



Buzz Bitesize: November 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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Have Your Say 2013

Date 4 November – 1 December

Share your views on working here and help shape the future of your university. Have Your Say 2013 is the University's third all-staff survey and is an important and effective way to gather the views of colleagues across the University. As a result of the last survey, action plans and developments at local and University-wide levels were taken forward based directly on feedback from staff. Over 66 per cent of University staff completed Have Your Say 2011; well above the benchmark for similar higher education institutions and 10 per cent above the participation rate in 2009. We hope that this year we will achieve an even higher participation rate to measure staff engagement even more accurately. All staff should have now received their email or paper copy of the survey which can be completed during work time and in complete confidence. For further details visit the [intranet](#) or contact your [local survey champion](#).

Birmingham Professional Forum

Date/Time: 14 November, 11am–12noon

Venue: Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building



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

- Introduction by the Registrar and Secretary
- **Code of Ethics** – how does it contribute to wider University strategy
- **Have Your Say 2013** – information on all-staff survey that will run 4 November–1 December 2013
- **DABE** – what is Business Engagement and how does it link with Alumni Relations?
- **Advancing Equality in Employment** – promoting equality and celebrating diversity across the University
- Questions from the floor

For further details or to submit a question in advance contact internalcomms@contacts.bham.ac.uk. If you would prefer to remain anonymous please let us know.



Focus on Disability

Date 25 November – 6th December

Timed to coincide with the United Nations International Day of Disabled People, Focus on Disability is a great opportunity for disabled and non-disabled staff and students to find out more about disability on campus. Launching the event will be Paralympian and Birmingham graduate Dean Miller who will talk about his experiences of London 2012, and the Vice Chancellor will be giving a talk on his personal experiences of disability. As well as drop-in sessions hosted by the staff and student disability services, there will be a visit from Guide Dogs for the Blind, a wheelchair basketball event, and a talk on 'Disability and the Artist' at the Barber Institute. There will also be an opportunity to learn about cutting-edge research into disability at the University via the Focus on Disability blog. Events are free and open to all. The full programme is on the [University website](#).



Armistice Day silence

On Armistice Day, Monday 11 November, the University will be observing a two minute silence. 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.

News

BUAFTAs

BUAFTA 2014 nominations are now closed; thank you to all who took time to nominate. Over 900 nominations were received. All staff can soon get involved with the BUAFTA raffle and support Acorns Children's Hospice. Raffle tickets cost £1 and will be distributed by your local BUAFTA champion. We've got some exciting prizes including tickets to F1 at Silverstone 2014, and £100 cash. For the latest BUAFTA news, follow us on twitter @BUAFTAs visit the [intranet](#).

University to host LGBT History Month launch

On 28 November the Bramall Music Building will play host to the national pre-launch event for LGBT History Month 2014 with a celebration on the theme of 'music'. There will be a day of interactive workshops, a schools concert, and an evening extravaganza showcasing LGBT music and musicians. Participants confirmed for the evening event include the Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra, the cast of Rent, and Vix from Fuzzbox who will perform Say it Loud, the anthem for History Month. Further details are on the [University website](#).

Athena awards success

The Schools of Biosciences, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, and Mathematics have all achieved Athena SWAN Charter bronze awards this term. The Athena SWAN Charter promotes greater representation of women in STEMM, particularly at senior level. In achieving their awards Schools have made a long-term commitment to improving the recruitment, progression and retention of female staff and students. This follows on from the College of Medical and Dental Sciences success in achieving a bronze level award, with a further six Schools currently working towards Athena status. Further details are on the [intranet](#).

University closed days

Details of agreed University closed days and public holidays, including closed days over the Christmas period, have been determined and are available on the [University intranet](#).

English for International Students Unit (EISU) success

EISU have been ranked in the top 20 University Language Centres in the UK based on results from BALEAP, British Council and Times Higher. [EISU](#) achieved 12th place out of 200 universities and retained their centre of excellence status published in the English Language Gazette and following their last British Council inspection.

Expert Guide app

The University's press office has launched a new mobile phone app version of the Media Expert Guide. Available for android and iPhone you can download the app from the [University website](#). Journalists and broadcast producers use the Expert Guide to find academics who may be able to help them with their stories; to appear in the app contact your college web team who will be able to add a "media profile" tab to your web profile.

Festival of Social Sciences

Academics from the College of Social Sciences showcased a number of projects as part of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Festival of Social Sciences. Topics included 'Getting on in the UK: networks, class and culture', 'The Future of Aid in an Age of Austerity', 'Third Sector Resilience: surviving in challenging times' and 'Conversations about Religion and Diversity'. For further information visit the [University website](#).

National Arthritis Week

Staff from across the University helped to raise over £1,500 for Arthritis Research UK through a number of activities to mark National Arthritis Week (7–13 October). A 'Raising Awareness of Rheumatoid Arthritis' stand was in the Atrium of the Queen Elizabeth

Hospital, and scientists and clinicians cycled a continuous 100 mile relay.

New campus coffee outlet

The new Costa Coffee on the ground floor of University Centre opened on 30 October. Accessible from the square in front of Staff House, this new Costa has free Wi-Fi in large downstairs seating area, and free to use computers. Further details are on the [intranet](#).

Views

Join The Conversation UK

Since becoming a founding partner of [The Conversation UK](#) in May, Birmingham has become one of the most engaged institutions involved in the open access news and commentary website. Almost 70 articles have been produced by over 40 Birmingham academics from across all Colleges, supported by the University press office and The Conversation's editorial team. The website offers an excellent platform for academics to showcase their research in a safe publishing environment, where articles are only published with the academic's approval. If you are interested in contributing and spreading the word about your academic specialism, contact the [press office](#).

Events

Depressed Cake Shop

Date/Time: 68 November, 10am–12noon

Venue: Undercroft, Biosciences Building

Come along to a pop-up Depressed Cake Shop, a special bake sale selling cakes that are grey on the outside to help raise awareness of mental health problems. Proceeds will go to Birmingham Mind; further information is on the intranet.

Oliver Lodge and Cultures of Science 1875–1940.

Date/Time: 9 November, 10am

Venue: Poynting Physics

This event focuses on Lodge's career at Birmingham and the place of science in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century university. To include display of material from collections of Oliver Lodge papers held in the Cadbury Research Special Collections Library and a Victorian Science Spectacular at the end of the day. To register for this free event email the Oliver Lodge Network oliverlodgenetwork@gmail.com.

Birmingham Business Club

Date/Time: 12 November, 7.30am

Venue: BizzInn, Birmingham Research Park

This is a new network for businesses who currently collaborate with Birmingham academics, and for those who are looking to collaborate. The theme for the next briefing is Healthy Workers, Successful Businesses, and attendance is open to all researchers and academics. Contact Huma Mumtaz at 0121 414 5888 for further information.

Toy steam and Traditional Hobbies Day

Date/Time: 16 November, 10.30am–4pm

Venue: Winterbourne House & Garden

Winterbourne goes back to its Edwardian roots with demonstrations and exhibitions of toy steam, replicating the grandeur of British steam. There will be plenty of activities running throughout the day, including fun with Meccano, Magic Lantern shows, and a Letter Press workshop. University staff and students receive free admission, for more information visit the [Winterbourne website](#).

Global Entrepreneurship week

Date/Time: 18 November, 12.30pm

Venue: Michael Tippett Room, Staff House

Professor Malcolm Press, PVC for Research and Knowledge Transfer will open a series of events with a talk on why commercialisation of research is important to the University. This will be followed by examples of how Alta Innovations and the Enterprise Acceleration Team work together with academics to identify the appropriate route to market for new inventions. Further details at the [eventbrite website](#).

Barber Institute events

- Two distinctive exhibitions open at The Barber Institute this month. **John Monks: The Process of Painting** (from 15 November) features interiors and everyday objects depicted in such a way that they challenge the viewer to look anew at the familiar and the commonplace. **Faith & Fortune: Visualising the Divine on Byzantine and Early Islamic Coinage** (from 8 November). These artefacts reveal insightful cultural changes and differing concepts of the divine
- **Christmas Craft Fair** (23 November, 11am–4pm) Support local artists at our stalls filled with hand-made, one-of-a-kind gifts. With live storytelling in the galleries (12.30 and 2pm), drop-in Crafty Christmas Cracker making for kids, and Christmas carols (1–2pm).

Creative Minds at Birmingham

Date/Time: 21 November, 5.15pm

Venue: Barber Institute of Fine Arts

The School of English, Drama, and American and Canadian Studies Distinguished Speaker Series, welcomes writer Bernard MacLaverty to speak and read from his collection of works. Since the publication of *Secrets and Other Stories* in 1977, MacLaverty has been celebrated as one of the finest living short-story writers. Tickets are free to University staff and students, details are on the [University website](#).

Bramall – anniversary weekend

Dates: 23–24 November

We celebrate a year since the Bramall Music Building was officially opened with a weekend of choir and choral music featuring uplifting performances by the University Chorus, the University Music Society Chamber Choirs, Birmingham University Singers and Birmingham University Women's Choir.

Weekend or individual tickets are available on the door or by emailing [Christina Holmes](#). Further details are on the [University website](#).

Sarah Farmer exhibition

Date/Time: until 24 November

Venue: Lapworth Museum of Geology

Sound artist Sarah Farmer launches a new exhibition following months of research across the collections at the Lapworth Museum of Geology, and Winterbourne House and Garden. Working with University curators and staff, and arts producers Capsule, Farmer

has created a series of sound-based works and screen prints in response to her time on campus.

The Value of Qualitative Research

Date/Time: 25 November, 2–4pm

Venue: Watson Building, Glynn Rooms

The Educational Enhancement Network in CLAD is delighted to welcome Professor Glynis Cousin, author of *Researching Learning in Higher Education*, for a talk on the value of qualitative research. To book a place contact [Pat Nick](#). The Educational Enhancement Network is also hosting a series of events such as talks, workshops and courses, including a series of courses on diversity and inclusive teaching. For more information contact [Marios Hadjianastasis](#).

Ironbridge annual lecture

Date/Time: 25 November, 6pm

Venue: Ironbridge Institute

Dr Martin Roth, Director of the V&A Museum, will deliver the lecture entitled 'Displaying the Past, Designing the Future'. Martin Roth is a Trustee of the British Council and a member of both the Council of the Royal College of Art, and the Court of Imperial College in London. Complimentary coaches will transport attendees between the University campus and Ironbridge for this event. Further details are on the [University website](#).

SME engagement

Date/Time: 26 November, 4.30pm

Venue: Birmingham Business School

The Careers Network is hosting a small and medium enterprise (SME) engagement, networking and support event 'tapping into talent', open to all staff and students. Keynote speech will be given by Jerry Blackett, Chief Executive Officer of Birmingham Chamber of Commerce. For further information and registration details visit the [University website](#).

Autumn Biology Lecture Series

The School of Biosciences is launching a new Autumn Biology Lecture Series. Dr Julia Myatt will explore questions ranging from the behaviour of domestic pets to hunting in African wild dogs in 'SatNavs, Wii's and sleeping dogs: Modern technology and Animal Behaviour' on 18 November. On 25 November Prof Robin C. May will highlight some recent discoveries about the more unusual ways in which microbes make use of their human homes in 'Parasites and Disease'. Attendance is free, further details are on the [University website](#). To book please contact [Rachel Wrigglesworth](#).

Institute for Conflict, Cooperation and Security (ICCS) Seminar Series

- 'The English School: a neglected approach to international security studies', 18 November. Professor Barry Buzan, Emeritus Professor of International Relations at LSE, makes the case that the English School can and should function not only as a way to understand certain types of security issues, but also as a general approach to international security.
- 'Security Cosmopolitanism: Case, Critiques, and Future', 2 December. Dr Anthony Burke, Visiting Fellow at the ICCS argues that a range of transnational insecurities, and state abuses of security discourse to compromise rights and cause insecurity, create a compelling normative and empirical case for a new security paradigm.

Events are 5pm, Room 420 Muirhead Tower, further details are on the [University website](#).

Talk on Feminist Studies: Feminismos

Date/Time: 27 November, 1.15pm

Venue: Ashley Building, Room 422

The Centre for Galician Studies is hosting an interactive talk on Feminist Studies with Dr Olga Castro. A dialogue through which we will be exploring the meaning of some of the concepts discussed in her last co-authored book: *Feminismos* (Feminisms). The talk will be conducted in Galician, but is open to all students and staff.

Analysing Market Opportunities for your Commercial Idea

Date/Time: 27 November, 12noon

Venue: BizzInn, Research Park

This talk will be a practical guide on how to analyse market opportunities for new products and services that may arise from your research. Open to all staff, [registration](#) is required.

Birmingham Centre for Clinical Trials Showcase

Date/Time: 27 November, 1.30–6pm

Venue: Wolfson Centre, Medical School

Join the Birmingham Centre for Clinical Trials (BCCT) to discover what projects their Clinical Trials Units are involved in and to learn more about forthcoming developments. This will include trials in a wide range of clinical areas applying diverse methodologies highlighting the quality of clinical research at Birmingham. For further information and to register visit the [University website](#).

Mobile Apps in Research Summit (MARS)

Date/Time: 4 December, 10am–3.15pm

Venue: Digital Heritage Hub, ERI Building

MARS is the first event to bring together academics, developers and funders to explore the potential for smartphones in gathering research data and delivering results. Sessions will include a master class on apps for behavioural change from Channel 4's *Embarrassing Bodies*, and the National Institute for Health Research discussing the launch of their new App Centre. The Summit is co-hosted by the IT Innovation Centre and Ideas Lab and is open to internal and external delegates. Places are limited and registration is required, deadline for internal registration is 11 November. Further details are on the [event site](#).

The Kindertransport in history and memory

Date/Time: 4 December, 2pm

Venue: Nettlefold Room, Nicolson Building

December 2013 marks the 75th anniversary of the first of the Kindertransports, the rescue of c10,000 unaccompanied children from the Third Reich in the nine months leading up to the outbreak of World War II. As part of the 'Saving Humans' theme, The Institute of Advanced Studies is hosting a half-day workshop to explore theoretical and practical questions raised by academic study and representations of the Kindertransport via dialogue between academics and practitioners with a survivor. The workshop is led by Dr Rose Whyman and Dr Isabel Wollaston. Attendance is free, but [registration](#) is essential.

Alma-Tadema exhibition

Date/Time: until 31 January

Venue: Atrium, Muirhead Tower

An exhibition of drawings from the collection of celebrated artist Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema R.A. Selected from his own personal collection held at the Cadbury Research Library and acquired by the University from the V&A in 1946. Details are on the [University website](#).

Opportunities

New Innovators Competition

The University has launched a new competition to give new innovative researchers the opportunity to win £2,000 to help to 'kick start' the development of the commercial potential of their research. Further information is on the [intranet](#).

FameLab regional heat

Science, technology, engineering and maths communicators are invited to compete in this year's FameLab; 9th November at ThinkTank. Get free science communication training, plus the chance to win prize money, and public engagement funding. Enter via the [website](#) for regional heats. IdeasLab can help with your entry – email [Sam Walter](#) for details.

November 2013

Are you taking part in [Movember](#) this year? If so, join the University of Birmingham [Movember network](#) to see how other students, alumni and staff are getting on and receive news and updates on the University's prostate cancer research. You can also find out more about our research on the [University website](#).

Talent Pool Enterprise Skills Training

Through this free intensive training programme, students are challenged to develop key enterprise skills that will put them in a strong position to focus on their career aspirations and lay the foundations for achieving career goals. Details and dates are on the [intranet](#).

Talent Pool Enterprise Skills Training

Monday Night Club is a Guild Society, for adults with learning disabilities; bringing members to campus for an evening of art and other fun activities. The club needs a driver to collect members from the local community and drop them at the Chaplaincy. Volunteers would need to be available 5–7pm on Monday nights during term-time. For details contact Ellie Wood on 07969153801 or at mnc@guild.bham.ac.uk.

Contact Buzz Bitesize

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