

Buzz Bitesize: February 2013

Welcome to Buzz Bitesize. Circulated monthly, Buzz Bitesize provides the latest news, views, events and opportunities from across campus. Why not take a look at the Buzz Facebook and Twitter accounts for the latest campus news and opportunities throughout the month.

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Vice-Chancellor's Open Forum: Answering the big questions

Date/Time: Tuesday 26 February 2013, 12.30–1.30pm

Venue: Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building

In this term's Open Forum, the Vice-Chancellor will be interviewed by David Gregory-Kumar, BBC Midlands Today Science and Environmental Correspondent, on key issues facing the Higher Education sector and University of Birmingham. Higher Education is experiencing a period of rapid change which is creating significant

challenges for all universities. Birmingham is in a strong position to meet these challenges, and this is your chance to learn more about, and discuss these opportunities with Professor David Eastwood. All staff are encouraged to attend, for further details visit the [University intranet](#).



Birmingham Professional Forum

Date/Time: Tuesday 19 February 2013, 2pm–3pm

Venue: Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building

The Birmingham Professional Forum is a termly event for all Professional Services colleagues from across the University. Introduced by the Registrar and Secretary, Lee Sanders, the forum is a great opportunity to hear from colleagues on a wide range of topical subjects for staff and the University. There is also opportunity for you to ask questions on any topics covered. This term's agenda includes presentations on secondments, the Institute of Advanced Studies, University Transition Review, and Project Office. For further details visit the [University intranet](#).



Vice-Chancellor's Lecture Series: Sir Christopher Meyer

Date/Time: Wednesday 20 February, 6.00–7.30pm

Venue: Birmingham Business School

Sir Christopher Meyer is former British Ambassador to the United States and Germany and former Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission. He is author of *DC Confidential* and *Getting Our Way* and is a regular commentator, broadcaster and documentary maker for television and radio. Sir Christopher will deliver the first in the VC Lecture Series for 2013, titled 'The Lessons of History'.

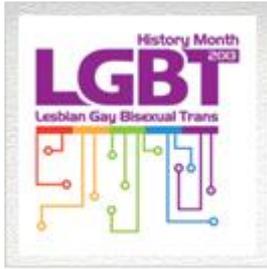


Baggs Happiness Lecture 2013

Date/Time: 17 June, 6.30pm

Venue: Great Hall, Aston Web Building

This year's Baggs Memorial lecture on the theme of Happiness will be delivered by the charismatic and popular broadcaster Gyles Brandreth. Gyles is an established broadcaster, successful novelist, and former MP and Government Whip. Today, Gyles is probably best known for his role as reporter on BBC1's *The One Show* and as a regular guest on Radio 4's *Just a Minute*. This event is free but [registration](#) is essential.



LGBT History Month 2013

February is LGBT History month, celebrating the lives and histories of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans communities. There will be a range of exciting talks, exhibitions and film nights on campus throughout February, organised by colleagues from the LGBTQ Rainbow Network, Barber Institute of Fine Arts and Cadbury Research Library: Special Collections. Most events are free and all are open to all University staff and students. Highlights include an exhibition celebrating the life and work of Noel Coward and lectures on Birmingham's gay history, and Olive Custance, wife of Lord Alfred Douglas. Full details are on the [University intranet](#).

News

Development and Alumni Relations and Business Engagement form new division

From 1 February, Development and Alumni Relations (DARO) joined together with the Business Engagement team under a new division which will strengthen what is already a close working partnership. Headed up by Nick Blinco, the new structure will continue to promote entrepreneurial development, alumni relations, and fundraising and will provide a more cohesive approach to building relationships with external partners. If you think there are opportunities to work with us, we'd be delighted to hear from you. For more information and contact details, please visit the [DARO](#) and [Business Engagement](#) webpages.

Parking notice – South car park

South car park will be closed for all current students and staff on 6, 20, 27 February, and 6, 13, 20 March. This is to accommodate applicants who will be attending applicant visit days and interviews. The nearest pay and display car parks for staff are North and Pritchatts Road car parks. Nearest student parking is Pritchatts Road. Additionally, there will be limited parking available in South Car Park on 13 February 2013. Further details are on the [University intranet](#).

University intranet – staff networks and clubs

Did you know that the HR pages of the intranet include details on the wide range of staff networks, groups and societies that you can join? There are a wide range of opportunities for support, social networking and sharing interests with colleagues, including the staff disability group, sporting societies such as Mermaid Cricket Club and TAG Rugby, a Writers' network and much more. Further details on groups and how you can get involved are on the [University intranet](#).

HAS and Guild of Students – wheeled bins partnership

Hospitality & Accommodation Services (HAS) in partnership with Birmingham City Council, and the Guild of Students will provide wheeled bins for the local area. Bournbrook, home to

over 8,000 students, has seen a number of refuse issues due to the high density of the population. The new bins, funded by the University, will be delivered to over 1,200 houses in early February. They will be emptied on a weekly basis by the City Council. The Guild's Community Wardens are visiting every household affected by the changes to explain how the new scheme will work. It is anticipated that the new bins will help ensure the local area stays clean and tidy for all residents.

Annual Teaching and Learning Conference

This year marks the 10th Anniversary of the University's annual Teaching and Learning Conference. This year the conference will be a two day event, held 24-25th June. The conference will be primarily hosted within the recently refurbished Learning Centre, providing a variety of high quality spaces to accommodate a range of interactive and thought provoking presentations. High level themes include Technology Enhanced Learning and the 10th year anniversary with retrospective and prospective consideration of teaching, learning and educational enhancement across the University and sector. Further information including keynote speakers, is on the [University intranet](#).

Wellbeing service

A reminder for those struggling with New Year's Resolutions to check out the confidential online [Wellbeing programme](#) available for all staff and students. The site offers a range of options including a Wellbeing check up, personalised health and wellbeing assessments, an opportunity to set your own personal goals and tailored help and advice.

World Cancer Day Bake Sale Success

Thanks to everyone who baked and bought a cake at the Circles of influence bake sale for World Cancer Day, and helped raise over £700. This will provide vital funds for the life-saving brain, breast and prostate cancer research taking place at our University. If you have been inspired to hold your own fundraising event, please contact Laura Fairbanks on 48894 or l.fairbanks@bham.ac.uk, who will send you a fundraising pack, full of useful ideas to get you started. Support from sales like this are absolutely vital for the success of our research, and committed, regular support ensures that we can plan for the future. If you would like to support this research with a regular gift, please contact Laura.

Views

Birmingham Student Survey and Postgraduate Experience Survey 2013

The Birmingham Student Survey (BSS) launches on 18 February, aimed at all non-final year undergraduates. The Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) also launches on 18 February. This annual survey aims to assess the experience of PGTs and identify areas where improvements can be made. This national survey is conducted by the Higher Education Academy and is open to all Higher Education Institutions across the UK. All eligible students will be sent an email inviting them to complete the survey. We need as many students as possible to complete the surveys to gain a representative picture of the student experience across the University. Further details are on the [University intranet](#).

Events

Jo Brand to headline Comedy Gala for University Mental Health Day

Join us on 20 February for the University Mental Health Day and take part in a range of activities and workshops to improve your wellbeing; from Laughter Yoga to Metal Zumba hosted by Kerrang! Radio. Join in and you'll be entered into a draw to win a pair of tickets to see [Jo Brand at a Comedy Gala](#) the following week.

venuebirmingham open event – Keep it on Campus

Date/Time: 14 February, 1–5pm

Venue: 3rd floor, Staff House

venuebirmingham are running an open event for anyone who books meetings, conferences, events or accommodation on behalf of the University. Receive special internal rates, and save on VAT. You will have the opportunity to see and tour the University's venues and services that support meetings and events. Learn about a series of special rates for internal customers, brand new loyalty schemes, meet the teams involved, and ask any questions. Further details are on the [venuebirmingham](#) website.

Go Green Week

Date 18–22 February

The University will be celebrating Go Green Week 2013 with a wide range of events for staff, and students. Activities include a slow bike race, Green Economics debate, Love food hate waste training, and cycling roadshow. For the full schedule visit the [University intranet](#).

MDS named lecture series: Targeting the 'Undruggable'

Date 20 February, 5pm

Venue: Leonard Deacon Lecture Theatre Medical School

In the College of Medical and Dental Sciences Humphreys Lecture 2013 Professor Nicholas Tonks, of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, New York will talk on 'Targeting the "Undruggable": new approaches to inhibition of protein tyrosine phosphatase function'. This lecture is open to all; for further information contact Yvonne Dawson, y.dawson@bham.ac.uk or visit the [University intranet](#).

Drawing, cognition and locomotion

Date: 26 February, 10am–12.30pm

Venue: Foyer, Hills Building

A team from the Departments of Psychology and Biosciences has collaborated with

Birmingham artist Saranjit Birdi on an innovative art-science project supported by the Arts Council of England. "Over the last fifteen years" says Saranjit "I discovered that we have an ability to draw with hands, feet and elbows. I became interested in the notion of physical and social limitations and how motivation may help to overcome them". Saranjit will be creating drawings with feet and elbows; all students and staff are welcome to participate.

Networking for Innovation

Dates: 27 February, 12–2pm (Lunch provided)

Venue: Institute of R&D, Birmingham Research Park

This interactive seminar will give you the tools and strategy to build a strong and effective network, which will not only help your project become a reality but also give you the confidence to network and succeed. Please contact Sofia Hansrod, at s.hansrod@bham.ac.uk or on 414 6539 to register attendance.

Sounding stars and sizing up exoplanets: searches for other solar systems

Date: 28 February, 5.15pm

Venue: Haworth 101 Lecture Theatre, School of Chemistry

Thanks to the launch of the NASA Kepler Mission the past three years have seen dramatic progress in the study of other stellar systems in our galaxy. Kepler's data have revolutionised the study of stars, in particular thanks to the application of asteroseismology, the study of stars by their natural resonances ("music of the stars"). Professor Bill Chaplin, of the School of Physics and Astronomy will give his inaugural lecture on the role that Birmingham is playing in this work. Attendance is free, but registration is required. Further details are available on the [University intranet](#).

UBSport events

- Premier Squash League: enjoy some world class squash action in the last home game of the season... University of Birmingham Sport Vs Chapel Allerton, Munrow Sports Centre, 5 March. £8 adults, £4 concessions.
- Charity Zumbathon: join the zumbathon fun on 9 March at the Munrow Sports Centre and raise valuable funds for the Children's Trust! Registration from 12pm, event will start at 1pm.
- Aussie Rules Vs Gaelic Football: Come to the Bournbrook pitch on 22 March at 7pm to witness the inaugural University of Birmingham Aussie Rules Vs University of Birmingham Gaelic Football exhibition match. Details on all events are on the [UBSport website](#).

Philosophy Society seminar series

Date/Time: various, until 4 March

Venue: Room 149, ERI building

This year's Philosophy Society series includes lectures from Corine Besson, of the

University of London titled 'Interpreting What Achilles Said to the Tortoise' (25 February) and Bart Streumer, of the University of Reading on 'Unbelievable Errors' (4 March). Further details and abstracts are on the [University website](#).

Edward Cadbury Lectures 2013: Religion out of the box

Date/Time: 22 January – 19 March 2013, 6pm

Venue: Room G51, ERI building

The School of Philosophy, Theology and Religion is hosting its annual Cadbury Lecture series. The next talk is on 12 February when Professor Judith Lieu (University of Cambridge) will present 'Hearing Texts and Reading Voices: on the redrawing of early Christianity'. Other speakers in the series include Professor Atallah Siddiqui ('Read! In the name of thy Lord'), Professor Gavin D'Costa (Distinctive voices require distinctive universities. The case for theology and a Christian university) and Professor David Ford (Questions between religions: deep reasoning, no map). Events are free, but registration is desirable. To register email cadburylectures@contacts.bham.ac.uk, further details are on the [University website](#).

Opportunities

Universitas 21 staff and student awards

Please take note of the forthcoming deadlines for U21 Awards:

[Staff Fellowships](#) – Friday 22 February

[UG Summer School bursaries](#) to Fudan, Korea and Connecticut – Friday 1 March

UG Research Conference in Amsterdam – Friday 8 March

[PhD Scholarships](#) – Friday 29 March

Please do encourage any colleagues or students you believe would benefit from an international experience to consider applying. For further details contact Matt Clulee, U21 Project Officer on m.clulee@bham.ac.uk.

British Science Association – Media Fellowships

Do you want to turn the latest science into news? Spend 3-6 weeks with a professional journalist as part of the British Science Association Media Fellowships. Fellows will learn how to produce newsworthy pieces about developments in science, and become more confident working with the media. For further information and to apply online visit the [British Science Association website](#).

Clearing out after Christmas?

As part of the Book Crossing scheme, Library Services will be giving away books within the local community in June. To prepare for the event, they would be very grateful if staff could

bring in any books they no longer want. A variety of material is welcome; from cookbooks to crime novels, but they'd especially appreciate any children's books, so please do ask your friends and family as well. You can drop books with Claire Browne or Claire McHale via the Main Library reception. If you have any questions, or would like books to be collected from your office, call Claire on 414 7247 or email c.k.browne@bham.ac.uk.

Cricketers wanted

Interested in playing midweek evening cricket? Mermaids, the University staff cricket team, plays 20-over 'friendlies' between May-August. In the close season we rent nets at Edgbaston Indoor Cricket Centre every Wednesday evening. Contact the club captain Dr John Wilkie at j.wilkie@bham.ac.uk for more information.

Get £40 for participation in a psychological experiment

Participants are needed to take part in a study investigating food portion sizes. You will attend two sessions and complete simple computer tasks and questionnaires to help understand how people make decisions about portion sizes. To be eligible to participate your BMI must be between 30 and 35 ([Calculate your BMI](#)). For more information please email Kim Verlaers on KXV276@bham.ac.uk

Contact Buzz Bitesize

Next edition: 7 March

Copy deadline: 28 February

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