Behind the scenes with Birmingham’s inspirational experts!

Ever wanted to build your own robot, perfect your golf swing or listen to the sound of the stars?

YOUR BUZZ

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Sharing knowledge in the community

University academics are providing a valuable community service to local organisations, schools, groups, clubs and societies, giving fascinating talks as part of the Birmingham Speakers Programme (BSP). More than 60 members of staff at the cutting-edge of research and teaching in their disciplines, together with exciting young doctoral researchers, have volunteered to give talks to the local community in and around Birmingham. Since its launch in 2011, the BSP has provided speakers for more than 20 organisations across the local area.

Professor Carl Chinn signs up to help shape community healthcare in Birmingham

University historian Professor Carl Chinn MBE was the first public member of England’s largest community healthcare provider, Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Trust (BCHC). BCHC is now recruiting public members from across Birmingham and the wider West Midlands region. The Trust’s membership will have a significant influence over the way many of the healthcare services delivered in people’s homes, health centres, clinics and inpatient sites are developed to respond to the needs of local communities.

Professor Chinn said: ‘Our family has always believed in the principles of the NHS and values the dedicated and caring professionals who work so hard to help individuals, families and communities. I would urge everybody, whether you’re a student, a member of the public or anyone with an interest in the future of local NHS services in our city to join me and become a member of Birmingham Community Healthcare. These are essential services for our families today and for our children and grandchildren in the future and we should all take hold of this opportunity to have our say.’

In addition to recruiting thousands of members, BCHC will hold elections for a newly constituted board of governors as part of plans to become an NHS Foundation Trust by the end of the 2012.

To become a member, visit bhamcommunity.nhs.uk.

Providing free legal advice to the community

The Birmingham Free Legal Advice Group (Birmingham FLAG) has completed another year of providing free legal advice to the local community, with requests for help trebling from the previous year. Over 100 people from the local community sought legal help from the Birmingham FLAG opened its doors in September 2010, with the dual aims of providing free legal assistance to members of the local community, and giving law students a chance to get some ‘hands-on’ work experience. Law students work in pairs to interview clients and draft a letter of advice, under the guidance of a qualified solicitor from Mills & Reeve who give up their time on a pro bono basis. They offer advice in a variety of fields, including family and matrimonial law, wills and probate, employment disputes and many more. When we open again in September 2012, clients can call on 0121 414 6315, or email birminghamflag@contacts.bham.ac.uk to set up an appointment on Thursday evenings during term time.

Community Engagement Network

A new Community Engagement Network has been launched at the University to help staff and students involved in community projects or initiatives share ideas. The Network has representatives from across the University, including the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, the Guild of Students, the Colleges, and Winterbourne.

There is a considerable amount of community engagement that happens across the University and the Network aims to bring together the people involved to understand how the University is communicating with the local community and to learn from one another.

If you are interested in the work of the Network or would like to be involved contact community@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

University of Birmingham’s inspirational experts!
Behind the scenes’ at Community Day

Community Day Project Manager, Ele Leftwich shares her ‘behind the scenes’ view of one of the busiest days in the University’s diary.

After months of hard work by the numerous staff and students that make up the Community Day project team, Community Day begins…

On waking at 6.00am the first thing I do is check the weather, something most of the team do throughout the day. What we all hope for is bright sunshine with a slight breeze, the kind of British summer day that invigorates the senses and reminds us of freshly cut grass, chirping birds and sausages sizzling on the BBQ. What we would all be happy with is simply no rain!

Campus slowly wakes to the sound of the fairground arriving with its hook-a-duck, helter skelter and bouncy castle. Sleepy staff and students prepare their stalls and lecture theatres ready for a busy day, unlimited tea and coffee helps put a bounce in their step. By 11.00am all is ready and the doors open. The local community spill into the Great Hall filling it with an infectious lively buzz, absorbing new information and learning new things. Outside the children shriek as they bounce up and down on the bungee trampoline. Beautiful painted faces show the Guild of Students has been busy, and the constant, melodic sounds of the Summer Festival wind and brass bands carries across the breeze. Those with a head for heights enjoy the panoramic views provided by Muirhead Tower and wonder at the activity taking place below.

At 4.00pm the doors close. Tired but happy smiles fill the faces of all involved. The day has been a success and a rest is in sight.

This glowing endorsement came from one of the 12,000 people who descended onto campus for Community Day 2011. The second of our now well established Community Day events saw an increased attendance of over 50% from 2010 as visitors of all ages joined us for a fun filled day of free activities, talks, and tours.

Thanks to a huge amount of work from staff and students across campus, the packed programme gave members of the local community the opportunity to learn more about, and even sample, some of the University’s ground-breaking research, inspirational teaching and top quality facilities. With activities ranging from filmmaking to fossils, bhangra to bathroom, and hydrogen cars to heritage trails, there was something for children (and adults) of all ages to enjoy!

Community Day visitors were asked to fill out a brief feedback form, and an impressive 96% of respondents agreed that Community Day is an effective way for the University to communicate with its local community. Over two thirds of respondents also said that they understood more about the work taking place at the University after attending Community Day.

Preparations for Community Day 2012 started almost as soon as the Marquee came down in 2011, and this year’s event promises to be packed with even more activities, demonstrations and talks for visitors of all ages. Take a family tour of the Barber Institute of Fine Arts with Edward Elgar, improve your golf swing, meet our resident robots Dora and Nao, let our special effects make-up expert give you the bubonic plague, and learn about the science of mammoths with Professor of Public Engagement in Science and BBC documentary maker, Alice Roberts.

A full programme will be available shortly, for more details visit birmingham.ac.uk/oncampus/events/ CommunityDay.aspx or follow us on Twitter @UoBCommunityDay.

Lots for everyone to do. Great that all activities were free - thank you.

We had a fantastic day. Can’t emphasise enough how much fun we had.

We had a fantastic day. Can’t emphasise enough how much fun we had.

It was a great day for the whole family; well done University of Birmingham, keep it up.

‘something for all ages, even nan!’

COMMUNITY DAY

COMMUNITY DAY

...'something for all ages, even nan!'
STUDENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

With the University’s Community Day fast approaching, the Guild of Students highlights how our students have been working with the local community to enlist a sense of responsibility and pride in the local area.

The majority of students entering into the second, third or fourth year of study live within the Bournbrook area of Selly Oak and the surrounding neighbourhoods. Whilst highly populated with students, these areas also inhabit young families, the elderly and other non-student residents; this is something the Guild of Students works hard to respect.

For today’s students taking pride in, and giving back to the community is an intrinsic part of student life; the issues arising from living in the local community are issues our students really care about. This is demonstrated when considering the various services and activities the Guild and the University deliver, but especially in view of the frontline work of our students who go out to the community deliver, but especially in view of the frontline work of our students who go out to the University deliver, but especially in view of the frontline work of our students who go out to the community.

COMMUNITY WARDENS HIT THE STREETS

Through schemes like the Community Wardens, a project funded and run in partnership with Hospitality and Accommodation Services (HAS), students work to make Selly Oak a safer, cleaner and greener place to live for all residents. In essence, the scheme facilitates improvements in Selly Oak by empowering local residents to make change.

Wardens, students from the university who are trained in dealing with issues within the community, patrol the areas where students live in significant numbers each week during term, door knocking and identifying community issues and as a result helping to tackle crime, neighbours and refuse problems. In return for a Fab ‘n’ Fresh ticket, the Guild’s most popular evening event by far, more student volunteers give up their time at the end of each term to help the Wardens clean up the streets of Selly Oak.

Douglas Stewart, Community Warden comments: ‘I wanted to become a Warden in order to maintain the sense of community in Selly Oak and to both improve and maintain good relations between the permanent residents and student residents in the area. This sentiment is echoed by John Hilliard, Community Warden who remarks: ‘Being a Warden gives you the chance to see Selly Oak in a new light. It really makes you re-think the way you act within your Community.’

RESOLVING DISPUTES

One area of work that the Wardens play an important part in is that of neighbour dispute resolution. Wardens are often the first port of call when issues, involving students, arise in the local area, such as late night noise and parties. Working alongside the police and Birmingham City Council, Wardens follow an escalating response procedure, making the initial visit to parties involved. Sometimes further assistance is required, from the police, or potentially the Council’s anti-social behaviour unit. However, 70% of all cases are resolved in the first instance by the Wardens.

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VOLUNTEERING

But working with the community goes beyond this. Over 2,000 students currently volunteer with local organisations such as Acorns Children’s Hospice, or have set-up and run volunteering projects like Kids Adventure, which organises holidays for inner-city children. As part of the Selly Oak Play Scheme, local children are invited to the Guild of Students for fun and games, every Sunday. The local community group, run and set-up by students, takes place every week during term time and organises free activities including arts, crafts, games and workshops with student groups such as Circus and BreakSoc (break dancing society). All volunteers have attended child protection training and are CRB checked, and many are studying for a PGCE or are considering going into teaching.

It’s not just local residents that benefit from the work of student volunteers. The Birmingham Conservation Volunteers regularly get involved in projects to help local wildlife, such as woodland management and pond de-silting. Recently the group led over one hundred volunteers to clear up the Shire Country Park.

It is clear to say that our students play a pivotal role in connecting the University, the Guild, and local communities. For students, volunteering and getting involved in schemes such as the Community Wardens benefits them not only in way of developing personal and professional skills, but means they can have a positive impact on the wider community, their community.

KEY FACTS IN 2010/11

- 83% of students felt volunteering increased confidence in their abilities and has instilled a sense of community (59%)
- 164 tonnes of rubbish collected and £13,000 of stock donated to British Heart Foundation

STUDENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

KEEP IN TOUCH

Guild of Students
guildofstudents.com
facebook.com/guildofstudents
@guildofstudents

Community Wardens
community@guild.bham.ac.uk
facebook.com/lovesellyoak
@WardensGuild
0121 251 2502
Many staff and students across the University take time to support and carry out fundraising activities for a wide range of charities. Below are just a few of the recent charity challenges that colleagues have completed.

Professor Felix Schmid, of the School of Civil Engineering, joined Colin Flack, an honorary staff at the University, in the ‘Ultimate3 Challenge’. Invented by Colin, the challenge involved cycling from Land’s End to John O’Groats, climbing the highest mountains of Wales, England and Scotland (the well-known ‘three peaks challenge’) and kayaking the longest lake in each of the three countries, namely, Lake Bala, Windermere and the dreaded Loch Ness! Felix and Colin completed the challenge for The Railway Children, a UK charity working internationally to protect homeless children and to support their educational development. They raised over £24,000, half of which was contributed by staff, students and alumni of the University.

Further information about the challenge can be found at ultimate3.org.uk and details of the charity can be found at railwaychildren.org.uk

Mary Head, a Doctoral Researcher from the Cerebra Centre for Neurodevelopmental Disorders at the School of Psychology, ran for 24 hours to raise money for the Angelman Syndrome Support and Research Trust (ASSERT), running over 80 miles in total. ASSERT provides support to families and carers of individuals with Angelman; a rare genetic syndrome which is associated with a severe intellectual disability. angelmanuk.org/index.html

Researchers from the Birmingham Cancer Research UK Centre, of which the University is a partner, have supported a range of charity and outreach work including running brain awareness activities and visiting local schools to give workshops on cancer and drug development. The team are also looking for volunteers to take part in Race for Life on 22 July 2012 at Cannon Hill Park. Race for Life is the UK’s largest women-only fundraising event; for further details visit raceforlife.org or contact Debbie Ringham at Debbie.Ringham@bham.ac.uk

In addition to charitable giving, many University staff also carry out charity work in their spare time. Volunteers from Library Services and IT have even formed their own charity to improve the lives of people living in troubled areas of Africa; particularly women and children in Ethiopia.

‘Life Uplifted by Change in Africa’ (LUCIA) was formed by University staff in 2005 after Sylva Gardiner, of Library Services, visited her son in Ethiopia and was struck by the poverty of the country. LUCIA believes that the key to positive change is to enable people in Africa to help themselves with long-term self-sustainable development projects. This involves working with local African organisations to set up women’s co-operative, improve education facilities, and provide shelter and counselling to homeless children.

They are currently fundraising to build and equip a library at a school in Sheno, Ethiopia, which has just four classrooms for 465 pupils. LUCIA believes that education is the answer to lifting people out of poverty, and a library will provide new resources and additional teaching facilities for the children. The library will also be open to the rest of the community, to support all adults and children who wish to learn.

To find out more about LUCIA, or to make a donation, visit luciacharity.org.uk or contact Sylvia at s.gardiner@bham.ac.uk

The University is a charity and you can support us in a variety of ways. From bake sales to half-marathon running and cycle rides, staff regularly raise money for our Circles of Influence fundraising campaign. The Give As You Earn (GAYE) scheme makes it even easier to support our key projects, which include helping transform our campus to meet 21st century students’ needs, funding the best researchers to tackle global health problems and ensuring we attract the brightest students, irrespective of their circumstances.

You can make a tax-free donation to Birmingham direct from your salary every month, which means for basic rate tax-payers that every pound you give will only cost you 80p.

Your generosity, combined with the University’s support, is helping to change lives at Birmingham and across the world. To find out more about GAYE visit: birmingham.ac.uk/ alumni/giving/giveonw.aspx or to make a one-off donation, text CIRC02 plus the amount you wish to donate to 70070.

Thanks to the generous support of alumni and friends, 338 talented students from the West Midlands have been gifted the opportunity to study at the University through the Access to Birmingham Scholarship Scheme (A2B) supported by the Circles of Influence campaign. Every year, 100 high performing students from the local area are awarded an A2B Scholarship of £1,200 a year for a duration of their course to help with their living costs. These scholarships are funded entirely by generous donors, including honorary graduate and University Chancellor, Sir Dominic Cadbury, who explains, ‘I decided to personally support this scheme because it offered me the chance to help make it possible for people to come to Birmingham who might not otherwise have the opportunity. The advantage of having a university education and the experience you get are major assets when you start your career.’

The University of Birmingham was one of the first universities to offer such an innovative access scheme for local students and this model is now much copied in the UK. First year joint honours Political Science and Sociology student and A2B recipient, Lauren Quincey, credits her scholarship as life-changing. The scholarship has inspired me to want to achieve as much as possible and my favourite thing about Birmingham is definitely the campus,’ she adds.

Transformation of the University’s Edgbaston campus is currently underway as a result of a five year investment to restore the founding vision for the estate and provide wealth of improved facilities for students, staff and local residents. Key developments include a new sports centre to house the city’s first 50m pool and the one of the most ambitious new libraries in UK higher education, which will join the new state-of-the-art concert venue, the Bramall Music Building, opening this summer. ‘The University was founded to be an asset for the city and these plans have that aim in mind,’ explains Ian Barker, the University’s Director of Estates. ‘A number of developments, like the proposed new sports centre, swimming pool and the cultural hub, focus on facilities that will benefit the community as well as staff and students,’ he adds.

A transformational gift in 2010 from Civil Engineering graduate, Tony Bramall, enabled construction of the music building to be started. Speaking at the time, Professor John Whenham, former Head of the University’s Department of Music noted, ‘This is the first stage in the realisation of a long-held vision of first-rate music facilities at Birmingham. We are very grateful to everyone who has supported us and helped to realise that vision.’

This wonderful new facility, along with the University Residences developments, will provide outstanding venues for students, staff and members of the public to enjoy.

The University’s alumni community is an ever-expanding population of more than 167,000 individuals with a life-long affinity to Birmingham. Upon graduation, many travel far and wide pursuing their dreams, but many also realise them, and help others achieve theirs, closer to home. Amy Cory explores three ways Birmingham’s alumni are giving back to the local community.

Selly Sausage

In 1990 when graduating from Birmingham with a 2:1 in Law, the last thing Tony McKirnay imagined he would be doing 22 years later was running one of Selly Oak’s most popular haunts and yet today, the Selly Sausage breakfast restaurant is a student staple. Noticing a gap in the market for a hangover breakfast, local cafe, the Selly Sausage was born. ‘Selly Oak was crying out for a breakfast joint at the time of inception. I knew I didn’t want to be a lawyer and saw myself more as a managing consultant and so thought experience of running this sort of project would be a great way to demonstrate practical experience on my CV. I really enjoyed it and so carried on,’ explains Tony who hasn’t looked back since.

Appealing to the niche market of students, with its quirky name, layout and décor, the Selly Sausage has become an institution. ‘Students remain loyal customers throughout their studies and whilst it took the locals a while to get on board, our patrons are now split 50-50. I had a ball as a student and the friends I made are still a huge part of my life; it’s great that I can give something back to today’s students,’ he adds.

As a local business owner, alumni Tony continues to give back to the Selly Oak community with his delicious menu. Now living in London, he has expanded his repertoire with a string of additional food outlets currently establishing themselves as institutions with their patrons.

Selly Oak and the University share the same history and values. The University remains committed to providing the best experience you get are major assets when you start your career. Many University students are supported by the Circles of Influence fundraising campaign. The Give As You Earn (GAYE) scheme makes it even easier to support our key projects, which include helping transform our campus to meet 21st century students’ needs, funding the best researchers to tackle global health problems and ensuring we attract the brightest students, irrespective of their circumstances.

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If I had been told at the beginning of January that by April I would have improved my fitness so much I'd be training for my first 10k and planning for the Birmingham half marathon in October, I would have laughed.

However, this has happened and no-one is more surprised than me! The reason for this life overhaul? The High-Intensity Interval Training programme (HIT) run by the School of Sport and Exercise Sciences.

Having a very busy role as the PR, Media and Promotions Officer at University of Birmingham Sport (UBSport), I ironically find it difficult to fit in regular exercise and, coming back to work after Christmas break, I felt more sluggish and slow than usual.

Whilst talking (well, complaining) to my Manager she suggested I take part in the 10-week HIT programme that UBSport were helping to run in the Munrow Sports Centre. When I heard I'd only be exercising for a maximum of 20 minutes, three times a week, I was sold. Within a few minutes for two hours. Basically the fitter you are the less time you spend exercising.

My training began in the second week of January after a few pre-programme tests that included a body composition and body mass indicator of BMI (analyzing my body fat, muscle percentage and body type), a VO2 max test which measured my fitness by breathing into a very unflattering mouth piece whilst on an exercise bike, and blood tests that measured insulin sensitivity. This involved drinking a very sugary drink and having blood drawn from my arm every 15 minutes for two hours. Basically the fitter and healthier I am the quicker my insulin can get rid of the sugar out of my blood, something that is more difficult if you are sedentary, obese or have type 2 diabetes.

As part of the HIT group, I went along to three classes a week until the end of March. When the last session finished I felt actually reluctant to stop training as the sessions had fit easily into my lifestyle.

The initial assessment tests were repeated and I waited anxiously for the results from Sam. I knew I was fitter, but had no idea the impact the study had actually had on me. Over the 10 weeks I had lost 5.3kg and around 5% of my body fat, increased my fitness by a whopping 19%, reduced my BMI from 25.9 to 24 and significantly improved my insulin sensitivity, meaning I have much less risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

Speaking to Sam after the programme he was also very pleased with the results of the first study out of a lab setting. The improvement in fitness was similar between the two groups, with a 10% average increase in response to both forms of training. This also goes for the insulin sensitivity. Weight loss was also similar between the two groups, although this response was a more variable between individuals in both groups.

So would I recommend taking part in HIT? Definitely! The Sport and Exercise Sciences team have found a way to improve fitness around a busy schedule, and the beauty of the programme is that it can fit into your plan and transferred to any piece of equipment, or even out on the street going for a run. I would urge anyone to look into HIT as the programme has truly had a positive impact on my life.

The point of the study wasn’t only to turn me into a wannabe-athlete, but for Sam Shepherd, and after an assessment an email was sent to the lead researcher, a week, I was sold. Within a few minutes for two hours. Basically the fitter you are the less time you spend exercising.

The HIT group do a short programme. The HIT group do a short session, including a number of sprint intervals that aim to raise the heart rate quickly, followed by a short recovery period. It is important that the whole session is no more than 25 minutes long. In addition there is the continuous exercise group. They also train three times a week, but are encouraged to do other exercise as well. Their sessions are 30–45 minutes with the aim to maintain heart rate at a steady, constant pace.

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It’s not only staff and students who benefit from having the Munrow Sports Centre on their doorstep. Members of the local community are welcome too!
Students from the Centre of West African Studies have been working in the city in partnership with Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery (BMAAG), Birmingham Institute of Art and Design (BIAAD) at Birmingham City University, and the Drum Arts Centre on a fascinating exhibition: Style Africa, exploring the rich heritage of West African textiles.

Young people were invited to collaborate with the expert curators from BMAAG to create new ways to present the significant West African textile collections from the University, the museum, and Craftspace.

Curator of World Cultures at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery Adam Jaffer comments, ‘Style Africa is a unique exhibition, presenting some of the region’s most beautiful and diverse traditional and contemporary West African textiles. The project has provided us with an opportunity to engage young people and Birmingham’s diverse communities, and showcase the incredible textile heritage of English-speaking West Africa, particularly Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone.’

The University of Birmingham will be presenting a new exhibition on campus as a response to the BMAAG show: Style Africa: Nigeria and Ghana Unfolded.

- Style Africa at BMAAG is free to visit and open daily until 2 September 2012. Learn more bmag.org.uk
- Style Africa at UbD is free to visit in the Danford Collection, 2nd floor, Arts Building between 23 April and 20 July. Learn more including opening hours rcc.bham.ac.uk

Heritage hotspot

Anna Williams spoke to Winterbourne Curator, Lee Hale to find out more about the work that goes on behind the scenes and what the future may have in store.

‘As a team we are extremely proud of the house and garden and what it has already achieved but the next step is most definitely about reaching out to local people and ensuring that they use Winterbourne, not just as a nice place to visit, but also as a learning experience’ Lee comments.

The Urban Veg project was recently nominated for a Birmingham University Award for Tremendous Achievement (BUAFTA). How did it start and what does the future hold?

‘It started off as a little idea really – a conversation about a simple project involving local people growing veg. Knowing how popular allotments have become in recent times, and sensing that they use Winterbourne, not just as a nice place to visit, but also as a learning experience’ Lee comments.

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What about those of us who aren’t green-fingered?

‘Winterbourne has period Edwardian rooms where visitors can learn about the influential Nettlefold family and their social role within the city. John Sutton Nettlefold was involved in the design of the Moor Pool Estate in Harborne and the Study exhibition room focuses on his work in social housing.

We have temporary exhibitions in the Coach House Gallery. Recent collections have included A Spoonful of Kisses: the lives of the Nettlefold children who gave a more in depth view of the first owners children and childhood during the Edwardian age. We hope to exhibit more local artists and crafts people too.

Even if you’re a complete novice with gardening, you can still appreciate the garden and enjoy your visit. It’s a lovely space to relax and reflect.’

Does the history of the house reflect on the projects that staff at Winterbourne undertake?

‘Yes, absolutely. John spent much of his career working for local people, improving living conditions. Winterbourne not only highlights the importance of his work but also provides facilities, enjoyment and education for current inhabitants of the city and beyond. It’s a part of our city’s history that isn’t as commonly known as say the Cadbury family. We’re sure the Nettlefolds would be pleased to see their old home being used by staff, students and the local community in this way.’
From the cityscape to the sound of music

Collaborations with two of Britain’s most important museums are at the centre of two exciting new exhibitions at the Barber Institute of Fine Arts. Andy Davies reflects on what Cityscapes and Facing the Music has on offer for staff, students and the local community.

In January 2012, the New York Times declared Birmingham to be the 19th most desirable place in the world to visit this year (just ahead of ‘space’), following its selection by the BBC’s food magazine Olive as the UK’s food capital. Despite being one of the most reliably routine aspects of human life, food has a remarkable power to amaze us, and is a universal language across regional, national, international, generational and cultural barriers. Most of all, it allows us to express ourselves and to be innovators in the comfort of our own homes. That is precisely why the University has chosen food to be more healthy, hands-on experiments extracting DNA from fruit and vegetables, to theatre shows and interpretative dance explaining the latest research. There will also be community events celebrating multiculturalism in food and research, and a free dance class to help you burn off any additional calories you may have gained from free food samples. The event aims to inspire and amuse everyone who is willing to look and listen. Supported by the European Union, Birmingham is one of 53 cities across Europe – and the only one in the UK outside of London – celebrating the role of research in people’s lives, all on one single day.

Brum Dine With Me! On September 28 our city-wide research fair will swing into gear, with a variety of ways for people, from all walks of life, to get involved, in an event called ‘Brum Dine With Me’. From giant art exhibits introducing what the city ate for lunch, demonstrations of how we’re redesigning food to be more healthy, hands-on experiments extracting DNA from fruit and vegetables, to theatre shows and interpretative dance explaining the latest research. There will also be community events celebrating multiculturalism in food and research, and a free dance class to help you burn off any additional calories you may have gained from free food samples. The event aims to inspire and amuse everyone who is willing to look and listen. Supported by the European Union, Birmingham is one of 53 cities across Europe – and the only one in the UK outside of London – celebrating the role of research in people’s lives, all on one single day.

The University has a huge array of outstanding ongoing research related to food, from psychology, chemical engineering, clinical health, marketing, business, arts and social sciences, as well as passionate and motivated researchers always on the lookout for innovative new ways to discuss new ideas with the regional community. What better way than to talk to them through their tummies?

The Brum Dine With Me team hope to see you in September, if not before…
Events at Birmingham

There is a lot going on at Birmingham, from lectures to concerts, and much more in between. If you are a student, work at Birmingham or are a member of the local community and beyond, you can take advantage of our exciting event programme.

These are some highlights and you can learn more at birmingham.ac.uk/oncampus/index.aspx

Summer Festival of Music

June 8–15. The Summer Festival of Music has been running at the University for over 20 years. It is a week-long festival organised by students to create music-making opportunities for performers from across the University and the wider community.

This year the Birmingham-based Edward’s Trust is our charity partner.

Summer Festival Opera

Paul Bunyan by Benjamin Britten
Friday 8 June, 7.00pm
Saturday 9 June, 3.00pm
Sunday 10 June 5.00pm

An entertaining and fascinating operetta based on the North American folk legend of Paul Bunyan, the giant lumberjack! Come and see some of the University’s most talented performers in this summer’s gigantic musical adventure.

The Barber Concert Hall
Tickets: £15, £10 concessions, £8
Barber Friends, £5 students

University’s College of Medical and Dental Sciences. Now enthusiastically discussing songs, timings and harmonies they are hoping to be joined by more University members.

If you are interested in singing in the Selly Oak Constituency Community Choir you need to live within the Selly Oak constituency. Rehearsals take place on a Thursday evening (term-time only).

For more details please contact Kate Gardner at kgardner@cbso.co.uk.

Learn more http://blog.cbso.co.uk

HAY FESTIVAL

31 May–10 June 2012

The annual Hay Festival in Wales is famed for having a packed programme of debates and conversations with poets and scientists, novelists and historians, artists and gardeners, comedians and musicians, film makers and politicians. Colleagues from across the University will be taking part in the Hay festivities with talks and debates on a wide range of themes including:

• Professor Michael Dobson – Shakespeare – Tragedy Why do theatregoers enjoy watching people die? The Director of The Shakespeare Institute considers the persistence of Shakespearean tragedy, focusing on Richard II, Othello and King Lear.

• Dr Gideon Nisbet – The Greeks’ – Sex What were the conditions that made homosexuality an easy norm in ancient Greece? It’s given us some of the world’s greatest works of art, stories and Sappho’s poetry.

• Professor Claire Preston – Cider Wholesome, nutritious, strengthening, and morally pure, cider’s virtues would nourish the nation, establish Empire, and win wars. How did cider knock French wine and the Dutch navy into watching people die? Frequenting King Lear.

The Director of The Shakespeare Institute considers the persistence of Shakespearean tragedy, focusing on Richard II, Othello and King Lear.

In keeping with our village fair feel there will be a bake-off competition for some of the works from the library. What weird and wonderful things did our Edwardian ancestors eat and why? If you still have energy after all that, you and your family can get dressed up in authentic clobber and have your photograph taken for posterity. The event is our crowning jewel of the year – not to be missed!

For more details and a full programme of events, visit: birmingham.ac.uk/hayfestival

EDWARDIAN FETE

Saturday 26 May

Step back in time and join us for a wonderful day out with an array of exciting Edwardian entertainment.

There will be music, laughter, competitions, performers and fair rides. Along the lawn there will be stalls selling their wares and delicious Edwardian afternoon teas will be on sale in the tea room.

In keeping with our village fair feel there will be a bake-off style competition for produce, preserves and cakes, presided over by a select committee of judges. Our colleagues at Special Collections Cadbury Research Library will be educating us on all things turn of the century in the Old Kitchen, with live demonstrations and the chance to see some of the works from the library. What weird and wonderful things did our Edwardian ancestors eat and why?

If you still have energy after all that, you and your family can dress up in authentic clobber and have your photograph taken for posterity. The event is our crowning jewel of the year – not to be missed!

Entrance is £6 for adults and £4 for Friends of Winterbourne, children and students. There will be a small charge for some activities so bring your pocket money!

Alumni sports day

Saturday 9 June 2012

Catch up on campus, play with your old team mates, compete against current students and become an alumni champion in one of 15 different sports tournaments across campus.

Come along for a great day of sport and social fun at the 11th annual University of Birmingham Alumni sports day. This year promises to be bigger and better than ever before with 15 events across 13 different sports.

Tickets cost £10 and need to be purchased before Friday 1 June 2012. There will be no tickets available on the day.

For further details call 414 8130 or visit birmingham.ac.uk/oncampus/index.aspx

COMMUNITY EVENTS