andrew, a violinist and conductor. 'There is something that keeps us listening, something for us to identify with; music provides a sense of community over time and the most powerful way to convey this is through live performance.'

A late-medieval historian, Andrew's research focuses on the sacred music of the 15th century, a genre which he often performs with his professional vocal ensemble, The Binchois Consort. 'A well-crafted piece of renaissance music is like a glittering diamond with constantly alternating parts in the spotlight throughout the musical dialogue. The points of interest are so much more diverse than just the bass line and tune we have come to expect from today's popular music,' he enthuses.

'When I began my research into this area, I didn't find the existing recordings very exciting and thought I could do better. Now, performing 15th century compositions is very much an integral part of my research and I'm keen to increase the performance element of undergraduate and postgraduate study at Birmingham. It is performing that provides you with a remote sense of touch to an



## DID YOU KNOW?

There is still the opportunity to name a seat in the building for £800 plus Gift Aid or £22.22 per month, with all gifts supporting the future of music at Birmingham. For further details, please contact Laura Fairbanks on [l.fairbanks@bham.ac.uk](mailto:l.fairbanks@bham.ac.uk) or +44 (0)121 414 8894.

otherwise foreign world, enabling us to understand the world of our ancestors and bring them to life,' he adds.

His 'holiday work', a long-term archival project in a church in northern France, has uncovered just how intrinsic performance talent can be to future success with an investigation into a local choir school. He has revealed evidence of the upward mobility a singing talent afforded local choirboys in the region. 'If you could sing, it really gave you a 'leg up',' he notes. 'Lots of the young boys came from humble backgrounds and their status in society increased substantially as a result of their singing talent and attendance of the choir school.'

### Festival of Music tickets

Tickets are still available for the Bramall Music Building's Festival of Music, which includes performances from many of the University and city's leading groups and orchestras, and an opening concert featuring internationally acclaimed soprano Carolyn Sampson (BMus Music, 1995).

The festival runs from 25 November to 8 December 2012. To book, visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/bramall](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/bramall) or call +44 (0)121 345 0603.



## STOP PRESS

We are delighted to announce that the Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation has agreed to make a new grant in support of Andrew's vision. Their renewed support will provide a suite of 'Bramall Scholarships' for the new MA programmes; enabling us to attract leading ensembles and professional players to work with our students. Together with investment from the College of Arts and Law, this will help bring the very best staff to Birmingham. We would like to thank the Foundation for their continued support of the School of Music.

If you would like to support music at Birmingham, please contact Laura Fairbanks via [l.fairbanks@bham.ac.uk](mailto:l.fairbanks@bham.ac.uk) or +44 (0)121 414 8894

'Music is powerful because it speaks to us'

The range of master's programmes offered by the department is also set to increase, with the introduction of a new MA in Choral Conducting, uniquely specialising in directing symphonic repertoire set to attract the highest level of graduate students.

Andrew explains: 'We are lucky to be in a position of going from having one of the weakest, to the best rehearsal spaces in a UK university. This will allow us to develop a broader range of skills in our musicians and attract a greater level of professional expertise to share with our students, as evidenced by Simon's appointment in which he will share his 35-year experience as a Choral Director with our students.'

'The Bramall Music Building, which just speaks for itself when you see it, is enabling us to kick start a new phase in musical education at Birmingham. I am delighted that it will lead to enhanced performance standards and learning for the department, and offer the very best talent for members of the local community and audiences from farther afield to come and enjoy. It really is a very exciting time to be involved in music at Birmingham,' he concludes.



Transforming music: Professor Andrew Kirkman in the auditorium of the new Bramall Music Building

'There is something that keeps us listening, something for us to identify with; music provides a sense of community over time and the most powerful way to convey this is through live performance'

Birmingham's choral talent is set to get a similar 'leg up' as part of Professor Kirkman's vision for the future of the department. While music at Birmingham has achieved excellence in research, currently ranked joint second in the UK, and in student satisfaction, with particular strengths in early music; musical composition and 19th century music, choral opportunities have been limited, until now. The department's close working relationship with the world-renowned City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) has been further strengthened with the appointment of Simon Halsey, Director of the CBSO Chorus, as new Professor and Director of Choral Activities, to vastly expand choral studies at the University.

# Making sweet music

Music has been part of Birmingham's heritage since Edward Elgar became the department's first professor in 1905. We caught up with one of the thousands of music graduates who have pursued very different career paths since graduating.

'I can't remember a time when music wasn't part of my life, I always knew I would end up being a musician,' says professional musician Ian Hockley, (MA Music, 1992). 'I have been very lucky in that I have been able to do pretty much everything that I wanted to do, earning a living playing the pipe organ. It doesn't get much better just being by yourself in a beautiful building, playing a beautiful instrument.'

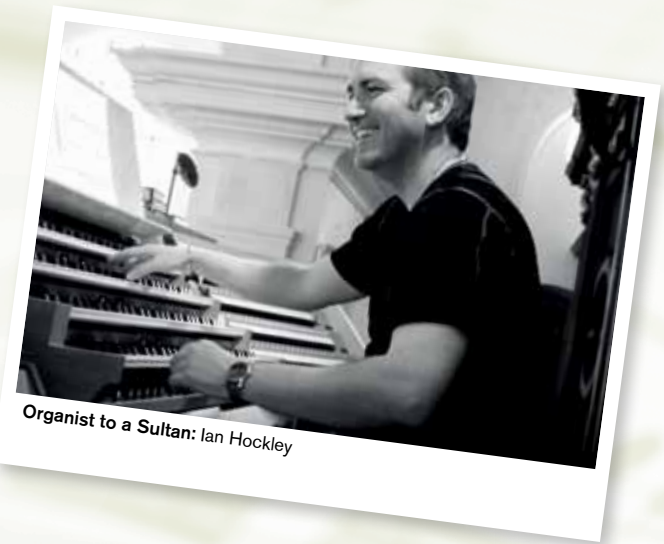
After spending most of the 1990s teaching and playing the organ, Ian was offered the chance of a lifetime and moved to the Sultanate of Oman to work within the Gulf States to expand their music programme at the beginning of the millennium. Imagining he would stay for a year to explore the beautiful country, a decade later he is still there.

Ian's role in Oman involves teaching within the Royal Oman Symphony Orchestra and playing the organ for His Majesty Sultan Qaboos. He has also designed and overseen the installation and construction of the huge new pipe organ in the new Royal Opera House in Muscat, the country's capital, which Ian will open alongside the great French organist Jean Guillou later this year.

'I really had no idea what to expect when I went to Oman. I saw it as something different and it's been a truly once-in-a-lifetime experience,' he explains.

'As Oman is a developing country, playing in cold, stone buildings with echoey acoustics is something I miss too, but the audiences definitely make up for this as they are always very supportive.'

When time permits, Ian still works internationally and has been fortunate to travel the world with the organ. His recent solo organ recital at Westminster Abbey is a concert he will never forget. 'Playing there during the Olympic Games and the Diamond Jubilee year was pretty special. The best thing about being a musician is sending people home with a smile on their faces after a performance,' Ian says. 'Music is a universal language and I can't imagine a world without it.'



Organist to a Sultan: Ian Hockley

Ian was also part of the initial consulting phase for the Bramall Music Building, advising on the organ design in its early stages which he says will generate a lot of interest. 'Every organ is different,' he explains. 'There are endless tonal colours to create and explore which provide endless possibilities and it's great that the new music building will afford these opportunities to students at Birmingham.'

'I thoroughly enjoyed my time studying there from beginning to end and got involved with pretty much everything. The music staff were all very friendly and supportive to me, which I have never forgotten and still remain grateful for,' he adds.



Famous faces: Joy Division played at Birmingham



Famous faces: Paul McCartney and Wings played at Birmingham

## Noteable alumni

Former students and honorary graduates who have made outstanding achievements in the world of music include:

- Nick Bland (BA French Studies/Music, 1998): Founder of Deutsche Bank singers
- Tim Curry (BA English, 1968): actor who played Dr Frank-n-furter in the Rocky Horror Picture Show
- Jonathan Goldstein (BMus, Music 1989): commercial composer
- Elaine Padmore (BMus, Music 1965): retired Director of Opera at the Royal Opera House
- Elizabeth Toye (BMus Music, 2003): up and coming soprano
- Zoë Cobden-Jewitt (BMus Music, 1999): Philanthropy Manager, Sydney Opera House
- David Murray (DMus, 2012): Director of the BBC National Orchestra and Chorus of Wales
- Joan Armatrading (DMus, 2002): soul singer
- Sir Simon Rattle (DMus, 1984): Principal Conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic
- Simon Halsey (DMus, 2008): Chorus Director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Alumni Leadership Mentoring Programme mentor
- Natasha Marsh (BMus Drama & Music, 1996): soprano whose debut album Amore topped the classical charts

Several famous groups and musicians began their careers performing at Birmingham. If you remember seeing them, email [alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk) and let us know.

- **The Spencer Davis Group:** 13 January, 1967
- **The Who:** 21 February, 1969
- **Paul McCartney and Wings:** 21 February, 1972
- **Duran Duran:** May 10, 1979 November 14 and 15, 1979
- **Joy Division:** May 2, 1980
- **Blur:** March 10, 1990



# Captivating the public

Clinical anatomist, author and broadcaster Alice Roberts became the University's Professor of Public Engagement in Science earlier this year. The Birmingham Magazine caught up with her to find out more about her new role.

## What does your role as Professor of Public Engagement in Science involve?

Although my role is specifically linked to science, the University supports public engagement in all areas of research, and I'm part of a team working to support public engagement right across the University.

I'm really keen that we support public engagement in a real, practical way, rather than just talking about it. There are some simple things that we can do to make it easier for academics to engage with a wider audience. One of the projects we're currently working on is a new section of the University's website to make it easier for people outside the University to find out how they can get involved with research. I hope we'll also be able to make it easier for academics to run events, and to find funding.

I'm also involved in more traditional aspects of academic life: undergraduate teaching and research. I'm a physical anthropologist, so I'm looking forward to working with Dr Susannah Thorpe in Biosciences, who has done some fantastic research looking at the way apes and humans move around.

## Why do the public need to be better engaged with science?

In a liberal democracy, we all need to understand enough science to be able to make informed decisions. Science and technology are extremely important to our society. We've seen medicine moving towards an ideal of evidence-

based practice. Political decision-making needs to move in the same direction.

From the other perspective, scientists need to be better engaged with the general public, so that science becomes a communal enterprise. Perhaps this all sounds very abstract, but from personal experience, it's clear that there's a huge appetite for science amongst the general public, and all the scientists I know who engage with the public outside labs and universities find that it's a useful, enriching and enjoyable thing to do.

## What do you enjoy the most about working at Birmingham?

I'm enjoying working in a University where so many colleagues are enthusiastic and positive about public engagement. Amazingly, some university academics can still be fairly stuffy and snooty about engaging with the wider community. I haven't come across that attitude in Birmingham!

## How is your broadcasting experience helping you in your role at Birmingham?

Broadcast media provides a great way of reaching a huge audience, and pulling in people who wouldn't always seek out other forms of science engagement. I find it interesting and intellectually challenging to consider how to communicate complex concepts to a general audience - without oversimplifying to the point of abstraction. It's a very creative process.



Also, television and radio programmes no longer need to be one-way forms of communication. It's amazing how much debate and discussion is sparked on social media platforms like Twitter after and even during programmes airing on television.

## Do you have any new TV projects in the pipeline?

I've just finished working on a series called *Prehistoric Autopsy*, which I'm co-presenting with zoologist George McGavin. It should air on BBC2 in early autumn.

I'm also working on a series with the Natural History Unit, called *Ice Age*. We produced a one-off programme on the *Woolly Mammoth* which appeared on BBC2 earlier this spring, which was almost a prequel to *Ice Age*. In the series, we investigate the lives and extinctions of a range of Ice Age megafauna - the huge mammals who roamed across Europe, Asia and North America up until the end of the Pleistocene. Stars of the show include sabre tooth cats, mastodons, cave bears and giant ground sloths. We'll be recreating these animals using cutting edge CGI, as well as investigating what the latest research reveals about their extinctions.

## Guild shares memories

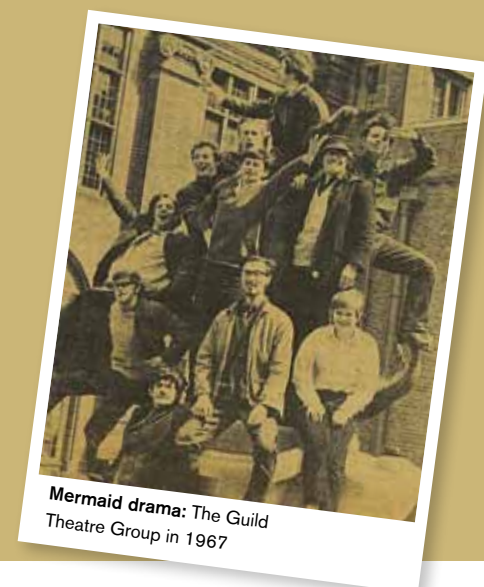
The rich and diverse history of the University's Guild of Students has been mapped in a unique history project.

Reorganising the Guild's archive and preserving its many historical artefacts for students and staff to access were among the project's aims.

Alumni contributed memories and pictures via a Facebook group, and an exhibition at the anniversary reunions and on Community Day shared some of the material gathered with former students and visitors.

A publication full of memories and photographs was also produced and anyone interested in receiving a copy should email [history@guild.bham.ac.uk](mailto:history@guild.bham.ac.uk).

Work is continuing to update the archive database and a new publication will be produced every decade. Alumni are encouraged to send in pictures and memories to the above email address or via the project's Facebook group (search for Friends of the Guild).



Mermaid drama: The Guild Theatre Group in 1967

# We've exceeded £100 million

Earlier this year we launched phase two of Circles of Influence, the University's fundraising campaign, with an ambitious new total of £160 million. Five months on we are delighted to announce we have raised £102 million for our innovative research and campus development projects.

Our campaign combines gifts from supporters with research funding from charities. More than £10 million has been given by more than 3,400 generous donors this year alone. Thank you all.

through our impressive new sports centre. With your help we can achieve the additional £58 million we urgently need to make these, and other, projects a reality.

The stories below focus on health, whether that is fighting cancer or promoting healthy lifestyle

Learn more about our campaign at [www.birmingham.ac.uk/circlesofinfluence](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/circlesofinfluence)

## How you can help:

### Cancer

- £5 a month can support basic research into cancer
- £4,000 could fund a treatment trial for one prostate cancer patient
- £120,000 could pay for a PhD student for three years, plus equipment

### Sports Centre

- £5 could pay for a climbing wall handhold
- £250 could fund a spectator seat by the swimming pool
- £50,000 could fund a squash court named after you

Learn more at [www.birmingham.ac.uk/circlesofinfluence](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/circlesofinfluence)

## Brain cancer in children

Brain cancer is a life threatening condition that affects around 400 children across the UK every year. A groundbreaking new research centre in Birmingham is helping hospitals all over the country improve how they diagnose and treat this disease.

### Research with immediate impact

Dr Andrew Peet, Reader in Paediatric Oncology in the School of Cancer Sciences and Honorary Consultant at Birmingham Children's Hospital, is developing functional imaging for the diagnosis, understanding and management of childhood brain tumours.

'MRI is a crucial investigation tool for children with tumours. The picture it creates exists in wonderful detail, but it gives little information on the type of tumour, how aggressive it is and if it will respond to treatment. The aim of our

research is to provide non-invasive methods which can assess this and treat patients individually and quickly.

'We are seeing roughly 50 new cases each year and the need for high-level scanning and diagnosis is becoming ever more important. Children's

brains are very fragile when they are developing and the very young need specialist care. You're also acutely aware of the length of life. If we can cure a child they will then have a long life ahead of them.

'Research in this field has immediate impact and advances are put into clinical improvements straight away which is hugely satisfying. Ultimately, this research will improve treatment for children and advances will save lives.'

Help Andrew's team revolutionise treatment for children with brain cancer. Text CIRC03 plus the amount you wish to give to 70070. If you would like to discuss supporting our children's brain cancer research, please contact Sally Xerri-Brooks on +44 (0)121 414 7407 or [s.b.xerribrooks@bham.ac.uk](mailto:s.b.xerribrooks@bham.ac.uk)



Helping children: Dr Andrew Peet



New scanning techniques: The Birmingham research team at the MRI scanner



## Leave a legacy

If you would like to leave a gift in your will to Birmingham, please contact Martha Cass on +44 (0)121 414 6679 or [m.cass@bham.ac.uk](mailto:m.cass@bham.ac.uk)

# Breast cancer

Around 48,000 new cases of breast cancer are diagnosed in the UK each year and the disease costs around 11,000 lives. We are developing new approaches addressing which women are most at risk and how to diagnose and treat them.

## High risk, high return research

Dr Jo Morris, Senior Lecturer in the School of Cancer Sciences, is working on a new way to diagnose breast cancer.

'Patients with changes in a gene called BRCA1 are at very high risk of developing breast cancer, in fact there's an 80% chance they will do so before they turn 70. We need to understand how this mutation causes cancer and how to diagnose and treat it quickly.'

'Funding at the moment is extremely difficult and most of it goes to traditional research projects. Our work is high risk but high return and, if it succeeds, will revolutionise breast cancer treatment. Personally I think this is the

future of genetic research. In the past we've discovered the gene and got stuck about what to do next. This approach solves this problem.

'We have one year's worth of funding and we hope we will get to a point within that year where we can take it to a funding body and say look, this works. If our supporters could collectively give £250,000, enough money to fund a post doctoral scientist for three years, we could do a lot more.'

'I've worked in cancer research my entire career. It's amazing to get up in the morning and know you're doing something that matters.'



A new approach: Dr Jo Morris

Help Jo make her research breakthrough. Text CIRC05 plus the amount you wish to give to 70070. If you would like to discuss supporting our breast cancer research, please contact Sally Xerri-Brooks on +44 (0)121 414 7407 or [s.b.xerribrooks@bham.ac.uk](mailto:s.b.xerribrooks@bham.ac.uk)

# New University Sports Centre

The University is planning a £55 million new sports centre, including the city's first 50-metre swimming pool, to serve everyone from students and staff to talented athletes and members of the local community.



State of the art: An artist's impression of the new sports centre

## A sporting chance

Alumnus Pete Rudge (BSc Pure Science, 1964) has been a regular user of the University gym for more than 25 years. Exercising at the Munrow helped his rehabilitation from a serious knee injury sustained in a car accident. He is looking forward to the new sports centre opening...

'The new sports centre will be a state-of-the-art facility. It is certainly needed and will be a real benefit to the athletes and the community who use it, and an asset to the University itself.'

'The new sports centre will help athletes like me have the optimum chance of success and, equally as importantly, will ensure the entire University and its surrounding community have access to the very best facilities to participate in all types of sport and exercise,' Hannah England (BSc Biosciences, 2009), London 2012 Olympian, 1,500 metres.

'Over the years I have had many happy and beneficial sessions in the gym and met lots of interesting people (students, staff, community members and some more casual users), many of whom have become friends. My fitness and general health have been kept at a reasonable level and I've had a very good time. I'm certain that the new facilities will enable today's and tomorrow's students and community users to have similar experiences to mine. I certainly hope so!'



Working out: Pete Rudge in the Munrow Sports Centre gym

Text CIRC04 plus the amount you wish to give to 70070 to help people like Hannah and Pete access the very best sporting facilities. If you would like to discuss supporting our new sports centre, please contact Christian Burden on +44 (0)121 414 8204 or [c.j.burden@bham.ac.uk](mailto:c.j.burden@bham.ac.uk)

# From papers to politics

BARONESS PATIENCE WHEATCROFT  
(LLB LAW, 1972) IS PUTTING HER  
JOURNALISTIC SKILLS TO GOOD  
USE IN HER ROLE AS A  
CONSERVATIVE PEER.



## Mentoring magic

Patience was a mentor on our inaugural Alumni Leadership Mentoring programme (for details, see page 5) and will be again in 2012–13.

'I was very lucky in that my mentee was an extremely capable, very focused young man. He's done brilliantly and landed the job that he wanted with an advertising agency so I'm delighted,' she says.

Opinionated, shrewd and charming are all characteristics which describe Patience Wheatcroft. The business journalist and former *Sunday Telegraph* editor is a natural politician with strong views on everything from the House of Lords reform to executive pay.

Meeting her in the Lords on the day of the Queen's Speech, it is clear she takes her responsibilities as a peer extremely seriously and believes the work is not dissimilar from her career in journalism.

'If I speak in a debate it's because I want to say something. Writing a speech isn't terribly different to writing an article; one has to do the research, talk to people and keep up with what's going on. I think journalism is great training for this place,' she says.

Patience has always enjoyed debate; as a student at Birmingham she was a keen member of the Debating Society, which invited guest speakers including MP Nigel Lawson, sitcom writer Johnny Speight and the famous DJs of the day to spar with students.

When the lifelong Conservative Party supporter became a peer in 2010, she was delighted to find Lord Gordon Borrie, her tutor from Birmingham who she admits to being slightly scared of as a student, on the Labour benches. The two now have tea together occasionally and Patience jokes that he still thinks of her as younger than she is.

Although this is only her second year in the Lords, Patience has a great affection for the chamber and is grateful plans for its reform proposed by the coalition Government have been abandoned.

'In the Lords there's fantastic devotion to the House and the process of legislation. Like most other peers I think we need to be very careful about how we reform it,' she says.

'There's scope for modernisation but I'm not comfortable with the idea of the elected second chamber. We are very clear here in the Lords that the Commons has primacy. If you have a second chamber that's elected then I think it has a much stronger case for saying that its voice should be heard as loudly.

'I suspect there will be some change but I think at the moment the country really can't understand why so much parliamentary time should be taken up with an issue that people aren't really interested in. Actually what they're interested in is the economy.'

A key problem with the economy, Patience believes, is the disproportionate salaries paid to the executives of top flight companies.

'It creates a society where the gap between the top and the middle let alone the bottom is just too big for comfort and I think that's one reason why, both here and in the States, people are asking quite seriously whether capitalism is the answer. I think it is but it has to be a more ethical capitalism,' she says.

'Shareholders have been incredibly lax and haven't taken their ownership responsibilities seriously. It's all about people who aren't really interested in having a long-term holding in a business. They're there for a quick profit. There are plenty of exceptions but where things go really wrong it's because investors are too nervous to do things that might be a long-term benefit to the business but will cause a short-term hit to profit.'

As a business journalist, Patience worked for several of the UK's major newspaper titles with career highlights including meeting Microsoft founder Bill Gates. Her time in newspapers culminated with the editorship of the *Sunday Telegraph* and, after a break to lead a forensic audit panel for London mayor Boris Johnson, Editor in Chief of *The Wall Street Journal Europe*.

'Being editor of a national newspaper is a fantastic privilege; it's just a great variety of life. A single day could involve a briefing with the Head of the Defence Staff, lunch with an actor, writing something and an editorial conference about a murder,' she says.

'I had a wonderful time but I have a horrible fear that people going into journalism now wouldn't have quite as much fun as I did. They tend to spend a lot more time in front of a screen whereas we were always encouraged to get out and about.'

Patience obviously thrives on variety as in addition to her role as a peer, she is currently involved with several different organisations and businesses. A trustee of the British Museum and a member of the British Olympic Association advisory board, she is a non executive director of both the car manufacturer Fiat and financial services company St James's Place, in addition to still writing occasionally for *The Times*.

'I could never have planned how my life has gone. I just feel I've been really very lucky. I remember Professor Robert Pennington, on my graduation day from Birmingham, telling me it was a bad move not to go on to practice law but I think actually I've had more fun than the lawyers,' she says.



### Baroness Patience Wheatcroft at a glance

**Name:** Baroness Patience Wheatcroft

**Born:** 28 September 1951

**Family:** Patience is married with three grown-up children and became a grandmother for the first time in June

**Interests:** Walking, opera (she attends the opera festival at the Arena di Verona each year), spending time with family

**Did you know?:** Patience attends weekly yoga classes in the Speaker's River Room at the House of Lords



# GOING GREEN

From an artificial leaf to growing vegetables and improving air quality, the great outdoors is inspiring research at Birmingham.

Money doesn't grow on trees but an innovative new method of manufacturing metal carbides does.

Using leaf skeletons, Birmingham Fellow Zoe Schnepf and colleagues at the Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces in Potsdam, have developed a simple process to create a magnetic leaf. During the research, the team converted the carbon of a leaf skeleton into a complex iron carbide microstructure.

Metal carbides cover a wide range of materials. Some of these are more familiar, such as tungsten carbide, used in drill-bits, while others are used as catalysts for speeding up chemical reactions.

Iron carbides have been around for thousands of years in steel manufacture, but it is difficult to prepare pure iron carbide with a small particle size. For many modern applications, it's the small particle size or high surface area that is really important.

Metal carbides are particularly interesting at the moment since they could replace expensive and rare platinum as catalysts in many industrial applications. One of the aims of Zoe's work is to develop iron carbide as a cheaper and more sustainable alternative to platinum. The magnetic leaf shows that it is possible

to fabricate iron carbide into really varied and intricate structures.

To create the leaf, the team soaked a leaf skeleton in iron acetate solution, which was then dried in air and heated under nitrogen. The leaf skeleton decomposed to a carbon-rich matrix and the iron acetate decomposed to iron oxide. Carbothermal reduction of the iron oxide produces an iron carbide 'leaf'.

'The idea is that you can take any carbon-rich starting material, such as fabric or wood, and convert it into a metal carbide replica.'

Zoe said: 'The most important and surprising aspect was the leaf's stability. We could pass an electrical current through it and use that energy to produce oxygen bubbles, without the leaf being damaged.'

But where did the leaf skeleton idea come from? Zoe explained: 'I'm keen on crafts like pottery, so I had some leaf skeletons! We weren't trying to make an artificial leaf from a leaf skeleton – the idea is that you can take

any carbon-rich starting material, such as fabric or wood, and convert it into a metal carbide replica.'

Since conducting this research, Zoe has focused on producing metal carbides with higher surface areas, using other materials (high surface areas enable chemical reactions to happen quickly. By making materials with tiny pores, a very high surface area is produced in a small amount of material).

She said: 'We've produced an iron carbide-based material that has really high activity as a catalyst, which we're excited about. I'm planning to apply some of these materials for artificial photosynthesis, using sunlight to produce useful fuels, such as hydrogen.'

Zoe will be joining the University this autumn as one of 55 Birmingham Fellows, outstanding postdoctoral researchers appointed to permanent academic posts with five years' protected time for high-quality research. The scheme is supported by the Circles of Influence campaign. See the Vice-Chancellor's welcome on page 2 for further details.

#### Learn more

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/excellence/fellows/about](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/excellence/fellows/about)

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



## Centre for Urban Food Growing takes seed

Plans for a new Centre for Urban Food Growing are gaining momentum at Winterbourne House and Garden.

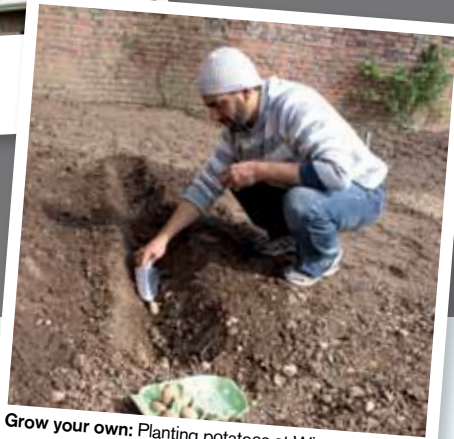
The concept, currently entitled 'Urban Veg' will introduce ideas on how urban food production can encourage conservation, well-being, sustainability and social interaction. Training courses and practical talks on how to grow food will be available to local community members.

One of the centre's aims will be to tackle the issues behind obesity and help the community to develop healthier eating habits.

Sales and Marketing Manager Anna Williams said: 'We're still in the early stages, but Winterbourne staff and our Urban Veg community volunteers are really excited about the centre.'



**Veg in the city:** A bed planted by the Centre for Urban Food Growing



**Grow your own:** Planting potatoes at Winterbourne

## Planting ideas for pollution-free cityscapes

New research has shown that considered planting of trees and vegetation can significantly reduce air pollution.

Birmingham and Lancaster-based academics have found that low-laying plants and 'green walls' can sometimes have a greater impact on filtering vehicle emissions than trees, as the latter can form canopies over streets, preventing oxygen from mixing with the atmosphere.

The report, which provides information on how and where to effectively plant vegetation, has been well received by councils, planners and architects.

Rob MacKenzie, Professor of Atmospheric Science, said: 'Evidence that 'greening' cities has many social and environmental benefits is growing. Organisations are starting to invest in this area and give it much greater consideration.'

The research is part of the Woodland Trust's Urban Air Quality report available at <http://tinyurl.com/cufem4w>



*Image: Richard Barnes*



*Image: Jim Smith*

# CREATING A NEW DIMENSION

Technology pioneer Osman Kent (BSc Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, 1981) has been making waves throughout his career with cutting-edge developments.

It is hard to remember a time when we didn't own a PC or a Mac, couldn't relive our favourite movies in 3D or wile away our time playing video games from the comfort of our homes. We have Birmingham graduate Osman Kent to thank for some of these guilty pleasures.

Known as one of the founding fathers of the 3D graphics revolution on the PC, serial technology and media entrepreneur Osman, originally from Turkey, first came to England to pursue his passion in music. With his parents' encouragement to study a more 'proper' subject, he became part of the first cohort of students at Birmingham to study the joint honours programme, Computer Science and Electronics Engineering, developing the world's first music transcription machine in his final year.

'It was a fascinating degree, but as we were the first ever intake, it wasn't very organised,' Osman remembers. 'I think we did just about everything the Computer Science and the Electronics Engineering students did and so it was very intense but I had a fantastic time.'

He credits his time at Birmingham for helping to shape his ambitions which led to him becoming the co-founder and CEO of 3Dlabs, one of the fastest growing companies in Silicon Valley, USA and at one time a \$1billion company on NASDAQ.

'I had so much encouragement from my tutors at Birmingham that I literally felt like I could change the world,' he says. 'The belief system made us all feel like we really could do anything we wanted and make a real difference and some of us have.'

'I loved my time at Birmingham so much that I wanted to stay there forever. I applied for a job in the Computer Centre after graduation and it was my old professor on the interview panel. He smiled at me and then refused to interview me, saying he would be doing the world a disservice by keeping me there. I was upset at the time, but with hindsight it is one of the best things anyone has ever done for me.'

Doing exactly what he said he would never do after witnessing the trials and tribulations of his business-owner father, Osman, aged just 25, set up his own company with a fellow Birmingham graduate Dr Yavuz Ahiska (BSc Electrical Engineering, 1974). benchMark Technologies Ltd created the first computer with high-resolution graphics, transforming police fingerprinting stations and graphic animations.

The giant DuPont corporation purchased benchMark for \$12 million in 1988 and four years later, Osman and partner Yavuz Ahiska engineered a management buyout of DuPont and 3Dlabs was born. The world's first graphics chip for PCs was developed by the company the following year which kickstarted the 3D revolution that has become so ubiquitous today.

'It's quite nice to know that we had a hand in helping PCs become the workstation of choice and the dominant graphics platform,' he explains. 'Especially as it was such an audacious idea as neither of us had ever designed a chip in our lives.'

With all of these amazing achievements behind him, it is a much more humbling moment which Osman points to as being the proudest of his professional career.

'Around the time of September 11 the stock markets took a hit and the company went through a really tough time. We had a cash-flow crisis and it was looking likely that I would have to lay off half our employees,' he remembers.

'The management team stood up and told the workforce that we were all taking 20% salary cuts, and I had agreed to an annual income of \$1. Of course we couldn't force our employees to do the same, but we said any contribution they could make would have a real difference. I was in tears by the end of the night as without exception everyone in the company had reduced their salary by 10-20%. It was really inspiring to know that everyone believed in us







## Osman Kent at a glance

**Name:** Osman Kent

**Born:** 28 March 1958 in Turkey

**Family:** Osman met his wife at the University of Birmingham on his third day of freshers week. They have three sons together and regularly make a pilgrimage back to Birmingham.

**Interests:** An accomplished musician, composer and producer, music is his first passion and he recites Rumi poetry in this spare time whilst improvising on the piano.

**Did you know?** His technology has appeared in many blockbuster films including Titanic and The Matrix.

[www.numecent.com](http://www.numecent.com)

[www.songphonic.com](http://www.songphonic.com)



Up and away: Osman Kent helped kickstart the 3D graphics revolution

so much that they were prepared to make those sacrifices.'

The company and Osman soon bounced back, selling the following year to Creative Technology Ltd, which gave Osman the freedom to pursue his first love of music. His own record label, Songphonic Records, was born in 2004 and Osman used his knowledge from the engineering industry to 'incubate' talented artists, growing new contemporary music stars.

'The rock 'n' roll lifestyle looks very glamorous from the outside but it certainly isn't meritocratic like the engineering industry. I found it very frustrating – I was working with some great artists who just weren't being recognised and so I was lured back into technology by Numecent two years ago and am really excited for our next project.'

His next project has been described as 'magic', 'revolutionary' and 'groundbreaking' by technology critics who believe Osman's new company, Numecent, could be on the verge of completely transforming the software industry. Their development of 'cloudpaging' technology will allow users to download any software from the cloud, instantly. The software will even run without an internet connection and is already sparking excitement in the online gaming industry.

As well his passions for music, technology and poetry, Osman also claims he can talk anyone to death on the subject of ageing and mitochondria. 'I became obsessed with mitochondria some years ago after reading a popular science book about it. I look at it as an engineering problem and believe that the real secret to youth is to remain engaged in something that challenges you.'



# CELEBRATING 80 years of art



Barber Institute anniversary sparks a host of activities and launches fundraising campaign for major redevelopment project.

One of the University's gems is planning to mark its milestone 80th birthday with a year-long series of exhibitions and events.

Acknowledged as being one of Europe's finest small art galleries, the Barber Institute of Fine Arts will begin its celebrations on 13 December, the 80th anniversary of the foundation of the Barber (the building itself wasn't officially opened until 26 July 1939), with the exhibition 'Portrait of a Lady', featuring some of the 23 portrait paintings, and drawings of Dame Martha Constance Hattie Barber who founded the Institute, alongside a selection of important, rarely seen large tapestries and lace that she owned, photographs, letters and other historical documents relating to the foundation of the Institute.

Robert Wenley, the Barber's Acting Director, says: 'Our 80th anniversary is a chance to celebrate this amazing institution – Lady Barber's legacy – as well as raise the Barber's profile as we look to the future. We will also be using it as a platform to launch the funding campaign for our planned major redevelopment.'

The work will see the building of a new extension, as well as the refurbishment of much of the existing building, to provide a new suite of dedicated exhibition galleries, a restaurant, level access, a new suite of learning rooms, a larger print study room, better facilities for the care of the collections, improved facilities for artists performing in the Barber concert hall, improved meeting rooms for use by museum staff and for teaching, as well as better office accommodation.

Robert continues: 'The Barber has grown into what is now a thriving public art gallery and concert hall, as well as "an institute for the study and encouragement of Art and Music" – as Lady Barber herself stipulated – and this dual role means that more is demanded of the building. Visitors expect to have access to certain facilities and we need more space in which to do our work and do justice to this world-class collection.'

A major part of the celebrations will be an exhibition of the first 12 paintings bought by the Institute, including works by Monet, Manet and Turner, at the National Gallery in May 2013.

Before the anniversary year begins, however, The Barber will be opening its major exhibition of the 2012–13 season: *In front of nature: the European landscapes of Thomas Fearnley*, on 19 October. This groundbreaking show of beautiful, dramatic and varied paintings by the under-appreciated Norwegian 18th-century artist will certainly also be worth a visit.

If you would like to become a Patron of the Barber Institute, make a donation or leave a legacy to the Institute, contact [andrewdavies@barber.org.uk](mailto:andrewdavies@barber.org.uk). To find out more about its work and exhibitions, visit [www.barber.org.uk](http://www.barber.org.uk).





## Clean fuel for Brazil

Clean hydrogen created from food waste by Birmingham researchers could be a particularly valuable bioenergy alternative for Brazil.

Currently, Brazil is the world's most intensive user of bioethanol as an alternative to petrol for powering transport but there are questions about whether the mass production of bioethanol using sugarcane is sustainable in the long-term.

Bioethanol generates carbon dioxide and agricultural waste. However, creating clean hydrogen from waste not only uses that waste but provides a fuel that is emission-free and can also be generated sustainably.

Professor Lynne Macaskie, Professor of Applied Microbiology, presented the research at a collaborative bioenergy workshop in São Paulo in May.

'Fuel cells need clean energy to run them. If you provide bacteria with a supply of sugary waste from, for example, chocolate production, the bacteria can produce hydrogen. At the moment manufacturers pay to dispose of waste but with our technique they could convert it to clean electricity instead,' she says.

'Bioethanol is the current biofuel of choice in Brazil but our research shows the huge potential for biohydrogen to be the fuel for the future. Biohydrogen could even be made from the wastes from bioethanol production - two biofuels for the price of one. More work from focused teams, however, is needed, as agricultural wastes are tougher for bacteria to digest.'

Birmingham is investing significant funding developing links and research collaborations in Brazil alongside the University of Nottingham. Learn more at [www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/collaborate/brazil](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/collaborate/brazil)



## Immunologist elected Fellow

Congratulations to Ian MacLennan, Emeritus Professor of Immunology, who has been made a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Ian, the former head of the Department of Immunology and then the Division (now School) of Immunity and Infection, has made several landmark contributions to immunology, especially to our understanding of antibody production. He joined 43 other eminent scientists drawn from all areas of science, medicine and engineering elected to the distinguished status earlier this year.



'I am delighted to receive this recognition of the work we have done in University of Birmingham Medical School over the past 30 years on the way antibodies are produced in response to vaccines and can efficiently protect us from infection.'

## DID YOU KNOW?

### The controversial human rights activist Malcolm X visited Birmingham just weeks before his assassination.

This report from *Redbrick* describes a speech 'Mr X' made to the Islamic Society on Friday 12 February 1965. Just over two weeks later, on Sunday 21 February 1965, he was shot dead as he prepared to address the Organization of Afro-American Unity in Manhattan.





# CONNECTING THE DOTS

The growing power of alumni networking means it is increasingly possible to create personal and professional relationships through networking opportunities. We are here to help you do this with our ever-expanding online networks.

Eight years ago, the idea of one Stanford University graduate transformed the way we build relationships forever more. Now the social networking service Facebook has more than 900 million active users and has spawned the creation of a wealth of other social media channels including micro-blogging platform Twitter and the professional networking space LinkedIn.

Social networks provide an online platform designed to enhance an individual's virtual presence and facilitate relationship-building 24 hours a day. Communities of people with shared interests, activities or real-life connections can now interact with each other on a global scale which can generate amazing opportunities.

Here in the Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARO), we are proud to remain connected to more than 169,000 of our former students, a community which includes Nobel Prize winners, scientists, journalists, entrepreneurs, teachers, engineers, politicians, sportsmen and women, nurses, authors, musicians, actors, and even a *Strictly Come Dancing* contestant. Alumni are making a real difference in today's society and our growing online networking presence is making it much easier for you to connect with each other and keep in touch with us.

We always love to hear from you and what you have been doing since graduating from Birmingham. Staying connected with us can help you in so many ways and we would like to invite you to join our social media networking channels to be able to make the most of these benefits and make new connections with fellow graduates with an affinity to Birmingham.

'Time spent at university is full of memories and experiences that people will talk and reminisce about for years to come,' explains Ayaan Mohamad (BA Media, Culture and Society, 2009) Community Manager at Birddog Ltd and a social media enthusiast. 'There is a sense of familiarity when you meet someone who went to the same university as you and it provides a good foundation on which business relationships can be built. Business is about networking and relationships so being part of such a huge alumni community gives you the opportunity to communicate with a large group of people that is spread all over the world.

'Joining the DARO social networks means alumni can increase their own networks, connect with people who share similar interests; participate in discussions and debates, while also learning from one another. I personally like to attend networking events to be able to meet online connections in real life. Following the DARO accounts means I find out about alumni events instantly and can also talk

to others online who say they are attending. This helps to build up some rapport before we actually meet,' she adds.

Depending on how you already use social media, we have multiple ways you can connect with your fellow alumni. You can share your memories and photos with us and your fellow alumni by liking the University of Birmingham Alumni Facebook page. You can join more than 10,000 business professionals on our University of Birmingham Alumni and Friends LinkedIn group to engage in the latest topical debate, converse about career opportunities, seek employability advice and find out about forthcoming events. Or you can tweet us via @birminghamalum with your latest thoughts, ideas and news and gain up-to-date information from the DARO team via our Twitter channel.

We regularly have alumni posting their latest job opportunities on LinkedIn and sharing their memories with us on Facebook and our newly-launched Twitter account is the first destination for our latest news. We will be expanding our presence on this platform in the future with a series of guest tweeters, and a regular question time for you to enjoy.

'Even with the growth of social media the fundamentals of human nature have not changed. We are social beings and like to be in the company of people we like, trust and who share our similar interests. Being connected to others online gives us access to a much wider audience and opens up new opportunities,' adds Ayaan.

The old saying 'it's not what you know, but who you know that counts' has never been more pivotal in today's competitive job market and the fast-paced lives we lead means it is increasingly important to build relationships when you are on the go. Let us help to increase who you know and start sharing your thoughts, experiences and advice with your fellow alumni by joining your alumni networks now. There are also a growing number of individual school and college alumni networks to look out for.





**Training hard:** The Jamaican Track and Field team were based on campus in the run-up to the games



**First gold:** SportEx student Pippa Woolven made history by becoming the first athlete to win a gold medal at the Olympic Stadium during the British Universities and Colleges Sport Visa Outdoor Athletics Championships in May



**Alumna archer:** Naomi Folkard competed at London 2012

# Olympic legends give thanks to Birmingham

From helping the world's fastest man, Usain Bolt, make history to boasting Gamesmakers and Paralympians among our students and alumni, Birmingham struck gold at London 2012.

Still breathless after sweeping the board in the 200-metre sprint, Jamaican runner Usain Bolt and his team-mates took time out to personally thank Birmingham for its role in their Olympic success.

Being interviewed after Jamaica took all three medals in the event, gold medallist Bolt said: 'I'd like to say all the big up to Birmingham, the University. That's where we trained, they really supported us. We got everything possible. We got indoor facilities, the gym and everything so for me it's an honour. Thank you guys for everything you have done for me really. Thank you.'

A total of five Birmingham alumni achieved selection for Team GB at the London 2012 Olympic Games, all performing in front of capacity crowds.

The 2011 World athletics silver medallist Hannah England (BSc Biochemistry, 2009) had a tough summer after suffering an Achilles injury earlier in the year. She showed determination to not only achieve selection but went on to qualify for the semi-final of the women's 1,500m, where she finished 9th.

Elsewhere in the Olympic stadium, Louise Hazel (BA French Studies, 2008), finished a credible 27th on her Olympic debut in the Heptathlon. Louise threw a huge personal best in the javelin during the second day of competition to cement a solid performance.

With the GB men's hockey team, goalkeeper James Fair finished second in group A and reached the semi-finals, losing to the Netherlands. The team then narrowly missed out on the bronze medal to world number one team, Australia.

Finishing 5th in the final of the women's 8 competition, rower Lindsey Maguire (BSc Mathematics and Psychology, 2002) and the rest of her team performed outstandingly.

Competing at her third Olympics archer Naomi Folkard (BA Music 2005) narrowly missed out on a place in the last 16 of the Women's individual archery event, losing to 10th seed Mariana Avitia of Mexico.

As the Birmingham Magazine went to press, five alumni and one current student were due to compete in the Paralympics. Best of luck to:

- **Tom Hall-Butcher – Wheelchair Fencing** (Maths and Sports Science)
- **Dean Miller – Athletics** (BA Sport, Physical Education and Coaching Sciences, 2011)
- **Lora Turnham – Cycling** (BSc Physiotherapy, 2010)
- **Pamela Relph – Rowing** (BSc Physics, 2011)
- **Anna Tipton – Goalball** (BSc Physiotherapy, 2009)
- **Michael Sharkey – Goalball** (BSc Physiotherapy, 2007)

## Behind the scenes

Whether it was coaching the Bermudan swimming team, producing victory ceremonies or volunteering as Gamesmakers, our alumni contributed to London 2012 in all manner of ways. For details, visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/news](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/news)

## Stay in touch with UBSport

To keep in touch with former team-mates and be the first to know about opportunities to come back onto campus, join the UBSport alumni club. Within UBSport alumni club are four Friends of UBSport groups dedicated to engaging specifically with their club alumni: Athletics, Hockey, Korfbal, and Swimming.

## Keep in touch

- [www.sport.bham.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.sport.bham.ac.uk/alumni)
- [www.facebook.com/UBSportalumni](https://www.facebook.com/UBSportalumni)
- LinkedIn: **Search for University of Birmingham Sport**
- [www.twitter.com/UBSport](https://www.twitter.com/UBSport)



## Seminar raises debate on nursing care standards

A sell-out audience attended a seminar looking at the reasons and potential remedies for poor nursing care.

Hosted by the University's Health Services Management Centre (HSMC), the seminar discussed the *Time to care?* policy paper, which considered practical solutions to improving nursing standards, as identified by a nursing think tank.

These included aspects of nursing and the hospital environment, such as a return to multi-bedded wards, where staff are visible to patients; redefining nurse/ward leadership roles; and providing emotional support for nursing staff who regularly deal with distressing situations.

To view the paper, search for the HSMC publications area of the University's website.

'This kind of engagement is a great opportunity for all parties. I am really looking forward to meeting the winner and giving them the same experience and input that elite players receive when we work with them on improving their golf swing.'



In the swing: Behind the Scenes competition winner Dr Matt Bridge

# GOLFING BEHIND THE SCENES

Inspirational academic wins contest to share his research with a member of the public.

Olympic torch bearer, University hero and Senior Lecturer in Coaching and Sports Science, Dr Matt Bridge has been voted the academic alumni, staff, students and members of the public would most like to go behind the scenes with.

Five of the University's most inspirational academics took part in the University's Behind the Scenes competition, a showcase of the innovative research taking place across campus and five lucky entrants won the chance to spend a day with one of the academics. The winners, chosen at random, joined the academics in their exciting work, experiencing firsthand some of the most exciting research taking place at the University.

The prizes on offer were: the chance to create an interactive robot demonstration with

computer scientist, Dr Nick Hawes; to be an orangutan for the day with free-running athletes and biologist Dr Susannah Thorpe; to improvise a musical composition with the Birmingham Electroacoustic Ensemble and musician Dr Scott Wilson; to develop the perfect golf swing with sports coach Dr Matt Bridge; and listen to the music of the stars with scientist Professor Bill Chaplin.

Dr Matt Bridge just pipped his competitors to the post to win the University's first ever Behind the Scenes competition, receiving the most votes. His research focuses on the developmental processes of athletes and the physical limitations to technique, especially in golf. Using high speed 3D motion analysis, Matt is able to analyse the movement of the golf swing and its effect on ball flight.

# Happily ever after

Earlier this year we asked our LinkedIn followers to share their stories of falling in love with fellow Birmingham graduates and we were inundated with tales of happy endings. We spoke to two couples who are living the fairytale with a fellow alum.

Following in the footsteps of the Queen, Birmingham graduates Perry (PhD Chemistry, 1953) and Barbara Taylor (Cert. Ed., 1950) have been celebrating their very own diamond anniversary this year, commemorating 60 happy years of marriage.

Meeting at a social dance just two days before Perry began studying at Birmingham, the couple who now live in California, USA, have travelled the world, raised two children and started a successful business together.

In a time before mobile phones and affordable cars, the couple arranged dates via post and often had to take more than one bus across the city to see each other. While Perry doesn't believe in love at first sight, Barbara knew instantly he was the one for her. 'I went to the dance with my girlfriends and I spotted Perry sitting on the side and instantly knew he was the man I would marry. I thought 'oh no' to myself, 'I don't want to meet you yet!' but a ladies' choice dance came on and I had to know more about him so I asked him to dance,' she remembers.

The couple dated on and off during their studies at Birmingham, spending many Saturday nights at the 'hop' in the Great Hall and were married in London on the last day of the tax year, in 1952. The following summer they left the UK aboard the Queen Elizabeth for America where Perry had secured a postdoctoral position at Northwestern University, Illinois. 'At times I find him exasperating, but I have truly never been bored,' explains Barbara, describing the thing she loves most about Perry. 'That's why I packed up my belongings and moved all around for him.'

Perry forged a successful research and development career and Barbara was part of the campaign trail helping to get Jimmy Carter elected President in 1976. Their two daughters were born and raised in California and they now have five grandchildren. Instead of enjoying retirement and watching their family grow, they decided to set up a walking tour company when Perry retired in his mid-50s and British Coastal Trails, Inc. was born.

The couple ran the company for 20 years before selling it and enjoying their second retirement. They were overjoyed to be reunited with their family to celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary in Las Vegas earlier this year, a day they described as 'magical'.

Another couple who found love at Birmingham are Samantha Fullwood (BA Medieval and Modern History, 2009) and Chris Rylands (MEng Chemical Engineering, 2009) who met while working as Student Ambassadors for the University's Academic Enrichment Summer School Programme in August 2007.

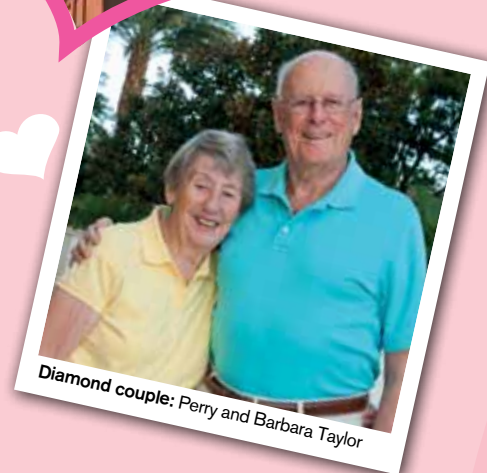
'Chemical engineers and historians wouldn't usually cross paths, but I'm glad we had our chance meeting as we really hit it off,' says Chris.

'Neither of us expected to fall in love while we were at university but we were dedicated to each other and wanted to make it work,' Sam adds.

During their time studying at Birmingham, the couple got to know each other and merged into each other's friendship groups. Chris would often cook dinner for Sam; they attended pub quizzes together in Selly Oak and scoured the Student Beans website for date deals. By chance they both graduated on the same day in 2009 when their parents met for the first time.

After graduation the couple spent a year living apart and travelling to see each other but soon realised they wanted to be together properly so Sam moved to live with Chris in Bournemouth. When Chris realised he wanted to spend the rest of his life with Sam, he set about planning a romantic proposal, which included designing her engagement ring.

'As soon as I had the ring, I waited for the next sunny day and suggested we take a trip down to the beach. Sam insisted we put our shorts on and take a Frisbee, I was nervous and just wanted to get there. We both sat down and looked out towards the sea, the ring was in my pocket and so I got down on one knee,' he explains.



Diamond couple: Perry and Barbara Taylor

'I was stunned and excited and ran around in circles for a bit,' remembers Sam. 'It was a very romantic proposal in front of the number 52 blue beach hut, so we will always remember the exact spot.'

They have chosen St Mary's Church, Selly Oak and Edgbaston golf course as the wedding and reception venues later this year to bring everyone together (34 alumni in total!). They are delighted to have the wedding back in Birmingham, where Chris's parents also met and later fell in love.



Bride and groom-to-be: Sam Fullwood and Chris Rylands

If you have a story you would like to share please email [alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

# Aspiration and innovation

Our Careers and Employability Centre is partnering with students and alumni to increase graduate employability.

Run centrally, the centre has doubled its staff from 30 to 60 people in the past four years to become the largest University careers service in the UK, allowing a broader range of skills and more specific positions to support students.

Birmingham's results in the 2010/11 Destinations of Leavers in Higher Education survey shows that this approach is working; 79.1% of leavers were in graduate employment six months after graduating, an increase of 5% on last year putting us in a more competitive position in the Russell Group.

Alumni are playing a key part in helping increase students' employability; from funding internships for students like Bryony Whitten (see below), acting as mentors or simply offering words of wisdom through the social networking site LinkedIn.

'Our alumni volunteers are invaluable in giving our students confidence and something to aspire to,' says Student Engagement Officer Jess Holloway-Swift.

## LOOK DEEPER



### Panda placement

Recent graduate Bryony Whitten (BSc Biological Sciences, 2012) worked at the Panda Breeding and Research Centre in Sichuan, China, on a placement funded by our international work experience scheme.

The once-in-a-lifetime opportunity included witnessing the birth of a panda cub and Bryony used the placement to inform her final year studies and achieve a first class degree.

'My internship will set me apart when applying for work or graduate positions as I have gained hands-on practical experience with exotic animals. It was for a very prestigious organisation that has already been very successful towards attaining its goal of reproducing panda cubs,' she says.

Innovative schemes to promote careers education within the University include the Student Employability Team, a group of 31 student interns employed by the centre who encourage others to use its services, international student ambassadors, who assist international careers advisors, and a blog about the arts and culture scene in Birmingham to help students develop their communications skills.

The centre would be particularly interested to hear from alumni from ethnic minorities, women working in science and engineering, and archaeologists who would like to offer a paid internship or work shadowing placements. If you can help, please contact Volunteer Relationship Manager Kerrie Holland via [k.holland@bham.ac.uk](mailto:k.holland@bham.ac.uk) or +44 (0)121 414 4139.



'My experience in such a diverse country with very different cultural values shows that I can adapt to various situations and that I will be flexible in multicultural environments.'

Bryony is one of the students featured in our Birmingham Heroes marketing campaign. Use our Look Deeper app (see page 38 for more information) and scan the picture to watch her video. If you would like to help fund a similar placement for a student next year, text CIRC06 plus the amount you wish to give to 70070.



## New treatment hope for bladder cancer patients

Findings from a major trial have shown that bladder cancer patients receiving low doses of chemotherapy with radiotherapy are almost 50 per cent less likely to relapse, compared to patients receiving radiotherapy alone.

The trial, led by the University of Birmingham, in collaboration with The Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) in London, focused on 360 UK patients. Half were given chemotherapy drugs in combination with radiotherapy to increase the effectiveness of radiotherapy on the bladder tumour, half standard radiotherapy alone.

Just over 18 per cent of patients receiving chemoradiotherapy relapsed within two years in the bladder, compared to the 32 per cent who had radiotherapy alone, a reduction in risk of relapse of 43 per cent. In addition, the benefit was achieved with modest increases in short-term toxicity and no measurable increase in long-term bladder side effects. Furthermore, bladder function in the majority of patients was excellent.

The findings provide an alternative to surgery for bladder cancer patients in general and in particular those with other medical problems making them high-risk candidates for removal of the bladder.

If you would like to support cancer research at Birmingham, visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/circlesofinfluence](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/circlesofinfluence).

### Build a building



### Support a student



### Fund a research project





# In the news

Birmingham researchers are continually making headlines locally, nationally and internationally with new research discoveries and comments on national news stories. Here we take a look at a snapshot of recent researchers in the news.



Talking skin: Dr June Jones and Dr Dawn Harper on BBC Breakfast

- **Dr Jonathan Grix** from the Department of Political Science and International Studies was interviewed by *Time* magazine about the politics of the Olympics and the lasting legacy of the London 2012 Games.
- *The Sunday Telegraph*, *Daily Mail* and a host of international outlets including *The Times of India*, *New York Daily News* and *The Vancouver Sun* featured reproductive medicine expert **Dr Jackson Kirkman-Brown's** research findings that sperm crawl and collide on the way to the female egg.
- Psychologist **Dr Suzanne Higgs's** work on the effects of drinking alcohol in unfamiliar environments was reported in *The Wall Street Journal*.
- *BBC News*, *Materials World* and *BBC Radio 2* interviewed astrophysicist, **Professor William Chaplin** about the recent 'surges' and 'energetic events' in the atmosphere of the sun.
- **Dr Caroline Sturdy Coll's** research uncovering mass graves at a former Nazi death camp was profiled in the *Radio Times* as their radio choice programme of the week ahead of the *BBC Radio 4* documentary, *Hidden Graves of the Holocaust*. The research was conducted at Birmingham as part of Caroline's PhD and was also featured in a number of national and international news outlets.
- Academics from our School of Sport and Exercise Sciences were featured in the second episode of ITV's *Biggest Loser* programme, putting the contestants through health and fitness tests.
- A new particle discovered by Birmingham researchers involved in the ATLAS experiment at the Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland was covered by the national and international press including an interview with **Professor Paul Newman** for *BBC Radio 5 Live* and print coverage in *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Huffington Post* and the *Bangkok Post*.
- **Dr Kataryna Wolczuk** from the University's Centre for Russian and East European Studies (CREES) was interviewed by *BBC Radio 4 Today* talking about Ukraine, the country and its people, ahead of EURO2012.
- Local radio station, *BBC WM*, interviewed bioscientist, **Professor Kevin Chipman** about the 40th anniversary of the construction of the Spaghetti Junction and the potential for lead poisoning in those who lived nearby.
- Director of Sport, **Zena Wooldridge OBE** was interviewed by *The Guardian* for a major piece on the Jamaican and USA track and field teams pre-Olympic training camps.

Channel 4's Embarrassing Bodies Live from the Clinic broadcast from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham and featured academics Dr June Jones and Dr Dawn Harper who announced on BBC Breakfast a groundbreaking new skin condition database



Embarrassing Bodies: The Channel 4 show was broadcast live from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital



# Hong Kong's high flyers

Some of the most influential people in Hong Kong are proud to be Birmingham alumni. The Birmingham Magazine spoke to four former students at the top of their professions about working life, the province's future and their memories of Birmingham.



**Kwok Hing Woo**  
(LLB Law, 1968)  
Commissioner on  
Interception of  
Communications  
and Surveillance  
(C/ICS)

Reviewing the

conduct of Hong Kong's law enforcement agencies in interception or covert surveillance operations is the responsibility of Kwok-Hing Woo, former Chairman of the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) and a retired Court of Appeal judge.

Kwok Hing's current post is completely the opposite from his previous role at the EAC, where he spent 13 years making electoral arrangements compliant with the principles of openness, fairness and honesty. Now his duty is to oversee and review law enforcement agencies' work and to ensure that they do not carry out any operations without authorisation.

'I must adhere to the principle that nothing must be done that may prejudice the prevention of crime and protection of public security. I cannot even explain to the public why I do a certain thing or why I denounce a certain LEA officer whenever that may involve divulging information of which criminals and would-be criminals could take advantage,' he says.

Kwok Hing's many fond memories of Birmingham including the quaint and peaceful surroundings of his hall of residence, Manor House, the mid-morning breaks when law students in their black gowns tramped to the refractory for coffee, and the occasional escapade into the city centre to have Chinese cuisine for lunch.

'The long lasting effect of my time at Birmingham is my friendship with two folks at Manor House who also came from Hong Kong (Robert Tang and Albert Li). We still see each other quite often nowadays, 44 years after my graduation,' he says.



**Anna Lin, a MBA graduate of Birmingham and Chief Executive of GS1**

The next time you see a bar code on the new video camera or CD

you have bought, think of Anna Lin.

GS1 is a global Non Governmental Organisation responsible for supply chain standards and technologies and barcodes are one of the most visible aspects of its work. Anna and her colleagues are working in more than 150

countries worldwide to create a new kind of language to facilitate global trade.

'We are currently moving into barcode technology, for mobile devices so in the future the consumer can scan a barcode on a product package anywhere in the world and access information about it,' Anna says. 'I really enjoy my work because it's an opportunity to improve global trade and make life for consumers better and safer.' Anna describes China as a powerhouse in terms of manufacturing but believes the country will have to focus on the domestic market if its economy is to continue to grow.

As for the future of Hong Kong, Anna believes its traditional role as a trading arm between East and West will change as China develops its internal consumer market and the province will become a base for the professional services needed to support manufacturing.

Anna's husband, Terry To, also studied at Birmingham and one of her enduring memories is the picturesque green campus. 'It was a very different experience to the condensed environment of Hong Kong,' she says.



**Guy Look (Bachelor of Commerce, 1979)**  
CFO/ Executive Director at Sa Sa International Holdings Ltd  
Since Guy Look joined Sasa, one

of Asia's largest cosmetic retailing and beauty services groups, ten years ago, the business's market capital has increased by 20 times. The modest CFO believes Birmingham is partially to thank for this success.

'Seeing the difference and the contributions I have made to the company is very satisfying. I owe a lot of that to what I learnt at University,' he says, adding he still applies many of the basic concepts learnt in the classroom to his work. However, his time at Birmingham was not all about studying; he was table tennis team captain and part of a close-knit community in University House.

Guy sees the major challenge facing Sasa is that it achieved 20–30% growth in the retail market in 2011 but the business, and the market itself, are experiencing slightly slower growth this year. As an accountant he is trained to have high ethical standards, so his approach is to tone down expectations to make sure his messaging combines good news with the not so good.

When it comes to growth in Hong Kong itself, Guy thinks the special administrative region will continue to benefit from major growth in mainland Chinese spending.

'The number of Chinese people visiting Hong Kong increased by 23.9% last year and as long as our product offerings remain attractive and prices remain competitive, people will continue to visit and spend. China has a VAT rate of 17.5% while Hong Kong has 0% and multiple entry permits by the Chinese government have continued to ease travel. Hong Kong has become increasingly integrated into China and both China and Hong Kong are investing heavily in infrastructure to facilitate our integration,' he says.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Guy believes snail cream could be the next big thing in the beauty product industry.

'It is coming to the UK, but perhaps at a snail's pace,' he jokes.

The philosophy behind the product is that snails have soft bodies that glide across rough surfaces, and this causes damage so they have the ability to repair themselves very well. The product repairs and revitalises damaged skins, including scars.

**Adrian Mak (BSc Chemical Engineering, 1983)** CFO at Television Broadcasts Ltd, Hong Kong's dominant broadcaster

Working as an accountant for a broadcasting company, Adrian Mak is a long way from his degree subject at Birmingham, Chemical Engineering.

But he has never regretted moving into accountancy: 'As I moved into the later part of my degree course, I started to develop more interest in working in the business world and I

chose accountancy because of the discipline of this profession,' he says.

After a training contract at KMPG (Peat Marwick Mitchell & Co. in those days) in Birmingham, Adrian returned to Hong Kong, where he worked for a variety of high-profile companies before joining TVB in 2004.

'I find working in media very challenging. The market is very dynamic in the sense that there are so many events that could impact on our business. So I don't have a fixed routine and every day is different,' he says.

Adrian describes his life on campus at Birmingham as wonderful and still keeps in touch with fellow 1983 graduates thanks to Pont Chiu (BSc Accounting and Finance, 1982) who organises regular alumni events.

'We are part of an informal group but I hope it can be developed into a more formal alumni group so that we can assist the University in keeping in touch with this part of the world. I am sure the younger graduates can help set up this association and expand our network,' he says.



**Geoffrey Ma (LLB Law, 1977)**, Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal

'For me, the University represents everything that is good about the city in which it is

located: its spirit, its people and most important of all, its soul,' says Geoffrey Ma, who studied Law at Birmingham and is now second only to the Chief Executive of Hong Kong in the city's hierarchy of important positions.

As Chief Justice, Geoffrey is responsible in overseeing the whole of Hong Kong's Judiciary, from top to bottom. He enjoys the role because he knows he is contributing to the Hong Kong community and providing residents with the stability to go about their affairs. He says this understanding of how law ultimately benefits a community was first developed at Birmingham.

Geoffrey has a very positive view of modern Hong Kong and says one of the city's most impressive features in the past 15 years since the resumption of sovereignty in 1997 is most people's awareness of basic human rights and liberties.

'This is an indication of respect for fundamental notions of justice and eventually of respect for one another,' he says.

'Characteristics of a society where there is respect for rights and liberties, particularly in Hong Kong where people live in close proximity to each other, include tolerance, sympathy and basic humanity, and I am confident this represents modern day Hong Kong. Isn't this what all universities strive to teach? I learnt a lot of this from my time at Birmingham.'

# Alumni of the Year



**Luciana Berger**  
(BCom Commerce  
with Spanish, 2004)

Luciana Berger is the Labour and Co-operative Member of Parliament for Liverpool Wavertree.

Elected in May 2010, Luciana was quickly promoted to be Shadow Minister for Energy and Climate Change by Labour Party leader Ed Miliband.

Before entering Parliament Luciana worked for top management consultancy Accenture advising FTSE 100 companies including Barclays and BP, as well as the London Stock Exchange. She then joined Accenture's Government Strategy Unit supporting UK Government departments including the Treasury before the 2006 Comprehensive Spending Review and Prime Minister Tony Blair's Delivery Unit.

After leaving Accenture Luciana was appointed Government and Parliamentary Manager for the National Health Service Confederation. And from 2007 to 2010 she was the Director of Labour Friends of Israel, a non-profit organisation working to achieve peace in the Middle East.



**Christine Arthur**  
(BA English and  
Communications,  
1988)

Christine Arthur is the Managing Director at McCann PR in Birmingham, an international leader in public relations. In this role she has overseen and helped lead McCann's communications and PR, winning them influential clients such as Vauxhall, National Express, Siemens and RWE npower.

Prior to her work with McCann Erickson, Christine had also worked as managing director for both Key Communications and SMARTS.

Christine remains highly active in the University, talking to students at the University's 'Careers in PR day'. Furthermore her work with the Arts and Law careers team in providing work experience and internships for students wanting to pursue a career in PR is invaluable.

Nominate your Alumni of the Year 2013 by emailing [c.f.osullivan@bham.ac.uk](mailto:c.f.osullivan@bham.ac.uk) by 18 March 2013. Find out more at [www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni)

## Queen's New Year's Honours 2012

Congratulations to the alumni listed below, who were awarded New Year's Honours in 2012

**Sir John Armit** (Hon DEng, 2008) KB

**Professor Melvin Ainscow** (MEd Education, 1980) CBE

**Professor Karin J Barber** CBE

**Sir Doug Ellis** (Hon DUniv, 2008) CBE

**Professor David Phillips** (BSc Eng and Physical Sciences, 1961; Hon DSc, 2011) CBE

**Dr Nigel E Mansell** (Hon DEng, 1993) CBE

**Derek E Nicholson** (MA French Lang and Lit, 1969) MBE

**Steven G Tuft** (BPhil Education, 1978) OBE

**Dr Ian G McPherson** (PhD Psychology, 1987) OBE

**Margaret M Appleton** (MSocSc Economic and Social History, 1992) MBE

**Douglas H Smith** (MEd Education, 1994) MBE

**Sylvia A Parkin** (MSocSc Health Services Management, 1996) MBE

**Antonina C Robinson** (BA History, 1997) MBE

**Gustav I Macleod** MBE

**Mohammed F Uddin** (MSc ILGS, 2006) MBE

## Queen's Birthday Honours 2012

Congratulations to the alumni listed below, who were awarded Birthday Honours in 2012

**Sir Kenneth Branagh** (Hon DLitt, 2001) KB

**Professor Sir Michael J Sterling** (Hon DEng, 2009) KB

**Aidan K Cotter** (LLB Law, 1962) OBE

**Dr Elaine M Padmore** (MA Music, 1966; Hon DMus, 2008) OBE

**Brenda M Billington** (MBChB Medicine, 1974) OBE

**Professor Ashraf Jawaid** (MSc Eng Prod, 1979) OBE

**Nigel L Carter** (BDS Dentistry, 1975) OBE

**Dr Margaret P Guy** (MBChB Medicine, 1976) MBE

**Dr Robert M Bloomfield** (BSc Biological Sciences, 1979; PhD Genetics, 1982) OBE

**Katie Tearle** (BA Music, 1983) MBE

**Kamal Hanif** (PGCE Education, 1993) OBE

**June Mulroy** (BSc Psychology, 1973) MBE

**Gill Dawson** (BA French and Spanish, 1972) MBE

**Simon A Wright** (BSc Civil Eng, 1976) OBE

**Dr Keith H Shackleton** (Hon LLD, 1983) MBE

**Kathleen Paintin** (UGDip Education, 1995) OBE



# Honorary graduands

Six of our exceptional alumni were awarded honorary degrees this summer.



**Ann Widdecombe (BA Latin, 1979) – Doctor of the University**

Ann was a Member of Parliament for Maidstone, and then Maidstone and The Weald from 1987 until her retirement in 2010. Prior to her parliamentary career Ann worked in marketing at Unilever, and as a senior administrator at London University. Ann has held several parliamentary positions including Minister of State for the Department of Employment, Minister of State for the Home Office, Shadow Home Secretary and Shadow Health Secretary. She has enjoyed a successful writing career penning a number of books one of which, *The Clematis Tree*, rose to number eight in the Times Best Seller List.



**David Murray (BMus Music, 1975) – Doctor of Music**

David is the Director of the BBC National Orchestra and Chorus of Wales. After a period of research, David joined the BBC Radio 3 Music Department. He has held senior posts at EMI Classics and Deutsche Grammophon, and has won an abundance of major international classical recording awards. David has close links with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and was consulted on the acoustic design of Symphony Hall. In his current position David's concert hall home is the purpose-built BBC Hoddinot Hall in Cardiff Bay.



**Professor Jude Kelly OBE (BA Drama and Theatre Arts, 1975) – Doctor of Letters**

Jude is the Artistic Director of Southbank Centre, Britain's largest cultural institution. She founded Solent People's Theatre and Battersea Art Centre and was the Founding Director of the West Yorkshire Playhouse. In 1997, Jude was awarded an OBE for services to the theatre. She has directed over 100 productions and worked with organisations such as the Royal Shakespeare Company. Jude is the founding member of Metal which provides a platform where artistic hunches can be pursued in community context.



**Dr Andrew Vallance-Owen (MBChB Medicine, 1976) – Doctor of the University**

Andrew is currently Chair of the Guild Trustee Board. A trained surgeon, he joined the staff of the British Medical Association later becoming Scottish Secretary, and then Head of Policy. He recently retired from Bupa, where he was accountable for the safety and quality of care of Bupa's 11 million customers. He is a keen advocate of improved doctor-patient communications, measurement of clinical outcome and shared decision making, and is actively involved in the fields of healthcare and education, including chairmanship of UK Trade and Investment's Healthcare Business Group. Andrew is an alumni leadership mentor.



**Sir Alex Markham (BSc Chemistry, 1971, PhD Chemistry, 1974) – Doctor of the University**

Alex is Professor of Medicine at the University of Leeds, and has over 15 years' experience in the pharmaceutical and diagnostics industries. In 1990 he was recognised by the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement for the worldwide development of DNA fingerprinting for forensic and medico-legal applications. He was Chief Executive of Cancer Research UK from 2003 to 2008, and currently chairs the Clinical Practice Research Datalink, which will research the use of NHS electronic patient records. Professor Sir Alex was knighted for 'Services to Medicine and Healthcare' in 2008.

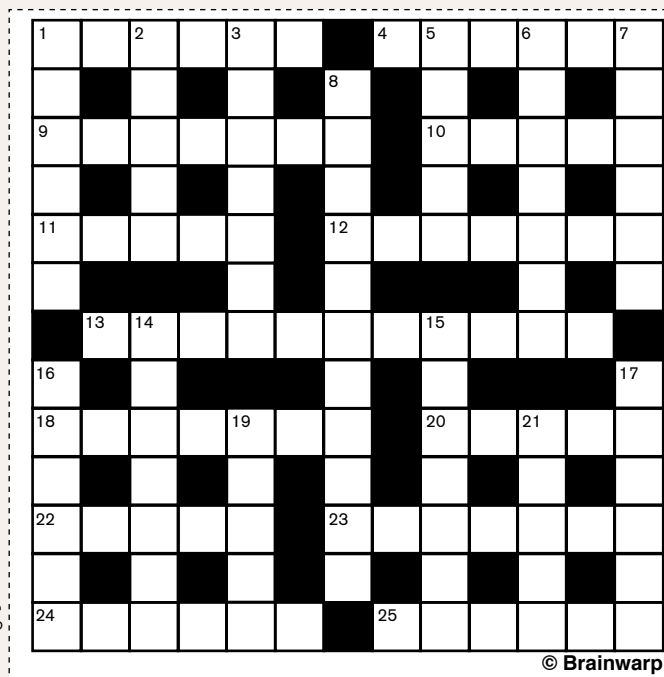


**Kevin Isaac (MIS Diplomacy, 1995) – Doctor of the University**

Kevin has had an extensive career as a diplomat. He is the youngest and first career diplomat of the Federation of St Kitts and Nevis to be elevated to the rank of High Commissioner/Ambassador. He is a graduate of the Universities of Toulouse-Mirail, West Indies, Birmingham and Warwick. He is the St Kitts and Nevis Permanent Representative to the International Maritime Organisation, and Governor on the Board of the Commonwealth Secretariat. High Commissioner Isaac is also a published poet.

# Puzzles – Benefits – Giving

**Competitions:** Complete our tricky teasers for your chance to win some University merchandise.



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© Brainwarp

ACROSS

1. Metallic element, used in alloys and as a pigment (6)
4. University city of Pakistan (7)
9. Football club who won the English League in season 1988–89 (7)
10. Surname of the German brothers who made a collection of fairy tales (5)
11. City of Japan which was its capital until 1868 (5)
12. Volcanic island off Sicily, famous for its sulphur pools (7)
13. Seaside resort in Sussex where King George V convalesced in 1929 (6,5)
18. One of the four evangelists (7)
20. Surname of the defeated finalist in the Ladies' Singles at Wimbledon in 1992 (5)
22. The Bronte sister who wrote 'Wuthering Heights' (5)
23. Member of the Japanese military caste (7)
24. Colourless, odourless gas of the methane series (6)
25. Song of praise or gladness (6)

DOWN

1. Surname of the writer, famous for '2001: A Space Odyssey' (6)
2. Italian musical term for the lowest male voice (5)
3. English cathedral city, known as *Lindum* to the Romans (7)
5. An early computer language (5)
6. The Japanese art of paper-folding (7)
7. Moorland of Devon and Somerset, much of which is a National Park (6)
8. Novel by Charles Dickens, published in 1838 (6,5)
14. Largest extant bird, a native of Africa and Arabia (7)
15. American inventor whose interest in early photography led him to produce the first effective roll film in 1884 (7)
16. French physicist after whom the unit of electrical current is named (6)
17. Bluish-white heavy metal discovered by Tennant in 1803 (6)
19. Austrian composer who established the regular symphonic form (5)
21. Timber tree introduced into Britain in the 17th Century (5)

## Competition

For your chance to win the five books recommended by Mark Billingham on page 8 and a copy of *Chocolate Wars*, this year's Great Read at Birmingham, answer the following question:

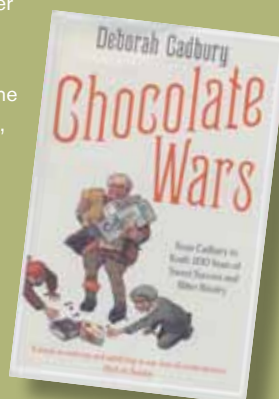
Which role did Mark Billingham play in the BBC children's show *Maid Marian and her Merry Men*?

### How to enter:

To enter the crossword and Sudoku competitions, cut out and return your completed entry (photocopies will be accepted) to: Magazine competition, Alumni Office, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT, England by 31 December 2012.

Entries for the books competition can be emailed to [alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk) or posted to the address above by 31 December 2012.

Please remember to include your name, address, contact telephone number, subject, and year of graduation. Terms and conditions apply.



## Bring the Birmingham Magazine to life

Our free Look Deeper app uses augmented reality to bring some of the features in this magazine to life.

If you have an iOS device (Android version coming soon), you can download the app and scan the images on pages 32 and 40 of this magazine to watch videos of the stories featured. For other smartphones, look out for QR codes to take you to the videos.

The Look Deeper app was first designed to modernise the front cover of our undergraduate prospectus and is now used across the University.

THERE IS MORE.  
LOOK DEEPER.





Circles of influence

# Donation form

## Save money with the new Alumni Benefits package

The University's Alumni Benefits scheme is saving shoppers thousands of pounds.

Alumni Benefits has helped more than 1,600 users save more than £7,000 through exclusive deals from hundreds of retailers including John Lewis, Apple, Sainsbury's and Expedia.

To register, visit:

<https://uobalumni.corporateperks.com/login>

Alumni Benefits is offered by a partner organisation that negotiates national and regional discounts for members.

## Your social networking groups

Track down old friends and find out about University news and events through our alumni Facebook fan page, called University of Birmingham Alumni. We also have a new Twitter feed. Follow @birminghamalum.

You can build useful networks and find out more professionally-focused information via our alumni group on LinkedIn, called University of Birmingham Alumni and Friends.

**Sign up today!**

## Supporting the University is easier than ever

### JustGiving



This is the quickest and easiest way to raise money for the Circles of Influence campaign. When you have decided how you would like to support us, let us know and we can help you to set up your own fundraising page online. Then, you simply email the link to all your friends and family so they can support you. Please visit [www.justgiving.com/universityofbirmingham](http://www.justgiving.com/universityofbirmingham)

### Text giving



You can also give through text message by sending a text to 70070 with CIRC02 followed by the amount you'd like to give, for example, CIRC02 £5. Please remember to Gift Aid your donation so your gift is worth 25% more at no extra cost to you.

### Fundraising

By organising an individual or group activity, you can make a contribution, however big or small, to your chosen project in the Circles of Influence campaign. For more information, contact +44 (0)121 414 8894 or [alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

### Give As You Live

Thousands of stores will donate to the University of Birmingham when you shop online at no extra cost to you! Simply visit [www.giveasyoulive.com](http://www.giveasyoulive.com), follow the download instructions and start shopping to raise money for the University of Birmingham's life-saving research. Contact Laura Fairbanks at [l.fairbanks@bham.ac.uk](mailto:l.fairbanks@bham.ac.uk) for more information.

Full name and address

Postcode  Year of graduation

Tel no  Email

Relationship to the University

**Making the most of your gift (UK taxpayers only)** 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.\* **I agree that the University of Birmingham can treat all donations I have made in the past four years and all future donations I make from the date of this declaration as Gift Aid donations.**

\* 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 25% from the tax reclaimed. Find out more at [www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving)

Signature  Date

**I wish to make a gift to:**

- Health and Lifestyle  Children and Young People  
 Heritage, Culture and Sport  Student Support  
 Innovation and Immediate Impact\*

If you would like to specify a particular project please do so here:

\* 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

### Cheque/CAF voucher

I enclose a cheque made payable to the University of Birmingham or a CAF voucher for

£25  £50  £100  £250  Other £

### Credit/Debit Card

Please debit £  from my Visa / MasterCard / Maestro / AMEX (delete as applicable)

Card number

CCV number\*  \* The last 3 or 4 digits found on the signature strip on the back of your card.

Name on card:

Start date  /  /  Signature

Expiry date  /  /  Date

Issue number (Maestro only)

Regular gift (UK bank account)  £2  £5  £10  £20  £50  Other

Monthly/Annually commencing on 5th



**Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay Direct Debit**

To: The Manager Bank/Building Society

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of the account holder(s)

Bank or Building Society account number

Branch sort code  /  /  Originators ID Number: 830107

**Instruction to your Bank or Building Society**

Please pay the University of Birmingham Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee (to be sent with your confirmation letter). I understand that this instruction may remain with the University of Birmingham and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature  Date

- Please send me information on making a bequest to the University of Birmingham in my will  
 I would like to discuss making a gift with a member of the University's Development team  
 I do not wish my name to appear on the list of supporters of the University of Birmingham  
 Please send me information about fundraising for the University of Birmingham

Please return this form to: Development and Alumni Office, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT, England (and not to your bank). Please note a completed photocopy of this form is acceptable.

**Thank you.**

All data is kept in accordance with our data protection statement. A copy is available at [www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/stayingintouch/data-protection.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/stayingintouch/data-protection.aspx) or by ringing +44(0)121 414 2771.



Circles of influence

# Helping children like Robin



Robin has autism. Our researchers diagnosed him and provided play therapy to help him interact better with the world around him. He is now doing well in mainstream education.

To help other children like Robin get the support they need, text AUTM22 £5 to 70070 to give £5 today.

You can also give by completing the donation form on page 39 or online at [www.birmingham.ac.uk/circlesofinfluence](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/circlesofinfluence)

Use our Look Deeper app (see page 38 for more information) and scan the picture to watch our autism research in action.



LOOK DEEPER



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