



# Flying the flag

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# Flying the flag





Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Eastwood

## YOUR BUZZ

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# Vice-Chancellor's View

## Birmingham: at the heart of informed debate

We are about to have both a debate and a vote on whether we should have an elected mayor in Birmingham. This is not a minor local matter – it takes us to the heart of the kind of political system we have inherited and asks us whether we want to change, and change profoundly, the way we govern ourselves.

Since the 1830s, Britain has been a remarkably centralised state. The explanation for this is, of course, complex but three key elements stand out.

The first is the very particular history and constitution of our parliament. The British constitution has evolved and, despite references to Magna Carta, the 1688 Revolution, and the Acts of Union, we have no formal constitution for the British state.

The history of our constitutional evolution has been a history of the emergence of the sovereignty of parliament in general, and the House of Commons in particular. Whereas other systems have, through formal documents, 'constituted' their state (think, for example of the American Constitution, or, more recently, what happened after the 1989 revolutions in Europe), in Britain constitutional evolution has been focussed on the struggle for parliamentary sovereignty. Westminster parliament established its primacy over the monarch, over the other territories of these islands, and over local government and local institutions. This is very different from what happened in Europe and in North America, for example.

What emerged is what I have called the doctrine of the sufficiency of parliament. The struggle for rights, for liberty, and for representation has been largely a struggle for the right to be represented in parliament. The supremacy of parliament, and latterly the House of Commons, has not really been challenged, though judicial review and European institutions have limited the previously unfettered sovereignty of the House of Commons.

The second reason for our becoming a highly centralised state is parliament's claiming superior legitimacy and using this to modernise and control all aspects of public policy. Thus from the 1830s onwards, local government has been subordinated to Westminster and Whitehall and policy has been made in Whitehall, with local government confirmed to

executing that policy, perhaps with some local variations.

Before the 1830s, for example, what we would now call welfare policy (poor relief, pensions, care for the orphaned and elderly) was administered locally, prisons and police were locally run, roads were locally managed, and education delivered by local and voluntary agencies. When localities pioneered new approaches, not least this city and Joseph Chamberlain in the 1870s, their policies on public health, housing, and education were rapidly adopted by, and then controlled through, central government.

The third reason for our being a highly centralised state is that meaningful tax-raising powers have, since the 1840s, resided with central government. In the 1830s all attempts to give local government serious tax-raising powers were seen off, so an increasingly inadequate rating system persisted. From 1846 local government has been supported by central government grants, and with those subventions has come central control. If local government is to be powerful and autonomous, it requires financial freedoms, so that localities and their electors can decide on priorities.

From time-to-time, the British state has considered devolution. This is one such moment. Powers have been devolved to Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland, and further devolution or even independence may yet follow. It is, incidentally, instructive that Scotland's claim to independence is based in part on North Sea oil revenues giving it tax-raising potential. As I have said, money matters.

Alongside this, the Coalition has raised the issue of elected mayors, and the ensuing debate is a debate we are helping to shape here in the University. Of course the University can't and won't take a position on elected mayors, though many of our staff will and many of us will have a vote on 3 May in the referendum. What the University will do is play our part in ensuring this is an informed debate and that, as a city, we can make an informed decision.

Advocates of elected mayors argue that a mayor will breathe new energy, focus, and purpose into local government. The mayor will embody and promote the city. Interest in the politics of our city, in the challenges we face and the opportunities we have will

Continued from page 2

all be enhanced. The profile of Birmingham will be raised, and we will compete still more effectively with the great global cities.

Opponents of an elected mayor argue that it is a distraction. That the cult of personality involved is alien to our representative and participatory political tradition, that the potential for conflict between mayors and elected councillors could create gridlock, and that a mayor would get bogged down anyway in the minutiae of local politics. In short, it wouldn't work.

These are serious issues, which are being seriously debated. A crucial debate will be that hosted by the University on 29 February. I hope many of you will be there to hear and to contribute to that debate.

Whatever the outcome, though, if there is to be effective change, then, whether or not there are elected mayors, we will need to agree to reverse nearly two centuries of our history and systematically decentralise power back to cities and to regions. We will need to modify fiscal centralism, where all tax-raising powers are held in Whitehall, and allow localities and local electors to decide both on priorities for spending and levels of taxation; and we will need to accept that things are done differently, and thus by implication better or worse, in different cities and different parts of the country.

It would be a radical change. It would reduce the power of parliament. It would mean that the Today Programme couldn't call in all-powerful ministers and assume they could speak for the whole of the country. It would also, if it was to be meaningful, have profound implications for a whole range of services well beyond those currently delivered through local government.

In the University we can do no more than help frame and inform the debate. This we are committed to doing. We can hope that the debate is lively and engaged, and engages most of the electors and not just a minority. It will be fascinating to see how the debate evolves and whether we want to embrace the challenge, and risk, of governing our city very differently. **If we do, the responsibility for making it work will be on all of us, and not just on a mayor we then elect.**



# Have your say

## on campus communications

**Results of the Have Your Say 2011 staff survey show that, although there have been improvements in internal communication and employee engagement from Have Your Say 2009, these continue to be key areas for development across the University.**

The Stakeholder Relations Team has begun a comprehensive review of University internal communications; to inform recommendations for future internal communications strategy and to further improve the content and format of campus communications.

The review will focus primarily on corporate internal communications which are managed by the Stakeholder Relations team. The team is part of External Relations and produces internal communications channels including Buzz, Buzz-bitesize, Buzz social media, the staff intranet, and staff events such as the VC Forum, Birmingham Professional Forum, and Meet UEB.

Your views and feedback will be vital in ensuring that the review identifies key messages and channels and that communications are tailored as far as possible to the needs and interests of our University community.

See page 18 for further details on the 29 February Mayoral Debate and how you can attend.

### Share your views

There are several opportunities to add your feedback and suggestions on campus communications

- **Survey** – Share your views on the format and amount of information you currently receive on University news and developments. Survey feedback will help to ensure that corporate internal communications messages are informative and accessible for all and to highlight any ways in which we can improve future communications across campus. The survey should take a few minutes to complete, and can be completed anonymously. Access the survey online at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/uobicsurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/uobicsurvey), paper copies are also available from the Aston Webb reception.
- **Email** – Please email [internalcomms@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:internalcomms@contacts.bham.ac.uk) if you have views or suggestions on areas of internal communication that are not covered in the survey or would like to provide more detailed feedback on your survey responses.
- **Focus Groups** – We will be running several focus groups across campus on key communications topics. Please email [internalcomms@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:internalcomms@contacts.bham.ac.uk) if you would like to attend.

Results and recommendations from the review will be available in future editions of Buzz and Buzz-bitesize. For further details visit [www.intranet.bham.ac.uk/staff/feedback.shtml](http://www.intranet.bham.ac.uk/staff/feedback.shtml)

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Celebrating success

Congratulations to our Careers and Employability Service who beat off stiff competition to win the National Internship and Placement Award 2012 for University Commitment to Employability. The team have also been shortlisted for the Best Work Experience Programme in the Public Sector in the National Council for Work Experience 2012 Awards.

### Excellence in Teaching or Supporting Student Learning Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2011–2012 Awards for Excellence in Teaching or Supporting Student Learning. The scheme recognises outstanding work of the University's teaching staff and the individuals/teams that support teaching and learning activity. Details for how to nominate are available within your School/College. For further details including scheme guidelines visit [www.as.bham.ac.uk/clad/celebrating\\_excellent\\_teaching/teach\\_awards.shtml](http://www.as.bham.ac.uk/clad/celebrating_excellent_teaching/teach_awards.shtml)

### Santander joins University

A collaboration agreement has been signed between Santander Universities and the University of Birmingham. Santander Universities will fund scholarships and awards for students and staff to study in the UK and abroad. They will also provide financial support for student entrepreneurship activities. Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Eastwood said: 'The Santander scholarships will help the university recruit the very best postgraduate students from overseas and build the extent of our global networks with leading institutions around the world'. Santander will also support Birmingham's Formula Student racing team and car.

The initiative includes a new campus Branch that recently opened in the Guild. The branch is open to staff, students and members of the public. Exclusive products for University staff can be viewed at [www.santander-products.co.uk/universities/index.html](http://www.santander-products.co.uk/universities/index.html) Branch Manager Phillip Rumjahn says 'we are here to support all students and staff members so I would welcome anyone to contact me at [phillip.rumjahn@santander.co.uk](mailto:phillip.rumjahn@santander.co.uk).

# Raising the profile of science

Buzz would like to welcome clinical anatomist, author and broadcaster Dr Alice Roberts to the University. Alice joined on 1 February as our first Professor of Public Engagement in Science. She has become familiar to many of us through her regular appearances as a science presenter on TV programmes including Coast, Time Team and Horizon, as well as The Incredible Human Journey, and Origins of Us. Alice's new role will see her work across all of the University's disciplines. In addition to lecturing and PhD supervision, she will help to further work in promoting our academics and their research, and encouraging public engagement with science.

Alice originally studied Anatomy before



completing a Medical degree and a PhD in palaeopathology. Prior to her appointment at the University of Birmingham, she was Director of Anatomy at the NHS Severn Deanery School of Surgery, a Research Fellow at Hull York Medical School, and an Honorary Fellow in Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Bristol. In 2011 she was elected an honorary fellow of the British Science Association.

## University celebrates joining Athena Swan

The University has recently joined the Athena SWAN Charter, promoting sustainable careers and an awards system for female academics in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects. The Athena Working Group, led by Professor Adam Tickell, has undertaken a self-assessment of current working practices with a view to achieving a bronze university award for Birmingham. The results of the application will be published in March 2012.

To launch this exciting new initiative, Professor Tickell hosted a lunch for colleagues across the five Colleges, including Heads of Schools, members of the HR community and the Women in Academic Medicine group. The guest speaker, Professor Averil Macdonald, has worked within the Athena SWAN scheme since 2007. Averil is well known for pioneering Science Outreach through a wide range of projects designed to show



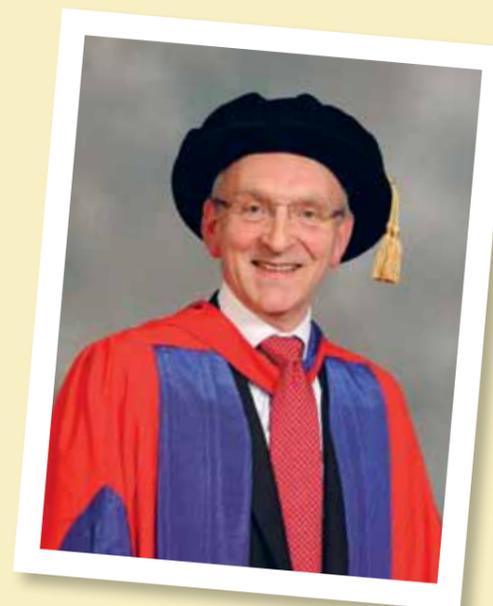
people the fascination and careers opportunities of Science.

Professor Macdonald also presented Professor Yvonne Elsworth, of the School of Physics and Astronomy, with her Institute of Physics award. The Payne-Gaposchkin medal is awarded for distinguished research in plasma, solar or space physics. Professor Elsworth's prize was awarded for her research into the development of Helioseismology into a unique quantitative tool to probe the deep interior of the Sun, illuminating stellar structure and evolution.

For further information on Athena Swan and how you can get involved visit [www.equality.bham.ac.uk/staff/athena.shtml](http://www.equality.bham.ac.uk/staff/athena.shtml) or [www.athenaswan.org.uk](http://www.athenaswan.org.uk)

# profile

## Mike Gilbert... in my own words



Little did I realise when I first visited the University of Birmingham in the autumn of 1968 that it would lead to an association with the University that is now entering its sixth decade. When I was accepted at Birmingham I was unaware how truly life changing the University would be from both a professional and personal perspective. My relationship with the University began with my undergraduate degree in Physics, and has progressed through many iterations to my current position as Treasurer of the University Council.

After graduating in the early 1970s I took what may have been considered an unorthodox route for a Physics graduate and joined Coopers Brothers & Co (now PricewaterhouseCoopers) and qualified as a chartered accountant. I was fortunate enough to work on, and on becoming a partner be responsible for, a number of iconic Midlands businesses and organisations including Cadbury's, Land Rover, Jaguar, The National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham International Airport and of course The University of Birmingham. I was also responsible for graduate recruitment throughout the 1980s. This brought me back into contact with the University and allowed me to gain insight into development and careers aspects of the student experience.

During the 1990s I became a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants' board for accreditation of examination courses. I also assumed responsibility for a number of Higher Education external audits in the Midlands, and from 1993 to 2000 held that role here at the University of Birmingham.

In 2005 I was invited to join the University Council and a year later became its Treasurer. This role, involves having oversight of the University's finances, and I am also Chair of the University's Investment Committee which oversees the policies relating to around £80 million of long term endowments – a role which I have thoroughly enjoyed!

I also have many personal connections with the University. My degree was not the only positive outcome of my time within the School of Physics, I was also lucky enough to meet my wife Anne in a lab in the Poynting Building, where she was also studying. Anne subsequently studied for her PGCE at Birmingham ensuring that I maintained my connection with the campus in the early 1970s.

My youngest daughter is currently studying Geography at the University, although at present she is training with the GB hockey squad in preparation for the Olympic Games!

The campus has a wow factor that has not diminished since that first day I set foot in Chancellor's Court in 1968. I still get the same 'buzz' of anticipation and expectation, as I did on that very first visit. To me the Birmingham campus gives a sense of stability and stature, but also innovation and creativity and it is those characteristics which have held sway for me.

Since becoming Treasurer I would like to think that I have helped to shape the future direction of this world class University in what are now very demanding times for Higher Education. It is undeniable that the sector is under severe funding pressures, but I feel that the University is ideally placed to survive and thrive throughout these austere times.

I am firmly committed to the goals and underlying ethos of the University's Strategic Framework, and believe that delivering academic excellence should remain at the heart of all we do. We also need to continue to develop our status on the international stage. The diversity and experience of Birmingham's staff and students are key facets of its unique character and an aspect I hope that we can build upon in the future.

I am very glad to have been afforded the opportunity to maintain my connection with the University and to play a part in the civic, national and international building blocks which form the corner stone of our longer term plans with Birmingham and the city at their heart.

I was delighted to receive an honorary degree from the University in December 2011 and to have the opportunity to share highlights from my long relationship with Birmingham with new graduates. Who knows – perhaps one of them will be returning to campus in 40 years time to make a speech of their own!

# Life, the Universe and everything

**Bryoney Johnson** learns how Birmingham academics are at the forefront of projects answering key questions surrounding fundamental theories in physics.



Most of us will have heard the words **CERN**, **Large Hadron Collider (LHC)**, and **Higgs Boson** in everything from news items to blockbuster films, but it can often be difficult to separate science fact from fiction and figure out exactly what these terms mean. What exactly is a quark? How and why are scientists recreating the big bang? What exactly is the difference between 'matter' and 'antimatter'?

We may not be able to answer all of these questions, but hopefully our brief guide to LHC experiments and the central role that Birmingham researchers and academics are playing in their development will go some way to defining the basics of Big Bang theory and beyond.

CERN is the European Organization for Nuclear Research and the location for the Large Hadron Collider, one of the largest and most significant experiments in human history. Scientists at the LHC are recreating conditions of the early Universe by colliding particles together at high energies in a 27km underground tunnel that crosses the Swiss

and French borders. The results of these collisions are helping researchers to understand the basic building blocks of everything around us today and the forces that act between them.

Professor Rolf Dieter Heuer, the Director General of CERN, visited the Birmingham campus in December to receive an honorary doctorate in Science. Professor Heuer received the accolade in recognition of his outstanding contribution in the field of particle physics and his distinguished career. Professor Heuer said: 'It's more than just an honour for me to receive an honorary degree from the University of Birmingham, it's also a great personal pleasure. My working relationship with the Birmingham physics department goes back well over 20 years, and I have many friends here... it's great to see them continuing to make strong contributions to the LHC experimental programme.'

There are currently four large experiments being carried out at the LHC, and Birmingham is the only University in the UK to be involved in three of these. Each experiment is hoping to uncover the mysteries of the universe by measuring particle collisions under conditions that would have existed less than a millionth of a second after the Big Bang. These experiments are all run by international collaborations, bringing together scientists from institutes all over the world, including many academics, postgraduate students and early career researchers from the University of Birmingham. Who better to ask about the LHC's largest experiments than the Birmingham physicists playing crucial roles in their development:

For further details on LHC experiments visit [www.lhc.ac.uk/default.aspx](http://www.lhc.ac.uk/default.aspx). To find out more about the role of the University of Birmingham at the LHC visit [www.ep.ph.bham.ac.uk](http://www.ep.ph.bham.ac.uk)



## ALICE

ALICE is the acronym for A Large Ion Collider Experiment, one of the largest experiments in the world. The experiment searches for answers to fundamental questions surrounding the birth of the Universe, and has successfully reproduced

conditions which would have existed just a millionth of a second after the Big Bang! This will allow ALICE researchers to better study a state of matter known as quarkgluon plasma, which is believed to have existed soon after the Big Bang – and is more popularly known as 'primordial soup'.

'ALICE is a collaboration of 1000 physicists and engineers from 33 different countries. Playing a leading role in such

a large, international collaboration and exploring the frontiers of physics is extremely exciting for the whole ALICE team here at the University of Birmingham. Due to our previous experience and expertise, we were asked to design and build one of the most crucial components of the ALICE detector – its trigger electronics (or electronic brain). This selects which particle collisions to record within a tenth of a millionth of a second after each collision.

In November 2010 and 2011, we collided lead nuclei together at almost the speed of light, making the highest temperatures and densities ever created in an experiment. As well as analysing a wealth of new data, we have already started to plan upgrades for the ALICE detector for implementation in 2018/19. We will also be carrying out our first radiation tests on some new prototype detector chips this year.'

Dr David Evans, Reader in High Energy Physics

## ATLAS

Birmingham physicists are part of a 3000 strong team of scientists working on the ATLAS experiment and researching the fundamental forces and particles that have shaped the universe since the beginning of time. Perhaps the most well known aspect of ATLAS research is the search for the Higgs boson, the elusive particle that could fill in a vital missing link in the accepted theory of particle physics and could tell scientists why everything in the universe has mass.

'The ATLAS collaboration must surely be one of the most exciting places to be in science at the moment. With the performance of the LHC in 2011 and the expectations for 2012, we can be fairly confident of answering the long-standing question of the Higgs boson in the next year or so. That will be a huge achievement for the LHC as a whole, and also for us as an institute. Birmingham group members are at the heart of the Higgs search analyses

and also built the electronics which allow us to select Higgs candidates from among massive collision rates with ridiculously short decision times.

It's also important to remember that the ATLAS experiment is doing far more than just looking for Higgs bosons. We've published well over 100 papers on all sorts of aspects of particle physics. One of my favourites was the discovery, made largely by Birmingham physicists, of a less famous new particle, named the  $\chi_b(3P)$ . It was the first such discovery at the LHC, but it won't be the last!

Professor Paul Newman, Head of Particle Physics Group



## LHCb

LHCb, or the 'Large Hadron Collider Beauty Experiment', explores what happened after the Big Bang to allow matter to survive and build the Universe we inhabit today. Just one second after the Big Bang, antimatter had all but disappeared and LHCb researchers are investigating the differences

between matter and antimatter that allowed only matter to survive. The LHCb detector studies a particle called

the 'beauty quark' to help explain the formation of all we see around us today – from Galaxies to all life on Earth.

'The Birmingham group has recently joined LHCb, and we are already leading the analysis of a rare decay of a particle containing the beauty quark and plan to present these results at Summer Conferences this year. Rare decays are the best place to search for new physics since, as the name suggests, they are predicted to occur very rarely and so sizeable deviations are a clear indication of something new. This is a very exciting time for LHCb; we are looking at many possible rare decays and processes, meaning that the space where new physics can exist is getting more and more constrained every day.'

Cristina Lazzeroni, Reader in Particle Physics

# LGBTQ

## NETWORK

David Mair, Head of Counselling in the Counselling and Guidance service, discusses the University LGBTQ network, and why we shouldn't fear to say queer.

Work plays a huge part in most people's lives. We often spend more hours a week with our colleagues than with our families, and so the people we work with, and the relationships we build with them, are important to us all.

Being able to feel relaxed and open about ourselves is key to doing a good job, to feeling content at work, and to being able to participate fully in the opportunities that work presents. I feel that it's especially important that staff who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, or queer (LGBTQ) should feel that the University is a safe, welcoming space where they are treated equally and with respect. As one of the convenors of the staff LGBTQ Rainbow Network, I'm committed to maintaining the visibility of LGBTQ issues and concerns across the University.

Some people might think 'why do they need a network for that? Heterosexuals don't have one!' But it's often too easy for all of us, even staff who are LGBTQ, to slip into the stereotypical 'heterosexual assumption'. This is the basic narrative that assumes the default position for everyone is that they are straight, married, and have kids, unless we are told otherwise. Time was that it would have been impossible for there to be a staff network encompassing gender and sexual diversity; and I feel credit is due to the University that it has 'moved with the times' and is fully committed to equal opportunities for all of its staff.



L-R: Sue Knight, David Mair, Ben Goodwin and Rory Shannon

With my formal 'work hat' on as head of the counselling service I'm also aware that for many students, coming out as LGBT or Q is still not always an easy, straightforward process. Although much has changed in society since I struggled to come out in the days of Mary Whitehouse, Gill Knight and Section 28, many students still dread telling parents, or flatmates. The counselling service provides extensive student support in the form of our online forum, Qchat, the support group that runs every year, and individual support through counselling. It's important for our students to know that the counselling service, and indeed the University as a whole, is not just a tolerant, and neutral space but that we are also actively supportive and facilitative.

The years of late adolescence have been described by one researcher as constituting a 'reminiscence bump', a key stage in life during which we shape our identities and answer basic questions such as: 'who am I, and what do I want for myself in life?'. For LGBTQ students, it can be hard to deal with these fundamental developmental tasks of young adulthood without first having a strong enough sense of themselves as LGBT or Q.

In November 2011, I organised a conference, together with a colleague from Cardiff University, exploring how university support services can be more proactive in addressing the needs of LGBTQ students, you can see presentations from the conference at [www.venuebirmingham.com/innerworlds](http://www.venuebirmingham.com/innerworlds).

The LGBTQ staff network is not only for LGBTQ staff. The network is open to anyone who wants to be supportive and get involved in some of our activities. We have our own webpage [www.equality.bham.ac.uk/staff/areas/orientation.shtml](http://www.equality.bham.ac.uk/staff/areas/orientation.shtml), mailing list, and Google group that all staff are welcome to join. When I was at university in the 1970's I once saw a notice pinned up that simply said: 'Don't be coy – join GaySoc'. Perhaps, in the spirit of LGBT History month you'll forgive me if I issue a similar invitation to anyone who wants to be involved with the University group, 'Don't be coy – join the staff LGBTQ Rainbow Network!'

For further details email [lgbtq@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:lgbtq@contacts.bham.ac.uk), I look forward to hearing from you.

'To me the staff group is important not only because it provides valuable support for LGBT colleagues, some of whom continue to experience negative reactions at work due to their sexuality, but in its existence I feel the University is able to demonstrate its commitment to supporting sexual minority groups, encouraging people to feel both valued and accepted as individuals and employees.'

Sue Knight, Wellbeing Advisor/  
Co-convenor of Staff LGBTQ  
Rainbow Network

'It ensures issues affecting us are tackled at a high level – and is a great way to meet people from the LGBT community working on campus.'

Ben Goodwin, Barber  
Institute of Fine Arts

### Find out more about LGBTQ

The LGBTQ Network, convened by David Mair and Sue Knight of the University Counselling and Guidance Service, was launched by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Eastwood, in March 2010. The aims of the network are:

- To provide social support and networking for LGBTQ staff (and their allies!)
- To maintain the visibility of concerns affecting LGBTQ staff on campus
- To raise issues of concern, and to promote best practice, via the Equality and Diversity forum
- To link with the student LGBTQ society, and build good relations between staff and students

Since its launch the network has been involved in organising events for LGBT History month, further details below, and a wide range of social activities for members. The group is also sometimes asked to participate in research or policy making concerning sexuality and gender and all network members are welcome to be involved in these research activities.

### LGBT History Month 2012

Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans (LGBT) History Month is a national campaign that takes place every February to celebrate the lives and achievements of the LGBT community. LGBT History Month 2012 focuses on sport and the invisibility of LGBTQ individuals in much organised sport. A full schedule of LGBT History Month events across campus is available on the network website at [www.equality.bham.ac.uk/staff/lgbtq.shtml](http://www.equality.bham.ac.uk/staff/lgbtq.shtml)

### Highlights include:

#### Who are you calling queer?

Date: Friday 17 February

Time: 12.00noon–2.00pm

refreshments provided

Venue: Muirhead Room 112

You might be wondering what the 'Q' of LGBTQ stands for. It can stand for 'questioning' or 'queer', to which some people might say 'that's offensive! I wouldn't want to call myself/anyone else "queer"'. We're lucky to have Dr Meg Barker, of the Open University, coming to campus to deliver a lecture entitled 'Who are you calling queer!?' Meg is a Senior Lecturer in Psychology, a writer on sexuality and relationships, a psychotherapist, and an LGBTQ activist. She edits the journal *Psychology and Sexuality* and co-organises Critical Sexology seminars. The Bisexuality Report, which Meg led, is out this month, and her book on love, 'Rewriting the Rules', will be published later this year. Why not come along and hear what queer is all about!

#### LGBTQ Birmingham in the 1970s

Date: Wednesday 29 February

Time: 12.30–2.00pm

refreshments provided

Venue: Arts Building Lecture Room 4

A lecture by Dr Graham Beards, one of the original founders of the University of Birmingham's student 'GaySoc' in 1974. Graham will talk about what it was like to be gay in 1974, and some of the challenges the student group faced in its early days. GaySoc played a key role in developing awareness and challenging stereotypes and prejudice – so Graham's role well deserves recognition from the university.



### Barber Institute events

The Barber Institute has several events planned for LGBT History month including: [Lunchtime Gallery Talk: Rosalba Carriera – Portrait of Gustavus Hamilton, 2nd Viscount Boyne](#)  
Date: Thursday 23 February  
Time: 1.15pm

Tess Radcliffe, the Barber's Learning and Access Officer, highlights Rosalba Carriera's beautiful pastel and looks at the equally colourful life of its sitter, Irish peer and politician Gustavus Hamilton, 2nd Viscount Boyne. The painting is only the third major work by a woman artist to enter the Barber collection – alongside paintings by the late 18th-century French portraitist, Elisabeth Vigée-Lebrun, and the early 20th-century British artist, Gwen John.



# LONDON 2012

## BIRMINGHAM'S TOP CONTENDERS

With the UK's biggest sporting event on the horizon, many of the University's alumni and current students are in the midst of preparations to make their mark at London 2012. University of Birmingham Sport have given us a guide to some of the top athletes to watch out for across a wide range of sporting disciplines in 2012 and beyond.



Naomi Folkard



Hannah England



Luke Gunn



Louise Hazel



Lora Turnham

### Archery

- **Naomi Folkard (BA Music, 2005)** Naomi made her Olympic debut at Athens in 2004 as the youngest member of the GB Archery squad. She has since gone on to collect an array of medals including silver at the 2010 World Field Archery Championships, gold at the 2007 World Cup in Dover and silver at the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games.

### Athletics

- **Hannah England (BSc Biochemistry, 2009)** Middle distance runner Hannah made headlines across the world after following an incredible 1500m run to earn herself silver at the 2011 IAAF World Championships in Daegu, Korea. The 24-year old was previously runner-up at the 2009 World Athletics 1500m final, and took home 1500m bronze at the 2008 National Championships.
- **Luke Gunn (BSc Sports and Materials Science, 2006)** Luke specialises in the 3000m Steeplechase and was crowned the UK National Champion for the third consecutive year in July 2011. The 27-year old is currently on a 12 month sabbatical from his role as University of Birmingham Sport Scholarship Manager to focus on his bid to make the GB team for London 2012.

- **Louise Hazel (BA French Studies, 2008)** Louise specialises in the heptathlon, the 27-year old is currently the Commonwealth Champion after securing gold with a personal best at the 2010 games held in Delhi.
- **Dean Miller (BA Sport, Physical Education and Coaching Sciences, 2011)** In 2011 Dean not only completed his final year of study, but also competed in the IWAS World Junior Championships (800m bronze, 1500m gold), Paralympic World Cup (800m 6th) and German National Paralympic Championships (800m silver). Dean currently works part time as Alumni Communications Assistant for DARO, alongside training at the University.

### Cycling

- **Lora Turnham (BSc Physiotherapy, 2011)** Along with her sighted pilot Bex Rimington, Lora has taken the Para-Cycling world by storm. In 2011 she won silver in both the Para-Cycling World Cup and Para-Cycling Track Championships. Her achievements are all the more impressive considering she only began her sporting career in 2009.

### Hockey

- **Susie Gilbert (BA Geography, 2012)** 22-year old Susie is a regular fixture on the women's GB and England hockey

squads, and is part of their centralised programme. In 2010 Susie won three bronze medals with England hockey for the Champions Trophy, World Cup and Commonwealth Games. She also plays for the University of Birmingham women's hockey team.

- **Simon Mantell (BCom Commerce, 2007)** Simon has had a successful career with GB and England hockey collecting 116 international caps since his debut in November 2005. The 27-year old currently plays for Reading Hockey club.

### Rowing

- **Pamela Relph (BSc Physics, 2011)** Pam was part of the team that took two gold medals in 2011 at the World Cup in Munich and the World Championships in Slovenia. In 2009 the 21-year old captained the University's award-winning cheerleading squad, the Birmingham Pussycats.

### Triathlon

- **Non Stanford (BSc Sport and Exercise Sciences, 2010)** Non began competing in Triathlon in 2008 following an injury from Cross Country running. By 2009 she was a top triathlete, and won her first bronze medal at the 2010 Premium European Cup in Brasschaat, Belgium.



## MarComms:

# Enhancing Birmingham's Reputation

Director of Communications and Marketing, **Alistair Jarvis** introduces the team.



The Marketing and Communications team (MarComms) is responsible for enhancing the reputation of the University. To build our reputation as a leading global university we must reach local, national and international audiences. We promote positive messages about the University's strengths through a variety of communications channels to a wide range of audiences including our students, staff, local community, prospective students, businesses, research partners, other universities, influencers and policy makers. There are four teams within MarComms: Ideas Lab, Marketing, Media Relations and Stakeholder Relations. Most of our projects involve partnership-working between these teams and with other teams across the University and externally.

### Ideas Lab

Ideas Lab works proactively with external media companies to simulate new programmes and projects that are based on academic research and involve the University's academic experts. It acts as a bridge between academics and TV, radio and multimedia producers.

#### What you can talk to us about:

Research that is new, unusual or quirky, with a strong visual element; ideas for TV, radio, or smartphone apps.

### Marketing

The Marketing team manages channels to promote the University to prospective students including prospectuses copy and the online contact strategy. They lead on reputational marketing campaigns, such as the Heroes campaign. They manage social and digital media channels, coordinate content for the University website and communicate with current students. The team also have managers leading marketing activities in every college.

#### What you can talk to us about:

Prospective and current student marketing and communications, reputational marketing, University web, social and digital content.

### Media Relations

The Media Relations team is responsible for proactively promoting the University's strengths through the media and to act as a gatekeeper in times of crisis. As well as writing and issuing more than 250 news releases and statements a year, they handle over 1,000 media inquiries and are on call 24 hours/seven days a week. They are also responsible for monitoring media coverage and producing Original magazine.

#### What you can talk to us about:

Your news (for example research outcomes), media training, being added to our online media experts guide, blogs, PR planning, overseeing interviews and photography

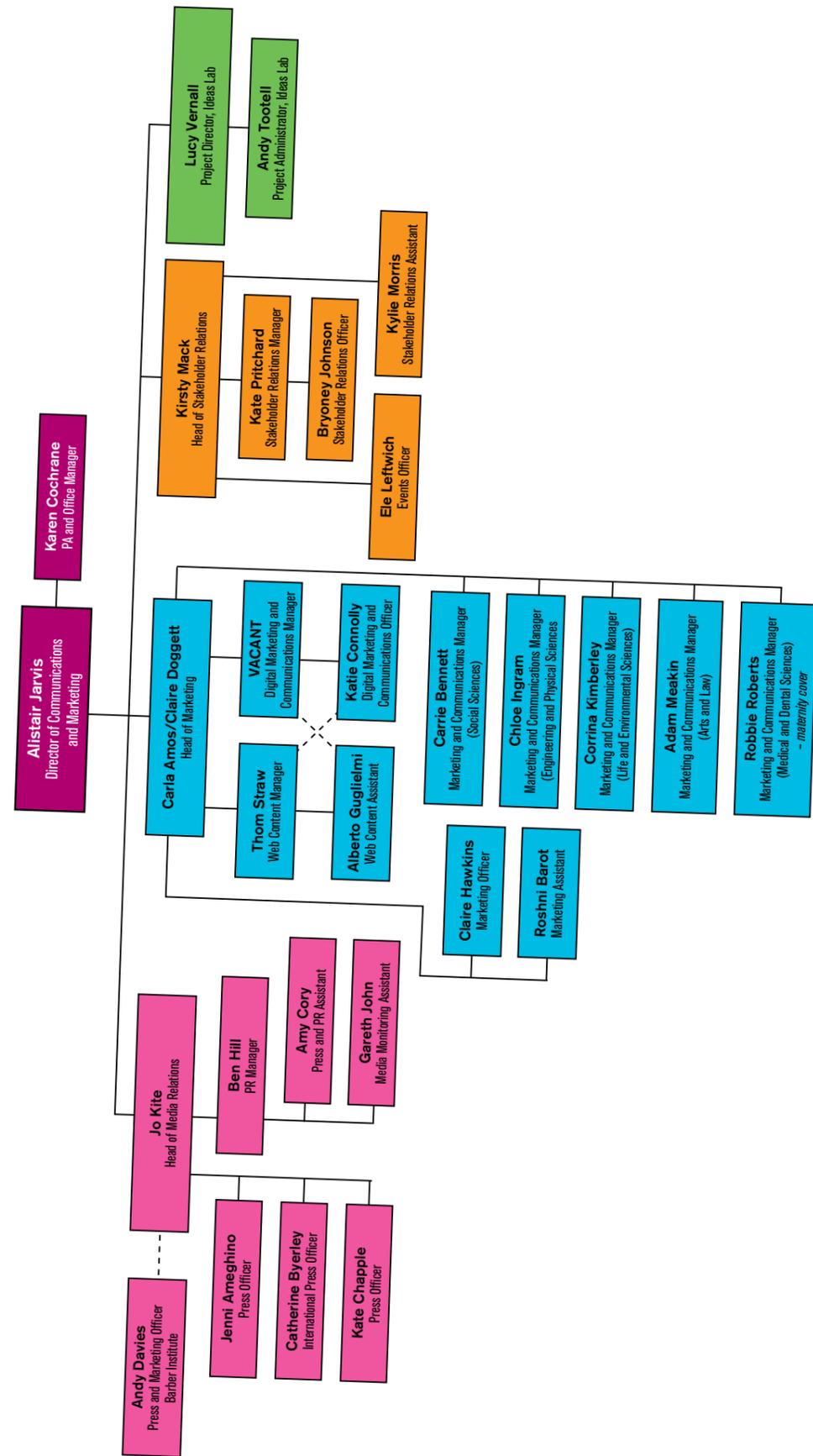
### Stakeholder Relations

The Stakeholder Relations team leads the University's corporate communications and related activity in public affairs, internal communications and community relations. The team also delivers a programme of major corporate events such as the Degree Dinner, Happiness Lecture and Community Day, as well as all-staff events including the Vice-Chancellor's Open Forum and Meet UEB.

#### What you can talk to us about:

Internal communications (Buzz and Buzz-bitesize, the intranet, staff events), event management, communicating with policy makers and government, engagement with the local community.

# MarComms: Organisation Chart



## meet the TEAM



Key for images (all clockwise L-R)

- 1 Karen Cochrane
- 2 Marketing: Carla Amos, Claire Doggett, Katie Connolly, Alberto Guglielmi, Roshni Barot, Claire Hawkins, Thom Straw
- 3 CMCs: Carla Amos, Adam Meakin, Robbie Roberts, Claire Doggett, Carrie Bennett, Chloe Ingram, Corrina Kimberley
- 4 Stakeholder Relations: Kylie Morris, Bryoney Johnson, Kate Pritchard, Kirsty Mack, Ele Leftwich
- 5 Media Relations: Amy Cory, Jo Kite, Jenni Ameghino, Andy Davies, Catherine Byerley, Kate Chapple, Ben Hill
- 6 Ideas Lab: Andy Tootell, Lucy Vernall



The 2012 American election campaign process is in full-swing with Republican candidates travelling the length and breadth of the country to garner support for Presidential nomination. Amy Cory chats to Professor Scott Lucas about this year's contenders.

Almost four years ago Barack Obama galvanised Americans to believe in change with his historic election as America's first African-American President, putting an end to the Republican Party's eight-year reign. He will be running for a second term this autumn and the race is on to find his Republican opposition.

'There has always been a front-runner for the next Republican candidate in my opinion,' explains Professor Scott Lucas, Professor of American Studies from the University's department of American and Canadian Studies. 'I have always seen it as a race with only one choice to make – between Romney and not Romney.'

Although American's won't get to vote for their next President until November, they are currently witnessing a series of contests to select the Republican Party's presidential candidate. Unlike the UK's party leader system, American parties hold an open contest and the candidate who wins the most delegates will compete against Obama in the autumn. The process differs state-by-state; with some offering a winner-takes-all system and others awarding delegates proportionally.

'There were seven or eight main candidates for the Republican contest, but in practice there has always been one favourite,' reasons Professor Lucas, who has been closely following the race and evaluating the results via EA WorldView, an emerging website on US foreign policy and politics. 'I think Romney's the only candidate who can beat Obama, because he is a good enough debater and tactician to put up a good fight. Rick Santorum's policies are too vague on the economy and Newt Gingrich has problems with his morality. If either of these candidates wins, Obama will walk the race in November.'

'There is a wild card in this race which could make it more interesting; Ron Paul represents the libertarian movement and is rallying for an economically free market. He is very activist-based and is steadily gaining a sizeable minority, plus he has enough money to contest primaries all the way to the end. He won't win, but he adds a different perspective,' Scott explains.

The campaign trail has proved to be an interesting one thus far with the economy at the forefront of everyone's agenda and negativity creeping in at every opportunity, 'Romney can't afford not to play to the centre if he wants to be the next President, however this risks isolating the more right-wing Republican supporters during the primaries. Gingrich is already criticising him for being 'East coast elite' and speaking French and although he is easy on the eye, he lacks Obama's charisma. It will certainly be an interesting few months for American politics.'

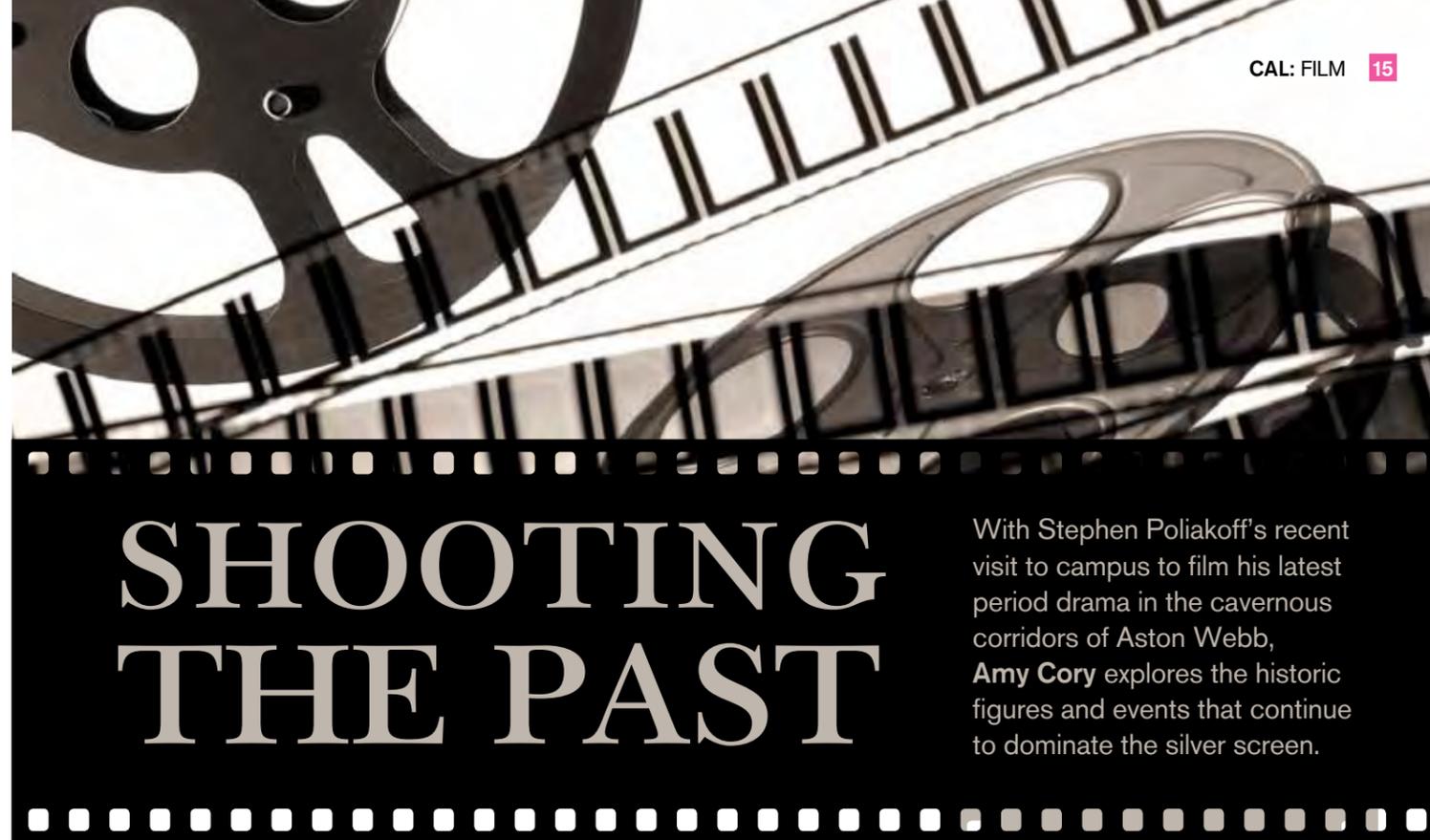
In terms of the outcome for Britain, Scott surmises, 'Whether it's a Republican or a Democrat in the White House in

November, Britain won't be very affected as both candidates will position themselves towards the centre. What's more interesting to consider is the outcome of political elections in Northern Africa and the Middle East – those countries are just as likely to affect us, as the United States is no longer the centre of the world. That's something I never would have thought 10 years ago.'

For Scott's up-to-date election commentary, visit EA WorldView at [www.eaworldview.com](http://www.eaworldview.com)

### 2012 Who's Who

- ★ **Barack Obama (Democrat)**  
44th President of the United States
- ★ **Mitt Romney (Republican)**  
Former Governor of Massachusetts and runner-up to John McCain to secure Republican Party nomination in 2008
- ★ **Rick Santorum (Republican)**  
Former Senator for Pennsylvania who trained as a lawyer before embarking on a political career
- ★ **Newt Gingrich (Republican)**  
Former Speaker of the United States House of Representatives during Bill Clinton's Presidency
- ★ **Ron Paul (Republican)**  
Incumbent member of the United States House of Representatives for Texas



# SHOOTING THE PAST

With Stephen Poliakoff's recent visit to campus to film his latest period drama in the cavernous corridors of Aston Webb, Amy Cory explores the historic figures and events that continue to dominate the silver screen.

'We can never truly arrive at a pure version of any historic event, therefore history itself can only ever be a version of history,' reasons Dr James Walters, a Lecturer in Film and Television Studies from the University's department of American and Canadian Studies.

History continually dominates the movie industry with historic figures and events prolific this award's season (think *Iron Lady*, *War Horse* and *The Artist*). Whilst this genre has always been popular with cinemagoers choosing to escape to a somewhat familiar alternate world, Hollywood's representation of history is often marred with significant inaccuracies which can be potentially detrimental for an audience's understanding of the past.

'*Titanic* isn't a historically accurate depiction of anything,' explains James whose research interests include contemporary and golden era Hollywood, alternative worlds and film moments. 'The dangers in representing history in film lie in what they leave out; it's almost impossible to capture the whole scale of an event in just 90 minutes and so instead, they tend to focus on individual journeys.'

'*Titanic* manages to tell the tale of the doomed voyage through a powerful love story. It is actually very good at focussing on ordinary people and perspectives of the affluent and the working class thrown together in such tragic circumstances – making history spectacular.'

'Filmmakers have no choice than to focus on the spectacle,' reasons James. 'Otherwise these films may never be made, blighted by constant contradictions and striving to achieve the perfect representation. Not to mention they may never find an audience and the casting problems they would face, after all, Roman gladiators didn't look like Russell Crowe.'

James is very quick to point out that film audiences should never be underestimated and are skilled in distinguishing fact from fiction. 'Viewers would have very odd expectations if they're looking for an actual history lesson from a movie,' he explains. 'Instead, what they get, and often want, is an artistic representation of the past, which often speaks as much about the time it was made as it does about the event itself. Audiences are often more aware and informed than they are given credit for.'

And which historical event would James like to see made into a movie? 'I think last summer's riots would make be a really interesting topic as we're still trying to work out what went on and why. Failing that, I would like to see historic events told through the eyes of 'ordinary people' – where was the miners' perspective in *Iron Lady*? Or what about seeing *The Queen* from the point of view of her staff? But that would never happen – no one would go see these movies – and that's why I don't make films!'

### Fighting History

War films are an interesting sub-genre of the historic epic movie, which Dr Walters suggests offer a very 'close experience' for the audience. Alumnus, Dr Mark Straw, Project Support Officer based in Registry, who completed his PhD thesis on contemporary war films explains, 'Representations of war are always intimate and compelling, offering a visceral spectacle for the spectator and presenting soldiers as victims.'

'I would really like to see a genuinely compelling American war film not from the US perspective, something that really jolts the audience and perhaps follows the personal tragedies of the perceived enemy.' Mark notes that war films consistently contain a damaged male protagonist who is meant to be perceived heroically. 'Despite all of its historical inaccuracies, *Gladiator* is a great film. It rejuvenated the historical epic drama, opening doors for others to follow, offering a brilliant combination of a damaged male hero and striking CGI spectacles. Most impressively though, it managed to make political corruption and scheming interesting for the audience.'

# REINTRODUCING THE GUILD OF STUDENTS

## ABOUT THE GUILD

In line with the Education Act (1994), the Guild is officially recognised as the key body of representation for students whilst studying at the University. We exist to represent students, and in doing so help them to develop skills outside of study, have fun, meet people and make their time at Birmingham special.

Students are at the heart of the Guild and help to run the union alongside elected officers, staff and volunteers. Every year, students elect officers to represent the Guild. Each officer has a different portfolio and it's their role to improve the university experience, for example the Vice President (Housing and Community) works with community groups to develop positive relationships between students and local residents. The staff team, which includes more than 400 student staff, support the elected officers and manage the Guild's department and services.

Elected officers give their time in different ways – from serving on committees to championing students' views in Guild Council, where policy is agreed, and the Trustee Board oversees the Guild to ensure good governance. The board comprises of external trustees, alumni and students with a wealth of experience.

## MAPPING THE GUILD'S HISTORY

Over the decades the Guild has accumulated a large amount of materials and artefacts. The Guild has recently secured funding to start a history project which will include organising the archive and setting up a database to make it easier for officers, staff and students to access and use historic articles.

## STRATEGIC PLAN

The Guild's Strategic Plan 2011–14 was developed in response to student feedback. The Guild vision and plan is based around four key themes which guide our work, and within each theme key commitments have been identified. The plan has been designed to respond to change; the ever evolving higher education landscape means that we must be responsive to students' needs, and be able to influence the university, local and national agenda.

We want to be experts on Birmingham students – their hopes, fears, and what they want and need from student life. In an essence we want to make their time at Birmingham special and this is what our plan is designed to deliver.

## GET INVOLVED

We believe that the 'student experience' is about having a rounded university experience which is why the Guild has more than 180 student groups and societies from A'Capella to Wayfarers and 25 student-led volunteering projects. Across campus more than 1,000 volunteer student representatives ensure that students' views are heard. In addition, many students give up their time to

MARK HARROP, GUILD PRESIDENT, TELLS BUZZ ABOUT THE HISTORY AND UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES AT THE BIRMINGHAM GUILD OF STUDENTS – THE UNION FOR MORE THAN 28,000 STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM.

represent students as Guild councillors and student group committee members.

Not only do volunteers have a positive impact on the student body but also on the local community. Through its relationship with community partners the Guild is able to offer over 300 opportunities for students to volunteer their time within local and national charities, such as the Acorns Hospice.

This is just a snapshot of some of the activities, schemes, groups and projects Birmingham students are involved in. In the last academic year alone students volunteered for almost 70,000 hours.

All University of Birmingham staff are also invited and encouraged to join our student groups. The Guild will also support staff who wish to volunteer through external organisations. Staff can benefit from student groups in other ways. For example, the Selly Oak Play Scheme invites parents to bring their children along to the Guild for fun and games. The volunteering group, run and set-up by students, takes place every Sunday between 11am-1pm during term time. The free project organises activities including arts, crafts, games and workshops.

**GET INVOLVED!**

in anyway, please do get in touch by emailing [c.goddard@guild.bham.ac.uk](mailto:c.goddard@guild.bham.ac.uk).

## KEEP IN TOUCH

For further details on Guild events and how you can be involved contact:  
Website: [guildofstudents.com](http://guildofstudents.com)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/guildofstudents](https://www.facebook.com/guildofstudents)  
Twitter: [@guildofstudents](https://twitter.com/guildofstudents)



## MARK HARROP PRESIDENT

### What do you do?

I'm the elected President of the Guild of Students, here to represent over 28,000 students and to make their time at Birmingham that extra bit special.

### How do you work with staff?

I work alongside six Vice Presidents, 11 non-sabbatical officers, and over 60 core members of Guild staff. Staff support the officers in a number of ways and help us to ensure students get the best from Birmingham.

### What is your proudest moment to date?

It has to be winning the Officer Election with the greatest number of votes in the Guild's history, and being the highest voted for President comparatively in the country, no small mandate!

### Three words to describe the Guild?

Fun, Challenging, Changing.

**'The Selly Oak Play Scheme has been successfully running for over ten years. The scheme provides a great chance for kids of all ages to interact with others and try out new activities. The play scheme is open to all students and university staff.'**

Fliss Cross, Vice President (Activities and Development)



## EMMA WEDGE REPRESENTATION AND DEMOCRACY MANAGER

### What do you do?

I manage the Student Voice Department in the Guild of Students. This means looking after the Guild elections, which allow students to choose who represents them, the Student Representation Scheme, and the Guild's democratic decision making committees.

### How do you work with officers?

I work very closely with the officers of the Guild to support them in representing all students at Birmingham. I work closely with colleagues in the Academic Quality Unit, and across all Colleges, Schools and Departments to run the Student Representation Scheme, and with members of staff throughout the university to deliver a range of projects from Guild elections, to Personal Tutor Awards.

### What is your proudest moment to date?

Getting over 4,000 votes in the Guild Referendum in 2008 to change the governance structures of the Guild.

### Three words to describe the Guild?

Energetic, fun and challenging.



## STACEY BROWN VOLUNTEERING ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR

### What do you do?

My role is really varied, sourcing and advertising volunteering opportunities within the University and external organisations, supporting our 25 student-led volunteering projects and advocating volunteering whenever I can.

### How do you work with Officers?

I am currently working with the Vice President (Activities and Development) to recognise students through Volunteering England's Gold Award and National Student Volunteering Week and with the Vice President (Sport) to encourage club captains to register themselves as volunteers. I work with staff to register the thousands of students who volunteer through other departments and deliver information sessions, drop-ins and fairs, such as the Work Experience Fair.

### What is your proudest moment to date?

Working with the Job Zone for the first time this year, the SEOTY (Student Employee of the Year) and Gold Awards will be given out to students during a joint ceremony in the Great Hall together with the PSA, Student Funding office and the CEC.

### Three words to describe the Guild?

Creative, fun and energetic.

For more events please visit  
[www.birmingham.ac.uk/  
oncampus.index.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/oncampus.index.aspx)

#### Inaugural Lecture

**Tuesday 28 February, 5.15pm**

#### 'Can Railways Cheat Adhesion and Triumph Over Gravity?'

Professor Felix Schmid, Professor in Railway Systems Engineering and Integration, College of Engineering and Physical Sciences

**Venue:** Lecture Theatre 1, 2nd Floor, Gisbert Kapp Building.

For a full schedule of upcoming inaugural lectures visit the University events pages [www.birmingham.ac.uk/  
oncampus/index.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/oncampus/index.aspx)



#### PUGIN, DÜRER AND THE GOTHIC

**13 January–24 June**

The great English architect and designer AWN Pugin passionately promoted the Gothic style. He was inspired by, among others, Albrecht Dürer, widely recognised as the greatest German Renaissance artist. As part of the Birmingham-wide celebration of the bicentenary of Pugin's birth, this display will showcase the eight prints and single drawing by Dürer from the Barber's collection. The display also includes stained-glass designs by two other 16th-century German artists – Hans Holbein and Abel Stimmer.

The **BARBER**  
Institute of Fine Arts

## Mayoral Debate

What can an elected mayor do for a city and region? What does it mean for city democracy?

**Wednesday 29 February, 6.00pm**

Join Patrick Wintour, Political Editor of The Guardian (Chair), Petra Roth, Elected Mayor of Frankfurt and President of the German Association of Cities, Lord Michael Heseltine, Chairman of the Regional Growth Fund, Lord Andrew Adonis, Director of the Institute for Government and Professor John Raine, Director, Institute of Local Government Studies, University of Birmingham for this panel debate to explore city leadership ahead of the city's mayoral referendum in May 2012. Registration for this event is essential. Please register with Kylie Morris email: [k.morris@bham.ac.uk](mailto:k.morris@bham.ac.uk)

#### Community Day 2012

**Sunday 10 June, 11.00am–4.00pm**

Free fun for all the family

Fun fair, culture trails, Live music, climbing wall and much more

## Birmingham Professional Forum

**29 February 2.00–3.00pm**

**Great Hall, Aston Webb Building**

The Birmingham Professional Forum (formerly University Services Forum) is a termly event for administrative, support and technical staff based across the University, led by the Registrar and Secretary, Lee Sanders. The Forum includes presentations on topical subjects for the University and there is also an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the event. You can do this, in advance, by emailing [internalcomms@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:internalcomms@contacts.bham.ac.uk) or on the day. Clarke Associates will be holding a drop in session to discuss proposed campus developments from 3.00–4.00pm after the Birmingham Professional Forum.



## Scott's Last Expedition

11 January–29 May 2012

**The Cadbury Research Library:**

**Special Collections** is marking the centenary of Robert Falcon Scott's last expedition to the South Pole with a display of material in the Main Library foyer from collections relating to the Terra Nova Expedition. In January 1912 the British Antarctic Expedition 'Terra Nova' led by Scott lost the race to the South Pole, beaten by the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen who had arrived 33 days earlier. On their return journey the expedition party tragically perished. For further details visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/oncampus/  
exhibitions/Scotts-Last-Expedition.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/oncampus/exhibitions/Scotts-Last-Expedition.aspx)



## Happiness Lecture

**Tuesday 13 March 2012**

The 2012 Baggs Memorial Lecture on the theme of Happiness will be delivered by Jung Chang, bestselling author of Wild Swans and Mao: The unknown story. All tickets for the lecture have been reserved but please contact Kylie Morris at [k.morris@bham.ac.uk](mailto:k.morris@bham.ac.uk) to be added to the ticket reserve list.



## Fairtrade Fortnight 2012

26 February – 10 March

Lots of exciting events are being planned by students and staff for Fairtrade Fortnight 2012 including a Fashion Show at the Guild (**Thursday 1 March**), a film night, a Fairtrade Tea Party, a debate, and finishing with the ever popular Fairtrade Wine Tasting on **Friday 9 March in Staff House**. There'll also be Fairtrade drinks and snacks on sale at the February Farmers' Market. Details of dates, times and ticket prices are available at [www.birmingham.ac.uk/fairtrade](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/fairtrade). Also, if you're in the city centre on **Saturday 10 March**, Fairtrade Association Birmingham (FAB) will be holding an Ethical Market in Victoria Square to mark the end of Fairtrade Fortnight and the beginning of Climate Week. There'll be a number of stalls including LUCIA [www.luciacharity.org.uk](http://www.luciacharity.org.uk) a charity which is based here at the University. For details of other FAB events and Climate Week Events check out the FAB blog <http://fairtradebirmingham.blogspot.com>

## Meet UEB

**Tuesday 20 March, 12.00–1.30pm**

**Business School Common Room**

UEB is made up of 13 senior leaders who make the key decisions that guide our development as a University community. 'Meet UEB' is your opportunity to find out more about what UEB do and ask any questions that you have regarding the University. Please email [internalcomms@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:internalcomms@contacts.bham.ac.uk) for further details or to register your attendance.

## Services

**Class One Decorating:** Highest quality internal and external painting and decorating. Friendly, professional service. Free, no-obligation quotes. Tel: 0121 441 3344 or 07976 678863 [info@classonedecorating.co.uk](mailto:info@classonedecorating.co.uk) [www.classonedecorating.co.uk](http://www.classonedecorating.co.uk)

**Gardening work in all seasons undertaken:** including fencing, patios, decking, garden tidying/clearances and gutter clearing. Contact Chris 0121 459 3293 or 07890 246911.

**Expert Advice For BPAS and USS Members:** Chartered Financial Planner based in Birmingham and listed by the USS as qualified to advise scheme members. An investment and retirement planning specialist committed to providing the best advice and service.

If you are seeking expert and impartial advice on your BPAS or USS benefits (including additional tax savings) or general financial and tax planning, contact: Tony Wynne at Informed Choice (Midlands) for an initial no-obligation discussion. Telephone: 0845 643 2550, Email: [action@ic-mid.co.uk](mailto:action@ic-mid.co.uk)

Informed Choice (Midlands) Ltd. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Registered office: 60 Frederick Street, Birmingham B1 3HS.



## LUNCHOFFER

**Astor Restaurant, Staff House – Book a two course Lunch during March for £10.00 per person.**

Contact: Louise on 0121 414 6252 to book your table

## Accommodation to let

**Quiet room:** Overlooking garden with own entrance, kitchen, shower and WC. Walking distance to University, would suit postgraduate. Tel: 0121 472 5018.

**Two bedroom house to let:**

Close to university. Currently unfurnished. Garden, quiet street, available immediately. Postgrads/staff. £600/mo. Contact: 07849 953686.

**Cornish holiday home:** One bedroom, in quiet location near Lands End, availability all year round. Contact Sue Russell [s.l.russell@bham.ac.uk](mailto:s.l.russell@bham.ac.uk) <http://coastal-cottages.angelfire.com>

## New look for Winterbourne

You may notice a few changes next time you visit the Winterbourne garden. A 'Lime avenue' has been created similar to that of many Arts and Crafts gardens. During recent severe gales, a diseased tree fell foul of harsh winds, providing an excellent opportunity to reinstate some of the original design for the garden. You may be excused for thinking that the new feature will be supplying Winterbourne with plentiful fruit in the near future; however the trees bear only their name in common with the fruit trees. They will however create a peaceful walkway for visitors and an ideal space for relaxation.

Winterbourne have also teamed up with University Wellbeing to provide staff with the opportunity to learn new skills and grow fruit and vegetables on campus. They have received a great response to the pilot scheme, set to start early this spring and featured in last month's Buzz-bitesize.

**WINTERBOURNE**  
HOUSE AND GARDEN