



Buzz Bitesize: August 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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Birmingham lecturer longlisted for Booker Prize

The Kills by Dr Richard House, Department of English, has been included on the 2013 Man Booker Prize long list. The Kills is a digital first – a novel in four parts, all released at first as enhanced ebooks which contain rich audio, visual, and web content created by Dr House to support and extend the text-based narrative. The physical book was released in July 2013. The shortlist will be announced on 10 September, further details on The Kills are on the [University website](#).



Humphreys Lecture 2013 – Sir Paul Nurse

Date/Time: 4 September, 1.00pm

Venue: Leonard Deacon Lecture Theatre, Medical School

Sir Paul Nurse, Chief Executive and Director of the Francis Crick Institute and President of the Royal Society, will present this year's Humphreys Lecture titled 'Controlling the Cell Cycle'. Sir Paul was honoured with a knighthood for services to cancer research and cell biology in 1999, and awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 2001. This lecture is open to all; registration is not required. For details contact [Yvonne Dawson](#).



Lapworth Museum redevelopment

The University's [Lapworth Museum of Geology](#) is developing proposals for an exciting new £3million redevelopment project. If fundraising activities are successful, including a £1.6million application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, the unique Edwardian core of the Lapworth will be restored, and new galleries and innovative interpretation methods will be introduced. As part of the planning process we would like to know what people think of the existing museum and future plans. Even if you have not visited the museum, comments on what might encourage you to do so would be welcomed. Have your say by completing a [short survey](#) plus why not enter our caption competition? [Email](#) your caption for this picture of a porcupine fish by 1 September for your chance to win a free 'behind the scenes tour' of the museum for up to four people.

News

University Professor ranked in 'Hottest Research of 2012'

Professor Gregory YH Lip, Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine, has been ranked amongst the Science Watch 'Hottest Research of 2012'. This annual ranking is based on bibliographic research and recognises researchers whose recent published papers recorded notably higher levels of citations than the previous year. Further details and link to the full ranking are on the University [website](#).

Writing Summer School success

The University Graduate School held its first Writing Summer School in July. The event for postgraduate researchers brought together experts on writing, editing and publishing for three busy days of events and talks. Initial feedback has been overwhelmingly positive with attendees finding the experience both enjoyable and useful. Writing development is a key area of University Graduate School activity and new writing workshops are planned for autumn 2013. Further details are on the Graduate School [intranet](#).

Retention of graduate talent in the region

Professor Edward Peck attended Business Quarterly (BQ) Live in July; an informative debate focused on apprenticeships and the retention of graduate talent in the West Midlands. BQ Magazine is highly regarded amongst its readership of senior business leaders as an independent commentator on business issues, many of which have a bearing on the current and future success of our regional business economies.

Centre for Russian and East European Studies (CREES) celebrates 50 years

CREES is 50 years-old this year, and is celebrating its anniversary with a high profile seminar series including talks by former Slovak Prime Minister Iveta Radicova, and an Honorary Director General of the EU Commission. The high point of the celebrations so far was a special CREES annual conference held in June. Further details are on the [intranet](#).

Views

An English summer at Winterbourne

In the summer sunshine, Winterbourne House and Garden is well and truly the place to be! University staff benefit from free access 7 days a week, with a valid University ID card. The team at Winterbourne are running a photo competition to celebrate the season. Simply send in your photo, taken in the garden at Winterbourne, that you feel sums up 'An English Summer' to be in with a chance of winning an Afternoon Tea for two. Closing date is 31 August 2013 and shortlisted entries will be posted online. Email photos to enquiries@winterbourne.org.uk.

Book to the Future Festival

Running 24–29 October, this celebration of the written and spoken word will have a packed programme of workshops, panel events, readings and performances across campus. Showcasing our academic, student and local talent, as well as well-known alumni authors, poets, playwrights, journalists and scriptwriters. Email Charlotte Heap, Alumni Relations Manager, College of Arts and Law, at c.heap@bham.ac.uk to submit an event, or to volunteer to help out during the festival.

Environment Day 2013

We are holding our third annual environment Day on 8 October in the Great Hall. It will be a great chance to learn more about the University's environmental research and campus wide environmental projects and to find out what initiatives you can take part in. Further details will be available shortly but please contact organiser [Trev Shields](#) with suggestions for what you might want to see on the day.

Events

Music-making day

Date/Time: 29 September, 10.00am–6.00pm

Venue: Bramall Music Building

Come along for a day of fun music-making with the Department of Music, and find out about the many University ensembles and choirs that you can join.

- Come and Play Sibelius and Smetana! 10.30am–1.30pm. Daniele Rosina, Director of Orchestral Studies, conducts a special, one-off performance of Sibelius' Finlandia and Smetana's Vlatava. Bring your instrument, and experience these two spectacular classics.
- Come and Sing Haydn! 3.00–6.00pm. All singers are welcome to join in this singalong of excerpts from Haydn's ever-popular Creation Mass, led by Professor Simon Halsey, Director of Choral Studies.

Admission free; please email c.holmes@bham.ac.uk by 27 September to register.

Barber Institute – summer programme

- There are just a few weeks left to see the latest major exhibitions at the Barber; About Face: European Portrait Masterpieces from National Collections (until 1 September), and Defining Faces: 20th-century Portrait Drawings (until 26 August)
- Scandal! Famous Faces and their Secret Lives, (6 August, 1.10pm) The final gallery talk in a series to complement Defining Faces exposes the controversial personalities of those featured in the show. The talk will be given by Katie Wilson and Jas Lally, MA students and co-curators of the display
- Writing Monologues (3 August, 1.30–3.30pm) Barber's writer-in-residence Jacqui Rowe will help you to get into the heads of some of the characters featured in the galleries' portraits in order to write monologues in prose or poetry

National Archives conference

Date: 4 September 2013

The Cadbury Research Library and the National Archives will host Enhancing Impact, Inspiring Excellence: Collaborative Approaches between Archives and universities. This one day event will bring together archivists, academics, and students to discuss the ways in which archives and universities can work together. Register for a free place on the National Archives [website](#).

Carrots NightWalk 2013

Date: 20 September

Fight for Sight are a major supporter of ophthalmology research at the University and QE Hospital, and the Carrots NightWalk is their flagship fundraising event, raising thousands of pounds for pioneering research to prevent sight loss and treat eye disease. The Birmingham Carrots NightWalk will start and finish on campus at the Old Joe clock tower, and walkers can choose between a 6 mile and 15 mile route. Register on the Fight for Sight [website](#) or contact [Dr S. John Curnow](#) for details.

Facilitating women's progression to the top

Date/Time: 9 October, 1.00pm

Venue: To be confirmed

Professor Dame Athene Donald, Professor of Experimental Physics at the University of Cambridge, will be visiting the University in October to give a talk titled 'Facilitating women's progression to the top'. To register your interest and for further information, please email [Annette Evans](#).

Creative Minds at Birmingham

The School of English, Drama, and American and Canadian Studies is launching an exclusive new series of talks this autumn, entitled '[Creative Minds at Birmingham](#)'. The Distinguished Speaker Series will see an exciting variety of renowned writers, poets, and theatre leaders visit the University to give public talks showcasing their latest works. 'Creative Minds at Birmingham' will launch on 24 October when award-winning poet Jamie McKendrick will join us in the Bramall Music Building to read and discuss his work. Future speakers include Bernard MacLaverty, Michael Longley and Kathleen Jamie.

Opportunities

Can you help with the PSA?

The Personal Skills Award (PSA) is the University's employability programme for Undergraduate and Postgraduate Taught students. The programme recognises students' involvement in over 140 activities on campus including volunteering, part-time work and mentoring. The PSA team would like to hear from colleagues who are interested in the PSA advertising activities within their department for the 2013/14 academic year that include regular or ad hoc student involvement. For details contact [Kirsty Smith](#), PSA Promotion and Information Officer, or visit the [intranet](#).

IAS Distinguished Visiting Fellows

The Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS) are welcoming nominations for the [IAS Distinguished Visiting Fellowship \(DVF\)](#) scheme which will allow us to bring outstanding academics to Birmingham from around the world. First deadline is 20 September.

Young Film Makers summer school

Dates: 5–9 August

Venue: Edgbaston Old Church

Young Film Makers Birmingham Summer Schools offer children aged 9–15 a unique opportunity to make films, make friends, and have fun. University of Birmingham staff can enrol their children on the week-long course for the reduced rate of £99 by quoting YFMBRUM when booking. Details are on the Young Film Makers [website](#).

Participants needed

- **School of Psychology questionnaire:** Parents of children aged 4–11 with, and without, autism spectrum disorders are required to complete an electronic [questionnaire](#) to compare eating behaviours of typically developing children and children diagnosed with ASD.
- **£10 cash study:** CANTAB, a computerised test, is being used to study cognitive processes. The study involves one hour-long session that incorporates a questionnaire and simple CANTAB tests. Volunteers need to be healthy, adult, native English speakers, aged over 40. For details contact [Iraida Neira](#).
- **Bereavement study:** This study aims to improve the evaluation of end of life care in the UK, and is seeking participants who have been bereaved in the last 6–24 months, or know somebody currently receiving end of life care. Confidentiality and sensitivity will be guaranteed; for details email [Alastair Canaway](#).

Contact Buzz Bitesize

Next edition: 5 September

Copy deadline: 29 August

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