



August/September 2018

*Rooting*  
Resilience



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

# Vice-Chancellor's *view*



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Eastwood

## YOUR BUZZ

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Please let us know if you want extra copies of *Buzz* or if you think we need to amend your distribution details.

Views expressed in the magazine are not necessarily those of the University or a statement of University policy. All submissions may be subject to editing. The Editor's decision is final.

Front cover image: Dr Karen Newbigging, Senior Lecturer in Healthcare Policy and Management within the School of Social Policy's Health Services Management Centre.

As I write this, the grass is parched and our campus is an unusual shade of yellow. By the time you read this, the rains may have returned and the campus returned to a green and pleasant land. As I write this, the Prime Minister faces highly unpredictable votes on Brexit issues and serial Ministerial resignations. When you read this, the Prime Minister may have fallen, or may have been strengthened.

As I write this, the Government and its advisory panel are still considering the future of tuition fees and funding. Soon after you read this, the present system may be confirmed or the University may be facing significant cuts in its income.

As you read this, the hugely challenging issue of pension provision through USS is still being considered by the Joint Expert Panel. When you read this, a resolution may have been found and a way forward charted.

I could go on, but the point, I think, is clear. We live, work, and have to steer our University in unusually challenging times. Old certainties now seem far distant, and the best prediction is that the future will be unpredictable.

Against this backdrop, our University has had a remarkable year. We will end the year with record research income. We have continued to make outstanding appointments and, very unusually amongst universities this year, have continued to expand our staff base. Our campus is undergoing the most dramatic transformation for generations.

Our graduation ceremonies were a festival of student achievement, and the Chancellor's dinner a celebration of a university on top of its game.

In short, we can achieve, indeed we can thrive, despite the challenge of the times in which we live. This matters. It matters because our students – undergraduate and postgraduate – have only one chance. Times might change, but their degrees are a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and indeed a once-for-a-lifetime experience. We must not fail them.

Thus everything we have done this year around rethinking the shape of the academic teaching year, about enriching still further the experience of Birmingham students, and about the way in which we will lead the international debate on higher education futures through HEFI; all of this repositions

the University as a centre of educational excellence.

When we reflect on the challenges of the future, the so-called 'fourth Industrial Revolution', the myriad global challenges, the imperatives to promote social justice across our world, the realities of an aged population, and the re-emergence of global tensions and conflicts, these realities, and so much more, demand the application of the huge intellectual capacity of our great universities.

If we fail to rise to these challenges, we not only fail as a university, but we fail in a much wider and deeper responsibility.

If the demands have never been greater, and the times rarely more uncertain, how do we continue to succeed and steer our path?

First, I believe, by doing what we do to the highest standard. We see this in the high-profile successes of the University, we also see it in the way in which we are adapting to the new environment in which we are obliged to operate. Think, for example, of the huge amount of work which went into securing this university's place on the 'Register of Higher Education Providers'. This grotesque term reflects an impertinent reality. Our university, like all others, risked losing the right to award degrees, a right we have enjoyed since our royal charter of 1900. We can rail against this, we can suggest rightly that it is an approach that risks eroding the primacy of English higher education.

Nevertheless, we owe it to our staff and our students to ensure that we respond and respond very effectively, to the new regulatory requirements that are laid upon us. No one should underestimate the significance of this. No one should think it makes our thriving as a university any easier: at the same time, no one should underestimate our determination to be the kind of university we should be whilst conforming to regulations as we must do.

BIRMINGHAM GLOBAL

## INDIA

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You only need to look around the higher education sector at the moment to see how many institutions are being buffeted, and some severely knocked off course, by current pressures. Many are cutting back on investment, a significant number are making cuts and announcing redundancies. We are not one of them.

Next year we will be spending an additional £53 million over and above the record investments that we have made in this academic year. We are able to do this because the University is performing strongly and planning strategically for our future. Rightly, our Council is insistent that we continue to invest and that we manage our university finances in a way which will give us that crucial margin for year-on-year investment.

Over the past few years this has been running at 15 per cent. Precisely because of the substantial investment in people that we have made and the tightening environment, we are targeting a ten per cent margin for all investment over the coming couple of years. This is a judgement, but it will enable us to underpin our current investment in people and key projects whilst ensuring that we have the kind of budgetary headroom which makes Birmingham a much more congenial environment than many other universities

We can, therefore, look forward with confidence. That confidence is not complacency, nor is it premised on indifference to a changing and sometimes hostile environment. Rather, it is confidence built on a university that knows its priorities, that understands the importance of the work that we do, that recognises our responsibilities to our students, to the society of which we are part, and to our contributing to a prosperous and just future. It is confidence in the vision that is right for our times, and right for our University.

*Vice-Chancellor,  
Professor Sir David Eastwood*

## BIRMINGHAM LEADERS NAMED AS UK-INDIA TOP 100 INFLUENCERS

Chancellor Lord Karan Bilimoria and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International) Professor Robin Mason, have been named as two of the most influential figures in UK-India relations. Both were included in the India Inc. Top 100 – published as part of UK-India Week 2018, a list of key influencers across arts, culture, and media.

Lord Bilimoria was named in recognition of his influential role in politics and public life. Professor Mason, Director of our India Institute, was named as a 'Regional Tiger' for ensuring Indian businesses look beyond London when considering UK investment.

Lord Bilimoria commented: *'This collection of influential individuals reflects the breadth and depth of engagement between Britain and India. I am honoured to represent the University on this list and will continue to advocate for ever closer ties with one of our most important global partners.'*



Many of our Indian partnerships focus on tackling a number of the 17 Global Goals identified by the United Nations to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity – all with specific targets to be achieved by 2030.

Professor Mason commented: *'It's an honour to be named in the Top 100. My inclusion also serves as recognition of the University's deep and continued commitment to engagement with India and its people.'*

**IMAGE:** Lord Bilimoria and Professor Mason with His Excellency Mr Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha, High Commissioner of India (second left) and Indian Consul General Dr Aman Puri (right) at the launch of the University of Birmingham India Institute.

## US AMBASSADOR VISITS BIRMINGHAM TO LEARN MORE ABOUT UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

The United States Ambassador, His Excellency Robert Wood Johnson, visited campus in June to meet with a number of senior figures and experts on our cutting-edge research. This included a meeting with Professor David Hodson on how insulin-secreting beta cells can be made to work better during diabetes. He also talked to Professor Alberto Vecchio and Professor Andreas Freise about Gravitational Wave Astronomy. The visit also included a viewing of the Birmingham Qur'an manuscript among other treasures in the Cadbury Research Library.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Eastwood, commented: *'I was delighted to welcome our distinguished guest to the University and demonstrate to Ambassador Johnson that our research is advancing scientific understanding and changing lives around the world.'*

*'Our US partnerships are key to ensuring we continue to produce research that has global reach and impact. We continue to grow our relationships with American collaborators. The number of joint publications is increasing, from 454 in 2009 to 890 last year.'*

## TAKING INTERNAL COMMS ON THE ROAD (WELL, THE PATH) TO THE BRATBY!



Some of you may have heard that *Buzz* has a new channel – a podcast: *Friday Afternoon at the Bratby*.

I've been recording in the Bratby, chatting to guests from across the University to discuss research and the big things that are happening in the world... like football.

So far I've recorded two episodes: a preview of the 2018 World Cup in Russia, and a discussion on the NHS as it marked its 70th birthday.

It's been fun, talking about the football and getting our academics' perspectives on the World Cup, as well as how we can use the exciting healthcare technology research happening here in Birmingham to help meet some of the challenges that the NHS faces.

You can access the podcast via iTunes and other app providers, or by going directly to our host site Podbean – <https://fatby.podbean.com> or via their free app.

I hope you enjoy listening. The podcast is currently in its 'pilot' phase, and if it's successful and you tell me that you like it, I'll make it a permanent fixture.

If you want to come on the podcast to chat (the drinks are on us) about your research, project, idea or event, then drop an email with your suggestions to Matthew Collins: [m.collins@bham.ac.uk](mailto:m.collins@bham.ac.uk).

A big thank you to our guests so far: Dr Natasha Rulyova, Dr Jamie Rann, Conor McKenna, Professor Martin Powell and Dr Sophie Cox.

All the best, Matt.

## Undergraduate Open Days 2018



In June, the University hosted its busiest ever Friday undergraduate Open Day and second busiest Saturday Open Day. We were lucky to have beautiful weather over both days and the campus was thriving with over 9,000 people 'checking in' over the two days.

Visitors were able to explore the new Collaborative Teaching Laboratory and get a first look at what the new Green Heart will look like. Over 150 student ambassadors helped over the two days to create a friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

We would like to extend a big thank you to all the staff and services across the University who helped make the days so successful.

**Autumn Open Days 2018**  
Saturday 15 September  
Saturday 20 October

If you have any feedback about the Open Days or would like to be involved in the autumn, please get in touch: [openday@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:openday@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

## ONLINE GRADUATES

The first cohort of students from across the globe have now graduated from the University's innovative fully online MBA and MSc programmes – marking a major change in the way people around the world can access higher education.

The initial portfolio includes Online MBA, Online MSc International Business and Online Masters in Public Administration courses – developed in collaboration with Wiley Education Services.

At graduation, students arrived on campus from around the world to celebrate this milestone with their families and friends and to meet staff in person for the first time. *'Studying online with the University of Birmingham exceeded all expectations. I was able to juggle work and study while also gaining valuable insight from peers around the world.'* said Helena Feibert, an Online MSc International Business graduate.



## The Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Lecture Series

### Professor Sir Mark Walport

Thursday 27 September 2018, 6.00–7.00pm,  
Elgar Concert Hall, the Bramall

**Charting a course for how Britain can lead the world in research and innovation**

Sir Mark Walport is Chief Executive of UK Research and Innovation. He has been a champion for science, engineering and technology in his role as Government Chief Scientific Adviser, Head of the Government Office for Science and Co-Chair of the Prime Minister's Council for Science and Technology.

### Professor Neena Modi

Monday 1 October 2018, 6.00–7.00pm,  
Elgar Concert Hall, the Bramall

**The Politics of Child Health**

Professor Modi is President of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. Neena is a pioneer for childhood health research and a staunch advocate for healthcare as a publicly funded, provided and managed service, accessible to all. Her professional career reflects a deep commitment to advancing the care of the sick and newborn babies in Low-Resource Settings, undertaking voluntary teaching and training abroad.

# WHY EVERY DEGREE SHOULD CHANGE THE WORLD

DR VICTORIA BURNS WRITES FOR *BUZZ*.

We are increasingly asked by politicians and the popular press to defend the purpose of higher education. Although this is frustrating, it's perhaps not surprising given the prevailing narrative that a degree is an individual good – a life-changing and fun experience for the student, and a route to a rewarding, well-paid career.

What if, instead, we turned this around and focused on the contribution that higher education enables our students to make to the world? Not just STEM subjects, which often are held up as the main solution to global challenges, but EVERY academic discipline.

The **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** (SDG) are the world's to-do list to end extreme poverty and protect our planet by 2030. If we are to achieve these ambitious targets, then we need our students to be aware of the goals, and how their university education could help. Yet a recent study by the National Union of Students (NUS) revealed that 67% of students have never heard of them. I understand this – as a sport scientist, I only learned about the Global Goals through my volunteering with the advocacy charity Results UK.

The charity World's Largest Lesson are working to ensure that every schoolchild in

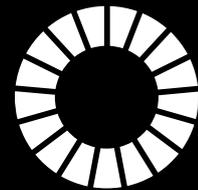
the world has at least one lesson on the Global Goals. However, I couldn't find a university equivalent.

Of course, across our University, there are numerous experts on the SDGs, and degrees where the goals are solidly embedded in the curriculum, such as the International Development Department, the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, across much of Engineering and Physical Sciences, and the innovative interprofessional work led by Universitas 21 in Medical and Dental Sciences. What was missing, in my opinion, was an entry-level workshop that could be used in any discipline.

I decided I would try to do my bit, and developed *Study 4 Global Goals* ([www.study4globalgoals.com](http://www.study4globalgoals.com)), which I launched at the Advance HE conference in July. I know we academics are super busy, and often aren't experts in this area, so I created a simple workshop that allows

anyone to start a conversation with their students about the Global Goals. I also pulled together links to all the fabulous resources available online for those who want more detail.

I'm sharing these resources across the world, but I would love for the University of Birmingham to be the first to embed the workshop in every degree! As well as empowering our students to help achieve the goals and 'make important things happen', we'll also be helping achieve Goal 4 – Quality Education!



**THE GLOBAL GOALS**  
For Sustainable Development

## Learn more

If you are interested in receiving a copy of the materials or finding out more, please email me on [Vikki@study4GlobalGoals.com](mailto:Vikki@study4GlobalGoals.com) or tweet [@study4GG](https://twitter.com/study4GG), and let me know the degree that you would like to involve.

# UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM CELEBRATES 70 YEARS OF WINDRUSH NHS NURSES

On the 22 June 1948, the *MV Empire Windrush*, a ship which arrived at Tilbury Docks, Essex, brought workers from Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and other islands. The ship carried 492 passengers, many of whom were children. Subsequently, those arriving in the UK between 1948 and 1971 from Caribbean countries have been labelled the 'Windrush generation'.

Their arrival in the UK was at the request of the British government who called upon countries within the British Empire to help with post-war labour shortages in the UK.

In 1948, the government introduced a law that gave Commonwealth citizens the same rights to stay in Britain as British people. The government did not keep records of those who were granted leave to remain, or issue paperwork confirming people's rights. Therefore, it is not clear how many people entered the UK as part of the Windrush generation, especially as many of the children travelling did so on their parents' passports.

In 2012, the British government changed the UK immigration laws. This suddenly meant that members of the Windrush generation – who considered themselves British citizens – now needed to prove they were living in the UK legally. Without documentation demonstrating their rights to remain, the Windrush generation were not able to show they had a right to work, could not receive treatment from the NHS, or could not even remain living in the UK. Many found themselves facing potential deportation.

Many experienced and voiced outrage at the Windrush generation's treatment, acknowledging the role they played in the UK's reparations post World War II.

## Building the NHS

Those who arrived on the *MV Empire Windrush* – and subsequent ships – were sought after because of their skills. Many of the arrivals were nurses, and they contributed to the creation and successful running of the National Health Service (NHS).

## Celebrating 70 years of Windrush and the NHS

On the 16 June, the BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) Staff Network at the University of Birmingham recognised and celebrated 70 years of the NHS' Windrush nurses. The event, which was hosted in partnership with Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust; Recognize Black Heritage and Culture; Unison West Midlands; and RCN West Midlands, honoured both present day and retired Caribbean nurses, and was held at the University of Birmingham School.

The well-attended event was hosted by TV personality and ITV Central weather presenter, Des Coleman. Guest speakers included Beverley Braithwaite, author of *British born Black Caribbean female nurses occupational identity*, and Dr Naomi A Watson, author of *Here to stay... so... Deal With It*. There were also poetry readings and music.

On the 22 June, the BAME Staff Network hosted a panel discussion on 'Seventy Years on: The History and Legacy of the Windrush', at the Barber Institute. Panel members included academics from the University of Birmingham who explored the place of the *Empire Windrush* in British history, the reception of the Windrush generation, and the ways in which Caribbean people have shaped British culture, politics, and society.





## The University of Birmingham's BAME Staff Network

Since its launch on the 21 June 2017, the BAME Staff Network has focused on providing a safe and confidential platform for BAME staff to share experiences, opinions, concerns and ideas. Run by and for BAME staff, the network influences the University's policies about BAME staff, including pathways to encourage promotion and opportunities to higher grades and training.

The network now has over 100 members of staff, both BAME and also supporters of race equality. The Aditi course, a leadership development programme for BAME academic-related staff in the University run by POD, is now in its third year and continues to be a success.

To date, the officially recognised network has run a number of events, many in association with national and University-wide initiatives, including the Arts & Science Festival, Black History Month, International Women's Day and National Staff Networks Day.

The Network has also acted in an advisory capacity, supporting staff in the College of Medical and Dental Sciences in ensuring more BAME people are included in

patient participation. Members of the committee have also presented to the University's Registrar's Leadership Group to raise awareness of the Network's aims and the needs of BAME staff at the University.

The Network also sits on a number of University-wide committees such as the Race Equality Charter Mark, Equality Executive Group and Network Chairs' Group and has joined forces with the other Staff Networks to run a monthly 'Networks Coffee and Catch-up'.

Nearly one year after the Network was created, they were nominated and shortlisted for a University BUAFTA award within the Vice-Chancellor's category. This was a lovely surprise and a recognition of all the hard work that has gone into launching and sustaining a successful Network.

If you would like to attend one of the regular network meetings, join the mailing list and receive the Network's newsletters, please visit the BAME Staff Network page on the intranet: [www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/bame](http://www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/bame) or email us on [bamestaff@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:bamestaff@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

## Black History Month 2018

The BAME Network is looking for ideas and contributions for this year's Black History Month programme. If you would like to participate in this year's activities, which will include live music, dance, spoken word performances alongside exhibitions, film viewings, lectures and debates, please visit the intranet page: [www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/bhm-2018-contributions](http://www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/bhm-2018-contributions)

# transforming OUR campus

There is a space  
for you in the  
Green Heart

## Campus developments

August sees two key development projects come to fruition – the Collaborative Teaching Laboratory (CTL) and hotel (see page 13) while another two are getting off the ground – the School of Engineering and the Teaching and Learning Building. The Green Heart is now into its final months, with completion due in early 2019. The re-opening of University Square has been welcomed by staff and students and is already being enjoyed thanks to the summer weather.

## Teaching and Learning Building

Work began on the Teaching and Learning Building, which will sit alongside the Main Library, in the spring, and progress is good. The new building will feature:

- A 500-seat lecture theatre
- A 250-seat interactive lecture theatre
- Ten seminar rooms that can hold 30 students at a time
- Learning spaces for hundreds of students, with areas for individual study, collaborative group work and creative break-out sessions
- A café

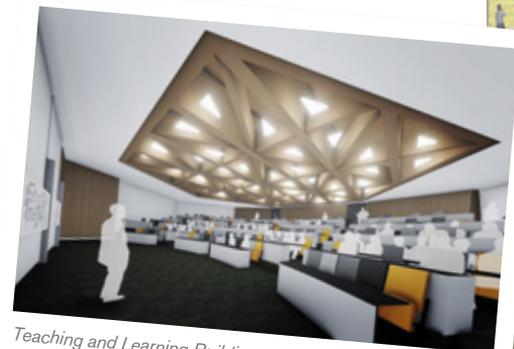
Run by Library Services, this building will be a key resource for the vast majority of undergraduate and taught postgraduate students, along with teaching staff.

Roadshows promoting the building and engaging with staff and students about it will be taking place across venues on campus from October 2018 onwards.

The building is due for completion in early 2020. To see a 'fly through' of the development, visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/building](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/building)



Teaching and Learning Building



Teaching and Learning Building

## Collaborative Teaching Laboratory (CTL)

The CTL was handed over to the University by the contractors in July, and the challenge is now on to fully equip the building and train all technical staff in time for students to use it when they arrive in September.

The building consists of:

- Wet lab
- Dry lab
- E-lab
- Study spaces
- Café

Undergraduate students from across the Colleges of Life and Environmental Sciences and Engineering and Physical Sciences will be using the new facility, which is the second phase of the CTL project, which began with the renewed labs in Engineering, and also involves the refurbishment of labs in Biosciences.



Collaborative Teaching Laboratory

## School of Engineering

Work on the School of Engineering, which sits opposite the CTL, has begun. Completing in 2020, it will bring together many engineering disciplines into one building. Providing academic offices, PC clusters, learning spaces and collaborative areas, this will allow greater integration between engineering disciplines for both staff and students.

It will sit alongside a world-class centre of excellence in rail in partnership with industry, focusing on digital systems. Funded as part of the newly created UK Railways Research and Innovation Network (UKRRIN), it will

focus on railway control and simulation, data integration and cybersecurity, condition monitoring and sensing, and improved methods for technology introduction.



School of Engineering

## HOW WILL YOU CELEBRATE THE GREEN HEART?

In June 2019, we will kick off a celebratory festival, marking the completion of the Green Heart. Beginning with a weekend-long event on campus, which will feature performances and lots of activities for a wide variety of audiences, a year-long programme of activities is being planned. We want to hear from you about how you will help celebrate the first year of the Green

Heart as part of the Green Heart Festival. Whether it's through promoting research, engaging with a particular group, putting on a performance, or demonstrating part of your work, there is a space for you in the Green Heart.

Let us know your ideas at: [intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/estates/green-heart/The-Green-Heart-Festival.aspx](http://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/estates/green-heart/The-Green-Heart-Festival.aspx)

# Research [IN FOCUS]

## 26MM RISE IN GLOBAL SEA LEVEL IF ANTARCTIC ICE SHELVES COLLAPSE

Birmingham scientists have calculated what would happen to the world's sea level if two Antarctic ice shelves break up.

Dr Nick Barrand, Lecturer in Geosciences, led an international team of scientists studying Antarctica's vulnerable floating ice shelves. The team have shown that sea levels would rise by up to 26mm if Larsen C and George VI, two Antarctic ice shelves that may be at risk of collapse, were to break up.

Last year, a massive iceberg known as A68, which was about four times the size of London, broke away from the Larsen C Ice Shelf, one of the largest expanses of floating ice in Antarctica. The breakaway iceberg weighed a trillion tonnes and its calving dramatically altered the Antarctic landscape. However, despite the remaining Larsen C Ice Shelf being at risk of collapse, Dr Barrand and his team have shown that it is the much smaller George VI Ice Shelf that is of more significant risk to global sea levels in the event of a collapse.

Dr Barrand said: 'Recent, rapid warming in the Antarctic Peninsula is a threat to ice shelves in the region, with Larsen C and George VI considered to have the highest risk of collapse. Because these large ice platforms hold back inland glaciers, the ice carried by these glaciers can flow faster into the sea when the ice shelves collapse, which contributes to sea-level rise. Our study shows that a collapse of Larsen C would result in inland ice discharging about 4mm to sea level, while the response of glaciers to George VI's collapse could

contribute over five times more to global sea levels, around 22mm.'

In 2002, warming in the Antarctic Peninsula led to the dramatic collapse of Larsen B – an ice shelf just north of Larsen C. Unprecedented in its size, almost the entire ice shelf broke up in just over two weeks, after being stable for the last ~10,000 years.

Dr Barrand says that the risks posed from Larsen C and George VI Ice Shelf collapses should be seen in the wider context of climate change and the combined impact of global ice melt: 'These numbers, while not enormous in themselves, are only one part of a larger problem, including loss from other glaciers around the world and from the Greenland, East and West Antarctic ice sheets. Taken together with these other sources, the impacts could be significant to island nations and coastal populations. The Antarctic Peninsula may be seen as a bellwether for changes in the much larger East and West Antarctic ice sheets as climate warming extends further south.'

Prior to this work, scientists had not quantified the impact on upstream ice in this region if these shelves were to be lost. These changes would have major implications for the local environment and for global sea levels; information that is essential for climate-change mitigation planning and policy.

## THE FINDINGS

### Larsen C

By using computer models of the Antarctic Peninsula ice sheet and floating ice shelves, the team found that the inland glacier response to collapse of Larsen C Ice Shelf would add up to a 2.5mm rise to sea level by 2100, and 4.2mm by 2300.

### George VI

Nestled between the Antarctic Peninsula and Alexander Island, George VI Ice Shelf is, at 24,000km<sup>2</sup>, around half the size of Larsen C, but its glaciers would contribute far more to sea-level rise because it is fed by more inland ice and is very effective at holding back the ice that drains into it from these glaciers. According to the simulations presented in a new paper published by EGU journal *The Cryosphere*, adjustment of the glaciers flowing into it following a collapse could contribute up to 8mm to global sea levels by 2100 and 22mm by 2300.

*'In light of the increasing temperatures projected for the coming century, the Antarctic Peninsula provides an ideal laboratory to research changes in the integrity of floating ice shelves. This region can tell us about ice shelf processes and allow us to observe the response of inland ice to ice-shelf changes. We should view these dramatic changes in the Antarctic Peninsula as a warning signal for the much larger ice sheet-ice shelf systems elsewhere in Antarctica with even greater potential for global sea-level rise.'* concludes Dr Barrand.

# A FOCUS ON DATA PROTECTION

Many of us have received emails or letters asking us to confirm if we wish to continue receiving marketing information from a company that we used years ago. It has been an opportunity to clear out some of the spam from our inboxes for good. This spate of correspondence is as a result of the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which came into force in May and changed data protection regulation across the EU.



*Carolyn Pike, Director of Legal Services*

In the UK, data protection law is the combination of the GDPR and the new Data Protection Act 2018. It has created new rights and obligations, and at the University more than 300 members of staff have been involved with the GDPR project so far; a communal effort that has produced significant results and strengthened the University's commitment to the new data protection regime.

## WHAT HAS CHANGED?

Individuals now have increased rights relating to their personal data: to access information about themselves within one month (rather than 40 days), to have inaccuracies corrected, and to ask for their personal data to be transferred to another university (eg, if a student changes programme).

Under the new data protection law, processing must fall within a specified legal basis. The University will process most of the data about staff and students based on the nature of the contracts it has with those individuals. Where the processing relates to teaching and research, this will now be on the legal basis that these activities are part of the University's Charter and Statutes (they are public tasks, required by law). For other areas, such as Alumni Relations and fundraising, we will use a mixture of legitimate interests and written consent. This is a complicated area and advice is

available on the Legal Services website: [intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/legal-services/index.aspx](http://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/legal-services/index.aspx).

Organisations are also required to think about the impact on individuals whenever they change the way they process personal data – for example when introducing new software. To ensure privacy is built in to such changes we are required to complete a Data Protection Impact Assessment.

## WHAT IS THE IMPACT ON EVERYONE'S DAY-TO-DAY WORK?

The GDPR Working Group has tried to ensure that the impact has been minimised. Wherever possible, we have already integrated these changes into existing activity. However, it is not always easy to realise that we are processing personal data as part of our job. Most staff deal with personal data as part of their day-to-day work; commonly student or HR issues, and of course within research. Personal data are also processed when collecting registrations for an event or sometimes even when taking a photo for marketing.

Whenever personal data are collected or processed we need to put in place the correct requirements such as linking to a relevant privacy notice (see [www.birmingham.ac.uk/dataprotection](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/dataprotection)).

Legal Services has produced a baseline training module on Canvas, which all staff must complete to help identify these issues.

We are also working to develop further specialist training modules, complementing the mandatory course available on Canvas. The first of these modules will focus on research data, student data and HR data.

All resources for staff are available on the intranet: [intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/dataprotection](http://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/dataprotection).

## WHY DOES IT MATTER?

The new data protection law requires the University to:

- 1) respond to a request for copies of personal data within one month, and;
- 2) in certain circumstances, notify the Information Commissioner's Office within 72 hours when there is a data breach.

This means we need to be much more efficient in how we process personal data and notify any data breaches.

Although the Information Commissioner has indicated that, at least for the time being, fines will be the last resort, the maximum fine possible has now increased from £500,000 to 4% of an organisation's global annual turnover. For the University this could be a multi-million pound fine.

Our University is committed to ensuring the privacy of our staff, students and those who help and work with us, and we need everyone's help to do it!

If you have further questions or would like a member of the GDPR team, to come and speak to your team please email: [legalservices@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:legalservices@contacts.bham.ac.uk).

# DEFENCE STUDIES

## *Dining Club*

Did you know that the University regularly plays host to some of the world's most prominent military leaders? The list of speakers attending the University's prestigious Defence Studies Dining Club (DSDC) dinners reads like a who's who of Armed Forces personnel. *Buzz* spoke with the Chair of the Club, Dr John Craggs MBE DL, who has chaired the Club since October 2006, succeeding Major-General Graham Messervy-Whiting.



Admiral Sir Philip Jones and Dr John Craggs

***'I don't have a military background, so it was a bit daunting succeeding a Major-General, but a real honour! Despite my civilian background I am very interested in leadership, and had been attending the DSDC for three years prior to being asked to become the Chair. In that regard, I had a good understanding of how things worked at the DSDC and what the expectation was.'*** So says John, who studied Chemistry (BSc and PhD) at the University between 1966–72 and was awarded an Honorary Degree in 2015.

Under his tenure, John has grown attendance at DSDC dinner events from about 50 to 420 at the last count. Those attending get a unique experience; the chance to quiz an ex CIA Director as part of your learning is something that is unparalleled. When General Petraeus, who commanded US forces in Iraq and Afghanistan and later served as Director of the CIA, attended in February, he was interviewed by Professor David Dunn, and answered questions from audience members on themes such as future trends in warfare, developments in the fight against extremists, the impact of Brexit on Britain's standing in the world and the global consequences of the Trump Presidency.

*'The reputation of the Defence Studies Dining Club attracts a fascinating array of speakers, usually very senior people in the Armed Forces. It's a great opportunity for the leaders of tomorrow to hear from today's military figureheads, such as US General and ex-Director of the CIA, General David Petraeus, who has been described as "the outstanding soldier-scholar of his generation". General Petraeus has spoken twice now – first in 2016.*

**‘** *I much enjoyed my engagement and interaction with the Defence Studies Dining Club. It is always good to have the chance to debate Defence issues, particularly when the role of the Armed Forces and the challenges they face, has arguably never been less well understood. The Dining Club provides a tremendous forum to have informed and helpful dialogue and it is not surprising that it attracts a varied and enterprising range of speakers.* **’**

Chief of Defence Staff, General Sir Nicholas Carter

*Our most recent dinner speaker was First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sir Philip Jones, who was accompanied by Lieutenant Alice Brindley (his Flag Lieutenant), alumna of the University of Birmingham. Others in attendance included the University's Chancellor, Lord Bilimoria, Surgeon Vice Admiral Alasdair Walker (Surgeon General) and Brigadier G W Fraser MBE ADC of the Royal Marines and Naval Regional Commander for Wales and Western England.'*

The University of Birmingham Defence Studies Dining Club brings together those interested in contemporary issues of defence and international politics and meets three times a year to hear speakers from the military (UK and allies), government, embassies, journalists and academics. Its membership is drawn from the regional military officers, cadet units, academia, and local community. Speakers have included a previous head of the British Army, General Sir Mike Jackson (alumni and honorary doctorate), former Cabinet minister Andrew Mitchell MP, Admiral Lord West, the TV journalist Mark Urban, and the current Chief of Defence Staff, General Sir Nicholas Carter.

The next DSDC event takes place in November, with Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Hillier. If you are interested in becoming a member of the DSDC, it's completely free of charge to join and open to all. Please contact the Club Secretary, **Sarah Proctor** Tel: 0121 414 3976 Email: [s.h.proctor@bham.ac.uk](mailto:s.h.proctor@bham.ac.uk)



# The Edgbaston Park Hotel is *Open!*

As *Buzz* was being sent to print, the University of Birmingham's Edgbaston Park Hotel opened its doors for the first time.

Located off Edgbaston Park Road, the 172-bed hotel will provide four-star standard services, alongside a new conference centre, which will provide flexible facilities able to cater for groups of between 12 and 250. The development also sees the completion of the regeneration of Garth House, a Grade II listed building, and Hornton Grange as part of the work to preserve them for future generations. Adding characterful rooms, this brings the total number of beds on site to 220.

Visit: [www.edgbastonparkhotel.com](http://www.edgbastonparkhotel.com)

## Open Day

If you'd like to take a look around the new hotel, come along to the Open Day for staff on Friday 24 August from 11.00am to 6.00pm. You will get a chance to have a tour of the conference centre and hotel rooms, as well as an opportunity to experience the hospitality and catering of our new Head Chef and his team.

Book your free place here: [intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/has/edgbaston-park-hotel/Come-and-see-the-University-of-Birmingham-Edgbaston-Park-Hotel.aspx](http://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/has/edgbaston-park-hotel/Come-and-see-the-University-of-Birmingham-Edgbaston-Park-Hotel.aspx)

## Conferences

The Edgbaston Park Hotel will provide a new home for conferences on campus, allowing a variety of academic meetings to take place. We have a new Sales Manager in post, Shanakay Luckoo-Millington, who is on hand to respond to any enquiries on [s.luckoo-millington@bham.ac.uk](mailto:s.luckoo-millington@bham.ac.uk)



IMAGE: Artist's Impression of the Reception area



## Chancellor's column

This summer, one particular degree ceremony encapsulated, to me, the excellence of our University.

During the ceremony, I had the privilege to induct Professor Robert Stockley onto the Chancellor's Guild of Benefactors, joining 13 other modern-day philanthropists, going back over a century.

He is a proud alumnus of the University and a world expert in his field, in respiratory research. Having written over 450 research papers in his career, he is an exemplar of how Britain is a world-leader in research, punching well above its weight.

Furthermore, at the ceremony, I presented the Vice-Chancellor's Prize – one of the most prestigious awards given by our University to our students – to Katelyn Aitchison.

Katelyn not only excelled by coming top of her year for three consecutive years at our Medical School – one of the highest-rated medical schools in the world – but has also represented the University in the Premier Hockey League nationally.

The achievements of Professor Stockley and Katelyn are an inspiration to us all. Their inspiration leads to aspiration, which leads to achievement, which will in turn lead to inspiration – a virtuous circle.

At just one ceremony we have alumni, world-class excellence, benefaction, student excellence, extra-curricular and sporting excellence and also arts and sciences students graduating together in one ceremony, all brought to life in one degree ceremony. It made me so incredibly proud of our wonderful institution.

*Lord Bilimoria is the founder and chairman of Cobra Beer, Chancellor of the University of Birmingham and the founding Chairman of the UK-India Business Council.*

## CAMPUS CURIOSITIES



### What is it?

Nut Mummy Amulet, Egyptian, c.1295–c.800 BCE

### Where is it?

Eton Myers Museum, Orchard Learning Resource Centre, Selly Oak campus (viewable by appointment, please email [rcc@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:rcc@contacts.bham.ac.uk))

This amulet depicts the Egyptian sky goddess Nut. She is shown wearing a crown of horns that enclose the sun, referring to her status as the mother of the sun god Ra. She is associated with rebirth, and symbols associated with her were placed inside tombs to help the dead climb to the heavens. It is covered in holes, which would have been used to sew the amulet onto mummy wrappings.

The Eton Myers Collection of Egyptology is on long-term loan from Eton College. The amulet is an object of particular significance within the collection, not only due to its beauty and quality, but because it demonstrates the fascinating history of 19th-century collecting. Major W.J. Myers wrote in his personal diary about purchasing the piece from the Manchester cotton magnate Max Robinow:

*'Friday 18 April [1896]... He [Robinow] has begun to collect Egyptian things, and has a fine winged Isis [Nut] in blue [?] wh[ich] I refused last year...I much want to get it as it belongs to the same mummy as my winged scarab. He was very polite and pleasant and when he gets home I think he will let me have it for wh[ich] I shall be most grateful...'*

### Find out more

You can find out more about the Eton Myers Collection of Egyptology by visiting <http://rcc-redmarley.tumblr.com>

# Karen Newbigging... in my own words

Dr Karen Newbigging is a Senior Lecturer in Healthcare Policy and Management within the School of Social Policy's Health Services Management Centre.



As a child, 'home' was Smethwick and Sutton Coldfield, though as a family we did move around and I spent my first year of secondary school at a Junior High in the US, where I was endlessly teased for my English accent! At 18, I ventured north to the country of my father's birth and the University of Dundee. After graduating in psychology I trained in clinical psychology on the Lancashire in-service training course, and then went on to establish one of the first joint health and social services community mental health teams in inner-city Manchester and completed an MSc in the ethics of healthcare at the University of Liverpool.

In my personal and professional life, change has been a constant; some of it planned, and some of it unplanned. My aim is to always try to change things for the better – and I care passionately about equality and social justice. The biggest chunk of my working life has been in the NHS as a clinical psychologist for 18 years. After six years as a consultant working with people with severe mental health problems, my frustration with their situation, and lack of power fostered an interest in how to change systems and services for people with mental health problems and other marginalised groups. It led me to take up the post as the Lead Commissioner for mental health services in East Lancashire. During this time I was approached by Edward Peck to work with him to establish a North West Mental Health Development Centre for Mental Health (NWMHDC), based in Salford. I became the Director and worked with a wonderful team of people, many of who are close personal friends, probably because we shared the same values and vision of a better life for people experiencing poor mental health. New Labour identified mental health as an early priority and introduced the National Institute for Mental Health England (NIMHE). This meant that the NWMHDC had to merge with the Health and Social Care Advisory Service (HASCAS); a challenging process which I oversaw. I then became the Director of Mental Health at HASCAS and pursued a part-time PhD at the University of Leeds, researching New Labour's mental health policy reforms and their impact on personal agency.

Although I had been involved in training clinical psychology trainees and lecturing on ethics on an ad hoc basis, my academic career properly began with a part-time job at the University of Central Lancashire, in the Centre for Ethnicity and Health. This Centre was developing models around community engagement and I was keen to learn more about participatory methods.

I also took up a job share as the National Lead for Gender Equality and Women's Mental Health for NIMHE. Just a few months after starting that job my family circumstances dramatically changed; my partner was diagnosed with lymphoma and died nine months later. As our children were 13 and 16 years old I could no longer commit to a job that required lots of travelling; I needed to be at home more.

I, therefore, decided to go full-time at the University of Central Lancashire. Academia afforded me the flexibility to balance my career with being the mum that my children needed. When my daughter left home for University, a job came up in Birmingham in 2013 – and so here I am. It's been a great move and I love working at Birmingham and am engrossed in the research that I do, which is highly applied, shoulder to shoulder with people with lived experience and clearly focused on making a difference.

So why is this so important? Mental health has a difficult history. When I started training as a clinical psychologist large asylums housed thousands of people who were shut away: 'out of sight, out of mind'. People couldn't really relate to 'madness' and to behaviour that contravened social norms. Mental distress and illness weren't well understood, perpetuated by the media's distorted focus on the risk that people with a diagnosed mental illness posed to the public. We didn't know how to talk about it: if you broke your arm people would be queuing up to sign your plaster, whereas if you told them you had a diagnosis of bipolar condition or psychosis they would probably look uneasy and avoid the conversation.

In some ways, the situation has changed enormously since I trained but in other ways the discrimination, prejudice and exclusion of people experiencing poor mental health persists.

Today there is a call for 'parity of esteem' – of valuing mental and physical health equally. However, in practice, there isn't parity. Currently, mental health conditions equate to about 25% of the need but only get between 11–13% of the NHS budget. So there's a big shortfall, and mental health is a soft target when budgets are tight.

Over the past ten years, we have seen the creation of large NHS Foundation Trusts for mental health, often covering a million people. This poses difficulties for working well with Primary Care. GPs better understand the needs of the local population, but many are not well-trained in mental health.

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The Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme is bridging the gap between primary and secondary care, but we need to do more in primary care, and crucially, we also need to invest in prevention.

Why? Well, firstly there's a big treatment gap, and we know that three in four young people don't have access to a service. We can do lots to 'open up' conversations about mental health and route people into mental health services, but people's experiences of accessing mental health services and the quality of those services can be poor and fail to enable them to get on with their lives. So we need to look at scaling up and redesigning the support that people can access alongside preventative measures. From the work I have been involved in for the Mental Health Policy Commission, it is clear that there is good evidence for interventions that can enable people to become more resilient and these are more cost-effective than providing treatment later on.

There are a lot of similarities in the determinants of mental and physical ill health – both are heavily influenced by socioeconomic inequalities – even in utero. There is also a growing body of evidence around life experiences, known as 'adverse childhood experiences', which shows that children who are exposed to abuse are much more likely to develop mental health problems. The Commission's report shows that moderate abuse during childhood increases a person's risk of developing a mental health problem by 11 times, and 48 times for severe abuse. The support mechanisms that children and young people can access act as a buffer against those experiences, but for those who don't have good support structures in place – family, friends, social activities, etc. – enabling them to have a mentor or peer, and access to appropriate mental health support early on is key. We can help a lot by building a resilient generation and ensuring that prevention of poor mental health has a strategic focus through all government policies.

So, how can we build a resilient generation? We must invest in the building blocks: positive family, peer,

and community relationships; by minimising adverse experiences and exclusions; through mentally friendly education and employment; and by responding early and responding well to first signs of distress.

In compiling the Commission's report, we talked to young people about the pressures they face. They highlighted the design of the education system and academic pressures, which offer limited opportunities to make mistakes. Schools, alongside parents and local communities, have a key role to play and need to provide social and emotional learning so that young people know how to talk about difficult situations and can develop coping strategies. They should also be measuring the well-being of their pupils, as academic success is not the only ingredient for a happy, meaningful life. I hope that our report can change things for the better. Things are changing. Awareness and reporting of mental health in the media is shifting, and celebrity-backed campaigns to reduce stigma and mental health initiatives help, but we need more investment in prevention and we need to consider mental health in all government policies. We've got a long way to go but I am optimistic that initiatives like the University of Birmingham's Policy Commission on mental health and the recently established Institute for Mental Health will make a real contribution to this journey.

Outside of work I am involved with the Labour Party, and I work with different charities – I'm just about to head off to work in the refugee kitchen at Calais. I love languages and have taken one of the UoB open access courses in Mandarin for two years, although you wouldn't know it! For my own health and well-being, I enjoy gardening (of course!), catching up with friends and family and swimming in the new 50-metre pool on campus has superseded my windsurfing hobby – my only regret during this current spell of weather is that the pool is not outside!

Staff can access the full report at: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/mhpc](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/mhpc) ;

## feeling social...

As the country marked the 70th anniversary of the NHS in July, we wanted to join in the celebratory conversation online, while at the same time showcasing some of the collaborative work being carried out here at the University.

A team from across the University worked together to create a suite of content to share throughout the birthday week, including quotes from prominent people, facts from the past, present and future as well as a series of videos to use on multiple social media channels.

The aim was to celebrate the anniversary so we created around 12 short videos of both academics and students wishing the NHS a 'happy birthday' and explaining why the service is something to be celebrated. The videos were given an NHS overlay, added to a playlist of videos on YouTube and then shared across our central Facebook and Twitter channels.

Tying all of this content together was a website landing page where visitors could find out more about the University's long

partnership with the NHS, and our contributions and achievements to date: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/nhs70](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/nhs70)

