



Buzz Bitesize: April 2014

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.

Headlines

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Celebrating good *Times*

All staff are to receive an extra day's leave on Tuesday August 26 in recognition of Birmingham being made *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* University of the Year 2013–14. Announcing the additional closed day, which will immediately follow the August bank holiday, Vice-Chancellor Professor David Eastwood thanked 'every member of our University community for their individual and combined endeavours that have contributed to our success.'



BUAFTAs raise £4,600 for charity

The seventh annual Birmingham University Awards for Tremendous Achievements (BUAFTAs) raised a record £4,671 for charity. The Hollywood-themed gala dinner, hosted by alumna Kay Alexander, raised the cash for Acorns Children's Hospice. Kay said: 'When I was asked to present the awards ceremony and they gave me the choice of a charity I chose Acorns as it is just down the road and I have been involved as a patron for over 20 years.' Leonie Hudson, community fundraising manager at Acorns in Birmingham, said: 'We are very grateful to the University for donating this money to help support the life-limited and life-threatened children and families at Acorns. We

rely on fundraising and donations to keep our services running, and this donation alone could pay for nearly 150 hours of care, which is a fantastic achievement.'



Voices of War and Peace

A University-led First World War Engagement Centre, Voices of War and Peace: the Great War and its Legacy, was officially launched at the Library of Birmingham. Funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council in partnership with the Heritage Lottery Fund, the centre is a joint initiative between the University, Birmingham City University, Newman University, the University of Wolverhampton and the University of Worcester. Led by Professor Ian Grosvenor, Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Cultural Engagement, Voices of War and Peace will support community engagement activities, connecting academic and public histories of the First World War, as part of the commemoration of the conflict's centenary, which begins this year.



£60 million research facility launch

The University and Rolls-Royce celebrated their joint collaboration to establish a £60 million High Temperature Research Centre (HTRC) when Vice-Chancellor Professor David Eastwood and Rolls-Royce Director of Research and Technology Ric Parker 'broke ground' at the centre's new site at Ansty Park, near Coventry. The 5,800sqm centre, which will build on a longstanding collaboration between the two organisations, is funded through a £40 million investment by Rolls-Royce, matched by a £20 million government grant through the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)'s UK Research Partnership Investment Fund (UKRPIF). The centre will be a unique casting, design, simulation and advanced manufacturing research facility, and will focus initially on the key design and manufacturing aspects of investment casting relating to aerospace and other industrial sectors.



Birmingham goes 'back to school'

Date: 28 April 2014

From inspirational teachers and lifelong learning, to packed lunches and homework, the University will be celebrating and discussing all things 'education' on 28 April. We will be encouraging conversations with University alumni, staff and students, and sharing discussions and facts about the new [University of Birmingham School](#). We would love to hear about your thoughts and experiences of school as well. Why not join in the conversation on 28 April by following us on Twitter [@birminghamalum](#) or via #UoB2School?

News

Nominate a research hero

How has the University changed the world? For more than a century, research from the University has created a major impact on the city, the region and the world. Our early research has had a lasting impact on lives, culture, industry and society; our current research aspires to do the same and continues to blaze a trail. But who are your research heroes? The University needs your nominations for a new 'top ten' list of the alumni, staff, and students whose research has had a profound impact on society. With eight Nobel Prize winners among former staff and students, and world-leading researchers on

everything from the 'Big Bang' to Shakespeare, there are a lot to choose from. Visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/10ways to cast your vote. Nominate your research heroes by 4 April 2014.

Copyright Licensing Agency

To comply with the Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA), the University is required to submit an annual report of all scanning activity since 1 June 2013. The licence enables staff to scan limited amounts of printed material and to store the digitised versions so that they can be downloaded by students studying specified modules. Staff should notify Library Services by 16 May of all scanning that has taken place since 1 June 2013 so a combined return can be submitted to the CLA. Scanned materials can include: a chapter from a book, a journal article, a case report, up to ten pages from a play or poem; images, graphs and tables from books or journal articles; or digitised versions obtained by Library Services. Staff who wish to scan printed material and make the digitised version available to students via Canvas should follow the procedures for scanning. [Learn more](#)

Update for Staff Welcome Resources

The Staff Welcome Resources website has been updated for Welcome 2014. The site is designed to support the development of both academic and non-academic Welcome and induction activities within colleges and schools. Key features of the site include details of non-repeated University-wide events; Welcome information; case studies of Welcome/induction events for target student groups; resources to support your academic inductions, and a range of branded Welcome and International Day templates. For further information, or if you have any feedback on the site, please [email](#) or [visit](#)

Masters of the Sea

Date: 29 July 2014

Venue: The Barber Institute of Fine Arts

Two fascinating pictures by Dutch 17th-century masters will bring a taste of the sea to landlocked Birmingham when they go on show at the Barber Institute. The majestic oil painting *An Estuary Landscape with a Distant View of Dordrecht*, 1646, by Jan van Goyen, has been lent by a private collection. Joining it will be *The Dutch attack on Harwich*, 1669, an unusual black and white 'pen painting' by Willem van de Velde the Elder. On loan from the Royal Museums Greenwich, the latter comes in exchange for the Barber's Turner seascape, lent to the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, for the exhibition *Turner and the Sea*. The loans will be on display 29 April–29 October in the Red Gallery. <http://barber.org.uk/taste-sea>

Teaching and Learning Conference

Date: 4 July 2014

Venue: Muirhead Tower

The University Teaching and Learning Conference is the University's annual event to celebrate, showcase and disseminate the wealth of good practices in teaching and learning across the University. In its 11th year, this year's theme is Educational Innovation, and the day will feature invited contributions from pioneering academics both within and beyond the University on topics including The Virtual Laboratory, International and Distance Learning, and Student-Owned Learning. There will also be open presentations and poster sessions for colleagues to share their own educational innovations in any field, as well as opportunities for discussion and debate. The Call for Proposals is available on the conference website; the deadline for submissions is 9.00am on 14 April. [intranet page](#)

Probing the cloud

The University of Birmingham Business Club hosted another successful networking event on 25 March. *The Cloud – Business Miracle or Business Menace?* looked at the power of cloud computing and discussed the risks and benefits of storing our business data this way. The University's Professor of Computer Security, Mark Ryan, and Richard Zybert, of Zybert Computing, demystified what cloud computing could mean for businesses looking to use the technology. Attracting more than 40 business delegates, the topic sparked a lively and informative debate and raised the University's profile as an authority on the topic. If you are an academic with a desire to engage with industry, we would welcome your ideas for future networking events. Please contact the business team at [businessteam@bham.ac.uk](mailto:businesssteam@bham.ac.uk). For more information [visit](#)

Summer language courses

Languages for All offers six-week taster language courses in: Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin, and Spanish. Levels include: Beginner, Near Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced Classes. The sessions last two hours per week from mid-May to the end of June. Fee: £60 per course. There is an opportunity to progress to an Open Access language course later in the year. [Enrol online](#)

Academic skills workshops

The Academic Skills Centre (ASC) is offering a programme of workshops to help students with revision and exam skills. The sessions include *Practical Revision and Exam Strategies*, *Memory Techniques for Effective Revision*, *Coping with the Exam Period*, and workshops specific to essay-based exams, multiple choice, and short answer questions. Students can also benefit from individual appointments with our learning skills advisors, for personalised support with revision, time management, exam skills, or writing skills. Individual appointments can be booked by [e-mailing the ASC team](#) or [visit](#)

Views

What does open access mean for you?

Date/time: 18 June 2014, 12.00noon
Venue: Woodlands Room, Park House

Open access publishing aims to make the results of academic research freely available to anyone. But how will it work and what does it mean for you as an academic researcher? This College of Social Sciences lunchtime event brings together a panel of experts to share their views on some of the important issues, such as quality control and peer review, cost, access to knowledge and the future for open access publishing. There will also be the opportunity to ask the panel questions and find out how open access affects you. The panel will include Professor Adam Tickell, Provost, University of Birmingham; Helena Djurkovic, Chief Executive Officer, Political Studies Association; Suzanne Atkins, Open Access Advisor, University of Birmingham, and David Boyt, Managing Editor, Routledge Journals Taylor & Francis Group. Registration is compulsory. Lunch will be provided. To register for the event, please email [Rachael Pearson](#) or [visit](#)

Events

The Vikings are coming

Date/time: 26 April 2014, 10.00am
Venue: The Barber Institute of Fine Arts

The tenth Midlands Viking Symposium is hosted in association with the Universities of Nottingham and Leicester and is designed to bring together academics and enthusiasts in *Did the Vikings*

Viking Studies. Speakers include Dr Chris Callow, who will be presenting *sacrifice their slaves?* Registration is open. Discounted tickets are available for current University staff and students, priced £15 (usually £30). For more information [visit](#)

Dangers of flame-retardant chemicals

Date/time: 14 May 2014, 5.15pm

Venue: Lecture Theatre 203, Haworth Building (Y2 on Campus Map)

Stuart Harrad Inaugural Lecture:

What's in your phone/sofa? Human exposure to flame-retardant chemicals.

Join us for the inaugural lecture of Stuart Harrad, Professor of Environmental Chemistry. Flame-retardant chemicals are present in electronic goods and soft furnishings. They migrate into the environment, contaminating our air, dust, food and bodies. Even when we discard such items, the environmental contamination continues - albeit geographically shifted. Particularly elevated concentrations are found in food from areas of the developing world involved in treatment of electronic waste. This begs questions not only about how best we can achieve fire safety sustainably, but more generally about our use of resources. To register, visit the [intranet page](#). Admission free, booking recommended.

[Please email](#)

Barber Book Club

Date/time: 8 April 2014, 2.00pm

Venue: The Barber Institute of Fine Arts

Join us for a stimulating and informal discussion of this month's read, *Nocturnes: Five Stories of Music and Nightfall*, by Japanese-born British author Kazuo Ishiguro. This charming book of five short stories has been described by *The Independent* as 'a clever book about the passage of time and the soaring notes that make its journey worthwhile.' Refreshments provided. £2 – booking is essential (limited spaces available). To book, contact education@barber.org.uk or 0121 414 2261.

The secrets of mind reading

Date/time: 8 May 2014, 5.15pm

Venue: Lecture Theatre 2 (G85), Sport and Exercise Sciences Building.

Ian Apperly Inaugural Lecture: *How do we read minds?*

Perhaps you thought only Derren Brown could read minds. In fact, most of us work out what others think quite routinely in the course of everyday social life. There is much debate about how these abilities originate in humans and whether chimps or crows can mind read, too. We know impaired mind reading following brain injury or psychiatric disorders causes significant social difficulties. Booking recommended. Complete the online registration form. Ian Apperly is a Professor of Cognition and Development with the School of Psychology. A drinks reception will follow from 6.15pm. [Learn more](#)

Celebrating gardens

Date/time: 3–4 May 2014, 11.00am

Venue: Winterbourne House & Garden

Join Winterbourne House & Garden in a venture alongside the Black Country Living Museum. *Plots to Plenty* includes a living garden weekend on 12 to 13 April at the Black Country Living Museum, celebrating the use of gardens and their importance in history. A garden party weekend will be held at Winterbourne on 3-4 May. For more information visit: www.winterbourne.org.uk

Opportunities

Artists-in-residence seek contributions

Are you interested in cultural studies, feminism, quiz shows, protest, photography, race politics, alternative families, mods and rockers, *Just Seventeen* magazine...? Or were you working at the University in the 1970s–80s? If so, artists-in-residence louie+jesse would love to hear from you. Staff are invited to help put together a temporary display on campus by selecting items from the archive of the Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies, a University department from 1964 to 2002, headed by Richard Hoggart, Stuart Hall and others. If you'd like to know more about the archive (housed in Cadbury Research Library), the artists' project, and how you can get involved, contact the artists directly via louieandjesse@gmail.com or speak to Clare Mullett, University Curator. No experience or special knowledge required. For more information visit: <http://cccs50.co.uk>, <http://cccs-anarchive.tumblr.com>, <http://louiejesse.com>

Take part in a TV health show

Dates: 14–15 April 2014

Dusting, polishing, gardening and washing the car are all forms of exercise. But how much energy do you use in your daily routine? BBC Two's Trust Me I'm A Doctor is filming with the University's School of Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences. The show is looking for a variety of volunteers representing a range of age, fitness, ethnicity, gender, shapes and sizes to take part in an item on exercise. Participants must be available in the afternoon during the previous week. Please contact s.h.walter@bham.ac.uk

Discount for kids' sports camps

Ultimate Activity Camps and Schools of Sport are offering University of Birmingham staff a 15% discount on 'kids' camps throughout the Easter and summer school holidays. Located at the King Edward VI High School for Girls (situated on Edgbaston Park Road, opposite the main campus), the camps are for boys and girls aged four to 16. The activities will be delivered by inspiring staff who will instruct and encourage children to try new activities and build self-confidence, while having lots of fun. To book now, please call 0844 870 7077 (Ultimate) or 0844 870 9077 (SoS), or to book online and for further information please visit www.ultimateactivity.co.uk or [www.schoolsofsport.co.uk/Academies/athletics](http://schools oft sport.co.uk/Academies/athletics)

Recruits for physical activity study

Are you female and inactive? Struggling to find an incentive to become more active? If so, perhaps we can help. We are conducting a study comparing different physical activity strategies and looking at changes in body composition, body shape and muscle tone. We are recruiting female non-smokers, above ideal weight, aged 25–50 years. You will receive £150 for completing the study. If you would like to know more about this study please [visit](#). Or contact either: [Dr Andy Blannin](#) or [Dr Adrian Holliday](#)

New Social Enterprise fund for researchers

For the second year running, the University has been chosen as a partner on the UnLtd/HEFCE HE Support Programme. As a result of this new partnership, we will again be able to make some small awards to pump-prime new social enterprise initiatives based on university research. If you have a project which you think might be eligible for EBF or Social Enterprise funds, please contact [Catherine Mansell](#)

Nominations for honorary degrees

Do you know someone who has made a major contribution to academic, regional or national life? Have you considered nominating them for an honorary doctorate of the

University? Recent honorary graduates include the actor Adrian Lester; the Medical Director of the British Heart Foundation, Professor Peter Weissberg, and Deborah Cadbury, author and television producer. Nominations can be made by anyone who is an employee, student, alumnus, member of honorary staff or lay member of Court or Council of the University. The next deadline for nominations is 6 May. You can find information on how to make a nomination at <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/honorary-degrees> or contact [Laura Johnson](#)

Winterbourne House tours

Venue: Winterbourne House & Garden

Tony Bucknall is aiming to run history and conservation tours on Tuesdays at 2.00pm, giving a glimpse of the history behind the objects on display in the house. Check with Reception on 0121 414 3003 or look for the sign in the hallway indicating whether the tour is taking place on that particular day to avoid disappointment.

Contact Buzz Bitesize

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Email: university-buzz@bham.ac.uk

Web: intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/buzz

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