



Buzz Bitesize: November 2014

Welcome to Buzz Bitesize. Circulated monthly, Buzz Bitesize provides the latest news, views, events and opportunities from across campus. Take a look at the Buzz Facebook and Twitter accounts for the latest campus news and opportunities throughout the month.

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Birmingham Professional Forum

Date/time: Friday 7 November 2014, 10.30–11.30am

Venue: Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building

The Birmingham Professional Forum is a termly event for all professional service staff, introduced by the Registrar and Secretary, Lee Sanders. The Forum is an opportunity to hear from colleagues on a range of topics. Presentations at this term's Forum include:

- Defining our Identity
- The University of Birmingham School
- Setting up the NHS Leadership Academy



Contribute to the Strategic Framework

The Strategic Framework 2010–15, Shaping Our Future, launched a period of intensive transformation, ambition, innovation, and success at the University of Birmingham, which culminated in the University

being named *The Times* and *The Sunday Times University of the Year 2013–2014*. Five years ago many of you took part in the development of the Strategic Framework and shared ideas, comments and suggestions, which helped shape our success. It's time to refresh the Strategic Framework for 2020, so whether you're new or have been here for years, are academic or professional staff, we would like to invite you to get involved in the refresh via our website, Twitter account, focus groups and soon-to-be-launched online questionnaires, discussion boards and other opportunities. [Visit the intranet page](#) to find out more. You can share your comments and volunteer to take part in the focus groups right now. [Email the Strategic Framework team](#) and start making a real contribution to the University's future. You can also follow us on Twitter [@UoBSF](#).



Two-minute silence for Armistice Day

On Armistice Day, Tuesday 11 November, the University will be observing a two-minute silence at 11.00am and we kindly request that staff observe this period of silence. Armistice Day is the anniversary of the end of World War 1 on 11 November 1918. Poppies are on sale in the Aston Webb reception.

There is also a Multi-Faith Remembrance Vigil at 5.00pm on Tuesday 11 November to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. It will feature music, readings and reflections on conflict from a range of faiths and traditions and will be held in the Aston Webb Rotunda, itself a registered war memorial. All welcome, entrance is free and registration is not required. For more information, please email the [Chaplaincy](#).

News...

New 'Your Benefit Choices' online brochure

The University is pleased to announce the arrival of a fantastic [new online brochure](#). The brochure provides a comprehensive one-stop-shop for staff to discover and explore the unique benefits, offers and discounts available to them through working for the University. Look out for some of our more popular benefits including:

- Cyclescheme, a salary sacrifice cycle purchase scheme where you can save on the cost of a bike and safety equipment
- Childcare voucher scheme from care-4, which allows you to save on the cost of childcare using salary sacrifice
- Sports Centre staff and family membership discount – staff are now able to opt into salary sacrifice with regards to sports centre membership to make great savings
- Plus many more offers and discounts, including computers and accessories, Costco Wholesale Membership, medical and dental health plans, mobile phone discounts, Payroll Giving (or Give As You Earn) and Staff Extras

The brochure details the benefits available to all staff, the simple ways of signing up for a package to suit your individual needs and how the scheme works. The potential savings

you could make are set out clearly to ensure you make the best choice. You can also view locally sourced benefits [here](#). For a hardcopy please email [Staff Benefits](#).

Collaboration with Joint Research Centre

The University has signed a collaboration agreement with the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the in-house laboratories of the European Commission, at a signing ceremony in Brussels attended by the Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir David Eastwood and the JRC's Director General, Vladimir Sucha. Working with the JRC will increase the University's research power and capacity to shape future research, policy and programmes at European and international level. It will accelerate our engagement in established and new European and international research initiatives. The agreement will provide Birmingham academics with access to a premier scientific organisation who have, over the past 50 years, created invaluable top-class scientific assets from datasets to large-scale facilities, have unparalleled access to the European Commission, and have connections with top-class scientific organisations and companies worldwide. The agreement is intended to promote genuine mutually beneficial scientific collaboration between their researchers and ours; with ten thematic priorities identified so far.

Ring road changes imminent

The University ring road layout will permanently change from Monday 10 November as work on the new University library progresses. The new link road to Pritchatts Road, which has been constructed to the east of the Munrow Sports Centre will open, while the existing ring road which divides the new library construction site will close. This means that all traffic driving clockwise around the north of campus will need to exit the campus at the new junction, before re-entering, if desired, at North Spur opposite the new North East Car Park. Traffic travelling anti-clockwise can leave the campus at North Spur and re-enter at the new junction. Both entrances are controlled by swipe card access. Anyone wishing to drive around campus without exiting and re-entering through the barriers can use the ring road to the south of campus as normal. Anyone with queries should contact [Kara Griffiths](#).

Library Services update: Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA)

The procedure for reporting scanning under the University's CLA licence has been streamlined over the summer. A new online form is now available for use by staff to report the scanning of chapters and articles uploaded to Canvas, rather than completing two documents, Cover Notice and Digital Copy Request Form, under the old process. This online form automatically reports the scanning activity to Library Services and generates the Copyright Notice, reducing the administrative burden for colleagues scanning and reporting. Use of the form has already led to an improvement in approval times as the Library is able to confirm CLA licence coverage far quicker than previously. Full details can be found at [procedures for scanning](#) or if you have any queries please contact [Library Services](#).

Support for Students website update

Many students need a little extra help sometimes. As we are now a few weeks into the term, the [Support for Students website](#) has been updated and is currently being promoted to

students. From accommodation, finance and study skills to learning support, mental and physical health, the Support for Students website can point students in the right direction to find the answers they need. Please take a look around and familiarise yourself with the website for any student queries and to direct students towards it.

Open days at the BioHub

Staff who would like further information about the [BioHub Birmingham](#), which will open shortly on Birmingham Research Park, are invited to attend one of the open days to see the facilities and find out more. The BioHub is a brand new, fully serviced biomedical laboratory specifically designed to provide entrepreneurs and innovative start-ups with access to affordable laboratory facilities and equipment. Doors will be open between midday and 7.00pm on Tuesday 9 and Wednesday 10 December for staff interested in taking a look around and meet the team who are working hard to get everything up and running. There will also be a further open day on 21 January 2015, and viewings are also available on request at other times. To confirm attendance at one of the open days or to arrange a personal viewing, please email [the BioHub](#).

NHS Management Training Scheme voted as the UK's most popular graduate scheme

The University's Health Services Management Centre (HSMC) provides the educational component of the NHS Management Training Scheme (MTS) – voted the UK's most popular scheme in 2014–15 by over 27,000 students in *the Guardian's* annual UK 300 survey. The MTS has come top for the second year in a row, beating off both public and private sector schemes from organisations such as the BBC, Google, Microsoft, Jaguar, John Lewis and Rolls-Royce.

Mermaids CC – celebrating the past and looking to the future

The University's staff cricket team, Mermaids CC, celebrated their 50th year during 2014. This culminated in an end of season awards evening on 11 October where players both past and present got together to celebrate their achievements. The Mermaids CC play mainly 20-over games in the evenings between May and August, and the team consists of staff from different areas of the University. There is great camaraderie between the players, and the emphasis is on the enjoyment of the game. The team is always on the lookout for new recruits; everyone is welcome and now would be a good time to get in touch as Mermaids CC hold winter nets at Warwickshire CCC on a Wednesday night.

Anyone interested in getting involved should contact [Darren Jeffery](#), or tweet us [@MermaidsCC](#).

Changes to UK Copyright Law

From 1 October teaching staff need to be made aware of the development 'illustration for instruction' exception. This exception allows the copying of 'fair' amounts of third party material to support the teaching of a particular topic, both in lectures and via Canvas. This exception would enable a paragraph or figure from a journal article to be used, without permission, provided it is illustrating a point or concept and is cited appropriately. The exception should be used cautiously as it is still subject to the usual 'fair dealing' caveats,

and will not apply in every instance. For researchers a new 'Text and Data Mining' (TDM) exception is now in force allowing the computation analysis of data that the University has access to, or that is publicly available. [More information](#).

Advice and guidance – Ebola

The University is a global community and therefore we are working closely with Public Health England to ensure accurate information and guidance is followed regarding the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in West Africa. Information is available [on the intranet](#) and will be updated with any new information. While Ebola remains a genuine concern in West Africa, if it travels to Europe the chances of it spreading are remote.

Events...

A full list of events can also be found on the [University's website](#) including performances, lectures, workshops, cultural activities and exhibitions.

Russia and the West since 1991: a tale of growing distrust

Date/time: Monday 10 November, 5.00pm

Venue: Room 714, Muirhead Tower

The Institute for Conflict, Cooperation and Security (ICCS) Seminar Series continues with an exploration of the fluctuating relationship between Russia and the West, led by Professor Geoffrey Hosking of University College, London. [Book online](#).

Lunch and Learn: Engaging with the media and politics – why journalists and policy makers need academics

Date/time: Tuesday 11 November, 12.15pm

Venue: B04, Mechanical and Civil Engineering Building

This lunchtime session co-ordinated by the College of Life and Environmental Sciences will provide practical advice on how academics can reach both the media and policy makers. We will be joined by Akshat Rathi, Science Editor for *The Conversation*, the news outlet written by academics in collaboration with journalists; Edward Thomas, the University's Public Affairs Manager; and David Gregory-Kumar, Science Correspondent for BBC *Midlands Today*. Places are limited and registration is required. To register, please email [Catherine Byerley](#).

Professor Russell Beale's Inaugural Lecture: Changing Interactions: a perspective on the nature of our interaction with computers, and what this means for the future

Date/time: Thursday 13 November, 5.15pm

Venue: G33, Mechanical and Civil Engineering Building

The College of Engineering and Physical Sciences invites you to attend the Inaugural Lecture of Russell Beale, Professor of Human-Computer Interaction. As computers have become more portable and personal, so our relationship to them has altered, and this has interesting implications for the future. We have spent much time designing them to be usable: to easily do what we want them to do, to obey our command. This has been a difficult task, not least because we, the people using them, are sometimes strange and hard to fathom. It is clear that adding technology into situations changes how we behave in those situations and this leads us to ask whether we can invert this process, and, working from the behaviours we want to end up with, design the technological intervention to achieve that new behaviour. [Book online.](#)

Being Human in *King Lear*: Perspectives from Contemporary Theatrical and Medical Practice

Date/time: Monday 17 November, 5.00–6.30pm

Venue: Lecture Room 4, Arts Building

What does Shakespeare's *King Lear* have to say to us about being human in the 21st century? How does our modern experience of ageing, mental decline, and end of life care shape how we read and perform this tragedy? Join us for a special panel discussion with Dr Erin Sullivan of the University's Shakespeare Institute and members of 1623 Theatre Company, who for the past year have been exploring *King Lear* in collaboration with people living with dementia in three Derbyshire care homes. How has their work with patients, families, and carers influenced the way they understand suffering, 'madness', and humanity in Shakespeare's great play? This event is part of the UK-wide Being Human Festival of the Humanities and is free to attend with no registration required.

War Artists Lecture Series

Dates/times: Wednesday 19 and 26 November, 1.10–2.00pm

Venue: Barber Lecture Theatre, The Barber Institute of Fine Arts

Inspired by the Barber's exhibition, 'Rebel Visions: The War Art of C R W Nevinson', this lecture series examines the links between war and the arts. The first lecture (19 November), conducted by the exhibition's curator, Dr Richenda Roberts, explores Nevinson's 'problem-paintings' and the influence that politics, society's fascination with war and the artist's own beliefs had on these works. The second lecture (26 November) sees Daniel Snowman uncover European responses to war over the past two centuries. From the Napoleonic triumphs and tragedies, through to the Crimean War, the romantic revolutions of mid-century and the aesthetic responses on all sides of the two World Wars, this lecture asks why and how war has stimulated visual creativity. Both lectures are free and no booking is required. [Further information.](#)

Professor Jon Green's Inaugural Lecture: Innovation in teaching and learning: what influences and determines 'success'?

Date/time: Wednesday 19 November, 5.15pm

Venue: G15 Main Muirhead Lecture Theatre, Muirhead Tower

Universities invest heavily in ensuring that innovative methods are used in teaching and learning. An increasingly diverse student population, the prevalence of technology and quality assurance indicators have increased the need for changes in the way we teach. Staff are encouraged to be innovative teachers to improve student learning and this links with promotion criteria. This lecture explores how 'success' is defined and evaluated in this context, and reviews examples of innovations that work and those that do not. [Book online](#).

Dancing Maps

Date/time: Thursday 20 November, 6.00pm

Venue: Lecture Room 2, Arts Building

Hosted by the Institute of Advanced Studies, this event is part of an ongoing project encouraging people to experience African and Caribbean traditional dance in new ways, through engaging with digital technologies. It aims to see whether this new engagement will prompt people to think in different ways about how African dance is relevant to their lives now, to their bodies and to the places where they live. Can African dance be re-thought as a 'map' to guide us in our lives today? Come to the live event and you can also watch a new dance devised by Ace Dance Company, and join in with the debate about where African-Caribbean dance can take you. [Find out more and book online](#).

In the Eye of the Needle

Date/time: Thursday 20 November, 6.00pm for 7.00pm

Venue: The Barber Institute of Fine Arts

Join Willard Wigan MBE as he discusses his unique sculptures that can only be viewed through the lens of a microscope. Described by some as 'the eighth wonder of the world,' each piece commonly sits within the eye of a needle or on a pin-head. This talk offers a rare opportunity to find out more about this inspirational Birmingham artist and his work. Doors open at 6.00pm to view the gallery, plus drinks and canapés, the lecture then begins at 7.00pm. Tickets can be purchased on the night for £10, while BEDFAS and Barber Association members can attend for free. [Further information](#).

Christmas Craft Fair and Family Day

Date/time: Saturday 22 November, 11.00am–4.00pm

Venue: The Barber Institute of Fine Arts

The Barber's ever-popular Christmas Fair returns – start your Christmas shopping here! As well as browsing our unique artists' stalls, get creative in our family workshop by making your own crafty foam Christmas cards. As if that wasn't enough, enjoy live festive story telling in the galleries (12.30–2.00pm) and Christmas carols from the Bournville Graduates (1.00–2.00pm). This event is free, so drop in anytime. [More information](#).

The Edward Cadbury Lectures 2014

Dates/times: 25–27 November and 1–3 December, 5.30–7.00pm

Venue: Lecture Room 7, Arts Building

The School of Philosophy, Theology and Religion would like to invite you to this year's Cadbury Lecture Series, a programme of seminars given by Professor Amy-Jill Levine, Professor of Jewish Studies, Vanderbilt University, USA. [More information](#). The events are free and open to all, but registration is desirable. [Register by email](#).

Premier Squash League

Date/time: Tuesday 25 November, 7.00pm

Venue: Munrow Sports Centre

UBSport played host to a fantastic display of Premier Squash League in October as the Birmingham Lions took on Everards Leicester in the first home match of the season. In front of a packed crowd the Lions won the thriller 3-2. Did you miss it? Don't worry; the next home game is in November when the Lions take on Pontefract. Tickets, which include a free drink, are now for sale via the [UBSport website](#). Don't miss out on one of the greatest international sporting events to spectate on campus. For the latest news, follow on Twitter [@UBSportPSL](#).

Think business potential, think Intellectual Property

Date/time: Wednesday 26 November, 12noon

Venue: BizzInn, Birmingham Research Park

Once you have an idea that puts you ahead of the pack, imitations and rip-offs could follow, unless you take steps to protect your originality. Intellectual Property (IP) gives you the basis for securing the commercial rights to what makes you unique. In a world where ideas can easily be transmitted and reproduced at minimal cost, IP stops anyone else using your brainwaves and gives you a proper chance to profit from them. But it doesn't just apply to radical breakthroughs in thinking. IP offers legal protection for all sorts of information and techniques that you use to run your business. It is an everyday commercial and financial issue. IP can assist you in almost every aspect of your business development and competitive strategy, from product development to marketing. It may also play an important factor when considering exporting or expanding your business abroad. [Book online](#).

Professor Jeremy Wyatt's Inaugural Lecture: Robot Life: A User's Manual

Date/time: Thursday 27 November, 5.15pm

Venue: Arthur Thompson Hall, Medical School Building

The College of Engineering and Physical Sciences invites you to attend the Inaugural Lecture of Jeremy Wyatt, Professor of Robotics and Artificial Intelligence. Robotics is reaching a tipping point. The intelligence and robustness of robots has increased hugely in the past 15 years. This has allowed them to leave the laboratory and carefully controlled environments like the factory floor and enter our world. In this public lecture, aimed at the non-specialist, Professor Jeremy Wyatt will explain the achievements of intelligent robotics to date. He will also highlight some of the challenges we must meet to bring robots into our

everyday lives. Finally, Professor Wyatt will highlight some of the work carried out at Birmingham over the past decade, particularly breakthroughs in robot planning, robot learning and robot manipulation. The lecture is accessible to people from the age of 12 and upwards. The event will be followed by a drinks reception in the Wolfson Common Room.

[Register online.](#)

National Badminton League

Date/time: Monday 1 December, 7.30pm

Venue: Great Hall, Aston Webb Building

In October the UK witnessed the launch of the first official National Badminton League (NBL), with the Birmingham Lions starting their season on home ground at the National Indoor Arena as they took on Team Derby. The next Birmingham Lions game will be at the University in December and televised live on Sky Sports. With its intimate, prestigious location and a taste of victory, the Lions will be looking to take another win in their pursuit to be the inaugural NBL champions. Come and watch this spectacular event live on campus. Adult, student, family and group tickets are now on sale. Please visit the [UBSport website](#) for more information and ticket prices. For the latest news, follow us on Twitter

[@UBSportNBL.](#)

Professor Kim Shapiro's Inaugural Lecture: What the Mind's Eye Sees

Date/time: Thursday 4 December, 5.15pm

Venue: Lecture Theatre 2, Sport, Rehabilitation and Exercise Sciences Building

The human brain is bombarded with millions of bits of information each second of each day. How do we make sense of all this information and yet not forget our home phone number or what groceries we were meant to buy when next at the store? The tools available to interrogate what the mind's eye sees have advanced to a remarkable degree and afford us an unprecedented window into the cognitive architecture of the human brain. This lecture will offer some answers to this fundamental question and in so doing unravel a few of the mysteries of human information processing. Kim Shapiro is a Professor and Chair of Cognitive Neuroscience and currently the Head of the School of Psychology. The event is followed by a drinks reception in the SportEx Atrium. [Book online.](#)

National Mobile Apps in Research Summit (MARS) 2014

Date/time: Thursday 4 December, 10.00am–3.30pm

Venue: Digital Heritage Hub, ERI building

Academics interested in using apps to gather data, engage the public with their research or to deliver professional or commercial tools as research outputs are invited to the Mobile Apps in Research Summit. This event brings together researchers from universities across the UK and across disciplines to explore new technologies, discuss issues such as ethics and impact, and forge collaborations. Delegate tickets are £15 and include all sessions, lunch and refreshments. For more information please contact [Sam Walter](#). Please note registration closes on Monday 17 November.

Business Club's Breakfast Briefing

Date/time: Tuesday 9 December, 7.30am

Venue: Bizzinn, Birmingham Research Park

Each briefing is an opportunity for Business Club members to collaborate with academics at the University. December's theme is 'The Chancellor's Autumn Statement and the Implications for Business'. Those attending will be able to hear from our two expert speakers; Professor Andy Lymer, Birmingham Business School, and Peter Jelfs, Senior Tax Manager at Mazars in Birmingham. [Find out more](#). There will also be the opportunity to make short elevator pitches to the Club, of no more than four minutes in duration, to promote new products, services or recruit partners for Collaborative R&D projects. Registration is free; [book online](#). If you have any questions, or are interested in pitching to the Club, please email [the Business Team](#).

First World War Centenary Exhibition

Date: Until Friday 30 January, weekdays only

Venue: Muirhead Tower Atrium

The Friends Ambulance Unit (FAU) during WWI exhibition sheds light on the work of the FAU, a volunteer ambulance service that operated in northern France and Belgium during WWI, supporting the French Army by providing medical assistance for soldiers injured on the Western Front. The Unit was founded by individual members of the British Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and was staffed by many Quaker men and women.

Opportunities...

Universitas 21 Staff Fellowship Programme 2014–15

The Fellowships were set up to demonstrate the University's commitment to staff development and enhance its relationship with some of the world's leading universities through the Universitas 21 network. The Fellowships are awards of up to £5,000 and applicants can apply for travel to take place between August 2015 and July 2016. Applications are encouraged from early-career researchers, but Fellowships are open to all academic and non-academic staff. The application deadline is Sunday 1 March 2015. [Click here](#) for application materials, FAQs and details of previous Fellowship. A Staff Fellowship Information Session, which will be attended by previous Fellows, takes place on Wednesday 19 November from 12.30–1.30pm at the Learning Centre, in Room UG06.

Arts & Science Festival – call for events

The University's Arts & Science Festival will return for its third instalment in 2015. Running from Monday 16 until Sunday 22 March 2015 and themed 'Sight & Sound', the festival will be a free programme showcasing culture, research and collaboration at the University through talks, exhibition, performances, workshops and screenings. The Cultural Engagement team is currently inviting staff and students across campus to submit events – these may be events already scheduled to happen, or events developed and realised

especially for the Festival. All suitable submissions will be marketed as part of the Festival programme, and included in online listings and printed publicity. If you are interested in submitting an event or would like further information regarding the Festival, please email [Catherine Maguire](#). The deadline for submissions is Wednesday 5 December 2014.

Universitas 21 PhD Scholarships now open

International Relations offer a number of scholarships each year to assist PhD students in travelling to our U21 partners to further their research. Each scholarship pays up to £1,500 for travelling and accommodation costs. A visit would be expected to be for approximately one month and successful applicants will travel between August 2015 and July 2016. For further information including application materials, guidelines and reports from previous scholars please go to our [intranet page](#). The deadline for applications is Sunday 29 March. We will have a number of drop-in sessions for interested students, detailing the application process and with the opportunity to ask previous U21 PhD Scholars about their experiences. Sessions take place in the Muirhead Tower Hospitality Suite on Thursday 20 November and Wednesday 10 December. For further details please contact [Matt Clulee](#).

Has your department got a key project that needs completing?

Careers Network's Birmingham Undergraduate Internship Programme (BUIP) is a programme of paid internal internships based within the University of Birmingham over the summer. Aimed at undergraduate students (except final years), BUIP allows for University departments across all colleges to benefit from an intern working for them over the summer period, while also allowing for students to engage in real-life projects and gain key employment experience. Internships can last any length between four and twelve weeks and Careers Network are looking for host departments to offer real projects. Careers Network will look after the programme administration, marketing and training, and are keen to provide a variety of opportunities so would love to hear from you if you or your colleagues are interested in hosting an intern next summer. To find out more information and how you can get involved please contact [Harjinder Kundra](#) or [read online](#).

Universitas 21 Early-Career Researcher Workshop: Innovation and Entrepreneurship

International Relations are offering four £200 bursaries to support staff travel and accommodation costs to this year's U21 Early-Career Researcher Workshop taking place at University College Dublin, 4–6 March 2015. Places are available through a competitive process of application with a deadline of Friday 12 December. Staff are eligible to apply if they have gained their doctorate within the past seven years. The workshop is aimed at researchers from all disciplinary backgrounds with the purpose of increasing research capabilities and developing skills associated with career development in academia. The workshop will also focus on networking and gaining an international perspective on the role and career route of researchers. Application forms can be accessed via [the intranet](#).

Educational Enhancement Project Funding

Do your students have an idea to improve the academic experience? Students may apply for up to £1,000 to engage directly with, and contribute to, the enhancement of students'

academic experience at the University, while also gaining valuable project-related skills and experience. Students can apply online and find out more information via [the intranet](#). The deadline is 5.00pm on Monday 24 November. CLAD Project Advisors are available to assist all applicants with initial project ideas, the application process and to answer any queries that arise. Email [CLAD](#).

Host an international student

Christmas can be a lonely time for those far from home. Our international students have the chance to apply to HOST for a visit to a 'real home', where they can have a relaxing break and learn about the way of life here while making friends and sharing their own culture. HOST urgently needs to hear from anyone who could help by offering a day visit or very short stay during the vacation, or over Christmas itself. A little help with expenses is offered if required, but the true reward is in the interest for all the family, and the appreciation of the guests. Visit the [HOST website](#) for more information. You can also contact [Saroj Watton](#) for details.

New children's playgroup

Play sessions aimed at children aged between 3–11 years old take place every Sunday during term time between 11.00am–1.00pm. They are held at the Guild of Students in the Underground and are a student-led community volunteering group. We have lots of arts and crafts activities, along with themed play sessions around Bonfire Night and Christmas and we also run a variety of local trips too. The play schemes are completely free and open to all. They can give children a great opportunity to enjoy themselves and make new friends, while also giving parents a little time off too. To find out more, please email the [Selly Oak Play Scheme](#).

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