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The University of
Nottingham

exchange

News and views from across the University | Issue 22 | November 2008



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will inform the latest
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Standout teaching

The University's top teaching and learning innovators are recognised in the Lord Dearing Awards.

Excellence in teaching and learning at the University has been celebrated in the 2008 Lord Dearing Awards. These annual awards recognise the achievements of University staff in enhancing the student learning experience. This year's recipients include an innovative drama lecturer, a philosopher who has helped to tackle dyslexia and the team helping to get more disadvantaged students into higher education.

The awards were presented at a ceremony in the Trent building on University Park on Friday 24 October.

These included Dr Theo Stickley in the School of Nursing, who involved mental health service users in curriculum design and teaching delivery; and Dr Andrew Fisher in the Department of Philosophy, who podcasts all of his lectures as part of a programme to help students with dyslexia. "It's great to get recognition for something you love doing," said Dr Fisher.

Janice Yelland-Sutcliffe, of the Department of Mechanical, Materials and Manufacturing Engineering, was recognised for her work on the Awesome Athletes engineering outreach project. The Awesome Athletes toolkit, which encourages pupils to think about engineering through movement of humans, animals and machines, is now in use in schools across the country.

"This award is already making a difference to my work as an outreach project communicator," said Janice. "It has raised the profile of the current project, brought new people on board and led me to two new projects — Awesome Wheels for Barton-Trent Buses and a pilot project funded by the Centre for Integrative Learning."

The Widening Participation Team has been highlighted for their summer school programme, which gives pre and post-16 students the chance to experience university life while still at school.

With two thirds of participants subsequently applying to the University, the summer schools are the single most effective outreach activity run by the University.

For a full list of the Lord Dearing Awards winners visit www.nottingham.ac.uk/sedu/l-and-t/dearing-winners.php



Successful summer schools
The Widening Participation team at King's Meadow Campus.

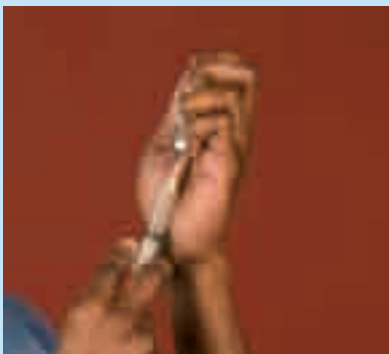
// News in brief

Healthcare advice

Exclusive plans for private medical insurance at special rates have been negotiated for all University staff by pension and healthcare advisors Xafinity Consulting. Independent advice about the plans is available to all staff free of charge and without obligation from Xafinity Consulting — authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Private medical insurance plans and healthcare cash plans are available. Contact Suzanne Darling on 0113 284 8013 or email healthcare@xafinityconsulting.com

Flu jab available

Cripps Health Centre is currently offering influenza vaccinations for all staff that are not eligible for free vaccination from their own GP at a reduced rate of £10. There is no requirement for staff to be registered with the University Health Service to receive the vaccination. For an appointment or further information contact the surgery on 0115 8468888.



Heritage hero

A local history tutor's commitment to the preservation of village life has been recognised by a heritage awards programme.

Local history tutor Sue Clayton has been named a Heritage Hero in the Nationwide Community and Heritage Awards.

Sue, who works part time in the Centre for Continuing Education, is the co-founder of the Flintham Museum. This unique volunteer-run facility looks at rural life through the traditional village shop.

The village shop in Flintham closed in 1982, ending around 150 years of retail on the same site. Sue and her late husband Trevor kept an eye on shopkeeper Muriel White when she retired, as her health was poor and she was losing her eyesight.

Family concern

Muriel's father Fred had been a keen photographer. The retired shopkeeper didn't want her father's work to be lost so she asked Sue to find his glass plate negatives which were stored in outbuildings behind the shop. Exploring the buildings in search of these images Sue found treasures stretching back over the history of the shop.

"Basically, nothing had ever been thrown away," she said, remembering the discovery.

"Produce — from groceries to haberdashery and bicycle parts — and records going back to 1911, when Fred ran the shop, had all been saved."

Sue and her fellow villagers realised they had something special on their hands and created a museum collection from the finds. This opened in 1999.

Sue's favourite element of the collection is a notebook containing details of items sold over six decades — accompanied by a description of daily weather conditions. This has been made into a simple interactive exhibit giving visitors access to weather information on any particular day over 60 years.

The project has been expanded since its launch. A working community shop, again, volunteer run, lies on land behind the museum. And a weather garden is currently being installed on the site.

Sue was made a Heritage Hero in the regional heats of the awards at the Galleries of Justice in Nottingham city centre. She'll be at the national finals on Tuesday 11 November in a ceremony held at the Tower of London.



Sue Clayton shows the Duke of Gloucester around the Flintham Museum. Pic: Trevor Clayton.



Student memories

Journalist Jeff Randall reminisces about his time at the University, as his daughter embarks on her first term.

When his daughter decided on Nottingham as her university of choice, journalist Jeff Randall was over the moon.

The Sky TV business presenter has fond memories of University Park. It was the venue for his own undergraduate studies and the happiest three years of his life.

"The University completely and wildly surpassed my expectations," he said. "I thought the campus was beautiful, I got the idea of university straight away. I knew I was going to love it.

"I turned up at Derby Hall to find two second year girls welcoming newcomers. I remember thinking 'the campus looks like a theme park and two lovely girls greet me and ask if they can show me to my bedroom!' In the first week I went to parties, I found the bar, I signed up for the football team and I had a cheque for a full grant. No one even asked me about books — I thought 'this is absolutely bloody fabulous'.

"When I walked away after three years I knew something fantastic had come to an end."

His time at Nottingham gave him a solid start for his career in journalism. He scooped an interview with Nottingham Forest manager Brian Clough for the student newspaper, *Bias*. There was a news blackout at the time, caused by a strike at the *Nottingham Evening Post*, and Cloughie refused to talk to journalists there.

His exclusive stood him in good stead. His roles since have included assistant editor of *Financial Weekly*, city correspondent of *The Sunday Telegraph* and city editor, assistant editor and sports editor of the *Sunday Times*. He now presents *Jeff Randall Live* on Sky News and and writes a twice-weekly column for the *Telegraph*.

"I have a real affection for Nottingham because it changed my life," he added. "Nottingham made me realise my shortcomings but it also gave me time to realise what I wanted to do and it gave me the skills to achieve the goals I'd set myself.

"No other institution has had the impact on my life that Nottingham has. It sounds gushing but that's the way I feel."

// News in brief

Entrepreneurs rejoice!

The University has been named 'Entrepreneurial University of the Year' at the prestigious Times Higher Education Awards 2008. The judges praised the 'breadth and depth' of its entrepreneurial activity and said the University was 'committed to nurturing the most enterprising and globally-minded graduates in British higher education'.

Ian Robertson, Chief Executive of the National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship, which sponsored the category, said: "Choosing a single successful university was difficult. But entrepreneurialism was a clear and visible part of Nottingham's culture. A very difficult decision was eased by the breadth and depth of that entrepreneurial culture at the University, from senior management through to staff and the student societies."

The award citation noted that under the auspices of the University's Institute of Enterprise and Innovation (UNIEI), Nottingham offers 'one of the largest and most highly developed entrepreneurship education programmes in Europe'.

The entrepreneurship category attracted entries from 34 universities, the highest number ever for a new category at the Times Higher Awards.



Teaching genocide and reconciliation

What's the best way to teach reconciliation and community cohesion while still living in the shadow of a genocide?



Violent past: At least 800,000 Rwandans were killed in the genocide between April and June 1994.

Pictured right from top: The memorial at Murambi; the team from the Kigali Institute of Education, the Kigali Memorial Centre and the University; the Kigali Memorial Centre.

“All the teachers on the trip said it had affected them in a personal and professional way.”

Dr Rolf Wiesemes, UNESCO Centre for Comparative Education



It's a powerful exhibit, and one made all the more shocking by the fact that it has its home in a what was originally intended to be a school. But the presence of the bodies of Tutsi victims of the Rwandan genocide in the Murambi Memorial Centre in what could have been bustling classrooms pre-1994 raises an issue that is hugely important in education. How do we teach children to be part of a functioning community when the shadow of genocide hangs over them, when their neighbours and friends could have been on opposing sides in a war?

This is one of the issues that will be explored in a new project led by the UNESCO Centre for Comparative Education in the School of Education. In partnership with the Kigali Institute of Education in Rwanda, and working with the Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre in Nottinghamshire and Rwanda's Kigali Memorial Centre, academics will bring together teachers, tutors and schools in the UK and Rwanda. It is hoped that by sharing training methods, ideas and experiences the participants will be able to develop ways of promoting community cohesion both in and out of the classroom. Though this would be of obvious benefit in Rwanda, where Hutus and Tutsis now live and are educated together and the emphasis is on reconciliation and community cohesion, it is hoped that the results will help to inform UK classroom practice. This could be in subjects such as history, in guiding how such subjects are taught; in personal development education areas such as citizenship and peace education; and in encouraging classroom debate between pupils from different cultural backgrounds. Over the next three years the Education for Community Cohesion project, funded by the British Council, will link students, teachers and researchers via video conferencing, blogging and Moodle technologies. A website specially developed to cope with the slower broadband capabilities in Rwanda will be the main medium of communication, with a public-facing information site and a password-protected Moodle site — a facility which allows the creation of an online learning community.

Back to the beginning

The project was first conceived in 2006, when Dr Rolf Wiesemes visited Rwanda with a group of teachers.

“All of the teachers on the trip said that the visit had affected them in both a personal and professional way,” said Dr Wiesemes. “This one visit has had a professional impact on them all, either in the way it informs their teaching or in their community activities. For example, one of the teachers returned to Rwanda with funding and students to buy and renovate a new home for one of the survivors of the genocide. It had a profound impact on them all.”

The idea then developed that by sharing experiences and methodology, teachers in both countries could improve teaching on events such as the Holocaust and other genocides.

“Teachers say that the Holocaust is one of the things they find difficult to teach, and worry about developing both historical and moral dimensions in their teaching,” said Gary Mills, who is co-ordinating the project with Dr Wiesemes. “Teaching about the Holocaust and other genocides has to be handled in a sensitive way and teachers often adopt a more didactic approach where they want to ‘control’ the ways that pupils investigate these areas of the curriculum. Where with other subjects they can tell pupils to go off and research it, with this topic they want to be more in control of the sources used to get the information, to make sure what they are using is robust.

“Perhaps they can learn from the way in which the 1994 genocide is taught in Rwandan schools.”

At the beginning of the project, communication will be set up between ‘beginning’ history teachers — those currently undergoing training. As it progresses, the project will expand to include early-years teachers and experienced teachers in other subjects.

The project website — www.edcoco.org — will be online by the end of November. Visit for more information.

It's an unusual welcome for a new PhD student and his family. On their first visit to the UK — for Changhong Zhan to take up a research fellowship at the School of the Built

Environment — the University has placed them in old, 1930s accommodation, complete with draughty chimneys and inefficient gas and electric heating.

And to top it all off, they're not even allowed to switch the central heating on over their first English winter.

But instead of heading to the Accommodation Office with a list of complaints, the family are looking forward to spending the next two years in the house — a custom-built 1930s-style semi that is a key part of the University's Creative Energy Homes project.

Special planning permission had to be sought before the E:On 2016 Research House could be built on University Park, as its energy inefficiency is entirely at odds with the current drive to reduce carbon emissions from our homes.

But three million houses were built in this era and the majority are still in use today, so the project will provide researchers at the School of the Built Environment and industry partners E:On with valuable 'starting point' data from which to develop adaptive technologies.

More than 100 sensors will monitor the environmental conditions in the home, alongside energy and water consumption. The project team will then assess the benefits of low-carbon technologies that can be fitted to existing homes, including making the best use of natural resources such as sun, wind and rain.

This will show how a typical suburban home can be upgraded to meet the carbon neutral status which the Government is seeking for all new homes from 2016.

Dr Mark Gillott, Research and Development Manager for Creative Energy Homes, said: "This is a unique test bed for us to trial and evaluate both simple energy-saving steps and innovative approaches and technologies. The results will be relevant to the millions of householders in this country who are facing economic pressures from ever-increasing fuel costs."

"Millions of us live in homes like this," added Dave Clarke, E:On's Head of Research and Development. "Our homes are responsible for almost a third of the CO₂ emitted in the UK, so any benefits identified here could go on to lower the bills and carbon footprint of millions of families."

And Changhong, his wife and their six-year-old daughter aren't daunted by an English winter with no central heating. They come from Heilongjiang Province in north east China where winter temperatures average between minus 15 and minus 31 degrees Celsius.

From 1930...

How can draughty single-glazed windows, open fires, no insulation and inefficient heating help to reduce our carbon footprint?



Energy inefficient
Changhong Zhan (right) and Dr Mark Gillott in the 1930s house.

...to 2016

Experimental design and technology could form the blueprint for the energy efficient homes of the future.



Tranquil space
Nina (seated) and Deborah enjoy their surroundings.

The Creative Energy Homes BASF house might be just next door to the 1930s home on University Park's Green Close, but it's a world away in terms of energy efficiency.

And the PhD students making their home here won't have to suffer the draughts and chills that the Zhan family will be subjected to. Engineer Deborah Adkins and architect Nina Hormazabal are benefitting from the latest energy efficient designs and construction techniques that have been used to build and equip the house.

During the year-long project Nina will use data from the building's sophisticated monitoring equipment to evaluate a range of climatic conditions in the house; from the temperature and relative humidity to the lighting, solar radiation and ventilation. To help understand the energy consumption of the house, the occupants' use will be tracked with electronic tags. Nina will also evaluate the general comfort of living in the house — from how the lighting affects their well-being to the importance of the temperature, ventilation and humidity — as part of her PhD research at the School of the Built Environment.

BASF, a major supplier of raw materials to the construction industry, project-led the build to create an affordable, energy-efficient home. Cost of construction was balanced against making the house affordable to the first-time buyer.

Nina is already enjoying the lifestyle benefits the house offers. "The natural light and ventilation, the amount of space and the appliances — they're all energy efficient, but psychologically you get a good feeling from them," she said.

Nina also uses her bike and public transport to get around Nottingham, and hopes to continue without a car when she returns to Chile.

Deborah's research, which examines replacing expensive photovoltaic solar panels with cheaper optical ones, also relates to her home. "It's one thing to read about these technologies but quite another to experience and test their true performance throughout the year," she said. "Especially in the unpredictable and changeable British climate." Nina will also have the opportunity to see how the other half lives. She is one of the researchers monitoring the E:On house next door. Nina's hoping both projects will bring interesting results, but will no doubt be pleased to return to her warm home at the end of the working day...

Smashing matter

Ed Copeland, Professor of Physics in the School of Physics and Astronomy, looks at the planet's biggest experiment — the Large Hadron Collider.

The Large Hadron Collider is the largest experiment ever undertaken on earth, and the BBC publicity machine was at full speed as the turn on date, Wednesday 10 September, approached. Andrew Marr, live on the *Today* programme tried to convey the excitement of seeing a spot appear on a screen. So what is the LHC and why should we be interested in what it produces? It is a particle physics experiment whose goal is simple, to establish the building blocks of matter, by searching for particles we believe are required for the consistency of the models of particle physics. Straddling the border of France and Switzerland, near Geneva, is a 27km tunnel around 100 metres underground. Protons accelerated to speeds within 20 metres per second of the speed of light will travel around the tunnel in both directions, and be brought together in four detectors, with a staggering 600m collisions every second. Through his famous equation $E=mc^2$, Einstein told us that the energy

associated with the protons could be rearranged to create new massive particles. The search will be on for these particles, believed to be remnants of before the first billionth of a second after the Big Bang — which by the way is the reason we require such huge energies. The candidates include: the Higgs, thought to be responsible for giving particles mass — or why light travels faster than we do; supersymmetric particles associated with a postulated symmetry relating the known particles with the force carriers; and dark matter particles, thought to be responsible for the vast majority of the mass of galaxies.

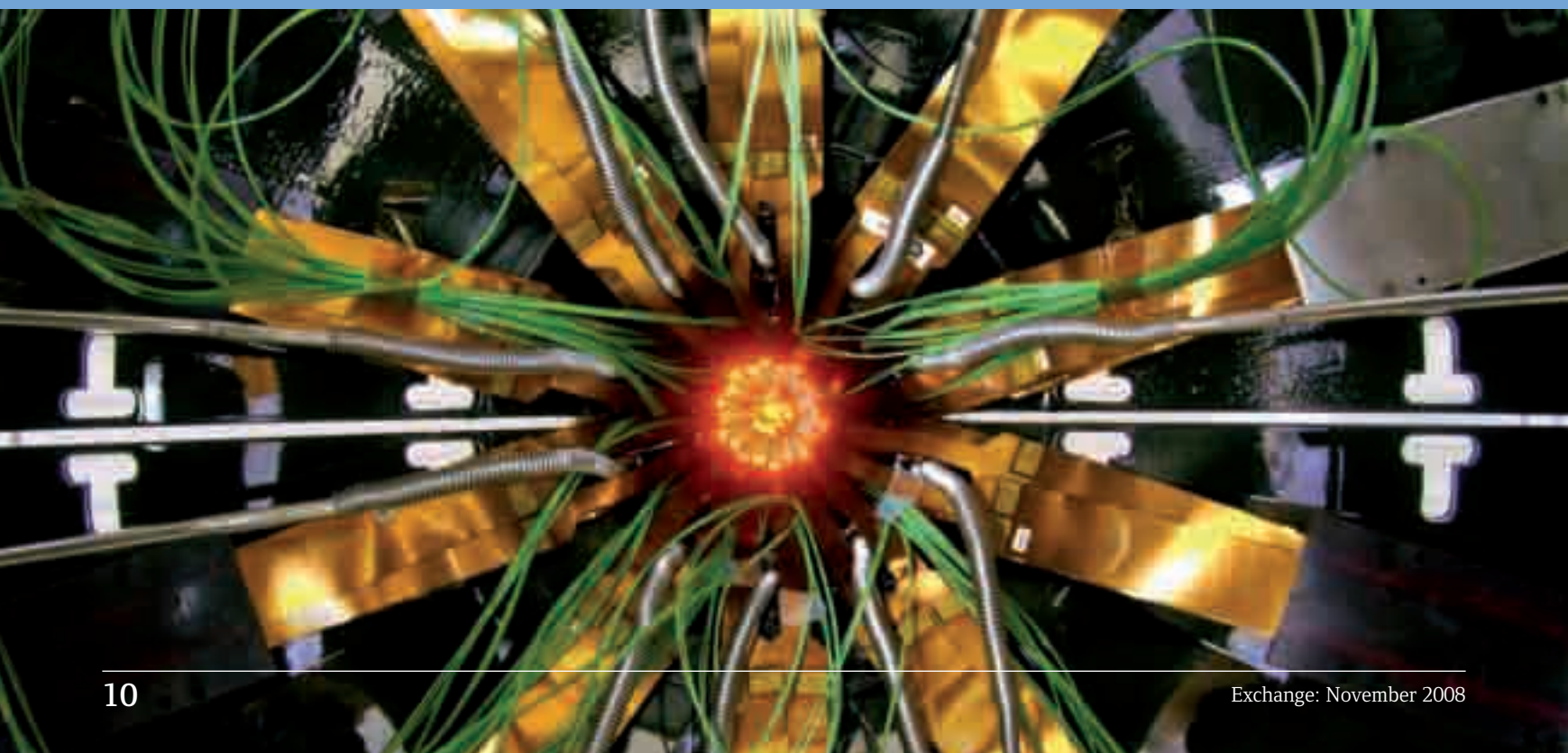
Justifying curiosity

Of course, at £3.5bn, such an experiment appears expensive and questions have been raised about the justification of such expense. The UK contribution to CERN (where the machine is based) is around £500m. and the annual subscription paid by the UK is around

“A civilised country like ours should be prepared to fund these ideas.”

Prof Ed Copeland, School of Physics and Astronomy

£82m, the contribution of the 20 members being linked to each country's GDP. How do you justify spending the money on this curiosity driven research as opposed to fighting cancer, global warming or funding more schools? There is no simple answer but it should not be an 'either or' debate. A civilized country like ours should be prepared to fund these areas, and if as a society we want to understand the nature of the forces of nature, these experiments are the only route to regularly produce the massive particles associated with the early universe.





Spotlight

Find out which University stories have been in the media over the last month.

1. They are rich who have true friends...

When friends meet, hearts warm, according to the old proverb, and new research from the University backs this up.

The 'Circle of Friends' study, commissioned by the National Lottery, found that people were happiest when they had ten or more friends.

The story was a popular one with the media — it got coverage in papers including the *Daily Telegraph*, *Daily Mail* and the *Mirror*.

The report found that those with five friends or fewer had a 60 per cent chance of being unhappy. People who had between five and ten friends have a 50 per cent chance of being happy — but for people with more than ten friends, the chance of being happy varies between 55 and 56 per cent.

The study was carried out by Dr Richard Tunney, Associate Professor in the School of Psychology.



2. Academics take up membership of GMC

Two University of Nottingham academics have been appointed as members of the reconstituted governing council of the General Medical Council, the national body which regulates doctors and ensures good medical practice.

Terence Stephenson, Professor of Child Health and Dean of the University's Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, and Peter Rubin, Boots Professor of Therapeutics in the University's Division of Therapeutics and Molecular Medicine and former Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, will take office in January 2009 and serve for a period of four years.

3. Gates Foundation grant for global health research

The University has received a \$100,000 Grand Challenges Explorations grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The grant will support an innovative global health research project in Prof Liz Sockett's lab, on the use of a particular type of predatory bacteria — *Bdellovibrio bacteriovorus* (pictured left invading a bacterium) — as a potential 'living antibiotic'. Prof Sockett's project is one of 104 grants announced by the Gates Foundation for the first funding round of Grand Challenges Explorations, an initiative to help scientists around the world explore bold new solutions for health challenges in developing countries. The grants were provided to all levels of scientists in 22 countries across five continents.

Bdellovibrio bacteriovorus are tiny predatory bacteria that invade and kill some major germ-bacteria from the inside, but don't harm humans. This makes them the ultimate friendly bacteria to people, and suggests that they may have a future use as 'living antibiotics'.

[Find out more about the University in the media](#)

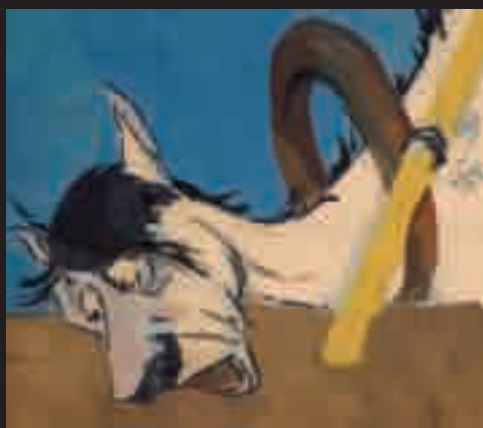
communications.nottingham.ac.uk

Propaganda in war

It's painstaking work. Many of these posters haven't seen the light of day for more than a decade. And when they were originally created — up to 65 years ago — they were made as disposable propaganda tools, not durable pieces to be displayed again and again. But now in response to increasing academic interest the Department of Manuscripts and Special Collections is digitising these arresting works for the first time, for a new exhibition curated by Cynthia Marsh, Professor of Russian Drama and Literature in the Department of Russian and Slavonic Studies. *Windows on War: Soviet Posters 1943-45* will examine Soviet propaganda posters from World War II, with a particular emphasis on how the Nazis were portrayed. The event is sponsored by the Centre for Russian, Central and East European Studies (CRCEES) as part of the Winter Festival 08-09.

The posters were donated to the University by Prof Vivian de Sola Pinto, a former Professor of English at the University. They were published in microform in 1992 by Adam Matthew to enable access, as the originals were too fragile to be produced. Using new digital technology, these images have now been recorded in full size and in one piece for the first time.

Following the exhibition, the posters will feature on the Manuscripts and Special Collections website.



These WWII posters have their roots in the first propaganda material produced during the October Revolution of 1918. Prominent artists and poets of the time contributed their skills to this medium and their influence can be seen in the style of the posters. They were displayed in the windows of TASS, the Central Telegraph Agency in Moscow, which was the main news distributor during the Soviet period.

Traditional artists often used traditional styles — the Russian icon was a huge influence on many and some posters mimicked the style (see the nurse tending a soldier overleaf).

Others were more satirical and use caricature to mock the enemy — whether the Nazis or enemies of the communist state. Emnification through animals is a common theme. Skeletal birds and horses represented the Nazi threat and Hitler is often portrayed as an ass. The mother heroine is also a common theme. Women who had ten children or more were portrayed as heroines by the state as they replenished the population.

"Some of the country's foremost poster artists created these powerful images," said Prof Marsh. "Their work was incredibly important in garnering the support of the population, uniting against the enemy at a time of war."

Human production line

The posters were too large to be printed by conventional means. Instead, the poster was drawn up by the artist and cut up into squares. A human production line was then set up to make stencils of each piece. Copies were then made — up to 600 per poster — and the separate parts put back together. The paints and inks of the posters are still bright, but the paper is fragile and difficult to handle.

"You can see how fragile and brittle they are," said conservator Robert Pearson, using a metal spatula to ease the folds apart. "The paper is poor quality because they were created as ephemera."





Main picture: Soldiers stand ready to protect Mother Russia from the Nazi enemy.
Left: Detail of Hitler caricatured as an ass.



Clockwise from top: A nurse revives a soldier in typical icon pose; the mother heroine — a woman who had more than ten children; folding out and digitising the posters was a painstaking process — many were deteriorating. All images courtesy of Manuscripts and Special Collections.

Photographer Mark Bentley has a use for these joins and folds though. The images are so large they are photographed as two halves then joined as a full image — the joins acting as a guide.

Their hard work is worth the effort. Even exposure to light can cause damage to the paper, so once the images have been digitised they can be returned to storage where the danger of deterioration is minimal.

To put the Soviet posters in context, British propaganda images will also be displayed as part of the exhibition, alongside textbooks developed for schoolchildren by the Nazis which portray Hitler as heroic.

The Windows on War exhibition will run from Friday 5 December at the Weston Gallery, Lakeside Arts Centre. For more information contact Manuscripts and Special Collections at mss-library@nottingham.ac.uk or call 0115 951 4565.





The nights are drawing in, the clocks have gone back and the heating has been switched on — with all the environmental and financial impact that brings.

Last academic year the University spent around £8.5m on energy — our energy consumption is equivalent to around 20,000 domestic houses.

So, this autumn, the Estate Office is running *You Have The Power!* — a campaign to encourage staff and students to get energy-wise. Running throughout November, staff will be encouraged to switch off unnecessary lights and equipment, make the most of appliances' energy-saving features and hand over portable electric heaters as part of a heater amnesty.

"It's natural that as the University develops and expands, so too will our energy consumption," says Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Dodson. "Through the campaign we're trying to ensure that we're using that energy smartly. We purchase green electricity for most of our buildings, but the broader environmental benefits of doing so will be reduced if we're wasting the electricity."

Waste has already been addressed in some buildings. For example, previous work with staff in Chemistry and the Boots Pharmaceutical Science building achieved an energy reduction of around 20 per cent in some laboratories solely by looking at the use of fume cupboards.

For more information on *You Have The Power!* contact the Environment Team: sustainability@nottingham.ac.uk or visit www.nottingham.ac.uk/energy

The big switch-off

Energy savings are the focus of the month — join the Environment Team on the *You Have The Power!* campaign.

// Energy-saving campaign

Top energy saving tips

Help reduce the University's energy waste with these top tips:

- Make the most of natural light – open blinds and declutter window ledges
- Switch off lights when there is sufficient daylight or when leaving the room for prolonged periods

- Keep the windows closed if the heating is on
- Remove any obstructions in front of heaters or radiators
- Report any heating problems to the Estate Office helpdesk on 16666
- Check that door seals on fridges and freezers are in good condition
- Review the number of fume cupboards and freezers in use
- Screen savers don't save energy — if you're going out to lunch or to a meeting, turn off your monitor
- Switch off appliances when leaving work for the day
- Unplug chargers once an item is charged.



Focus on... Leverhulme Centre for Research in GEP



The sight of investment bankers looking on in horror as shares and markets crashed around them remains an abiding image from the global financial crisis.

As the enormity of the problem became known, commentators and broadcasters scrambled to make sense of the chaos, and to plumb the depths of the crisis, amid talk of recession and depression.

The need for understanding has never been greater.

The Leverhulme Centre for Research in Globalisation and Economic Policy, already a significant player in that respect, is continuing its expansion and this month will launch a new branch at the University's Ningbo campus in China, complementing its base in Nottingham and Malaysia. Even though it is the major centre in Europe for studying the impacts of globalisation and economic policy, the idea, as GEP Centre Director Professor Daniel Bernhofen explained, is to encourage regional expertise.

"We're not simply transplanting the Nottingham centre to China. We want to take advantage of the local expertise in China, Korea, Japan and countries like Australia to

enhance the centre's global perspective and relevance. There is of course also the advantage of the University's location in China to attract these scholars."

The centre, established in 2001, is internationally-renowned and its academics have advised the Treasury, the World Bank and the World Trade Organisation. Its four research programmes encompass major concepts and issues from theory and methods to globalisation and labour markets to productivity and technology and the importance of China in the world economy.

Distinguished guests

It's no surprise that the centre attracts some of the most respected figures in world business to speak.

Delivering a recent lecture was Martin Wolf, *Financial Times* Associate Editor and Chief Economics Commentator.

Martin Wolf has warned about the current crisis for some time, but admits he wasn't alone. One economist he pointed to was Nouriel Roubini: "He'd been making these warnings for some time, but he was very much a lonely voice and even those who were a bit concerned as I was about what was happening

to house prices, lending to households and the almost inevitable correction that would follow this thought — as most people like me did think — that this could happen without an extraordinary implosion at economic level or of the financial system."

As for the future, he warned that the way back from the brink will be a long and difficult journey, but added stoically that we are "doomed to try".

To listen to the interview with Martin Wolf, entitled 'Fixing Broken Finance' go to <http://nottingham.ac.uk/podcasts.html>

GEP at a glance

- The major centre in Europe for the study of globalisation and economic policy.
- Holds regular public lectures — visit www.gep.org.uk/leverhulme/events/public_lectures.php for a full list.
- 'China and the World Economy' conference takes place in Ningbo this month.

Focus on... Dr Janet Barker



Janet Barker is Associate Professor in the Division of Nursing of the newly formed School of Nursing, Midwifery and Physiotherapy, based at Lincoln. As Course Director for the Pre-registration Diploma/BSc (Hons) in Nursing Course she co-ordinates its delivery across the Division of Nursing's five sites — Nottingham, Derby, Mansfield, Boston and Lincoln.

Monday:

It's the first Monday of the month so I'm in Nottingham for the Division of Nursing meeting — the traffic is horrendous but I manage to get there for 9am. Afterwards I meet with a couple of colleagues to discuss student issues and then head back to Lincoln. The rest of the day is spent writing letters, answering emails and trying to catch up with various people.

Tuesday:

In Nottingham again. I meet with a student and his personal tutor to discuss his progress on the course, and then head for the Education Executive Committee. Lunch is spent with a colleague discussing course

developments and the afternoon in the Course Co-ordinating Group meeting — as the course is delivered on all sites to over 2,000 students the agenda is a long one. Then a few quick conversations with people from different centres before I head for home.

Wednesday:

I start the day with tutorials. The Teaching Innovations meeting is next — a group created to encourage the development and sharing of innovative teaching and learning approaches. It's a video-conference across the various sites. Lincoln is co-ordinating the meeting this month and I'm chairing. There are a number of interesting presentations and a lively discussion around the needs of new lecturers. My afternoon is taken up with two issues — the implementation of a student code of conduct and taking forward the school's involvement in an NHS Institute of Innovation and Improvement project.

Thursday:

I'm teaching the Evidence-based Practice module this morning. The students are qualified nurses who seem enthused by the topic — and

laugh at my jokes — so the session goes very quickly. I see a number of students for tutorials and finish my day trying to catch up on my email and admin.

Friday:

Today is taken up with trying to finish a manuscript for a book aimed at pre-registration nursing students on evidence-based practice. The deadline for submission is rapidly approaching and I can feel the publishers nipping at my heels. I think I know what this weekend will hold for me!



Brief 1

Microwave research centre to tackle energy use

Microwave technology could help reduce the environmental impact of heavy industry, thanks to a new research centre being set up at the University.

The Faculty of Engineering is joining forces with e2v — a leading designer, developer and manufacturer of specialised components and subsystems — to launch the e2v Centre for Industrial Microwave Processing. The centre will focus on the commercialisation of innovative technologies developed at the University that will harness the benefits of microwave processing for use in a wide range of bulk material processing industries. The collaboration will allow global companies to improve efficiency and product quality, while minimising the impact of their operation on the environment by reducing waste and energy consumption. For example, up to five per cent of the world's electrical energy output is currently used to grind rocks to free valuable metals within them.

Microwave technology can be used to stress and fracture the rock prior to grinding, achieving the same results for a fraction of the energy consumption.

Prof Sam Kingman, e2v CIMP director, said: "Global industry is currently faced with the need to become more energy efficient, develop processes which are more sustainable, reduce waste and increase overall efficiency. Microwave processing technologies are one way of meeting these challenges but up until now the road from laboratory to industry has been a difficult one for many reasons. "This collaboration will bring together step-change multidisciplinary research, with world-leading microwave technology, to make meeting global process challenges a reality." The centre will see a financial contribution of more than £1m from e2v, with significant match funding from the University, and will position the two partners at the forefront of developments in energy efficient microwave processing technology.

Exciting times for engineers

Professor Nick Miles, Associate Dean for External Relations and Internationalisation in the Faculty of Engineering said: "This is a great example of knowledge transfer. The hard work put in by both the academic and industry teams has paid off in the formation of this exciting venture which will enable the flow of people, skills and knowledge between e2v and The University of Nottingham."

Brief 2

Recognition for stroke group



A unique partnership which takes a pioneering approach to stroke care in the UK has won a special community award.

Marion Walker, Professor in Stroke Rehabilitation at the University, and stroke conqueror Ossie Newell have developed research and rehabilitation programmes over the last few years for people who have suffered a stroke.

They have now won a Reach Out Award — run in partnership between *BBC Radio Nottingham*, the *Nottingham Evening Post* and Nottinghamshire County Council — in the ‘extra mile’ category, which recognises the efforts of local people who always go that extra mile without recognition.

Improving treatment

Three years ago they set up a partnership with stroke survivors and academics called the Nottingham Stroke Research Consumer Group. This group meets four times a year with senior academics and researchers from the University. Together they discuss and evaluate the latest research and go through grant applications for funding in fine detail. Its aim is to improve and develop treatment for stroke survivors by focusing research more closely on the needs of those unfortunate enough to have suffered a stroke. Professor Walker and Mr Newell (pictured left with Malcolm Jarvis, centre, who nominated them) said: “We are absolutely thrilled and delighted that our work has been acknowledged in this way. Our main priority is to ensure that people who have the misfortune to suffer a stroke are given the best possible care. We are part of a team of people who have similar aims and we share this accolade with them.”

// In brief

Altruistic equals attractive

Displays of altruism or selflessness towards others can be sexually attractive in a mate, according to a study carried out by biologists and a psychologist at the University.

In three studies of more than 1,000 people, Dr Tim Phillips and his fellow researchers

discovered that women place significantly greater importance on altruistic traits in all three studies. Their findings have been published in the *British Journal of Psychology*.

Dr Phillips said: “Evolutionary theory predicts competition between individuals and yet we see many examples in nature of individuals disadvantaging themselves to help others. In humans, particularly, we see individuals prepared to put themselves at considerable risk to help individuals they do not know for no obvious reward.”

Participants in the studies were questioned about a range of qualities they look for in a

mate, including examples of altruistic behaviour such as ‘donates blood regularly’ and ‘volunteered to help out in a local hospital’. Women placed significantly greater importance on altruistic traits in all three studies.



Looking forward

Academics and journalists will discuss the state of the Conservative Party next month and ask the question — are they ready for Government?



The Conservative Party: Approaching Government?

12 December 2008, Centre for British Politics

The last century was dubbed ‘the Conservative Century’, so successful were the centre-right party, but having lost three general elections in a row the last decade saw them in a dire position. But has David Cameron’s leadership seen them finally recover from the post-Thatcher malaise with policies fit for the 21st century? The inaugural conference of the Centre for British Politics will debate these issues, featuring David Willets MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, as plenary speaker.

‘The Conservative Party: Approaching Government?’ conference will bring together academic experts, practitioners and journalists to examine the current state of a party with the potential to regain national office. Delegates will:

- examine the party’s current electoral position and the strategies that helped to establish it and seek to sustain it

- assess how far David Cameron has transformed the nature of party organisation and leadership
- explore the extent to which Cameron’s party has mapped out new political terrain
- analyse the party’s policies for government.

The Centre for British Politics was launched at Westminster in June 2008 to examine and understand the changing nature of politics in the UK. Current research areas include backbench dissent in the House of Commons, the politics of the welfare state and attitudes to immigration. For more information on the conference and the centre visit www.nottingham.ac.uk/politics/cbp

Looking back

A collection of pots at the University Museum has been catalogued and newly digitised, giving the public access to evidence of how the Roman Empire spread.

The first consumer society?

University Museum, Department of Archaeology

They catch the eye as you walk through the University museum. These bright red pots, whether plain or decorated, stand out against their more muted counterparts.

And they're not just pretty objects. These pots, known as Samian ware, can help us track the movement and influence of the Roman Empire across Europe. Samian — a type of slip-coated red-ware — was manufactured in huge quantities in a range of centres across the Empire. In some production centres, one kiln alone could fire 30,000 vessels at once. As Roman influence spread, Samian became more and more popular, first in large towns and military centres, then in more rural areas.

And this distinctive pottery is of particular significance to the University Museum. In 1933, local archaeology enthusiast Felix Oswald donated his collection of finds to the University — which led to the creation of the museum. Oswald was a recognised authority on Samian ware and many of his finds came from Margidunum, a Roman settlement centred on the A46

roundabout at Bingham in Nottinghamshire. This included a group of Samian pots imported from Europe.

The take-up of Samian across the Empire tells us about the assimilation of Roman culture in conquered regions. It can be dated very accurately due to the stamps that potters and manufacturers used to mark their work.

Public view

Now the Samian collection at the University has been catalogued and digitised for the first time, with a full database available on the University Museum website, thanks to a grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council. This includes plain and decorated-ware from sites in London, Margidunum, Lavoye and Lezoux, both production centres in Gaul, along with different examples of the moulds used to make the vessels. Students, Roman pottery specialists and the Mansfield Archaeological Society helped to produce rubbings of the decorated and stamped vessels; which were then scanned and digitised. These are now available



Samian stamp: Rubbings from a pot made Lezoux, one of the major production centres in Gaul.

for the public to access. As the museum expands into what was once the students' common room in the Department of Archaeology, the Samian collection will have its own display, and be used extensively in future museum outreach work. Dr Gwladys Monteil provided training on Samian identification and recording techniques for the Felix Oswald project. This led to a new Leverhulme-funded research into examining Samian found in various sites in Britain and France.

She will examine how different types of Samian vessels were used; assessing the differences in urban and rural contexts; how fashions in size and use of the

pots changed over time; and what this said about society and consumption.

"The Roman Empire was home to one of the first societies of consumption," said Dr Monteil. "All of a sudden people stopped making their own pots. They found it more convenient to import and buy Samian. "This had an impact on how people viewed themselves — they were now consumers."

To view the Samian database visit www.nottingham.ac.uk/archaeology/research/museum_oswald.php

What's on

There's plenty to occupy you on campus as the nights draw in. See www.nottingham.ac.uk/events for comprehensive listings.

Exhibitions

Widening Horizons: The University of Nottingham's Changing Campuses 1881-2008

Date: until Sunday 23 November

Venue: Weston Gallery, Lakeside Arts Centre, University Park

Time: Monday to Friday: 11am to 4pm,
Saturday and Sunday: 12noon to 4pm

Admission: Free

Lustre

Date: Saturday 8 to Sunday 9 November

Venue: Lakeside Arts Centre, University Park

Time: 10am to 6pm

Admission: Free

Music

The Egner Trio

Date: Thursday 6 November

Venue: Djanogly Recital Hall, University Park

Time: 7.30pm

Admission: £12 standard, £9 concessions

Cara Dillon

Date: Wednesday 12 November

Venue: Djanogly Theatre, Lakeside Arts Centre, University Park

Time: 8pm

Admission: £15 standard, £12 concessions,
£5 restricted view



University Choir and University Philharmonia

Date: Saturday 29 November

Venue: Albert Hall, Nottingham

Time: 7.30pm

Admission: £12, £9 concessions, £5 UoN students

This annual concert at the Albert Hall features the combined talents of the University choir — including staff, students and members of the local community — and the University Philharmonia. Royal Opera House Jette Parker Young Artist and University alumna Kishani Jayasinghe will perform as soprano soloist in Poulenc's Gloria. The programme also features work by Messiaen and Stravinsky.



Genetic secrets of the tomato

Prof Graham Seymour, inaugural lecture

Date: Friday 12 December

Venue: Room LT9, Food Sciences Building, Sutton Bonington

Time: 6pm

Admission: Free

Music continued

Henschel Quartet

Date: Thursday 13 November

Venue: Djanogly Recital Hall, University Park

Time: 7.30pm

Admission: £12 standard, £9 concessions

New London Chamber Ensemble

Date: Thursday 20 November

Venue: Djanogly Recital Hall, University Park

Time: 7.30pm

Admission: £12 standard, £9 concessions

Fitzwilliam String Quartet

Date: Saturday 22 November

Venue: Djanogly Recital Hall, University Park

Time: 7.30pm

Admission: £12 standard, £9 concessions

University Wind Orchestra and Symphonic Wind Ensemble

Date: Sunday 23 November

Venue: Great Hall, University Park

Time: 7.30pm

Admission: £8 standard, £5 concessions, £4 UoN students

Drama

Painkillers

Date: Saturday 15 November

Venue: Djanogly Theatre, Lakeside Arts Centre, University Park

Time: 8pm

Admission: £12 standard, £9 concessions, £5 restricted view

Lord of the Flies

Date: Tuesday 18 to Thursday 20 November

Venue: Djanogly Theatre, Lakeside Arts Centre, University Park

Time: 1.30pm and 8pm

Admission: £12 standard, £9 concessions, £5 restricted view. Matinees: £7 standard, £5 concessions

This Child

Date: Friday 21 and Saturday 22 November

Venue: Djanogly Theatre, Lakeside Arts Centre, University Park

Time: 8pm

Admission: £12 standard, £9 concessions, £5 restricted view

The Happy Prince

Date: Friday 5 December to Sunday 11 January

Venue: Djanogly Theatre, Lakeside Arts Centre, University Park

Time: Visit Lakeside website for full listings

Admission: All tickets £7

Public lectures

Why we disagree about climate change: wicked problems, clumsy solutions and cosmopolitan myths

Prof Mike Hulme, University of East Anglia

Date: Thursday 13 November

Venue: Room A48, Sir Clive Granger Building, University Park

Time: 6pm

Admission: Free

Chemical connections

Prof CJ Moody, inaugural lecture

Date: Thursday 13 November

Venue: Large lecture theatre, School of Chemistry, University Park

Time: 5.30pm

Admission: Free

Addressing time: the poetry of Lord Byron

Prof Bernard Beatty, Liverpool

Date: Thursday 13 November

Venue: Senate Chamber, Trent Building, University Park

Time: 5.30pm

Admission: Free

Sand, clay, cornflakes and pasta

Prof Glenn McDowell, inaugural lecture

Date: Tuesday 25 November

Venue: Room C16, Pope Building, University Park

Time: 6pm

Admission: Free

John takes flight

John Shuttleworth, *The Minor Tour* (and other mythological creatures), Tuesday 11 November, 8pm.
Tickets £15, £12 concessions.



The former security guard from a Sheffield sweet factory with a love for pigeons brings his very English brand of comedy to the Lakeside this month for the *Minor Tour* (and other mythological creatures) show. His dedicated army of fans — built up over the past 20 years through national tours and series on both radio and TV — will be hoping for news about his wife Mary and neighbour and agent Ken Shuttleworth alongside performances of classic ditties such as the 'haunting rock ballad' *Pigeons in Flight*.

In 2004 John made a film, *It's Nice Up North*, investigating whether people get nicer the further up the country you go. This show will include a sneak preview of his new film, *Southern Softies*, which looks at whether people get softer the further down the country you go... Whatever the conclusion, this benevolent wannabe pop star will approach the subject with his usual gentle — and sometimes painful — lack of self-awareness. Call the Lakeside box office on 0115 846 7777 for tickets.

Photo of the month

Children at the University Day Nursery plant daffodil bulbs as part of Marie Curie Cancer Care's 'Mini Pots of Care' campaign.

Send in your snaps
Send your jpegs to
exchange@nottingham.ac.uk



Photographed by:
Andy Holmes, Marie Curie Cancer Care.