

THE UNIVERSITY *of* York

2011 Autumn/Winter

The University of York Alumni Magazine

www.york.ac.uk

# grapevine

YORK GRADUATES


# The next generation

Guest Editor

**Anthony Horowitz**

Award-winning author



- 
- A photograph of four people in professional attire sitting on a large red exercise ball on a balcony. A man stands on the left, and three women are seated. They are all smiling. In the background, there is a large body of water and a cloudy sky. A white text box with a pink square bullet point is overlaid on the right side of the image.
- **Vital connections:** making the most of alumni networks
  - **Find a voice:** an interview with alumna and author Linda Grant
  - **Surround sound:** new system aids hearing test

# News in brief

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2010/11

## November



- University of York's **Centre for Lifelong Learning** celebrated its 25th anniversary. During its 25 years, the Centre has helped more than 15,000 citizens of York and the surrounding area.

- The **Ron Cooke Hub**, York's stunning new building on Heslington East, designed to encourage innovation and research collaborations, opened for business.

- York was named **University of the Year 2010** in the **Times Higher Education (THE) Awards** for its drive to combine academic excellence with social inclusion, and its record in scientific discovery.



## December

- York announced a major cultural programme with the creation of **The Jiangning Foundation**, to facilitate research, teaching and other links between Chinese and British cultural institutions and universities.
- The University won a **Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) award** for outstanding achievement in planning for the expansion on Heslington East.



The Law and Management School on Heslington East

## January

- The University of York's **Post-war Reconstruction and Development Unit (PRDU)**, in partnership with the Institute for International Education (IIE) based in Washington DC, hosted a major international conference on the reconstruction of Higher Education in Iraq.
- **The Centre for Excellence in the Teaching and Learning of Enterprise (CETLE)**, which aims to help create the next generation of successful young entrepreneurs, moved to its new home in the Ron Cooke Hub at the heart of Heslington East.

## February

- Scientists at the University's **Department of Health Sciences** were awarded over £3m to continue a groundbreaking research project which is helping cancer patients in Yorkshire and across the UK.
- The University won Wellcome Trust funding for a new interdisciplinary PhD programme that will offer novel approaches to research into infectious diseases.

## March



- A team of scientists from the University of York were commissioned to examine the role biodiversity plays in the ecosystems provided by Britain's landscapes.



- **The Mother and Infant Research Unit (MIRU)** based in the University's Department of Health Sciences launches a £1m collaborative programme aimed at encouraging improved nutrition for mothers and infants.
- Researchers in the **Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)** at the University develop a new approach to help households reduce their carbon footprint.



Paul Mealor

## April

- Music by two York alumni featured in the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton at Westminster Abbey. **Paul Mealor's** (*Music, Alcuin, 1997*) latest work, *Ubi caritas* was performed during the ceremony and, **Duncan Stubbs** (*Music, Alcuin, 1982*), who is now principal director of music for RAF Music Services, conducted the Central Band of the RAF.

## May

- The **Annual Alumni Reunion** was attended by over 150 alumni across weekend. Read more about this event on page 14.
- **War of the Roses**: the Carter-James trophy returned to York as this year's tournament resulted in victory with an overwhelming win of 176.5 points to York.
- **Heslington East** won a **2011 Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Award** for architectural excellence.



## June



- **The York Festival of Ideas** was launched. Read more about this on page 48.
- University of **York Archaeology students** unearthed a rare Bronze Age cremation urn

during excavations on the University's campus.

- York hosted a new **National Deviancy Conference** entitled 'Critical Perspectives on Crime, Deviance, Disorder and Social Harm' 43 years after the University was the venue for the world's first conference to explore the nature of deviancy.
- The **York Annual Fund telephone appeal** raises over £68,000 thanks to generous support from alumni. Read more on page 36.



## July

- **YorkSpace**, our online community for alumni and friends launches to the Class of 2011. Read more on page 20.

# Contents

York welcomes... 8 →		A campus for the 21st century 10 →	
	Back on campus ← 14		York graduates – the next generation ← 22
Surround sound 28 →		Continuing the work of a medical pioneer 30 →	
	Finding a voice ← 44		Media moguls ← 50
Conserving the future 54 →		Sport at York 60 →	

**Front cover**

**Recognise anyone?**

Left to right – Daniel Gilks, Annelies Vredeveldt, Helen Fall, Amit Sinha, Leo Plunkett, Alex Houlton, Dominka Gruszka, Timur Tatlioglu, Matthew Freckleton, Heba Khalil, Primrose Lovett and Claire Wood.

Cover credit: Ian Martindale – [www.ianmartindale.co.uk](http://www.ianmartindale.co.uk).

# Welcome to **grapevine**

**I**t is my pleasure to mark the academic year 2011/12 by sending you your latest issue of **grapevine**.

**grapevine** is a window onto the life of the University of York – the place where you spent some of the most important years of your life. But once you have been a York student, you have become part of an extended family. You have joined a worldwide continuing community. York is your university for life. I hope that within the pages of this latest issue you will find stories which will inspire you to continue to play a role at the University, to get back in touch, and to take part in one of the many events coming up over the course of the year.

Right now on campus we are poised to welcome a new intake of undergraduate and postgraduate students. It is vital from the moment they get here that they know that the education they receive will not only allow them to flourish in their chosen careers, but will also provide the tools they need for the rest of their lives. No matter when you graduated from York we believe you never really leave us.

We want our newest arrivals, like all our students, graduates and alumni, to know that one of the best things we offer is membership of a vibrant community and international network. Never more than now has the support of the University of York community been of such significance.

There are enormous challenges in higher education. With increased fees, it is essential that we maintain the aspirations of young people, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to seek out a university education. A huge part of this is providing funding to help every bright and talented student in need of financial support. We are committed to assuring that every student



with the ability to benefit from an education at the University of York will be able to do so, independent of their financial circumstances.

At the same time as coping with major changes in government financial support for undergraduate students, we are also faced with substantial cuts in research funding. Yet we need to ensure that our research remains cutting edge, and of benefit to wider society. I am proud to say that my colleagues are rising tremendously well to all these challenges.

**grapevine** can only provide a brief glimpse into our innovative, inclusive and highly successful community. I urge you to come and re-visit York, and see for yourself. You might like to attend the Festival of Ideas, which was launched this summer in partnership with the City of York, (page 48). Or perhaps you will want to seek out help with your career development through the Professional Networks. There is always a good reason to stay connected with us.

Our feature article this issue focuses on the next generation of graduates and is truly inspiring. It gives you a sense of the calibre of students we have the good fortune to graduate each year. Our exclusive interview

with alumna and internationally renowned author Linda Grant (*English with Educational Studies, Derwent, 1975*) is also testament to the quality of our graduates (page 44). And we are of course grateful to alumnus Anthony Horowitz (*English, Vanburgh, 1977*) for being the Guest Editor in this issue.

Colleagues are breaking new ground across all areas of teaching and research every day, so don't just rely on **grapevine** for your latest news. Please sign up for our regular email bulletins by registering your email and contact details at [www.YorkSpace.net](http://www.YorkSpace.net).

We are committed to including you in the life of the University of York, now and always. Do please stay in touch and let us know if there is anything we can do to add to and improve your experience of being a member of our extended family.

Wishing you an enjoyable and fulfilling year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Cantor'.

**Brian Cantor**  
Vice-Chancellor

# Guest Editor

**This issue of grapevine reminds me what a brilliant university York is – even better, in fact, than it was when I came here to study English Literature and Art History (quite a long time ago). I can't walk across the campus and pass buildings like the Berrick Saul Building which houses the Humanities Research Centre or, of course, the wondrous new, £24m media complex (the Department of Theatre, Film and Television) without a sense of something quite close to resentment.**

And I'm glad to say I do still come here quite often. As Vice-Chancellor Brian Cantor writes on the preceding page: "No matter when you graduated from York, we believe you never leave us," and this is certainly true in my case. Receiving a doctorate from the University in 2010 was as unexpected as it was agreeable and reminded me of the long journey which, in many respects, I began here.

It's interesting that York now has its own social networking site – YorkSpace. "Social networks are the new career fairs," we're told (page 17) and although I doubt that Twitter and Facebook are trembling in their boots, this is certainly an initiative to be welcomed. Never underestimate the value of the York connection. It's a strong link and one that I have used occasionally – and in these troubled

times, I would imagine that graduates have to consider every resource.

Of course, one thing new graduates have at York which I didn't is the fairly major debt of which many newer alumni will be saddled and it's frankly shameful that my generation should be so mean in bequeathing the privileges – grant-supported education – that it enjoyed itself. £9,000 a year to study at York? The best that can be said is that it's probably good value for money... bear in mind that the University has spent £250m in the past two years alone improving facilities.

And yet I agree whole-heartedly with Chancellor Greg Dyke (page 34) who stresses the need to maintain the University's 'inclusive ethos'... it would be nothing short of a disaster if students from less well-off backgrounds felt they were being forced out of higher education. The **Achieving Excellence Bursary** is a strong and simple idea and I really hope successful York alumni will support it. There can't be many better ways to spend £23 a month and once this issue has been printed, I'll certainly be tearing out and returning the form on page 37.

Wherever you look, you'll find York students and former students shaping the way we will live tomorrow and onwards – whether they're helping to find a cure for cancer, building Crossrail, running the BBC, analysing the human face, rebuilding lives in the Middle East, or writing best-selling children's books (I'm referring, of course, to Nick Arnold, author of the excellent Horrible Science series... he is interviewed on page 58) tweaking the legal system, preserving our heritage, or even persuading the world to drink pistachio-flavoured cappuccino. All these activities are described somewhere in these pages.

This magazine reflects exhaustively – and even exhaustingly – the worldwide influence of the University of York. I'm more than happy to be part of it.

**Anthony Horowitz**  
Guest Editor





# University news

## University committed to **quality** and **inclusiveness**

The University of York has announced that it will set tuition fees at £9,000 a year for new full-time home and EU undergraduate students from October 2012.

The University is recognised as the most socially inclusive of the UK's leading higher education institutions and is committed to continuing to attract a diverse mix of students. In order to ensure students from lower income families are not deterred from applying, plans have been approved by the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) to provide a package of reductions and financial support.

The University will invest in five main areas:

- Financial support for students
- Expanding our already successful widening participation and access activities
- Enhancing the quality of the teaching experience
- Improving the quality of the wider student experience
- Providing academic and other forms of support to aid success and retention.

In addition to National Scholarships, the University will offer a range of scholarships, waivers and bursaries. First-year students with scholarships will receive £4,500 in support, while other first-year students from families with an income of less than £25,000 will receive support worth £3,000. Hardship funds for students will also be increased.

These will be supplemented by non-repayable Government grants for students from low-income backgrounds as well as Government loans to cover living expenses. York's Chancellor, Greg Dyke, will also lead a public fundraising campaign to encourage York alumni to enhance the University's scholarships and bursaries (read more about this campaign on page 34).



## Ron Cooke Hub opens for business

The superb Ron Cooke Hub, which sits at the heart of the University's £750m campus expansion at Heslington East, was officially opened in July by Sir Alan Langlands, Chief Executive of the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

The £20m Ron Cooke Hub is a flagship conceptual building, which supports start-up businesses and inter-disciplinary research centres, as well as creating social and study space for students.

Since November 2010, over 500 businesses have made use of its spaces and facilities. Grahame Brown, Business Manager of the Ron Cooke Hub, said: "The outstanding building provides some of the most exciting and flexible space in the UK for new businesses to establish and grow, and for external groups to utilise for their high impact meetings and events. The space brings incredible opportunities to collaborate with like-minded businesses, organisations and world-leading research specialists, adding value well above the normal expectations."

The opening event featured the chance to participate in interactive tours of the innovative spaces in the Ron Cooke Hub, including the unique 3Sixty audio-visual Immersive Demonstration Space.

For more information and details visit [www.york.ac.uk/hub](http://www.york.ac.uk/hub).

# University news

## Award recognises excellence of breastfeeding education at York

The University of York's Department of Health Sciences has received the internationally recognised Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI) Award for the high levels of education in breastfeeding provided to students on its undergraduate midwifery programme.

The Baby Friendly Initiative, set up by UNICEF and the World Health Organisation, is a global programme which provides a practical and effective way for health services to improve the care provided for all mothers and babies.

The Baby Friendly University Award recognises that an institution has implemented best practice in breastfeeding training and has passed an external assessment by a UNICEF, BFI panel. Students at York achieved 100 per cent during the assessment process.

"We are delighted that the Department of Health Sciences at York has received this award," said Sue Ashmore, Programme Director of the BFI, UNICEF. "Surveys show us that most mothers want to breastfeed but don't always get the support they need. Becoming Baby Friendly Accredited means that the Department of Health Sciences is addressing this problem and aiming to ensure more mothers can successfully breastfeed their babies in future."



Sue Ashmore presents a plaque to York staff and students



Credit: BBC

## York academic is a Radio 3 New Generation Thinker

University of York lecturer, Dr Zoe Norridge (standing second from the left), has been named as one of ten winners of the BBC Radio 3 and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) inaugural New Generation Thinkers Scheme.

The scheme received more than 1,000 applications from university researchers who, after a six month selection process, were whittled down to the final ten by a judging panel of Radio 3 producers and AHRC academics. Zoe Norridge, who researches the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda, was selected after a nationwide search for academics with the potential to turn their ideas into fascinating broadcasts.

The winning New Generation Thinkers were chosen from a group of 57 finalists who attended a series of day-long workshops at the BBC, exploring the key to making scholarly research into good radio. Zoe Norridge, of York's Department of English and Related Literature, and her fellow New Generation Thinkers for 2011 will now work closely with dedicated mentors from the production team of Radio 3's arts and ideas programme *Night Waves*.

## York acquires Ayckbourn archive for the nation

The archive of one of the country's foremost contemporary English dramatists, Sir Alan Ayckbourn, has been acquired by the University of York and will now be made accessible to the public for the first time.

The archive – which contains thousands of items including original stage sketches, working manuscripts, plot diagrams and correspondence – will become part of the internationally important Samuel Storey Writing and Performance Collection at the University's Borthwick Institute for Archives. The archive will also form a major teaching resource for undergraduate and postgraduate courses in the Department of Theatre, Film and Television. It will provide a unique research resource, because of the completeness with which it documents one of the most outstanding theatrical careers of our time.

The £240,000 purchase has been made possible thanks to support from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the Samuel Storey Charitable Trust, the MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund and the Friends of the National Libraries.



#### YORK NEWS

Read the latest news from York at [www.YorkSpace.net/newshome](http://www.YorkSpace.net/newshome)



#### YORK EVENTS

Register for upcoming University and alumni events at [www.YorkSpace.net/events](http://www.YorkSpace.net/events)



#### GRAPEVINE ONLINE

Read this issue online at [www.YorkSpace.net/grapevine2011](http://www.YorkSpace.net/grapevine2011)



#### GRAPEVINE SUBMISSIONS

Catch up with news from your fellow alumni at [www.YorkSpace.net/onthegv](http://www.YorkSpace.net/onthegv)



#### YORKSPACE

Join our new website for alumni and friends at [www.YorkSpace.net](http://www.YorkSpace.net)

The QR codes featured here will link you to key York websites via your smartphone. Download one of the widely available barcode reader apps to scan the code with your phone.

## In the news – media highlights

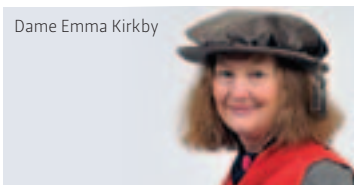
- **Professor David Howard** from the Department of Electronics demonstrated his work monitoring the unique sets of frequencies in young choristers' voices to BBC News and BBC Breakfast. Professor Howard was also interviewed by nine BBC local radio stations and BBC Wales and BBC Scotland as well as independent Transworld Radio UK about the research.
- *The Daily Mail, Daily Express, Daily Sport, Financial Times, CBS News, Yahoo!* and the History News Network reported the new research finding that an Iron Age man whose skull and brain was unearthed during excavations at the University of York was the victim of a gruesome ritual killing.
- BBC News and Radio New Zealand reported on an international study, co-ordinated by the Stockholm Environment Institute at the University of York, which warns that nitrogen pollution, resulting from industry and agriculture, is putting wildlife in Europe at risk.
- *Scientific American*, the Discovery Channel and a host of news websites reported on a new study led by **Dr Kathryn Arnold** from the Environment Department, demonstrating that animals have specific attributes and personality traits.
- *The Financial Times, BBC News, the Daily Mail, Metro* and a host of international outlets including the *New York Times* and the *Straits Times* featured research by scientists from the Department of Biology at York, and Harvard University and the University of Illinois, that confirmed that the African savanna elephant and the smaller African forest elephant have been distinct species for several million years. Lead researcher at York, **Professor Michi Hofreiter**, was interviewed by ABC Australia, the New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation and the BBC World Service about this study.
- *The Telegraph* and the *Mail on Sunday* quoted **Professor Peter Spencer** from the Department of Economics on the devaluation of the pound and the effect that this has had on household budgets.
- *The Daily Mail, The Guardian, Yahoo! News* and *Bionews* quoted **Professor Thomas Baldwin** from the Department of Philosophy who co-authored a report recommending new rules for supervising research that involves humanising animals.
- **Professor Chris Thomas** from the Department of Biology was interviewed about the impact of climate change on insects on *The World Tonight* on BBC Radio 4. Chris Thomas's defence of the UN's *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment*, which he led, was widely reported in *Scientific American, New York Times, Chicago Tribune* and *China Daily* among many others.
- *The Guardian, Financial Times* and *Public Service* reported on research led by **Professor Maria Goddard** from the Department of Health Economics, which found that the policy of turning ordinary NHS hospitals into free-standing Foundation Trusts has made no difference to their performance.
- *The New York Times* reported on a study by **Dr Jenna Ward** from York Management School, into the work of general practitioner receptionists.
- BBC One's *The Politics Show* featured an item on Yatterbox, a social media monitoring business established by York alumni in the Ron Cooke Hub – read more about the alumnus who created Yatterbox on page 22.
- The University's York Awad was celebrated in *The Guardian* for its valuable work in relation to graduate employability.

# Honours and awards

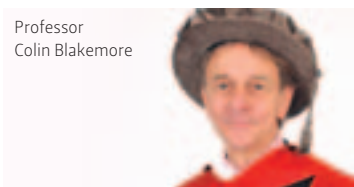
## York honours contribution to society

A campaigner for women's rights, a neuroscientist and broadcaster, an archaeologist, a playwright, a pioneering physicist, a soprano singer and celebrated early music specialist, as well as a charity fundraiser and a national newspaper editor have all received honorary degrees from the University of York over the last year for their contribution to society.

Dame Emma Kirkby



Professor Colin Blakemore



**Professor Archie Howie**, **Dame Emma Kirkby** and **Penelope Worsley** were all presented with the honorary degrees of Doctor of the University at the January graduation, and **Maryam Bibi**, **Professor Colin Blakemore FRS**, **Professor Dominic Powlesland**, **Trevor Griffiths** and alumnus **John Witherow** (*History, Alcuin, 1975*) were among nine people who were awarded honorary doctorates at the University's July graduation ceremonies.

**Professor Lord Parekh of Kingston Upon Hull**, a social scientist and political philosopher, journalist, economist and author **Frances Cairncross CBE**, **Professor Karl Friston FRS**, an internationally recognised authority on brain imaging, and **Professor Gregory Margulis**, a world authority in a number of areas of mathematics also received a honorary degree in July.

## Top awards for York staff

- **Professor Robin Millar**, of the Department of Education and **Professor Callum Roberts**, of the Environment Department, have been named 'most important contemporary figures in British science' in the Eureka 100 list (the monthly science magazine published by *The Times*).
- The Collaborative Computational Project Number 4 in Protein Crystallography (CCP4) from the University of York have been awarded The Rita and John Cornforth Award, an annual honour from the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) for their outstanding work as part of a UK-wide research team in biological chemistry.



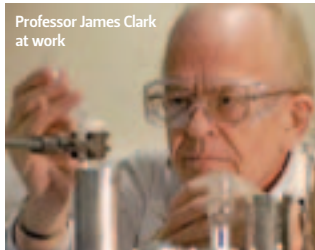
From left, Rageh Omaar, David Hickman and executive producer David Dugan

- **David Hickman**, a senior lecturer in the Department of Theatre, Film and Television, has won the prestigious Grierson award for Best Science Documentary, for his Channel 4 film *Race and Intelligence: Science's Last Taboo*. He received the award at a ceremony held at the British Film Institute, hosted by television presenter and documentary maker, Sandi Toksvig.
- A University of York postgraduate researcher has scooped a top prize in the national science outreach competition, 'I'm a Scientist, Get me out of Here!' Nuclear physicist

**Adam Tuff** won the 'Space Zone' section of the competition, an initiative set up by the Wellcome Trust to help bring science to life for school pupils.

- **Professor John Goodby** of the University's Department of Chemistry, who specialises in research into liquid crystals, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, one of the world's top scientific honours.
- **Professor Jim Woodcock**, of the Department of Computer Science and **Professor Andy Marvin**, of the Department of Electronics, have been elected Fellows of the Royal Academy of Engineering Academy, representing the most eminent names in the profession from the UK and overseas.
- **Professor Eleanor Dodson** from the University's Department of Chemistry, has won the ninth Ewald Prize from the International Union of Crystallography for their work on structural crystallography.

Professor James Clark at work



- **Professor James Clark**, who has led the green chemistry movement in Europe for the last 12 years, has received the Royal Society of Chemistry's Environment Prize for his outstanding contributions to green chemistry.
- **Dr Allen Warren**, a senior lecturer in the Department of History and founder of York Students in Schools, has been made an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in recognition for his services to higher education.



# FACE TO FACE

What does your face say about you?

**N**ew technology capable of predicting a person's age, gender and ethnicity from an image of their face, could have a profound impact on the way we work, live and play.

That's the belief of the American software company, Percipo Inc, which is working on commercial implementation of new face description technology developed by the University of York's Department of Electronics.

Founded in 2008 with a mission to make machines more human, Percipo has worked with the York team to develop its own face description technology and has built three iPhone apps to demonstrate its capabilities: PhotoAge, PhotoGenic and ChickOrDude. The apps are available for download from the iTunes App store and allow people to browse their iPhone or Facebook photos estimating the age, attractiveness and masculinity/femininity of faces.



The new face description technology, which allows computers to analyse faces in a similar way to humans, is built on methods developed over the last six years by Professor John Robinson and colleagues in the Department of Electronics working in the Visual Systems Laboratory. Not only can the technology produce accurate predictions of age and gender from either a still or live video, but it can even identify and track expressions such as a smile or frown.

Professor Robinson, Head of the Department of Electronics, told **grapevine**: "We are excited to be working with Percipo to take the technology in directions we hadn't imagined. The collaboration has started with recreational phone apps, and now we are looking towards a broad range of applications including in the retail and security sectors."

Mehran Farimani, Percipo's founder and Chief Executive Officer, believes that putting this technology in the hands of consumers is paving the way to its wide adoption within many products and markets. Ultimately his company believes that machines that can perceive will lead to applications

that will have a profound impact on the way we work, live and play.

He said: "With over 700,000 installs worldwide and 12 million photos processed so far, we are introducing to the masses what machines are capable of doing today. We are actively working with partners to apply this technology to a number of markets, from intelligent cameras for consumers to automatic demographic measurement systems for enterprises."

The technology works out how numerical values applied to facial features will vary, based on a mathematical model (conditional density estimation), and classifier boosting which systematically combines very approximate estimates to produce accurate predictions.

Development work is taking place in retail demographics where the technology will allow accurate estimation of customer demographic data. Companies in the UK currently spend more than £100 million per year gathering data on their customers' in-store activity, often using a manual approach to convert this into demographic statistics. This technology has the potential to automate this process.

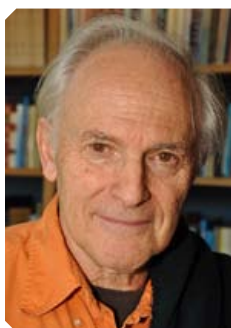
The retail project is the result of three years' work in the Department, part-funded by the Yorkshire Concept Fund.

More on the University of York's Department of Electronics can be found at [www.york.ac.uk/electronics](http://www.york.ac.uk/electronics).

For more information on Percipo Inc see [www.percipo.com](http://www.percipo.com).

# YORK WELCOMES...

Many notable people come to the University every year. Here is a selection of some of our visitors in 2010/11.



Professor Sir Harold Kroto

## October

Nobel Prize Winner **Professor Sir Harold Kroto** delivered the Cantor Nanoscience Lecture at the University of York, entitled 'Architecture in nanospace' which focused on the 'bottom up' self-assembly of atomic and molecular structures from the nanoscale.

## November

As part of the University's Science Engagement celebration, **Professor Lord Robert Winston** delivered a lecture on the purpose of public engagement.



Professor Lord Robert Winston

2010

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

JANUARY

FEBRUARY



Simon Schama

## December

Marking ten years since his landmark BBC TV series *A History of Britain* was broadcast, **Simon Schama** gave a lecture at a conference organised by the University's Institute for the Public Understanding of the Past (IPUP).

## January

Star of stage and screen, **Siân Phillips**, one of Britain's best loved actresses gave a lecture on her work across theatre, film and television.



Siân Phillips



Professor Lord Richard Layard

### March

The author of the influential book, *Happiness – Lessons from a New Science*, **Professor Lord (Richard) Layard** gave the Joseph Rowntree Foundation Lecture at the University.

**Dr Graham Spittle CBE**, Chief Technology Officer and Vice President, Software Group Europe, for IBM opened the new Department of Computer Science building on Heslington East.

### July

Alumna **Caroline Thomson** (*History, 1975*), Chief Operating Officer of the BBC officially opened the stunning flagship building housing the York Law School and the York Management School on Heslington East.

Alumna **Denise O'Donoghue** (*Politics, Vanbrugh, 1989*), Managing Director of ITV Studios officially opened the new home of the Department of Theatre, Film and Television (TFTV).



Denise O'Donoghue

JUNE

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JULY

AUGUST

2011

### June

British economist **Robert Chote**, Chair of the Office of Budget Responsibility, delivered a major public lecture at the University.

Nobel Laureate, **J M Coetzee**, and fellow novelist **John Banville** (a winner of the Booker Prize) visited the University as part of the York Festival of Ideas, see page 48 for details.

Leading international expert in the field of spintronic devices, **Professor Hideo Ohno** from Tohoku University, Sendai delivered a lecture entitled "Magnetic Materials and Spintronics" as part of the Cantor science lecture series.

**Steve Bell**, cartoonist for the *Guardian*, gave the James College annual lecture.



Robert Chote



John Banville



J M Coetzee

**Over the last couple of years, the University has spent more than £250m expanding and improving as part of our continued investment in a 21st century campus.**

Some of the highest profile projects have been on Heslington East, but we haven't forgotten Heslington West, as some exciting developments can already be seen.

Just to give you a flavour, we opened the £11m Berrick Saul building in August 2009, providing a focal point for humanities research and a home for the Institute for Effective Education. The £3.8m Centre for Immunology and Infection, a joint research centre of Biology and the Hull York Medical School, opened in June 2010. And let's not forget the major £20m refurbishment of the J B Morrell Library which is making good progress

and is due to finish in spring 2012. In the meantime, the adjacent Harry Fairhurst Library has reopened, following a six-month reconfiguration of the former Computer Science building.

In parallel with these major development projects, improvements and refurbishments have been taking place all over Heslington West, including a major upgrade in residential accommodation which started this summer at Halifax and Derwent Colleges.

With three departments and Goodricke College now based on Heslington East, other departmental moves and expansions have been made possible. The Department of Mathematics was given a refit and the Alcuin Research Resources Centre was reconfigured to provide study space for social science research students. In December 2010, Philosophy moved out of Derwent into the refurbished Sally Baldwin A block, and the School

of Philosophy, Economics and Politics moved into Philosophy's former space.

Summer 2011 also saw the Department of Music expanding into Sally Baldwin D block, with among other improvements, the addition of 14 new practice rooms.

A research group from Electronics has moved to Genesis 6 on York Science Park, and the new York Plasma Physics Institute is currently being established in Genesis 1 and 2.

Work has begun on the Department of Chemistry; the new £6.5m Dorothy Hodgkin 2 building is part of their phased redevelopment.

The next phase of development on campus includes upgrading sports facilities on Heslington West; the reconfiguration of YUSU, McQs and the Roger Kirk Centre; emerging plans for new buildings for Environment and Electronics; and expansion and refurbishment for many other academic and support services across the campus, as well as ongoing improvements to public, teaching, social and study spaces, roads, paths and the landscape on Heslington East.

York continues to invest in student and public facilities.

# A campus for the



York Sports Village, on schedule for opening Summer 2012



Building work on Heslington East has already begun on the new Langwith College and York Sports Village (including the swimming pool). The whole programme of developing a 21st century campus is part of our commitment to improving the student and staff experience so watch this space!

For more information on the new development visit [www.york.ac.uk/campus-development/student-experience](http://www.york.ac.uk/campus-development/student-experience).



The new-look Students' Union opening in October 2011



The new Department of Chemistry Building

*“Shrewd financial planning, supported by grants from the Higher Education Funding Council for England’s strategic development fund and the European Regional Development Fund, and underpinned by the overall success of the University, has enabled this level of investment on Heslington East – one of the largest and most ambitious developments in higher education in the UK”*  
 Elizabeth Heaps, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Estates

# 21st century



Refurbished student accommodation



Artist's impression of the new Langwith College on Heslington East

# A healthier cup of coffee

Scientists at York discover a new alternative to this popular drink



**C**offee. It's a drink that inspires fierce loyalty in its devotees, and most of us can't start our day without a cup of it.

However, in today's health-conscious world, coffee's high caffeine content has meant for a long time that we have had a love/hate relationship with this popular beverage.

Now a close relative of the pistachio nut could provide a healthy decaf alternative to coffee, according to researchers from the Universities of York and Gaziantep in Turkey.

Scientists found that when roasted correctly *Pistacia terebinthus* offered a similar attractive aroma and flavour to coffee – but without the undesirable effects.

Research Fellow Dr Mustafa Özel, from York's Department of Chemistry, commented: "There are lots of important anti-oxidants in *Pistacia terebinthus* which are beneficial to health and, importantly, do not contain caffeine."

In Dr Özel's native Turkey, *Pistacia terebinthus* – a close relative of the snack we know as the pistachio nut

(*Pistacia vera*) – is sometimes dried, roasted and ground, and used as a coffee substitute. The whole fruit from the tree is used, including the nut kernel inside, the shell and the surrounding flesh.

Conventional fresh coffee beans, picked in high-altitude tropical regions, bear little resemblance to the coffee enjoyed by millions across the world. The familiar smell and taste of coffee only appear after roasting.

Roasting triggers the aroma due to the release of organic compounds that exist as vapours, called volatiles. Familiar volatiles include limonene, which smells of citrus, and alpha-pinene which has a pine/turpentine scent.

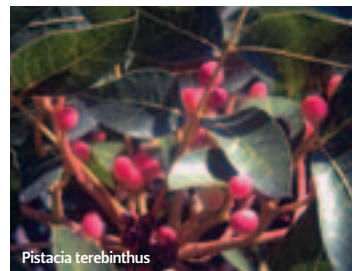
Dr Özel from York and Dr Fahrettin Gogus from Gaziantep investigated what makes *Pistacia terebinthus* so like coffee, by looking at which volatiles are released at various stages of roasting.

"Roasting time and roasting temperature affect the production of many volatile compounds," explains Dr Özel. "As some particular compounds are mainly responsible for the characteristic aroma of the roasted

product, you can manipulate which ones appear by altering the roasting time and temperature."

The results, published in the journal *Food Chemistry*, show that the most volatiles are produced after 20 minutes of roasting at 200 degrees Celsius.

"Although the conventional coffee bean and *Pistacia terebinthus* fruit might be very different when raw, after roasting they have a remarkably similar aroma," says Dr Özel. "Pan roasting produces furans, furanones, benzene derivatives, pyrazines and other volatiles typical of coffee aroma and flavour. This suggests that *Pistacia terebinthus* might provide a viable alternative for the coffee industry and could be commercialised more broadly as a coffee substitute."



*Pistacia terebinthus*

**"Although the conventional coffee bean and *Pistacia terebinthus* fruit might be very different when raw, after roasting they have a remarkably similar aroma"**

More information on the Department of Chemistry can be found at [www.york.ac.uk/chemistry](http://www.york.ac.uk/chemistry).



Broken Sword, a game created by Charles Cecil



Credit: Independent

# THE GAMES REVOLUTION

**Is video game development creative endeavour or technical exercise? grapevine speaks to video games pioneer Charles Cecil.**

In their 30 years of existence, computer games have undergone an extraordinary evolution with many big players monopolising the industry but, ironically, the vaulting digital advances have enabled the gaming world to go back to its roots, according to video games pioneer Charles Cecil who is working with the University on a range of projects.

Charles Cecil is convinced that the opportunities provided by the internet mean that, in the world of video games, being small once again has its advantages.

Cecil is a key player in the industry and has developed a close relationship with the University, working with a number of departments, including Theatre, Film and Television, Computer Science and Archaeology. His involvement with the industry stretches back to when video game development was in its infancy.

His company, Revolution, is behind the internationally successful *Broken Sword* series of games, but the sophistication of modern games such as these is a far cry from the industry's beginnings.

He recalls, with misty-eyed nostalgia, the time when Sir Clive Sinclair produced his ZX80 computers helping to kick-start an industry that generates huge revenues.

Cecil muses, "It is extraordinary to think of the way the industry has developed over those 30 years commercially, creatively and certainly technically."

An 18-year-old Cecil was introduced to the world of gaming by a friend who asked him to write an adventure game for the Sinclair ZX81 which at the time was at the cutting-edge of computer development.

So, is video game development creative endeavour or technical exercise? Cecil is in no doubt that it is both.

"What makes it unique is that it is all about creativity but also it's about technical understanding," he says.

What has changed since the formative years



is the computing power – the ZX81 had 1K of memory (Cecil points out that his 32GB iPhone has some 32 million times more). But he says the early game developers regarded this technical constraint as a challenge rather than an obstacle.

"At that time programmers were incredibly creative," he says. "Games were written by either one or two people who did everything. You had the 'bedroom coder' who would design a game, create the graphics, write the codes, create the music and then programme it. They'd come up with this funky idea and it was very much their vision.

"What is so exciting is that, in many ways, we are returning to those days and that's the reason why the industry is so dynamic at the moment.

"The internet allows us to communicate with and sell directly to our audience," says Cecil who co-founded Game Republic, an alliance of game developers, and is on the board of Screen Yorkshire. "It's incredibly liberating and it also means we can react quickly to what people want. It's actually a much purer way of writing, marketing and selling games."

He believes that Revolution has been able to adapt as the industry has evolved.

"Larger publishers, which traditionally dominated the industry, are increasingly running into trouble as they fail to adapt," he says. "The benefit of a small company like Revolution is we are nimble enough to respond to changing audience demand and market conditions."



Alumni enjoying the 2011 Gala dinner



Lunch in the Department of Music



Baroness Genista McIntosh hosts the political debate

# Back on campus

Alumni return to York for the **2011 Annual Alumni Reunion Weekend.**

**I**t was an exciting and busy time at the University in May as hundreds of alumni were welcomed back on campus for the third Annual Alumni Weekend.

The 2011 reunion was one of our best yet according to feedback, with alumni selecting from a range of activities and unique events, both on campus and within the city. Highlights from the weekend included the option of attending a spa afternoon, viewing musical performances from students, going on a behind-the-scenes tour of York Minster, and the opportunity to explore the internationally-acclaimed Neuroimaging Centre based at York Science Park.

The weekend began with a pub quiz on the Friday evening, hosted by York's University Challenge finalist Andrew Clemo (*History, Halifax*) at the Students' Union venue, the Courtyard, in Langwith College. The evening proved to be an excellent ice-breaker for all involved. It was good to see that the passion our alumni showed as students is still going strong as there was some debate among alumni as to what year Alcuin College opened (it was 1967 by the way!). An acoustic set from guitarist and alumnus Gerry Murphy (*Politics, Alcuin, 1977*) soon

distracted people from College rivalry and the evening was enjoyed by all.

Current students hosted tours of the campus on Saturday morning, including the new Heslington East



expansion (featured in the last issue of **grapevine**). The short tours concluded at the Department of Music, where lunch was served and the University Jazz Band performed.

Fierce political discussion took place on Saturday afternoon, as alumna Baroness Genista McIntosh (*Philosophy and Sociology, Derwent, 1968*) hosted a debate on the AV referendum, the results of which had been announced the previous evening. The discussion, which started with questions from the audience, included Nicholas Watt (chief political correspondent at *The Guardian*) and Steve Richards (chief political commentator at *The Independent*) – who are both York alumni. The debate was hosted in the University's new

***"I loved meeting the alumni and hearing all the stories they had about their time at York, like how one morning in the winter they found a car parked in the middle of the lake!"***

**Student host Kieran Douglas  
(Computer Science, Langwith)**

**“Fantastic weekend, I’ve enjoyed it so much and made some great contacts professionally as well. We’re all looking forward to the next alumni weekend”**

**Jane Sutton  
(Chemistry,  
Langwith, 1986)**



Alumnus and Alumni Engagement Manager Nik Miller welcomes alumni



The Gala dinner at Derwent College

theatre, housed in a £24m media complex on the Heslington East campus. Steve Richards (*History, Alcuin, 1981*) commented: “It was fantastic to have such a timely debate with fellow York graduates; the political passion reminded me vividly of my time on campus as a student.” Joanne Kinder (*Economics and Social History, Alcuin, 1999*) added, “The politics debate was the real highlight and we were spoilt to have this arranged exclusively for our weekend – very interesting and entertaining.”

On Saturday evening, guests attended the alumni Gala Dinner in Derwent College. The newly-renovated College looked great with added help from alumnus John McLean (*Information Processing, Derwent, 1998*) and his event company Die Hard Productions. The evening featured a four-course dinner with regional produce, and guests had plenty of time to celebrate and relax. Hit band Soul Patrol kept guests on the dance floor until almost 2am. Rosemary Coutts (*English, Derwent, 1970*) commented, “The dinner was excellent and the band was great – we would love to see them again. Everyone enjoyed themselves hugely!”

The weekend concluded with lunch in Heslington Hall, and there was just time for guests to exchange contact details and say final farewells. Over 200 alumni attended the weekend, with all colleges represented and graduating years ranging from 1969 to 2010. If you didn’t make it, why not join us for the 2012 event?

## Join us

Plans are already being made for the 2012 Alumni Weekend, which will take place from 15–17 June. The event is open to all, but we would be especially pleased to welcome alumni from the classes of 1992, 1987, 1982 and 1972, who are celebrating 20, 25, 30 and 40 years since their graduation. The 2012 Alumni Weekend promises to be more entertaining than ever, with a range of exclusive events and a number of renowned York graduates planning to attend. If you are interested to find out more, or you would like to help shape the weekend, please contact Nik Miller at [nik.miller@york.ac.uk](mailto:nik.miller@york.ac.uk) or call him on +44 (0) 1904 32 2097. We can also help put you in touch with old friends, so that you can plan to attend as a group. Keep checking [www.YorkSpace.net/reunion](http://www.YorkSpace.net/reunion) for the latest details on the 2012 event.

## Save the date – 2013

We are building up to 2013 when the University commemorates its 50th anniversary. The anniversary year celebrations will feature a number of events throughout the year, including a homecoming weekend. The 2013 provisional date is 21–23 June. If you would like to be involved in helping to plan these celebrations, please contact Nik (details above).

## 50@50: 50 people who made a difference

In the 50 years of its existence, and in the years of planning before that, thousands of people have helped make the University of York great. In the run up to 2013 we would like to pay tribute to the huge variety of people whose time, talents and generosity played an important part in our University’s development and achievement since 1963. This is your opportunity to nominate someone who helped to make York the place it is today.

Your nominee can be a current or former student or staff member, or someone in the wider University community. They could have been here briefly or for a long time, way back in the 1960s or much more recently.

Nominating somebody is quick and easy – simply visit the 50th Anniversary website at [www.york.ac.uk/50](http://www.york.ac.uk/50) and fill in the form. We will contact some of the nominees so that we can include their story on our 50@50 website; a number of them will also be featured in a special 50@50 exhibition during 2013. Go on, make your nomination now.

# Vital connections

## Making the most of alumni networks

Because it's not what you know, but who you know that counts.



**If you thought Facebook was for gossiping kids, LinkedIn for unemployed investment bankers and Twitter for breaking super-injunctions, think again.**

Social networks are the new career fairs, and the growing power of alumni networking means the university you left years ago might just be more important to your career today than ever before.

As more and more of our life shifts on to the web, the art of networking is following suit, with a host of global platforms now available for users to sign up and start sharing experiences, tips and ideas with each other.

YorkSpace, the dedicated website for University of York alumni, provides just that, and its Professional Network Programme has been designed to give former students the opportunity to help each other, and be helped in return, across the world of work.

With discussion boards for alumni to swap experiences, a space for job opportunities to be posted and for former students to promote their businesses or upload their CVs, it's more important than ever to get online.

YorkSpace, which was launched to the Class of 2011 in July, will also provide a forum to organise planned activities such as events and presentations and offer focus areas for specific professions, as well as facilitating informal contact between alumni and friends.

"A professional network is only as useful as the people who engage with it, and contribute to it. If it has a clear purpose then it can be an incredibly powerful way of doing business. People look for connections to others and alumni affiliation is a good starting point," says York alumnus Darren

Harper, Director of the Business Leaders Network (BLN).

"Applications and opportunities that can stem from this include recruitment, internships, business development and investment," he continued.

Darren should know: fostering connections between people pays his bills. After graduating from York in 1998 with a degree in Biochemistry, he soon found that his passions lay away from the test tubes and Petri dishes.

"I realised that it wasn't the science I was enjoying but the management process and the thrill of working in a fast growth company where you constantly need to innovate, but also implement processes and foundations so the house doesn't collapse around you," says Darren.

"I began to appreciate the value of networks as they allowed me to lever others' expertise, contacts and enthusiasm to deliver products and events that were meaningful, topical and well regarded.

"The belief that trusted networks are the key to business success inspired me to join a colleague to establish my current company."

Today, the BLN (*see their website [www.thebln.com](http://www.thebln.com)*) is a national community of entrepreneurs, business leaders and institutional investors who work together to build and nurture growth businesses.

Through peer networking, BLN works to discover future leaders and stimulate debate about the development of key growth sectors in the UK, connecting corporates to



***"Applications and opportunities that can stem from this include recruitment, internships, business development and investment"***

**Darren Harper (Biochemistry, Derwent 1998)**



sources of innovation, entrepreneurs to investors or partners and investors to high quality entrepreneurs.

YorkSpace works on exactly the same principle, providing an online space for alumni to offer career opportunities to current students and other alumni, or to simply learn from interacting with other former York students inside or outside their profession.

For current students or recent graduates, the benefits of networking with other alumni or building contacts in their industry of choice are obvious, with the added bonus of having a York connection as a foundation.

“Over many years of working with people involved in some of the UK’s fastest growing companies I often find that they do business with people they like and trust,” says Darren.

“Networking in its best form is about building relationships and working out if you like and/or respect a person that you might end up doing business with,” he adds.

“A good network should not be measured by just the number of people connected to you, but how many of them remember and rate you as a person.”

Networking has moved on a great deal from conferences where delegates would hurriedly rush around distributing as many business cards as possible and grabbing all those on offer, only to return home with a stack of names and numbers without any idea who they belonged to.

The world’s largest professional social network, LinkedIn, boasts

**“A good network should not be measured by just the number of people connected to you, but how many of them remember and rate you as a person”**

102 million registered users across over 200 countries, and is currently worth around \$7 billion, after its share price more than doubled when the company floated on the New York Stock Exchange in May.

Staying in touch with those you thought you had said goodbye to on graduation day is big business. And it makes sense that in your career you are most likely to trust or depend on those that were educated at the same institution as you.

Research from the Harvard Business Review found that investment bankers placed larger financial bets on companies to which they were connected to through alumni networks, trusting investments in companies run by people that they went to university with.

And what’s more – the researchers found that the fund managers performed significantly better on their investments in ‘connected’ companies, by around 7.8 per cent a year.



Online networks such as YorkSpace offer both a platform to stay in touch with those who you lived, studied or partied with while at university, and a medium to develop professionally with the help and assistance of fellow alumni, irrespective of when they graduated.

"I use social networks to stay in touch with friends from York, as many of my classmates now live abroad, in the US, Australia and Japan.

"Facebook I use to stay in touch with friends and family. LinkedIn I use to manage and build my professional network and Twitter is a great tool for promotion and research," says Darren.

Soon he'll be using YorkSpace as well to forge more connections with a university that can be as much of a boost to your career now as it was when you graduated. Go on, join YorkSpace to get connected.

***"Professional networking is so important because if you have a skill you've got to let other people find out about it and compare notes with their own experiences. There is no better way of doing this, and of making use of modern technology than by communicating through a well targeted and well organised network site"***

**Steve Richards** (*History, Alcuin, 1981*), Chief Political Commentator at *The Independent* and television presenter

**Find out more:**

York Alumni Association offers many ways to connect with your fellow alumni. Visit [www.YorkSpace.net](http://www.YorkSpace.net) for details. Make sure you check out our dedicated York Alumni Association video on [www.YorkSpace.net/profnetworks](http://www.YorkSpace.net/profnetworks), created by alumnus Nik Morris (*History, James, 2006*).

## Make connections – join a network

**A**lumni of York are members of a dynamic and influential community, and now thousands of graduates across the world can take advantage of opportunities on offer through the York Alumni Association to discover new professional connections.

The University of York Professional Networks are designed to make this easy – connecting alumni with one another, and with current students, in specific professional areas.

From November 2011, the networks will feature high profile events, job opportunities, and online interaction through [YorkSpace.net](http://YorkSpace.net), the new website dedicated to York alumni. The networks will help support recent graduates' career progression, and offer senior alumni an opportunity to share their expertise, advice and connections. We also hope that, in turn, alumni

who benefit from networking with one another, will be keen to support current students through informal mentoring, talks on campus or by offering a profile of their early career progress.

The networks are free to access, and launch events are taking place in London. Future events will be geographically spread, and additional networks will be launched from January 2012.

If you want to significantly boost your professional connections, we are looking for alumni and friends who are keen to help develop and sustain each of the networks – please get in touch.

To get connected to the University's Professional Networks, log onto [www.YorkSpace.net](http://www.YorkSpace.net), where you can register, update your contact details and discover new connections.



# YorkSpace... make it your place

*“The powerful combination of the Professional Networks and YorkSpace will provide alumni with new opportunities to boost their careers. We are focused on providing services for younger alumni, so that the University does not become irrelevant after graduation, and so that alumni are proud to maintain their connection with the University of York”*

**Nik Miller, Alumni  
Engagement Manager**



**Y**orkSpace is finally here. We've been talking about it for the last two issues of **grapevine**, and we're delighted to announce that the site launched to the Class of 2011 at the July graduation with great success. Now we're ready to introduce the site to the wider alumni community and we hope you'll join us online to access a range of new benefits, services and facilities, all tailored to you, our growing alumni community.

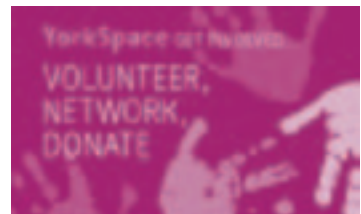
## Connecting people, business, education and ideas...

### Why join?

#### Through YorkSpace you can:

- Update your personal and business details, education and interests
- Submit your news to **grapevine**
- Access our alumni directory to re-connect with friends or to make new contacts, search by subject, college or graduation year
- View YAA city and country groups as well as access our new Professional Networks
- Opt into join a group or networks, upload your CV, post a job, start a discussion, email group members, view alumni profiles, promote your business and access industry support
- View the latest news and publications from the YAA and the University
- Book online for alumni and University events
- Take advantage of free email forwarding or 'email for life'
- Access dedicated York alumni discounts, including several offers from fellow alumni
- Volunteer to get involved with the YAA by taking a leadership role in our groups and networks, or by supporting current students. View alumni authors by decade, browse a selection of alumni profiles and honorary graduates.
- Find out more about giving to York and donate online.

YorkSpace.net will continue to add new features as it grows. Go on, get connected, visit [www.YorkSpace.net](http://www.YorkSpace.net) today.





# YORK GRADUATES the next g

**W**atch out, there's a new generation of York graduates already well on their way to success.

From diplomats and architects to human rights lawyers and Oscar-winning visual effects technicians, York is crafting some of the brightest and the best graduates set to excel across sectors, industries and continents.

**grapevine** asked the University's academics to nominate their most outstanding students and recent graduates, bursting with talent and potential, for a special report on the trailblazing students who are about

to embark on careers as diverse as they are remarkable.

"The University seems keen to prove its ability to compete with the top universities of the world," says Daniel Gilks, a Physics student shortlisted for his excellent research work in the Department.

"This desire to forge a reputation has a clear relevance for any young student who needs to find their own place in the world."

It is graduates like Daniel who will continue to put York on the international education map. And all will leave wishing the best to the University that they say provided the academic stimulus and

unique opportunities that have enabled them to flourish.

"The reputation of the Department, combined with the historic, architectural and social qualities of the city, made the decision to study at York very easy," says Alex Houlton.

Alex has just completed a PhD on stone conservation of York Minster, and has already secured a job as a heritage consultant working with nationwide architects Purcell Miller Tritton.

"The Department of Archaeology is based at the King's Manor in the centre of York. This adds an extra dimension to the student experience when the focus of study is heritage-based, as

From left to right: Timur Tatlioglu, Simon Gammon, Dominka Gruszka, Helen Fall, Alex Houlton, Heba Khalil, Daniel Gilks, Claire Wood, Matthew Freckleton, Annelies Vredeveldt, Primrose Lovett, Amit Sinha and Leo Plunkett



# eneration

you are fully immersed in the history of the city,” he says.

“The atmosphere in the Department was always very positive, and the fact that the postgraduates had a dedicated workroom was really conducive to a vibrant research culture. Doing a PhD can be quite a solitary experience at times, but the community at King’s Manor certainly helped to counteract that feeling.”

Alex is not alone in praising York’s support network. The featured students were selected from across the University, and are a great example of what talent combined with high academic teaching can produce.



Simon Gammon

***“My proudest moment at York has been to graduate and leave straight into a job. It is immensely satisfying that something I have worked on is currently flying in helicopters around the UK”***

*Simon*



Amit Sinha

***“It was truly amazing to see so many students trying to think in a smarter way and to know that I was a part of something big”***

*Amit*

“York’s reputation was already well known to me, so I knew when I started looking at universities that I wanted to apply,” says Electronics student Simon Gammon.

“The real turning point was when I came up to visit the University and look around the Department. The two things that struck me were that York is a fantastic place to live and study, and the excellent facilities in the Department of Electronics,” Simon explains.

Simon will soon begin work at GE Aviation as a systems engineer, in a role similar to his year-long placement with the firm that formed part of his degree.

“My proudest moment at York has been being able to graduate and leave straight into a graduate job. Using all the skills I had learned at York I received more than one job offer and

was able to pick the role that was right for me,” says Simon.

“It is immensely satisfying that something I have worked on is currently flying in helicopters around the UK,” he adds.

Another York graduate about to embark on a career with an industry leader is Computer Science student Amit Sinha, who will soon take up a position as an analyst for management consultancy Accenture.

“Studying at York, and being exposed to other opportunities, has given me an appreciation for the amount of dedicated work and planning that goes into building a career,” he says.

Amit is clear that while the world-class teaching in the Department of Computer Science was crucial to securing his graduate job, his extra-curricular responsibilities were a great boost to his CV.

As the head of IBM’s Students for a Smarter Planet initiative at York, Amit brought five senior IBM executives to the campus to speak to over 100 students last December.

“It was truly amazing to see so many students trying to think in a smarter way and to know that I was a part of something big,” Amit says.

“Throughout my time at York, I have maintained this philosophy of ‘take all the opportunities available to you’.”

For Annelies Vredeveltdt, whose PhD research broke new ground in improving eyewitness statements and saw her speak to an audience of pan-European police chiefs, the big draw for studying at York was the brilliant academics that she had access to.

“My main reason for choosing York was the fact that my PhD supervisors, Alan Baddeley and Graham Hitch, were here. I wanted to conduct research on eyewitness memory, and Alan and Graham have a worldwide reputation for their excellent research on memory, so it is a great privilege for me to work with them,” she explains.

Primrose Lovett arrived at York after a stint travelling across the Americas, learning Spanish and determining her ambition to work on issues of international justice with a focus on Latin America. She’d already completed a BA at Cambridge, and saw York as offering a unique way into her chosen profession.

“I came across the Centre for Applied Human Rights and its new LLM programme in International Human Rights Law and Practice. Its combination of the academic and the practical, the small number of students, the field trip and the innovative Human Rights Defender Programme that it runs all drew me to the course,” she explains.

“A great learning experience has also been the opportunity to reflect on the ethics, limitations and implications of human rights which I think will be incredibly valuable to me in the future. So although I have the same ambitions as when I joined last year, the University has helped me narrow my interests and tailor my skills accordingly.”

It certainly worked – Primrose will soon be joining the diplomatic service’s branch of the Foreign Office’s Graduate Fast Stream.

“I wanted a job focused in policy-making with an international dimension. This was the perfect opportunity,” she says.

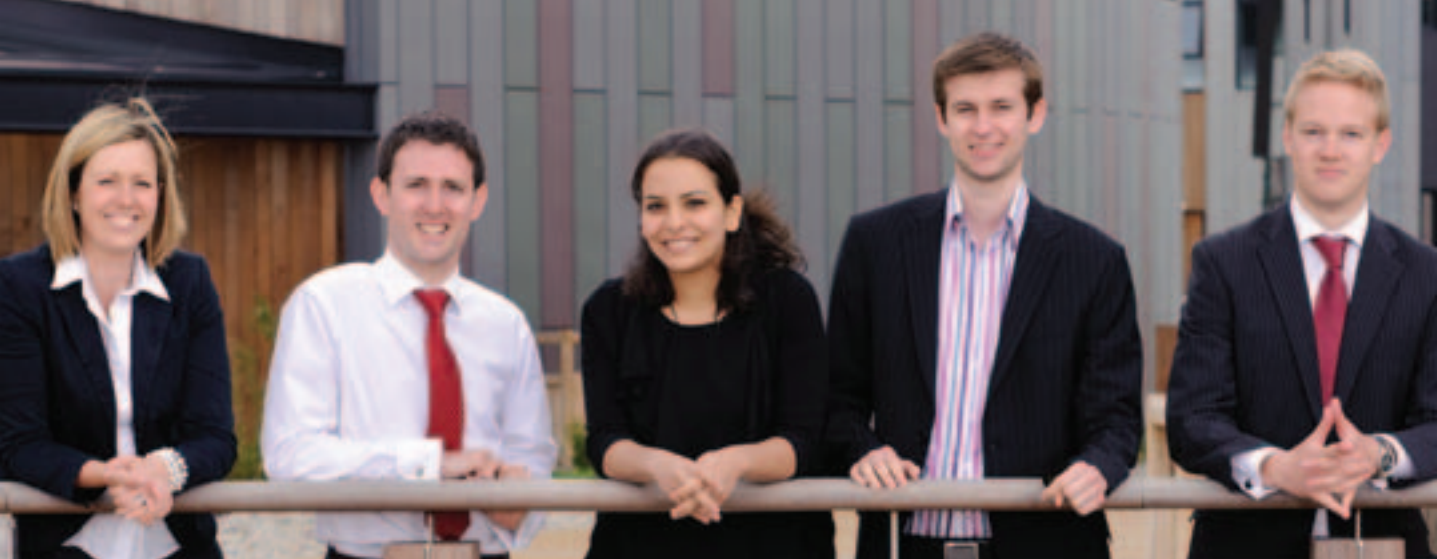
“If I stay with the Foreign Office I would love to be working on Latin American issues, ideally posted abroad. Otherwise, I might consider doing a PhD in human rights and international criminal justice.”



Dominka Gruszka

***“My research can contribute to the general understanding of basic biological mechanisms, which in turn will improve human life”***

*Dominka*



Claire Wood

***“Earlier this year I was offered the chance to spend three months in Japan working with a group of researchers from York and NIMS”***

*Claire*

Heba Khalil, an Egyptian graduate of the American University in Cairo before heading to York for an LLM at the Centre for Applied Human Rights, is another alumna striding out into the human rights sector.

“I do not have a clear idea yet, but I will work in Human Rights in Egypt. Perhaps in advocacy or in reporting, perhaps as a paralegal or researcher, perhaps in a local NGO or international NGO. The future is still unclear, but I know I will be working on Human Rights in post-Revolution Egypt,” she says.

Heba also got involved with opportunities outside the University’s academic life to advance her studies while at York.

“The City of Sanctuary movement in York along with the historical legacy of York as a place of safety, have played a major role in shaping my understanding of grassroots human rights initiatives, especially those that target helping refugees and asylum seekers in York,” she explains.

“The City of Sanctuary public meeting was an open public meeting of the working group to make York into a ‘City of Sanctuary’ for refugees and asylum seekers. It was such a proud moment because I felt at home, I felt I was fighting for my city, and I felt I was working to bring human rights ‘home’.”

Two weeks after he graduates, Physics student Daniel Gilks will be setting off for a three-month research project at the National Institute for Material Science (NIMS) in Tokyo, before beginning a PhD in thin film physics back in York.

“Earlier this year I was offered the chance to spend three months in Japan working with a group of researchers from York and NIMS. The chance to work with these individuals and then follow that up with postgraduate study at York represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity I didn’t feel I could afford to turn down,” he says.

Leo Plunkett, who has just completed a BA in Music, and PhD students Dominka Gruszka and Helen Fall also owe their future careers to the inspiration found while studying at York.

“What really attracted me to studying music at York was the impressive array of lecturers and resident musicians who were part of the Department,” says Leo.

“I came to do music purely because I had a passion for it and wanted to learn more about it. I never really considered it as a viable career path, but over my three years at York that has changed a great deal,” says Leo.

For those who witnessed Plunkett’s ‘Black Noise’ dissertation performance, involving a film and music presentation in the new Ron Cooke Hub’s demonstration space on Heslington East, his packed post-graduation diary won’t be surprising.

He’ll travel to Peru after graduation to film documentaries for a conservation group, before playing a number of festivals and following up work opportunities with the BBC and US television channel HBO.

“At the moment I just want to explore different directions and if I could pursue all of them then that would be fantastic, but they are all very unpredictable paths so we will see,” says Leo.

For Dominka, who began studying for a PhD at the University after a summer studentship attracted her to the Department of Biology, her time at York has focused her talents on a career that could well save the lives of other alumni.

“When I started my PhD I didn’t have a strict plan for my future career but I did have an ambition to become a scientist or researcher,” she says.

***“Being part of the York Alumni Association maintains that sense of belonging to a successful and progressive university wherever you are, and ensures that a sound mechanism is in place should you decide to get in touch with former staff and peers”***

*Tim*



“Now, being close to the end of my PhD, I feel quite confident about pursuing a career path as a researcher and I have a pretty clear view of what my research objectives are and which direction I want to take them... York has definitely influenced and shaped my career plans and given me a solid platform on which to build a career in research,” says Dominka, who won the University’s K M Stott Prize in Biology.

“I am keen to work on important biological and biomedical problems – for example, how pathogenic bacteria infect and persist in the human body,” Dominka explains.

“My research can contribute to the general understanding of basic biological mechanisms, which in turn will improve human life.”

Helen, who will leave York to join her family’s firm in a business development and strategy role, with a view to taking over full control of the business in the near future, never imagined such a career before she began her studies.

“Having previously had a career in the banking sector my objective was to complete a degree course and then return to work in larger firms in either banking or other large industries near where I live,” she explains.

“However, since I started at York other opportunities arose and I have decided to work within my family business.”

“The interactions with local businesses which have occurred as part of my Management course have proved extremely useful, especially from a business networking perspective,” says Helen.

And career-building experiences have not been restricted to the classrooms or the library, as two other sparkling graduates show.

Claire Wood arrived at York as an English Literature undergraduate, and four years later she’s graduating with an MA in Nineteenth-Century Literature and Culture, with ambitions to pursue a career in academia.

While at York, Claire was part of the Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded Sensory Stories project, which trained postgraduates to communicate their research to a wider audience through sensory channels such as the use of public spaces, performances and object-based interaction.



"I'm so proud to have led a project that I believe has made a genuine difference to how students think about communicating their work and which has opened a meaningful dialogue with audiences beyond the University.

"I hope that Sensory Stories will continue to train future cohorts of humanities researchers in communicating their work to the public at large, giving them the confidence and skills that will help to shape their own academic careers," Claire adds.

Closer to campus, Sociology graduate Matthew Freckleton also got started on his entrepreneurial career while a student at York.

"I didn't come to York with any clear career objectives, so the University has moulded me to an extent in deciding what career path I wanted to do and thus have chosen," he explains.

Matthew was heavily involved in the enterprise opportunities at York, first as an intern at the Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning for Enterprise (CETLE), and then as President of the York Entrepreneurs Society. He picked up the 2009 award for the Best Student Enterprise Society from the National Council of Graduate Entrepreneurs. It's no surprise that he'll be continuing in that direction after graduating.

"My first venture will be the building and development of Yatterbox as the single source of all political social media information," says Matthew.

Timur Tatlioglu, who has recently concluded a PhD in Archaeology, has directly benefited from a good relationship between former and current students at University, and recognises the importance of a strong alumni network.

"[The University] helped me to gain the specialist knowledge that I was aiming for, while also expanding valuable experience within the heritage sector. In that sense, there is no doubt that York has helped me to move closer to my career objectives," he explains.

Timur has worked as a Heritage Consultant for URS Scott Wilson, a multi-national engineering and environmental consultancy specialising in infrastructure projects, for the past year.

He's been heavily involved in the Crossrail project, the new 118km urban railway being constructed across central London, and is looking

at future projects at the Paddington, Farringdon and Liverpool Street stations in the capital.

"The company was recommended by an employee who was a former graduate within our Department at York," says Timur.

"It was a great example of networking as I had briefly worked with her on a small project at Harewood House. The role seemed to be perfect as I was ready for the next stage of my career, beyond my doctoral research, and I was looking for a position where I could use my heritage expertise on a wide range of projects."

Timur recently became a Research Associate at the Department of Archaeology, allowing him to recommend the Department as an important source of expertise in a wide range of subjects to his current clients.

"One of the main advantages of studying at York is the large network of contacts that are available to you... It was stressed from a very early stage to take advantage of this position, and build up relationships both with the staff and our peers. These contacts have been invaluable to my career," says Timur.

"It is networks such as these that can lead to collaborative opportunities further down the line," Alex agrees.

"Being part of the York Alumni Association maintains that sense of belonging to a successful and progressive university wherever you are, and ensures that a sound mechanism is in place should you decide to get in touch with former staff and peers."

"It is really important to remember who has helped you along the way and where you have learnt the skills you use day in and day out," says Simon. "I have benefited from the strong industry connections within the Department of Electronics. Hopefully I'll be able to contribute to this in the future."

"I feel it should be an integral part of any alumnus agenda," chips in Amit.

"In my opinion, maintaining a relationship outside your day-to-day work job broadens your network and may yield opportunities that can be unexpected."

Many hope to help York just by



Matthew Freckleton

***"I hope to show other people that you can start with nothing and build and grow something truly unique"***

*Matthew*

passing on their recommendations to people who are looking to gain expertise in their particular fields.

"I will always recommend York very highly. It has genuinely been a great place to spend the last three years and the course has opened my horizons up to so many opportunities, as have the people I have met here," says Leo.

"So I hope I am lucky enough to succeed in some of my projects so I can be in a position to give advice and help to graduates of the future," he continues.

And for Matthew, providing inspiration by showing how the University of York can provide a fantastic career springboard is the key to getting the best out of students of the future.

"I hope to show other people that you can start with nothing and build and grow something truly unique."

With graduates like these, we can rest assured that we have some interesting alumni to watch out for in the future.

By **Henry James Foy** (*English, Derwent, 2010*)

# Surround Sound

New system aids hearing test

**L** eading UK hospitals are using pioneering technology developed by psychology researchers at York.

The Crescent of Sound allows clinicians to test patients' spatial hearing in a clinic rather than in a laboratory setting. The apparatus adapts its tests to the ability of the patient — so it can be used for both children and adults, to participants with normal hearing, to users of acoustic hearing aids, and to users of the cochlear implants which are now provided to young deaf children.

Most importantly, the state-of-

the-art software produces a report written in plain English, meaning clinicians no longer need to revert to the laboratory to interpret test results.

"One of the challenges of testing hearing in children so young is to keep their attention on the task," explains Professor Quentin Summerfield, one of the lead researchers on the Crescent project. "To solve this problem, we added display screens to the system which present videos and three-dimensional images.

These engage children's attention and provide rewards when they respond accurately to the challenges presented by the system."



Children as young as two years old happily interact with the Crescent of Sound



Professor Quentin Summerfield with the semi-circular set-up of speakers which deliver different sounds from different directions to test three-dimensional hearing

The Crescent of Sound consists of a semi-circular arc of nine loudspeakers, seven of which have an associated computer-controlled video display. The speakers deliver sounds from different directions to measure the patient's localisation skills, and can present speech from one direction together with noise from a different direction to create signals of different clarity at the two ears.

One of the main drivers for developing the Crescent has been a recent change in British healthcare policy. "Until recently, NHS guidance recommended that deaf children be given a single cochlear implant," says Professor Summerfield.

"But these implants have proven so successful in helping young



children to learn language – which is crucial so that children can attend mainstream schools, for instance – that newly updated guidance recommends two implants for each child, one in each ear.”

The research at York was commissioned by Advanced Bionics, a leading manufacturer of cochlear implants for hearing-impaired children. As well as maximising the impact of research by working directly with industry, the development of the Crescent and locating it in hospitals is now providing an infrastructure for further clinical research using Advanced Bionics’s implants.

Unlike acoustic hearing aids, which work simply by amplifying sound levels, cochlear implants actually

**“These implants have proven successful in helping young children to learn language – which is crucial so that they can attend mainstream schools”**

bypass parts of the ear that are absent or damaged and instead stimulate the hearing nerve directly with electrical signals. Children who have been provided with two such implants, one in each ear, can essentially learn to ‘hear in three dimensions’ – so they

know where to look to see who is talking, where to move to avoid hazards and how to understand what’s said to them in noisy environments such as schools.

This change in policy means that clinicians who provide implants to children must measure emerging skills in spatial listening in young deaf children. Until the Crescent was developed, such tests often had to be administered or interpreted in specialist laboratories, rather than in clinical settings.

Production versions of the Crescent of Sound are now being installed at the Royal National Throat Nose and Ear Hospital, the Bradford Royal Infirmary, Addenbrooke’s Hospital, Crosshouse Hospital and St Thomas’ Hospital.

**A**round 20% of cancers are attributable to infections and researchers at York are working to identify these. The ultimate aim, through public health education and behaviour change, is to prevent such types of cancer.

Researchers in the Epidemiology and Genetics Unit in the Department of Health Sciences are working to identify infectious causes of cancer in both adults and children, to better characterise the infections and thereby prevent those types of cancer. Dr Rob Newton and his colleagues at the unit conduct studies in African countries where infectious disease is common and where key contributions to cancer research have been made.

Cancer today remains a global health problem. The World Health Organisation estimates there are 12.7m new cancer cases and 7.6m deaths from the disease each year. It is a common disease across the world, with cancers of the lung, breast and bowel being the most frequently diagnosed. The causes of about half of all cases of cancer are accounted for but there is much still to be discovered.

Despite all we know about the damaging effects of smoking, tobacco remains the most common cause of the disease. However, second to tobacco as a cause of cancer are infections. This does not mean cancer is itself 'infectious', but that some of the underlying causes are. This important discovery was made over 50 years ago, in Africa, and today is the primary focus of Rob Newton's research at York.

The story began in 1958, when Denis Burkitt – a surgeon working for the British Colonial Service in Uganda – published a paper in the *British Journal of Surgery*. He described 38 cases of a previously unrecognised tumour affecting children. The cancer frequently presents with swellings in the jaw, which can double in size over a matter of days. Although unknown outside parts of sub-Saharan Africa and Papua New Guinea, this cancer has played a key role in our understanding of how tumours develop and Burkitt's description of it marked a turning point in the history of cancer research and clinical oncology. It was also one of the first cancers to be successfully treated using combinations of drugs, now standard therapy for many tumours.

With a grant of just £250 from the UK Medical Research Council (MRC),

Denis Burkitt purchased a second-hand Ford Anglia and, together with two friends, embarked on an epic 10,000 mile journey around Africa, in an effort to characterise the geographic distribution of this cancer. He discovered that it occurs only where a particular type of malaria is common, leading him to speculate that the underlying cause may be an infection transmitted in the same way – that is, by mosquitoes. Burkitt lymphoma, as it is now known, was the first human tumour in which a virus was found to be the cause. Indeed we now know – thanks to work conducted at York and elsewhere – that it is the combination of a common virus infection together with malaria itself that leads to the development of the cancer. An incidental but interesting footnote to the story of Burkitt's extraordinary journey across Africa in the late 1950s, is that he subsequently sold the car for £150 and returned the money to the MRC!

Burkitt's seminal discoveries led eventually to US President Richard Nixon's 'declaration of war' on cancer, with his 1971 Cancer Act, in which billions of dollars were spent in trying to identify infectious causes of malignancy. It wasn't until 1980, however, that the next cancer-causing virus was discovered. Since then, others have been identified. It is now known that about 20% of cancers (about two million cases per year) are attributable to viral (15%), bacterial (5%) and parasitic (0.1%) infections. The majority of these – 1.5 m cases per year – occur in the developing world where the burden of infectious disease is greatest.

Dr Newton points out, "Importantly, such cancers are theoretically preventable by avoidance of infection via education and behaviour change, then by early treatment, or through vaccination." For example, there has been a safe and effective vaccine against the Hepatitis B virus – responsible for causing about half of all cases of liver cancer worldwide – available for decades. Furthermore, 12-year-old girls are now routinely vaccinated in schools in the UK, against

the two viruses responsible for causing cancer of the cervix. The identification of other cancers with an infectious cause is, therefore, of importance for public health and cancer prevention.

At York, the team's goal is to identify new cancers that may be caused by infections and to develop methods for preventing the tumours from occurring in the first place. Much of the work is based on the observation that people with failing immune systems – such as those infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) – are not only prone to infections, but also develop certain cancers, which are themselves caused by underlying infectious or immune factors. The identification of cancers that occur more frequently than expected in those with HIV therefore provides a useful way of distinguishing cancers that might have an infectious cause. Since HIV is most common in Africa, the research is conducted in collaboration with colleagues in Uganda, Malawi, Zambia and South Africa.

A number of cancers have now been found to be increased among people with HIV, and for most of them, an underlying infectious cause has been identified – the first step in preventing them. Of equal concern, however, is that failing immune systems can also cause reactivation of viruses in individuals who were infected long ago and lead to an increase in the number of people most likely to transmit infection to others. So, in addition to facilitating the development of cancer, HIV and other immune-suppressive infections, such as certain common parasites, may also increase transmission of many cancer-causing viruses in the general population. This has important implications for cancer control in the future.

The ultimate aim is not only to prevent cancers caused by these infections but also to identify new cancers with underlying infectious causes, to prevent the spread of infections and to improve population health, both nationally and internationally. Dr Rob Newton co-authored Denis Burkitt's last scientific paper which was published after his death in 1993. Sadly, they never met.

Visit [www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences](http://www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences) for more information

*“Cancers are theoretically preventable by avoidance of infection via education and behaviour change then by early treatment of infection, or through vaccination”*

*Dr Rob Newton*

# Continuing the work of a medical pioneer

With cancer still one of the world's biggest York scientists are working to identify infection in order to address the actual cause.



# Breaking the silence

**A**cross the globe human rights defenders push the boundaries of injustice every day.

When we look at the tyrannical regimes, conflicts and uprisings around the world, one thing remains constant. When politicians, the courts and the police cannot be relied on to protect human rights, there are always individuals who find they cannot remain silent in the face of injustice. They are called human rights defenders.

They may be lawyers, teachers, doctors or journalists; they may not

have any professional training at all. What they have in common is their belief that basic human rights must be protected, and their willingness to do something about it. Unsurprisingly, their work is often dangerous; many are imprisoned, persecuted and killed each year. Their courage is immense.

The Centre for Applied Human Rights (CAHR) at the University of York believes that they are central to the fight for justice and rights. Each year the Centre invites a number of defenders who are at risk to come to York, in a fellowship scheme that is unique in an academic setting. Their time in York offers respite from the

***“Since I started working in human rights, ten years ago, this is the first time that I feel calm and safe, knowing nobody is going to hurt me or persecute me”***

**Diana, from Colombia, 2010**

risks they face on a daily basis; it is also a chance to reflect and look beyond their own situation and understand the fight for human rights in a global context. Their testimony and knowledge have a powerful impact on students and the wider community.

Since 2008, 17 men and women have been awarded Human Rights Fellowships at York's CAHR, from Africa (Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan), Latin America (Colombia), Asia (China, Nepal, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Thailand, Kyrgyzstan) and the Middle East (Iraq, the Occupied Palestinian Territories). They work on issues as diverse as women's rights, the rights of people affected by HIV, the fight against

***“It was a superb experience to meet with people from different part of the world and share experiences.***

***The programme is very useful and... it has motivated and re-energised us”***

***Rhoda, from Sierra Leone, 2009***

arbitrary detention and torture, indigenous rights, labour rights, the fight against corruption, and the rehabilitation of child soldiers. As a group, they are very varied, but one thing unites them: their belief that the world could be a better place, and their determination to contribute what they can to this struggle.

For more information visit [www.york.ac.uk/cahr](http://www.york.ac.uk/cahr).

To support the Human Rights Fellowship Programme contact Sarah Sylvester via email at [sarah.sylvester@york.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.sylvester@york.ac.uk) or call +44 (0)1904 32 4555.

## **Saifora's story**

Describing how the fellowship influenced her work after her return to Afghanistan, one of the first CAHR Fellows writes:

“I am a part of a team that established a civilian oversight committee to monitor how the police deal with gender-based violence (GBV) at police stations. This committee included Members of Parliament. As a result of its recommendations, 17 Family Response Units led by female police officers have been established. I also submitted a proposal to provide training to these female officers, which was successful, so we offer extensive training... to them. We also run the first ever hotline for victims of violence, and we have a database of organisations working with GBV victims.

“While in York, I got the chance to see the curriculum for human rights education in schools. This has led me to work on developing a curriculum with the Ministry of Education. This has been well received and now we have some funding to provide training to staff of the Ministry of Education and to teachers.”

**Saifora, from Afghanistan, 2008**



## **David's story**

“I am the only openly gay man in Uganda”, said David Kato with a certain wryness, taking up his fellowship at CAHR in spring 2010. His focus for the fellowship was on finding arguments that would persuade the Ugandan government to reject the Anti-Homosexuality Bill, which required family members to report relatives to the authorities where they suspected homosexual activity. He campaigned against the proposed death penalty for ‘repeat offenders’. David was especially keen on learning about principled negotiation techniques. “These have helped not only me but my community to learn how to be patient with radicals and fundamentalists, reasoning with

them together, avoiding ‘name and shame’,” he wrote after his return to Uganda. “Very different from those people who tried to physically assault me at court!” he added.

He went to court to challenge a magazine report that printed his name and photo, along with others, claiming they were dangerous to Ugandan youth and should be killed. He and his colleague succeeded in their court case; the court ruled that there was a right to bodily integrity and to protection against discrimination.

Three weeks after his court victory, at the end of January 2011, David was murdered in his own home.

# Changing times for Higher Education

## Greg Dyke leads support for future students

**G**reg Dyke is genuinely passionate about helping the next generation of students, and found time in his busy schedule of graduation duties in July to explain why.

"I hate the idea that many students will be leaving with enormous debts, but that is where we are and I doubt if there will be any going back. What we all fear the most from the new system is that students from poorer backgrounds will be put off from going to university – which for many would be a life-changing experience simply because they and their families believe they can't afford it. It would be terrible if universities went back to being what they were before the likes of York were around – educational institutions only for kids from privileged backgrounds."

York has already committed to a wide range of measures to maintain its inclusive ethos. In fact, York plans the highest percentage spend in the 1994 Group, and the sixth highest percentage spend among its peer universities. The Chancellor is keen to enable the University to do more. That's why he's putting his weight, and indeed his own financial support, behind the **Achieving Excellence Bursary Appeal** and is asking York alumni to help.

"We want to be able to say to bright kids who are worried, along with their parents, that they might not be able to cope financially: 'If you have the potential, there are funds available at York to help support you.'"

The new Achieving Excellence Bursaries will be worth approximately £1,000 a year and targeted at those students in greatest need and for whom support is not available elsewhere. Importantly, they will be awarded to support the living costs associated with being a full-time



student, which is where students on low incomes can often feel hardship most. The bursaries will be offered over and above the package of financial support already pledged by York, and the addition of these bursaries will ensure that our commitment to helping students afford a world-class education will never have been stronger.

"With your help we can do much more," Greg Dyke tells us. "We want to keep our doors open to talent and we want to ensure that once here, there is adequate support for those who may struggle to cope."

"I came to York in the days when there were no fees – if there had been I doubt if I would have considered higher education. I am passionate that the brightest students with the most limited financial means should continue to benefit from what York has to offer."

"In particular, I really believe that former York students who had the benefits of a free York education – people like me – now have a responsibility to help those for whom the levels of debt may present a serious disincentive to carrying on to university. I hope that alumni of York will join me in helping to realise the potential of the next generation. Just imagine how many lives we could transform if we managed to raise £1m through this appeal."

A gift of £23 a month for three years will help provide the equivalent of one **Achieving Excellence Bursary**."

Greg's appeal is perfectly timed as this year the University announced that it plans to set tuition fees at £9,000 a year, starting from October 2012. This decision is based upon a number of factors, the most significant of which is the Government's resolution to cut billions of pounds of direct funding to universities and instead redirect much of this via student loans paid to universities when a student attends. A much higher proportion of the cost will therefore be met by the student.

The higher fee will compensate for reductions in centrally allocated funding and maintain York's high standards. Crucially, the increased student tuition fee will enable significant levels of support for students from less advantaged backgrounds, as well as substantial investment in the student experience more generally.

Our commitment to ensuring that able students are not deterred from applying to York will be shown through a comprehensive package of financial support and other measures (see page 4). Our belief in excellence and inclusivity requires resources, and that is why the University's Chancellor, Greg Dyke, is leading a campaign to ensure equality of opportunity for the best and the brightest, regardless of circumstances.

Visit [www.YorkSpace.net/bursaries](http://www.YorkSpace.net/bursaries) for more information or use the donation form on page 37.



# Alumni help gives York students a leading edge

**T**he generosity of alumni has funded ground-breaking projects across the University this year. Growing support means that the range broadened and the value of grants increased to £182,387.

**A committee composed of alumni from different decades and senior staff is responsible for deciding which of the innovative proposals put forward by clubs, societies and departments will receive grants from the York Annual Fund.**

For many alumni and current students the clubs and societies in which they participated define their York experience as much as their subject of study. When looking for the first job after graduation, responsibilities taken on and skills developed in extra-curricular activities, such as volunteering, make graduates stand out in an increasingly competitive employment market.

Community involvement has always been a key part of music at York and alumni support has increased the reach of this work. The Music Education Group (MEG) received a grant of £458 from the York Annual Fund to buy ukuleles for workshops in York primary schools. The members of MEG were delighted to receive the award for Overall Project of the Year at the 2010/11 YUSU awards. This student-run scheme is very well received by pupils and teachers, offering an exciting range of workshops at York schools, many of which do not employ a specialist music teacher. MEG is also an opportunity for students to contribute to the local community and gain experience in teaching.

Opportunities for students to develop skills in writing and editing are not limited to York's highly-regarded Department of English

and Related Literature. Contributors to the 2010/11 edition of *The Looking Glass Anthology* came from departments as diverse as Physics and History. *The Anthology* showcases the best new poetry, drama and short fiction created by York students.

Relatively small grants from the York Annual Fund make a big difference to the vibrant cultural scene on campus and in the city. Thanks to generous alumni and friends of the University, the Fund was able to award £330 to *The Looking Glass Anthology* and £400 to culture magazine *The Zahir* to help with printing costs in 2011. *The Zahir* was one of three student magazines to benefit from a grant of £2,000 to update their shared

production office with professional standard computers and software. The magazines, *The Zahir*, *Haus* and the *Lemon Press*, nurture the next generation of writers, journalists and editors, maintain York's excellent reputation for student media, and provide a creative comment on student life, university issues and broader politics.

Alumni can download *The Looking Glass Anthology* as a free e-book or order a printed copy for £3.78 from [www.thelookingglass.org.uk](http://www.thelookingglass.org.uk).

**Relatively small grants from the York Annual Fund make a big difference to the vibrant, cultural scene on campus and in the city**



# Giving to York

It's good to talk...

**T**elethons are now a regular fixture of the University calendar. In November and June enthusiastic student callers will staff the phones, speaking to thousands of alumni across the world.

The students are well placed to update you on recent developments at the University and in the coming year will

ask for your support for our Achieving Excellence bursary appeal.

Alumni and student callers often find they have much in common. Students enjoy hearing stories of University life in the past, and alumni are keen to understand what it's like to study at York today.

Alumna Ruth Soames (*Archaeology, Alcuin, 1998*) spoke to current student James Masters (*History, Halifax*) in the June 2011

telethon. Ruth said, "James was very friendly and pleasant. He explained clearly what the call was for and what options there were that my donation could go towards. It was his friendly manner that persuaded me to donate, it was such a pleasant change from the usual unsolicited calls from other sources."

Caller Lauren Cowling (*Psychology, James*), pictured right, described what motivates her: "It's not just the fascinating conversations we can have and the things we can learn about career and graduate options, but how encouraged we are when someone wants to donate. When I've spoken to the people funding the very opportunities offered here every day, it drives me to make the most of my time here at York."

Hilary Blake (*History, Vanbrugh, 2003*), Annual Fund Officer, told **grapevine**, "I'd like to thank all the alumni who take time to have a conversation with a current student, and especially those who give to York. Through talking to students you expand their horizons, enabling them to understand the ongoing value of a York education. Through giving, you help students to make the most of their time while they're here."

***"It's not just the fascinating conversations we can have and the things we can learn about career and graduate options, but how encouraged we are when someone wants to donate"***

Find out more about the impact of your support at [www.YorkSpace.net/giving](http://www.YorkSpace.net/giving)

2010/11 student caller  
Lauren Cowling





Name .....Email.....  
 Address.....  
 ..... Phone No ..... Postcode.....

## I would like my gift directed to:

- The area of greatest need (the *Yorkies* Fund).
- Supporting students (Achieving Excellence Appeal).
- Enhancing opportunities.  Other.....
- I am interested in making a bequest to the University. Please contact me with further details.
- I have already remembered the University of York in my will.
- I would like my gift to remain anonymous.
- If your partner is an alumnus we make the assumption the gift is from you both unless you tick this box.

## Gift Aid Declaration

**Every £10 that you give is worth £12.50 to the University of York.** The difference is reclaimed from HMRC at no additional cost to you. All you have to do is to sign and date the Gift Aid Declaration. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief on your Self Assessment tax return.

I am a UK taxpayer and have paid income tax or capital gains tax on this donation. I want the University of York (Exempt Charity No. U25967) to treat this gift and any others that I make in the future as Gift Aid until I indicate otherwise.

Signature ..... Date .....

## Regular donation

By making a regular gift you become a member of our supporters' club, the *Yorkies*.

- I would like to make a regular donation to the **University of York** of £  per (month/quarter/year) via Direct Debit starting on the 5th of  MONTH  YEAR for  years or until I notify you otherwise. **(NB: This should be at least one month from the date this form is completed.)**
- I have completed the Direct Debit instruction below.

## Single donation

I wish to make a donation to the **University of York**:

- £25  £50  £120  £250
- £500  £1,000  £1,500
- Other £ .....

- I wish to make a single donation by cheque or charity voucher made payable to the **University of York**.

- I wish to make a single donation by credit card and authorise you to debit my *Visa/Mastercard/Switch/Maestro* (delete as appropriate)

Card no

Start date  /  Expiry date  /

Cardholder's name and initials as they appear on the card

## Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by Direct Debit \*

Please complete the whole form using a ball point pen and return to:

**The University of York, Development and Alumni Relations Office, Alumni House, Heslington, York, YO10 5DD, UK**

Name and full postal address of your bank or building society.

To: The Manager (Bank or Building Society)

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Address:

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Postcode:

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Name(s) of account holder(s):

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Bank/Building Society Account No:

Branch Sort Code:

Service User Number:

Reference:

Signature:

Date:



**INSTRUCTION TO YOUR BANK OR BUILDING SOCIETY:** Please pay the University of York Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with the University of York and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

\* Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account/UK Bank Accounts only.

### The Direct Debit Guarantee

- The Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit the **University of York** will notify you (normally 10 working days) in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request the organisation to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit, by the **University of York** or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.
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# A FRAGILE STATE OF AFFAIRS



# Blending ideas and innovative thinking alongside research has always been a focus at York and at the University's **Post-war Reconstruction and Development Unit (PRDU)** Sultan Barakat, Director of the unit explains how this approach has played a key role in helping damaged countries to recover after the fighting stops.

## **M**ore than 1.5 billion people live in fragile and conflict-affected states or in countries with very high levels of criminal violence.

According to the recent World Development Report published by the World Bank in April 2011, no low-income fragile or conflict-affected country has achieved a single United Nations Millennium Development Goal and 90% of the last decade's civil wars occurred in countries that had already experienced civil war in the last 30 years. These worrying statistics highlight the huge number of people whose lives are affected by conflict in the world today, the serious difficulties faced by countries recovering from conflict, and the vulnerabilities that remain even decades after the fighting has stopped.

There is no doubt that the study of conflict has now become a mainstream subject and the disciplines of international relations, politics and education are directing more of their attention towards it. However, little attention has been paid to what happens after the fighting has stopped and the transition to development begins. Communities are often left divided and damaged and their governments often lack the capacity to drive recovery.

This is exactly what the Post-war Reconstruction and Development Unit (PRDU) focuses on. Started from humble beginnings in the late 1980s, PRDU now has grown to incorporate many disciplines and touch on issues such as politics, international relations, education, economics, development, human rights and health studies. Recent work with Professor Frank Hardman and the York-based Institute of Effective Education has also proved to be a powerful tool

on the world stage, expanding in innovative directions, building on the opportunities that arise within the University and beyond.

### **Education in conflict**

Frank came to the University of York three years ago with a wealth of experience in education in developing and fragile contexts. Throughout his work he had seen the devastating effect conflict had on the education sector, national capacity and children's lives, and carrying on his work in partnership with the PRDU was an obvious decision. This shared interest developed and really solidified in a global study carried out on behalf of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), finishing in May 2010. The study was a high profile independent review and evaluation of UNICEF's Education in Emergencies and Post-Crisis Transitions Programme, conducting fieldwork in Southern Sudan, Kenya and Nepal. As part of this project, the evaluation team produced recommendations for improvements and adjustments to the programme which contributed to UNICEF's broader efforts to improve the quality of their education response in emergency contexts.

Since then, the PRDU/IEE partnership focusing on education in conflict has continued to grow. Currently academics are working on a project that will inform policy-makers on how best to support the scale-up of education activities in fragile states such as Afghanistan and Pakistan. Growing work in this area has been marked by the launch of a joint programme of research, managed

by Dr David Connolly, into Education in Conflict and Emergencies. Through the programme the University will engage directly with policy and practice to develop academic thinking in this relatively new area that is receiving increasing international attention.

### **Peace and recovery after crisis**

The PRDU's work in other disciplines continues, and the Department is now engaged with numerous international institutions with programmes to promote peace and recovery after crisis. In October 2010, the PRDU completed an extensive project on behalf of the United Nations Country Team in Yemen, in collaboration with the Government of Yemen. This evaluation provided a comprehensive analysis of the Yemeni development context and was designed to guide future policy and strategy for the country's recovery and future development.

The PRDU's work also focuses on many other aspects of the transition from conflict to peace. These include dealing with migration issues, promoting sustainable reintegration of refugees, facilitating community-driven development, examining issues of civil-military co-operation and security sector reform, as well as looking at transitional justice, economic recovery, physical reconstruction and promoting state and civil society capacity. It has always been the PRDU's philosophy that a holistic approach that addresses all of these issues needs to be at the centre of any post-war recovery process and this can only be achieved through collaborative interdisciplinary partnerships.

For more information on PRDU visit [www.york.ac.uk/prdu](http://www.york.ac.uk/prdu).

**A**lthough York is not a city readily associated with the professional production of opera, the University of York has strong links with the art form through the activities of staff, students and alumni.

In 2007, the University's Operasoc was founded by Francesca Geach (*Music, Alcuin, 2009*), then an undergraduate in the Department of Music, and now involved in opera accessibility projects in Wellington, New Zealand. Operasoc has thrived in the intervening years, producing fully staged operas every summer – each one directed and performed by York students. Its repertoire is eclectic, and includes Weill's *Down in the Valley* and Britten's *The Little Sweep* (staged in 2008), Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites* (staged in 2009), Strauss's *Die Fledermaus* (staged in 2010) and Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, this summer's production. These productions don't make opera available to only the University community and the wider York public: they also provide a hugely effective

training ground for students interested in pursuing a career in opera.

This year's graduating class includes a number of students intending to continue opera-related activities when they leave York. Catrin Woodruff (*Music, Halifax, 2011*), this year's Chair of Operasoc, performed in and staged her own adaptation of Engelbert Humperdinck's performances earlier this year; in the autumn she begins a postgraduate course in Vocal Studies at the Royal Northern College of Music, where she will focus on the performance of opera. She will be joined on the same course by York graduate Natasha Best (*Music, Derwent, 2011*), who performed in and staged her own opera adaptation earlier this year (Mozart's early opera *Bastien and Bastienne*). Fiona Constantine

(*Music, Vanbrugh, 2011*), former Chair of Operasoc, has directed two major productions while at York, and is intending to pursue a career in opera direction.

Staff and staff alumni are also involved in opera on an academic and creative basis. In May this year, Dr Áine Sheil, Lecturer in Music at the University of York, co-hosted the conference *Digital opera: new means and new meanings*, which brought artists and academics to York to explore new forms of opera involving media technologies. Former Heads of the Department of Music have composed many operas: Professor Nicola LeFanu's catalogue includes *The Story of Mary O'Neill*, a radio opera (BBC Radio 3, 1987), *The Wildman* (Aldeburgh Festival, 1995) and *Light Passing* (BBC/National Centre for Early Music, York, 2004), while Professor David Blake's operas include *Toussaint* (ENO, 1977), *The Plumber's Gift* (ENO, 1989) and *Scoring a Century*, which received its premiere last year in Birmingham.

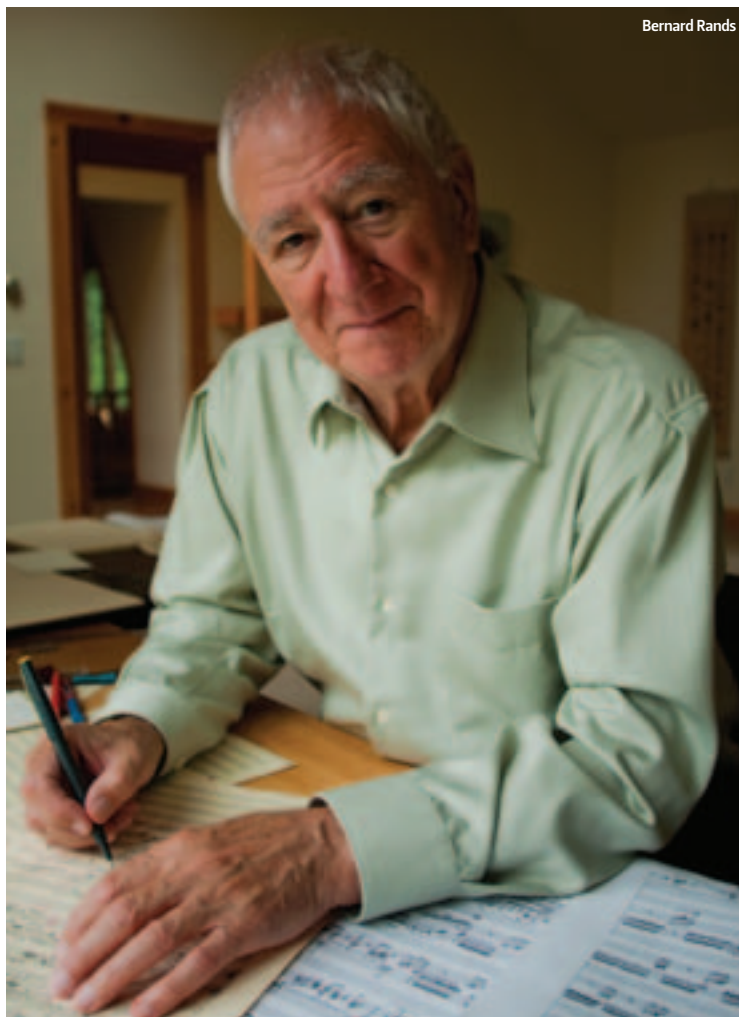
# The future is **bright** for opera



Another opera composer associated with York is Bernard Rands, whose opera *Vincent* had its premiere at Indiana University in April 2011. Rands, who is originally from Yorkshire, was a lecturer at York between 1969 and 1975, and was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University. Although he has lived in the USA for nearly 40 years, he maintains strong family links with Yorkshire and continues to take an interest in music at the University of York. Based on the life of Vincent van Gogh, *Vincent* was commissioned by the Indiana University School of Music and Opera Department; together with the writer JD McClatchy, Rands created a full-length opera for a large cast and orchestra. Praising the performance of the Indiana students involved in the premiere, Rands said that they assumed 'the role and attitude of professionalism' and achieved 'remarkable results'. The composer is optimistic about the future of opera. He advises young graduates interested in a career in opera to gain practical experience in a theatrical setting, working as répétiteur pianists (rehearsal coaches) and assistants to stage directors and designers. This, he reasons, is 'the surest way to acquire the skills necessary to function effectively'.

And this is exactly the approach that another York alumnus has taken to great effect. Ian Page (*Vanbrugh, 1996*), who studied English Literature at York before going on to postgraduate studies at the Royal Academy of Music in London, was assistant to the eminent conductor Sir Charles Mackerras at Glyndebourne and the Edinburgh Festival. At Scottish Opera he worked as assistant to Nicholas McGegan, who specialises in period instrument performance, and this experience proved particularly formative: Page is now Artistic Director of the Classical Opera Company, which he founded in order to specialise in music of the second half of the 18th century and the early 19th century. The company's performances take place in intimate venues suited to this repertory, and its orchestra plays on period instruments or replicas of instruments from that period.

For Page, opera is a means to combine his interests in music and literature. He says that his



undergraduate degree in English was an excellent basis for a career in opera. He has worked with numerous York music graduates, most recently with violinists Daniel Edgar (*Music, Alcuin, 2001*) and Nia Lewis (*Music, Langwith, 2001*) in Classical Opera Company's *Le nozze di Figaro* (June 2011).

Although Page specialises in recreating period conditions in performance, he certainly does not see opera as museum culture.

For him, every performance or production is a fresh encounter with a work, one that begins with an act of the imagination. Opera comes alive in performance, he argues, noting that performance is as much a creative as a re-creative art. Judging by the enthusiastic responses his performances have garnered, Classical Opera Company's audiences clearly agree that opera belongs as much in the present as in the past.

For more information on concerts at York visit [www.yorkconcerts.co.uk](http://www.yorkconcerts.co.uk).

For more information on the Classical Opera Company visit [www.classicalopera.co.uk](http://www.classicalopera.co.uk).

For more information on Bernard Rands and his opera *Vincent* visit [www.bernardrands.com](http://www.bernardrands.com).

# The mystery behind the plays

The York Mystery Plays are a magnificent example of medieval drama. Using the colourful language of medieval Yorkshire, they present the ‘history of the world’ from the mystery of God’s creation, through the birth, death and resurrection of Christ, to the Last Judgement.

**In summer 2012 York Mystery Plays return to York Museum Gardens. A 1,400 seat bespoke theatre, currently going up around the ancient walls of St Mary’s Abbey will house this international event, which celebrates the 800th anniversary of York’s city charter staus.**

Produced by York Theatre Royal, Riding Lights Theatre Company and York Museums Trust and supported by City of York Council, this new adaptation of the York Mystery Plays

is written by local man Mike Kenny, who adapted York Theatre Royal and the National Railway Museum’s Olivier award-winning production of *The Railway Children*. Over 1,000 local people will join forces with a huge professional team to help create this spectacular production.

Here, Mike Kenny (MK) speaks to Margaret Rogerson (MR), Associate Professor in the Department of English at the University of Sydney and author of *Playing a Part in History: the York Mysteries 1951–2006* (Toronto, 2009), about this enterprise and the immense task of putting together a script for this new interpretation of

the York Mystery Plays.

**MR: Mike, this is a major challenge – or rather several major challenges – your role has been pivotal in the one history of performance of these plays. There has the medieval wagon play tradition of street performance that operated until 1569, the fixed-place Museum Gardens tradition from 1951 to 1988, the academic wagon productions and the guild wagon plays from 1988 onwards, the Theatre Royal contributions in the 1992, 1996 and 2000 productions, and the Minster production for the millennium.**

**Where does your own work start – is it a completely new beginning?**

MK: Yes, you grab the baton and attempt to run with it, only to find it’s attached to several hundred years of artistic, religious and civic expectations. After the initial euphoria of being offered the task, I spent some months paralysed by how daunting it was. I’ve spent some time trying to lose some of the weight of expectations. It would seem that it is impossible to please everyone. And that gives one a certain sense of giddy liberation. I also feel liberated from most of the burden of authenticity and heritage by the revival in recent years of the wagon play tradition. I have some very domestic aims, such as to not be boring, to be accessible, to be comprehensible.

**MR: The York Mysteries were originally associated with the religious festival of Corpus Christi and they present the biblical narrative of the**



Honorary graduate Judi Dench (far left) takes part in a 1960s production of the York Mystery Plays in her early acting career



*Creation to Last Judgement – often described as ‘the greatest story ever told’. In view of your ‘domestic aims’, how do you adapt a medieval religious play and make it truly compelling for a modern, mostly secular, world?*

MK: Good question. The story it tells (more accurately: stories) has images that resound far beyond issues of faith and history. The miracle/challenge of a child born in poverty, the violent torture and death of a dissenting voice at the hands of the State and the mob, the survival of a devastating disaster where your whole world is wiped out. This is not dependent on a relationship with divinity. You don’t have to believe in before, after, or beyond in order to be engaged. What we don’t want to do is strain for contemporary relevance. We are attempting to mine for universal, lasting statements.

*MR: In the modern tradition, you are the third professional scriptwriter to grapple with this sprawling text of 47 separate plays and to pare it down to a ‘theatre-length’ production – the other two being Liz Lochhead (1992, 1996) and Mike Poulton (2000). The Museum Gardens scripts tended to stick fairly closely to the medieval originals, whereas those of Lochhead and Poulton were more adventurous. How would you describe your own method?*

MK: When I first stood in the shadow cast by the Mysteries I felt extremely inadequate to the task. I am not a poet. I am not a historian. My method is to apply the rules of theatre. I’m a playwright and I’m turning this into a play. Given that this is man’s story of God, what I will do is tell the tale of God as a man. Therefore, we see not the wise old patriarch, but the young father, who still walks in the garden with his children, Adam and Eve. We see his anger at their inevitable loss of innocence. Things are not much better when he is forced to wipe out the human race again and rescue only Noah and his family. Finally he chooses to incarnate as a human being, to descend among us and intervene directly, and hence we are into the Nativity. I know this requires a radical cut – however, in terms of the arc of a play, it means we leave the first half with the Massacre of the Innocents and the Flight into Egypt, and return to Christ awakening to his

own divinity, and wrestling with Satan.

*MR: Canon Purvis, who adapted the 15th-century text for the early Museum Gardens productions in the 50s, was very much aware of the ‘Yorkshire’ sounds of the original script.*

*Local dialects are much more familiar to a general audience than they were then. Are you planning to capitalise on this local aspect through your own writing?*

MK: The northern voice isn’t as big a deal as it was in the early 50s. Northern Broadside based an artistic policy on it and Tony Harrison took it to the National Theatre itself. I plan to carry on the tradition because it would feel like a betrayal not to. The Mystery Plays come from a northern heritage and offer a poetry of the everyday that you will find present in most of my work anyway.

*MR: The medieval Mystery Plays belonged to the York community in special ways, partly because they were organised, financed and performed by the community.*

*As a York citizen yourself, how do you see the plays working as ‘community theatre’ in the modern city?*

MK: The community is at the heart of realising the plays. Inevitably a community is as varied as the people living in the city. My hope is that we can touch and give voice to the true diversity of York. I don’t want it to include only the ‘good’ kids who always put their hands up. I want to pull in a few of the ones who hang out behind the bike sheds too. A few moneylenders and prostitutes would be very welcome.

*MR: The medieval text contains the voices of many different scriptwriters – one of them, the ‘York Realist’, is credited with a series of plays from the Passion sequence, and his voice stands out markedly from the others. Are you the new York Realist?*



MK: The York Realist, whoever he was, was a true artist. I would be honoured to stand comparison with him. I’ll have to leave it to posterity to decide.

## YORK MYSTERY PLAYS

The University of York has been working closely with York Theatre Royal over the last few years to help raise awareness of York’s strength in contemporary arts and culture. As part of this relationship local alumni are invited to get proactively involved with the 2012 York Mystery Plays. There are many opportunities available, from costume design and production, set building, hair and make-up and of course the opportunity to act in the production. Alumni from further afield are encouraged to take advantage of the special discounted tickets, available through [YorkSpace.net](http://YorkSpace.net), if they are back in York for a visit.

To get involved, find out more or to purchase tickets on York Mystery Plays visit [www.yorkmysteryplays-2012.com](http://www.yorkmysteryplays-2012.com).

A close-up portrait of Linda Grant, a woman with dark hair and light-colored eyes, looking slightly to the left. She is wearing a dark top and a necklace with a single dark bead.

# FINDING A VOICE

Current Politics student Victoria Lee interviews alumna and award-winning author **Linda Grant**

**N**ovelist and alumna Linda Grant tells me, “I think it was Ishiguro [author of *Never Let Me Go*] who said, actually, you’re always writing the same novel – just trying to outdo your last attempt by using a different narrative structure.”

## “You write what’s inside you to be written. You examine the themes which are coming from inside your own consciousness”

Linda, who graduated from York in 1975 with a degree in English Literature, has written a diverse range of literature from fiction to non-fiction, examining issues from the Israeli conflict to the sexual revolution. She has been shortlisted for the Booker Prize, won the Orange Prize for Fiction and been shortlisted for the *Guardian* Book of the Year.

Certain themes and characters predominate in her fiction, continually reappearing under alternative plots. The perpetual question of which actions and moments have led us to the present, along with the characteristic immigrant family, the outsiders and feminism, endure throughout her works.

According to Linda, she does not start writing her novels with these notions and ideas in mind; these themes, which have become her undisputed hallmark, appear to emerge naturally with the finished product.

I want to understand the influences and experiences which have forced her to draw these particular elements from inside her ‘own consciousness’.

Linda’s journey began long before her arrival at the University of York. Following a highly sheltered upbringing by Ukrainian and Polish immigrant parents within a traditionally conservative Jewish community, the teenage Grant was catapulted into a world of opposite values – the socially revolutionary 1960s Liverpool.

“People’s childhoods are incredibly instrumental in forging who they are and why they make certain decisions,” says Linda.

An upbringing composed of influences from such opposing ends of the social spectrum has led her to feel that, “There’s a certain kind of Englishness which I’ve always been outside of. I always felt I was observing it rather than being part of it.”

Perhaps this explains why when Linda began writing, she says she found her novelistic voice through writing about people who feel

themselves to be more ‘outside’ than she does.

Indeed, her upbringing within an immigrant community excluded her from the constraints of the concrete class structures which riddled post-war Britain. “When I was younger most people grew up with a real sense of your class defining you.” She continues, “The notion of knowing your place within the rigid class system and knowing that you couldn’t move out of it was dominant. But immigrants don’t have a place in the class system.”

Being free from the constraints of class meant the common choice among much of the 1950s working class of removing a child from school at 15 to go to work was alien to Linda’s parents. Instead they believed that you could be anything you wanted to be – an attitude true of all immigrant groups says Linda.

Thus, living on the ‘outside’ of mainstream society has been a source of literary power for the novelist. Experiencing human interactions and relations from an outsider perspective has allowed her to gain a much more complex view of the world, which has invaluable enriched her writing.

Thus, if we have established that the conflicts of Linda’s childhood are the source of the ‘outsider’ immigrant protagonist which transcends her fiction, I am interested to establish which themes present in her work are derived from her experiences in later life – specifically her time at university in York.

Linda left school at 17 and worked as a journalist for a local newspaper. After just a few months of work, she decided that her friends at university were enjoying themselves more, and decided to return to school. She completed her A levels in a year, before gaining a place at York to study English Literature.

Linda was 21 when she arrived at York and, in contrast

to her 18-year-old undergraduate contemporaries, had already lived away from home and experienced the working world. Thus, she says, arriving at university initially made her feel “different and a little odd”.

Linda returned to York a few years ago for a feature she was writing for *The Guardian* and found the University ‘changed beyond recognition’.

“When I arrived in York at the beginning of the 1970s,” she says, “it was this brand new concrete university in this village on the outskirts of town.” She continues, “We spent most of our time on the campus and never really went to town because there was nothing to do.”

In contrast, the present-day University is steadily growing and has around 14,000 students. In Linda’s time there was a student population of just over 2,500. When I tell her that students today often moan because there are a mere three nightclubs in York, she laughs. “There was just nothing back then,” she says. “There was one Italian restaurant and an Indian. The young people from the town used to come to the campus for entertainment because that was the only thing to do.”

Indeed, a ‘good night out’ at York back in the 1970s involved going to Vanbrugh College’s hippie whole-food snack bar, called Alligator. Linda says, “There was a disco next to the snack bar so you’d eat your brown rice and lentils (everything had to be brown back then), then go and bop on the dance floor.”

This reference to whole foods and brown lentils leads us to discuss what Linda terms the ‘hippie idealism’ initiated in the late 1960s. Linda looks at this ‘belief that my generation was going to change the world’ in her new novel, *We Had It So Good*.

The novel consists of an intricate examination of the day-to-day decisions and consequences which have led Stephen, a second-generation

immigrant and a product of 1960s idealism, to a career as a BBC producer, with two successful children and a £3m house in Islington.

She describes the novel as an attempt to “track the trajectory of the failure of the lofty idealism of the 1960s...”

Indeed, this question of why the 1960s generation failed to achieve their goals merely forms part of a broader examination within Linda’s literature of how we reach the present and the forces and influences which have led us here.

When I tell Linda that one critic has described her novels as “an attack on the 1960s generation, painting them as smug, hypocritical hippie capitalists,” she is irritated. “Not at all,” she says.

Thus, I ask, has she found any answers to why her contemporaries initially embraced the revolutionary principles of the 1960s? And what ultimately led to them to abandon their ‘hippie idealism’? Has the 1960s radicalism led to any social change?

Linda begins, “We had all grown up in these very bourgeois, suburban families and hated the restrictions of detached and semi-detached houses and our very conservative parents.”

Indeed, Linda’s generation were the ‘post-war’ children. They had been raised on a diet of rationing and conservatism but had also felt the full force of the post-war welfare state. As she says, “We were the beneficiaries of these fantastic things – the National Health Service, the expansion of university education...”

“There was a lot of new music and ideas floating around... we were the first generation to be recreationally using drugs.” Linda pauses then laughs as she says, “It was my generation that really embraced drugs; we saw them as an exploration of higher consciousness... we thought we were revolutionaries who were going to remake the world into a radically different place.”

The ‘new world’ that Linda’s contemporaries imagined consisted of “fantastic music, fantastic fashion and fantastic ideas”. It was intended to be “so much better than the world of our parents.”

The notion that this new world lay just out of reach led to “a sort of explosion of radical ideas that our parents’ generation were very, very threatened by”.

Linda recollects a story which seems to sum up the trajectory of her

thoughts. “I was at a party five or six years ago,” she says. “It was a black tie event and this guy who had this iron-grey, well-cut hair and a really nice suit came over to me and said he’d also been to York [University]. He told he had been responsible for starting up Alligator, the health food bar”. The very place Linda and her friends used to hang out, based in Vanbrugh College.

When she asked him what he was doing now, he said he worked in advertising. Linda exclaims: “I just thought – how does someone go from the idealistic position of setting up a hippie health food store and then 35 years later you’re working in advertising?”

“My novels try to plot how people moved from that state of 1960s hippie idealism to being people on the verge of retirement with adult children and big houses and successful jobs.”

Far from leveraging an “attack on the 1960s generation” for their demise from hippie liberals to “smug hippie capitalists”, Linda says that her novels are intended to suggest that we have no control over our fate; instead it is dictated by the luck of circumstance and the consequences of apparently inconsequential decisions.



**“A ‘good night out’ at York back in the 1970s involved going to Vanbrugh College’s hippie whole-food snack bar, called Alligator”**

Her texts constitute a continuous effort to derive an answer to that all-enduring question of how and why we arrive at the present in the way we do. Her peers are not to blame she says, for the parts of the “revolution” which irredeemably failed; their failure was merely the consequence of minute decisions and actions, seemingly irrelevant at the time.

However, that is not to say Linda does not see significant gains have come from the 1960s. While the mass of liberal dreams chased by Linda’s generation may have failed, she says. “The feminist movement and the gay liberation movement were the true revolutions of the 1960s... both have had very significant long-range and long-lasting consequences.”

Linda’s focus in her literature on the feminist movement is certainly an interest influenced by her three years at York. Indeed, she belongs to the generation of women who were responsible for revolutionising sexual equality.

Linda’s first work of non-fiction, *Sexing the Millennium: Women and the Sexual Revolution* was published in 1993 and attempted to trace the path of women’s liberation.

She tells me that the York Women’s Action Group, set up by students in the year above her at York, was something she got involved in during her very first term. “We used to debate feminism late into the night,” she tells me. “Groups of 19-year-old girls sharing these ideas. There were only about four or five feminist books available to read at the time and we’d read them all.”

“I mean,” exclaims Linda, “my God, by the time we’d finished [university] there was a whole shelf full of feminist literature.”

She says that young women today are often oblivious to the changes initiated in the 1960s and merely see the women responsible as “stereotypical bra-burning, hairy-legged feminists” who achieved little. The amount of times she has heard an educated woman in her 30s ask, “The sexual revolution? I didn’t realise there’d been one,” is astonishing.

“If women today knew what the world was like before feminism, they’d be horrified,” she says.

Linda winning the Orange Prize for Fiction



### **“The feminist movement and the gay liberation movement were the true revolutions of the 1960s”**

Linda’s passion for the subject is evident in her changed tone of voice. “Before the original feminist movement in the 1960s, a married woman couldn’t get a credit card without her husband’s signature.”

There was also the difficulty of obtaining birth control.

“Until the pill, women had no control over their own fertility,” she says. And yet, even with the introduction of oral contraception, until the 1960s women had to provide proof of marriage or at the very least engagement before it would be prescribed. Thus, says Linda, “You had to rely on a man to use a condom and if he didn’t... well... forget it.”

In this respect, the achievements of the 1960s are unrivalled. Just ten years before Linda’s time, the majority of women who went to university would “just get married in their last term and never work again”.

She continues, “Women then just didn’t have the expectation they could go and do the same jobs as men. It was quite sickening really... a very different world from today.”

After I finish speaking to Linda, I flick back through her novels. The Linda Grant hallmarks of outsiders, immigrants, feminism and that enduring question of how and why the present is attained stand out stronger than ever. Delving into Linda’s conflicting and inconsistent past has allowed me to understand the origins of these persistent themes.

For Linda, ideas arise from the subconscious, the result of a myriad of influences past and present.

“Ideas come from absolutely everywhere and everything around you,” she tells me. “From people and friends who influence you to the everyday consequences of decisions you and those around you make.”



For further information on Linda’s novels visit [www.lindagrants.co.uk](http://www.lindagrants.co.uk)

*We had it so good* is available to purchase at all good book shops at RRP £14.99.



# Bringing ideas to life

Summer 2011 saw world-class speakers, exhibitions and performances brought together for the inaugural York Festival of Ideas.

Exhibition by the Irish photographer, John Minihan

**T**his exciting new collaboration between the University of York, the Theatre Royal, York Museums Trust and the National Centre for Early Music, explored links between the past and the present, connecting the city's heritage to contemporary art, ideas and culture. The theme for the 2011 Festival of Ideas programme was Samuel Beckett, the body, and the Bible.

The Festival, which featured over 24 events, included work from University students and staff, as well as visiting writers and performers. This inaugural event was launched to the public at a gala reception, with a talk and exhibition by the Irish photographer, John Minihan, at the spectacular new Ron Cooke Hub at Heslington East.

More than 700 people packed Central Hall the following week to hear the Nobel Laureate, J. M. Coetzee, read from his work in progress. Musical and theatrical performances included Anthony Minghella's *Two Planks and a Passion* at the Theatre Royal, Thomas Middleton's hilarious satire, *A Mad World, My Masters*, directed by University of York Professor Mike

Cordner, at the new theatre in the Department of Theatre, Film and Television, and *The Greatest Story Ever Told*, a unique blend of early Renaissance music and digital imagery, inspired by the Mystery Plays, at the National Centre for Early Music, produced by Dr Ambrose Field. At the York Art Gallery, Professor Mark Hallett, also from the University discussed William Etty's controversial reputation, whilst the 'Bring your Family Bible' event, modelled on Antiques Roadshow and hosted by Peter Miller at Spelman's Rare Books with Professor Bill Sherman from the Department of English and Related Literature at the University, produced a great deal of fascinating conversation and rare books, including a 1575 Bishops' Bible.

Festival events to mark the anniversary of the King James Bible were also included in the exhibition – *A Book Fit for a King*, at York Minster's Old Palace, and two projects for young people. More than 250 entries were received from 5-16 year olds in a competition organised by the Centre for Christianity and Culture to write and design Ten Commandments for the 21st century. The National Centre for Early Music and the University also ran an initiative with children at York primary schools to create their own art

inspired by woodcuts from the King James Bible (new parables include the story of the lost parrot and the parable of the Youtube millionaire!). At the Sensory Stories Café, a project which uses taste, sound, smell, sight and touch to present university research to the public, children made a variety of paintings inspired by David Hockney's *Bigger Trees near Warton* and sampled a mouthful of the Victorian gruel as served to Oliver Twist.

**“WATCH out Edinburgh, York is on the march”**  
**Stephen Lewis, *The Press***

The Festival aims to promote York as a city of ideas and innovation; it also provides an important vehicle for taking the University's research to new audiences. Plans are already being made for the 2012 Festival, the theme for which will be metamorphosis and transformation.

If you would like further information or are interested in becoming involved, please contact [alumni@york.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@york.ac.uk).

# Events notices – *dates for your diary*

## University lectures and events

- **27 October** – The Morrell Lecture
- **27 October** – Public Lecture by Alison Weir entitled ‘Elizabeth The virgin queen’
- **31 October** – Inaugural Lectures delivered by Professor Chris Kyriacou and Professor Leah Roberts (Education)
- **9 November** – Politics and the Media debate with Steve Richards and Helen Boaden
- **15 November** – ‘Infections and cancer: A brief history’ – a lecture by Dr Robert Newton
- **21 November** – Inaugural Lecture delivered by Professor Quentin Summerfield (Psychology)
- **23 November** – The Cantor Modern Art Lecture by actor Oliver Ford-Davies
- **28 November** – The Vice-Chancellor’s Lecture delivered by Baroness Mary Warnock
- **7 December** – Postgraduate Open Day
- **8 December at 6pm** – The Centre for the Study of Christianity and Culture Annual Lecture by Baron Melvyn Bragg entitled ‘The radical impact of the King James Bible 1611–2011’

## York Alumni Association (YAA) events

- **20 October** – YAA Boston, venue TBC
- **14 November** – Third Sector Professional Network Launch at The King’s Place, London
- **22 November** – Media, Journalism and PR Professional Network Launch at BAFTA, London
- **28 November** – Finance, Law and Management Professional Network Launch at PricewaterhouseCoopers, Embankment Place, London
- **3 November** – YAA Bangalore, India
- **6 November** – YAA Pune, India
- **8 November** – YAA Delhi, India
- **9 November** – YAA London new graduates event
- **November**, date TBC, YAA Manchester
- **November**, date TBC, YAA York
- **February 2012** – 50@50 – 50th anniversary awareness event
- **4–6 May 2012** – Roses 2012
- **15–17 June 2012** – Annual Alumni Reunion Weekend

## York Concert Series

- **26 October** – Christian Wallumrød Ensemble
- **2 November** – Baroque solo cantatas
- **9 November** – Quatuor Diotima
- **11 November** – Timecraft
- **16 and 17 November** – ‘Goodnight Gertrude’
- **23 November** – Danny Driver
- **30 November** – The 24
- **7 December** – University Symphony Orchestra
- **14 December** – University Choir
- **25 January 2012** – John Taylor
- **11 February 2012** – Lieder Day
- **15 February 2012** – Roy Howat
- **22 February 2012** – University Chamber Orchestra
- **7 March 2012** – University Choir and Northern Sinfonia
- **10 March 2012** – University Symphony Orchestra
- **5 May 2012** – Baroque Day
- **9 to 13 May 2012** – Spring Festival of New Music
- **16 May 2012** – Tim Lowe and James Baillieu
- **23 May 2012** – Gamelan Sekar Petak
- **8 June 2012** – Nish as Rish
- **20 June 2012** – Sir Jack Lyons Concert
- **27 June 2012** – University Choir and Symphony Orchestra

## International visits

- **15–30 October** – Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Hangzhou UKEAS Fair
- **29 November** – Bogota – Europosgrados Exhibition 24
- **19 November** – Delhi – British Council Education UK 12
- **30 September – 3 October** – Tokyo – British Council and Agent Fairs
- **19–21 October** – Amman – Bridge International
- **15–20 September** – Nairobi, Mombasa International Schools and Postgraduate Study Fairs
- **1–2 October** – Moscow – Education UK Exhibition
- **8–12 October** – Taipei, Hsinchu, Taichung, Tainan, Kaohsiung – UKEAS Tour
- **29–30 October** – Bangkok – OCSC International Education Expo
- **8–12 October** – Istanbul – IEFT Istanbul and School Visits
- **24 October** – Dubai – Global Vision Exhibitions
- **7–10 October** – Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh – UKEAS Tour

Visit [www.YorkSpace.net/events](http://www.YorkSpace.net/events) for more details and to book for alumni and University events.

# Media moguls

From *Nouse* to YSTV, York is well known for the talent it produces. Here **grapevine** looks back at the humble beginnings of student media on campus.

**The history of student newspapers at York is one of conflict and rivalry.**

**Almost half a century has passed since the founding of the first student newspaper at York – *Nouse*. Yet the battles and aspirations of the founders remain as alive as ever between the current editorial teams.**

*Nouse* was founded in 1964, a year after the opening of the University of York. The founding of *York Vision* came later, in 1987, born from a split in the *Nouse* editorial board.

The first edition of *Nouse* was published on 23 November 1964. The paper, founded by Politics and Sociology student, Richard Mann, started as no more than an A4 leaflet. The pages were printed with wall-to-wall text and by-lines were non-existent.

Richard told **grapevine**, “The University was still very new when we started *Nouse*. Students and administration were reacting to each other in ways heavily influenced by the mood of truculent freedom of the times,

as well as by the challenge of building what would become the University’s unique identity and traditions. At pan-university level we had the Student Representative Council and, to some extent, *Eboracum* magazine to reflect student opinion, but my year group felt we needed a newspaper to record the ongoing debate and emerging history as well as to make interventions on behalf of the student body – hence *Nouse*”.

According to Chris Perry (*English and History, Derwent, 1967*), a contributing writer on the original *Nouse* team, the paper’s name, was thought up by the Sub-Editor, Bryan Merton (*Politics, Langwith, 1967*) “in a boring Sociology lecture”. An article in *Nouse*’s first edition outlining its purpose stated: “The connotation of the Greek NOUS is intelligence or comprehension, OUSE is after the River Ouse, chosen to indicate our locality and if pronounced NOOZE this becomes in phonetic terms NEWS”.



Early days at URY

Peter Burley (*History, Langwith, 1970*), who worked as a general news reporter for the paper between 1968 and 1970, says, “We worked out of one room in Derwent College and sold the paper for three old pennies per issue”.

In the days long before the word processor Nick Cater (*Politics with Educational Studies, 1978*), who was Editor of *Nouse* from 1975 to 1978, recalls the basic technology as being “nothing more than typing up notes from a notebook”.

In the late 1980s however, a dispute between the *Nouse* editorial board led the Politics Editor, Mark Watts (*Sociology, Langwith, 1988*), to break away and form *York Vision*.





Mark spent the following year battling with the University of York's Student Union for funding for the new publication. Vision eventually qualified as a YUSU society and was granted funding of £2,500 a year.

According to Lawrence De'Ath (*Electronic Engineering, Derwent, 1989*), who worked on *Nouse* in 1986, the introduction of competition forced *Nouse* to up their game. He commented, "Whilst *Nouse* was on typewriters, *Vision* made use of the University computer and thus had a completely different style and could print and format text in a much more elegant way". Certainly, *Vision* aspired to produce a professional newspaper in the style of *The Sun*.

Thus, *Vision* was born. *Nouse* and *Vision* printed on alternate weeks, meaning that campus activities had constant media coverage.

While Lawrence says *Nouse* took a while to "wake up" to the new competition, they did eventually begin to fight back, re-branding themselves as a broadsheet newspaper, as opposed to *Vision's* tabloid appeal.

Until the 1990s both papers worked out of single rooms in Derwent College; today their offices are based in Vanbrugh College's Grimston House and publish on a thrice termly basis.

Competition between the newspapers is fierce. Indeed, their frequent success, as well as the success of the University radio station, URY, and TV station, YSTV (York Student Television), has given the University a reputation of media excellence.

URY, the campus radio station covering the University of York, was the first legal independent radio station in the United Kingdom, founded in 1967 by student Mike Greasley (*English with Philosophy, Derwent and Vanbrugh, 1968*).

The station was initially established to broadcast lectures and educational material as well as popular music. However, contemporary output is mainly entertainment-based. Frazer Sheppard (*Politics, Vanbrugh, 1981*), who was a Breakfast DJ for URY in 1981, and is now a Producer on the ITV show *Countrywise*,

recalls that the station was "no more than a couple of Portakabins in Derwent" during his time at York. URY now broadcasts 24 hours a day during term-time, and the station's long-running news programme *York Report* at 6pm remains a pivotal part of the evening schedule.

YSTV is officially England's oldest student television station. According to Lawrence De'Ath, who worked on the station in its early days, up until the 1980s, YSTV was "based in a broom cupboard behind one of the giant lecture theatres in a science building".

Lawrence continued, "Our studio was literally built by electronics students in their spare time. The kit and equipment was either begged, borrowed or built".

This is vastly different to the contemporary YSTV which began to broadcast live in 2006. All of its content is now available on demand on its website.

Today, as in the 1980s, YSTV is highly reputable within the media industry. According to Lawrence, "Back in the 1980s, the BBC was practically coming to YSTV to hire people. The technical and production people would put it on their CVs and easily get jobs in the media."

The quality of student media at York is renowned and York is well known for the awards it receives. Since the editorship of Heidi Blake (*English and Politics, Alcuin, 2008*), in 2005, *Nouse* has been named *Best Student Newspaper* at the NUS National Student Journalism Awards, and runner-up at the *Guardian* Student Newspaper Awards. In 2007, Heidi was named *Guardian Student Journalist of the Year, Best Features Writer and Best Diversity Writer*. *Nouse's* success continued until 2009 when it again won the Best Student Media award in the NUS Awards and then-Editor Henry James Foy (*English with Philosophy, Derwent, 2010*) was shortlisted for *Journalist of the Year*.

Rivalry is still fierce between the two papers, each winning awards as in 2007 *Vision* won *Best Student Newspaper* at the *Guardian* Student Media Awards, and was again nominated in 2010. Current editor Daniel Goddard (*Economics, James*) was nominated for Best Reporter in the same year. In 2010 the URY News



Team were awarded the Silver Award for *Best Journalistic Programming* for the second year running.

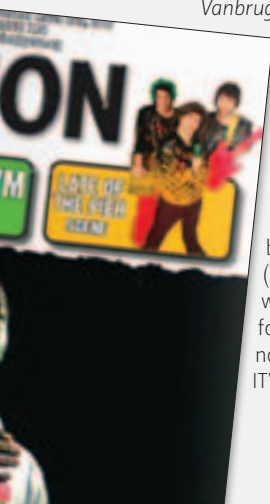
York has produced a number of notable journalists to date. *Nouse* Editor Henry James Foy, is now a correspondent with Reuters international news agency in New Delhi. He was recently listed in *Foreign Policy* magazine's Top 100 foreign-policy tweeters. Heidi Blake went on to write for the *Daily Telegraph* and was responsible for the recent Vince Cable 'sting'. Anthony Horowitz (*English, Vanbrugh, 1977*), English novelist and screenwriter, was Editor of *Nouse* back in the 1980s. *Vision* has also produced a number of notable names, including Stephen Curran (*Mathematics, Vanbrugh, 1999*) – one of Britain's most notable games journalists.

#### Where are they now?

Numerous alumni have been a part of the student media teams at York, so many in fact that we couldn't list everyone here. Visit [www.YorkSpace.net/gv\\_mediaalumni](http://www.YorkSpace.net/gv_mediaalumni) and add your name and memories to the list of alumni who have been part of these publications.

#### A word from the current editors...

Log on to [www.YorkSpace.net/gv\\_editorcomment](http://www.YorkSpace.net/gv_editorcomment) to hear from the current editors of *Nouse*, *Vision*, YSTV and URY.



# Building our future

**P**hilanthropy has played an important role in the success of our first 50 years and, with alumni help, the University can do more. York is a young university in terms of legacy support, without the reserves that are available to some older established institutions. In the future, we know that this form of income will become increasingly important.

More and more donors are choosing to give a legacy pledge to demonstrate their support. As the University is a charity, bequests to York are tax efficient. Making a bequest offers the chance to make a transformational impact beyond a lifetime and an active way to help the University build for our future and realise the potential of tomorrow's brilliant minds.

## Heslington Circle

York is pleased to announce the launch of the Heslington Circle to recognise the tremendous importance with which we view legacy pledges by our alumni and friends.

The Heslington Circle is our means of expressing our gratitude and appreciation to those who inform us that they intend to help the University by provision in their will.

The Circle will hold an annual event each September to say thank you and share our exciting plans for the future. As part of the Circle, the University will also keep you informed of developments within the University and you will receive invitations to on-campus events.

To let us know that you have made a gift in your will, please email [susie.fothergill@york.ac.uk](mailto:susie.fothergill@york.ac.uk) and we will keep you up-to-date with Heslington Circle activities.

## Why write a will?

**Richard Watson, a Director in Crombie Wilkinson Solicitors LLP in York, friend of the University and Legator, gives grapevine readers the benefit of his advice:**

It might seem very unsettling, even morbid, to contemplate a will so that, while many go through the first stage of planning one, they so often soon grind to a halt. The reality of the situation is quite the converse: once they have completed the will, there is a feeling of relief, a sense that a box can be ticked and the huge reassurance that they have left things sorted for the future.

So what are the pitfalls of not having a will? The first relates to the speed with which those left can access the assets of an Estate. A will usually appoints an Executor whose role is to step into the shoes of the deceased. While it may be necessary to get a Grant of Probate for dealing with large assets in an Estate, an Executor takes their authority from the will and they have the power to act immediately. From a practical point of view, it is so useful to have somebody to take decisions straight away. The stark contrast of intestacy is that no one has authority to act until a Grant of Letters of Administration is obtained. Even with a straightforward Estate, this is going to take months.

From a testator's perspective, making a will means choice as it gives them an ability to create a framework to pass on money and assets as is appropriate. Typically, in a 'couple' situation, the first call is to ensure that the survivor is adequately provided for. Once that aspect has been dealt with, if there are children, normally a testator will want to provide for them or their issue.

The contrasting situation of intestacy is that statute dictates who in the family inherits. By definition, this 'one size fits all' invariably leads to problems for those left behind. For instance, in the case of one of a young couple dying, leaving young children, far too little money may go to the surviving parent and too much to the young children and, perhaps, the most glaring problem of all is the fact that intestacy does not recognise the position of the unmarried partner, notwithstanding the duration of any relationship and that there is financial dependency. The only avenue open to such a partner then is to make an application to the Court under the Inheritance Act; at best, this is cumbersome, time-consuming and expensive and, at worst, it

can create damaging family rows. Apart from family considerations, a will allows a testator to make other gifts in recognition of what has been important in their life. Charitable giving is very important to many and one of the advantages is that it is a fantastic way to save Inheritance Tax. The bottom line is that for every thousand pounds given to charity, the cost to an Estate paying Inheritance Tax is merely £600 and, if we value the work which charities do, what better destination than to

remember them when we are no more?  
Visit [www.YorkSpace.net/legacy](http://www.YorkSpace.net/legacy) for details.



## Why I left a bequest...

*"Making a legacy is above all an act of trust and a sign of confidence. Nearly 50 years on from joining the fledgling University, I can see that it has grown and developed in ways that justify the dream of its founding fathers and I am absolutely sure that money bequeathed to it will be in safe hands and wisely deployed on the coming generations of undergraduates who need it even more badly than ever."*

Christopher Perry  
(English and History, Derwent, 1967)

*"Nurturing ability and talent has always been important to me. It was a natural choice for me to leave a legacy to help individual students attending my University. Learning about the various hardships facing particular groups, I am pleased to have indicated that my legacy should be used to offer practical support to young people taking a first degree from low income backgrounds. The University will manage the funds and I have been able to direct my gift to an area which is important to me."*

Diane Cook  
(Politics and History, Goodricke, 1971)



If you would like to make a gift to the University visit [www.YorkSpace.net/legacy](http://www.YorkSpace.net/legacy) for more information or contact Susie Fothergill directly at [susie.fothergill@york.ac.uk](mailto:susie.fothergill@york.ac.uk).



# Conserving the future

Two York alumni are working to protect the buildings of the past and safeguard the construction of the future.

**A**s any student, tourist or resident would attest, much of York's undeniable charm lies in its stunning architecture, from the towering spires of the Minster to the winding Roman walls that still encircle part of the centre today, spanning centuries and telling the story of a city and its inhabitants through bricks and mortar.

It is perhaps no wonder then, that a university that lives and breathes

among the city of York's history attracts some of the brightest and best in the field of architectural conservation to study the art of preserving the past and protecting the future.

"Stewards of world cultural heritage protect and conserve the history of the built environment created by mankind over millennia," says Kim Lovejoy, Vice President and Restoration Project Director at EverGreene Architectural Arts, and a 1990 graduate of the University of York's MA programme in Conservation Studies.

"People find deep meaning in connections to place, time and ancestors, even as societies propel forward with innovations in structure, materials and architectural expression."

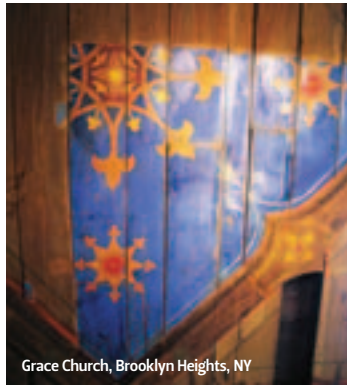
"Conservation is a process by which we transmit history to future generations," says Susan Macdonald, Head of Field Projects for the Getty Conservation Institute and a 1996 graduate of the same programme.

"Our built environment is the physical evidence of past achievements. So as well as ensuring that we can pass on this evidence of human endeavour, we are also contributing to a sustainable environment."

For both the alumni, living and studying among the decay of historic architecture and landscapes, and learning from specialists how they are



Before and after conservation at St. Matthews Cathedral, Washington



Grace Church, Brooklyn Heights, NY



Mural, Harlem Hospital, NY



Restored city council chambers, Yonkers, NY

managing conservation in buildings around them, were huge bonuses of the York course, and major influences on their understanding of architectural history and conservation theory.

“Touring the rooftop of Westminster Abbey with the architect and going to the woodwork shop of a master craftsman in York sure beats sitting in a lecture hall and looking at fuzzy black and white photos in books in the United States,” Kim laughs.

“I remember being flummoxed on an assignment to address structural issues at a small Gothic parish church in York centre, compared to students who were practising historic architects,” she recalls.

“York is a beautiful and important city historically and a wonderful laboratory for learning about conservation,” Susan agrees.

“The environment there is perfect for someone studying this subject.”

And there is no doubt that Susan and Kim’s extensive success in their respective careers has a lot to do with their time at the University.

“York provided me with a great network of professional colleagues and friends that span the globe – past students and teachers. It also provided me with a well-recognised higher degree which has been important to my professional standing,” says Susan.

“My thesis provided a stepping stone to develop an emerging area of conservation practice and led to a number of opportunities. Overall, York was extremely important to my career.”

Kim concurs: “Over the years I published scores of technical

articles, and the curriculum from the York course was often a reference in my research.

“Welcoming clergy and Evensong at York Minster led me to become interested in the Episcopal Church. It’s no coincidence that I’ve been deeply involved in the restoration of Gothic Revival-style Episcopal churches in New York City in recent years,” she recalls.

Kim came to York after an undergraduate degree in history of architecture and urban design at Harvard, and an MA from Boston University in Preservation Studies. Susan was studying in Rome, and when offered a six-month stint at York in 1996 to complete her MA in Built Heritage, she jumped at the chance.

“I had been living and working in London for a number of years by

that stage and so it seemed a great opportunity to complete my MA. I had already attended a number of short courses at the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies (IoAAS) which were terrific and their MA programme is well regarded internationally – so it seemed too good to miss,” she says.

Susan works closely with two other York alumni from the conservation programme, Thomas Roby (*Conservation Studies, 1987*) and Gionata Rizzi (*Conservation Studies, Wentworth, 1991*), who both teach the Rome course that led her to York in the first place.

“I meet alumni all over the place: Canada, Australia, Italy, USA and India for example, all doing great work. The wonderful Michael Stratton, who was my thesis supervisor at IoASS, involved me in various initiatives related to the conservation of modern buildings and I was able to gain his help in things we were doing at English Heritage at that time,” says Susan.

Both alumni boast glittering CVs that speak of an international career of architectural conservation, and put them at the forefront of a growing debate on the importance of preserving the buildings of the past, and of ensuring the longevity of those



Alumna Kim Lovejoy

***“York is a beautiful and important city historically and a wonderful laboratory for learning about conservation”***

built in the present, and the future.

“We can’t just discard everything from the past; that would be environmentally irresponsible, but also just think of some of the most beautiful places you have been to and what makes them special,” says Susan.

“Each generation creates its buildings in a way that reflects the technology and ideals of the day. The practice of creating today’s architecture is extremely important too.

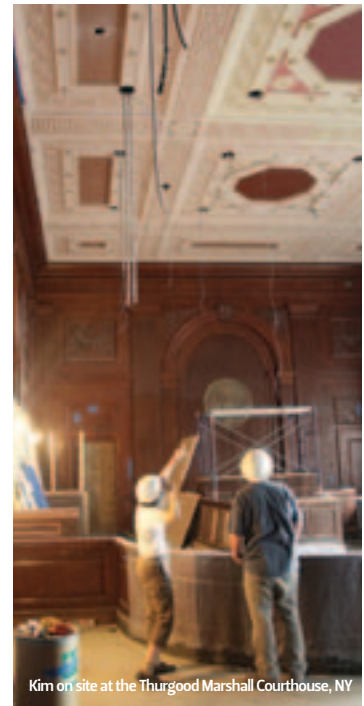
“I have always loved historic buildings; there is something about their grace and sense of history that has appealed to me. I also love modern design. Perhaps that’s why I ended up being interested in conserving modern architecture – it is the bridge between the past, present and future,” Susan adds.

That’s a view shared by Kim, whose firm, EverGreene, has worked on some of the most iconic buildings in the United States, including the Waldorf-Astoria Ballroom in New York, and 37 state buildings across the country.

“Our mission is to make the fine art and architectural ornament in landmark civic buildings, houses of



Conserving original decoration, Park Avenue Armory, NY



Kim on site at the Thurgood Marshall Courthouse, NY

worship, theatres and museums look its best so that people will feel a sense of awe and civic pride.

“Key principles are to research and test materials and methods that are compatible with historic materials and construction, and ‘do no harm’ – that is, avoid treatments that people in 30 years will complain about,” explains Kim.

And her advice for future architectural conservationists is to check every single detail about how the building is constructed.

“In your career, it’s important to pay close attention to learning the practical business of maintaining buildings: construction costs, contracts, schedules, logistics, safety, funding sources and politics. Be an advocate for good conservation practices that are practical and durable,” she says.

The striking contrast between the University of York’s buildings in the centre of the city, such as the 15th century King’s Manor and the grey 1960s buildings that dominate the main campus, makes for an interesting case study in their field.

“A lot of people think architecture from the 20th century is less beautiful than older buildings,” says Susan.

“The Centre of Conservation Studies was located in the King’s Manor – in the centre of the historic city – so I did not spend time on the 1960s campus. Nevertheless perhaps people are beginning to reappraise it now that architecture from the second half of the 20th century is becoming appreciated,” she adds.

“I think it is important as a society to decide which of those exceptional places from the past we want to keep in a more strategic way,” continues Susan.

“We often leave it too late and so are only having the discussion as the wrecking ball is about to swing. That way we can conserve the best rather than what is left over.”

But both agree that modern architecture doesn’t have to mean functional, practical and uninspiring blocks of steel and cement.

“The continuing evolution of architecture and the decorative arts results in landmark-quality buildings for each period,” argues Kim, who worked on a project to refinish the interiors of Alvar Aalto’s Kaufmann



Alumna Susan Macdonald  
Photo: Dennis Keeley. Used with permission of the Getty Conservation Institute

## ***“Architects saw modernism as a means to societal advancement. It was aspiration”***

Conference Center, built in 1964 opposite the United Nations complex in Manhattan.

“There are some incredibly beautiful modern buildings around, buildings that exploited new advances in engineering and material technologies – the Sydney Opera House is an example,” says Susan.

“Architects saw modernism as a means to societal advancement. It was aspiration. Like buildings of any era there are successes and failures and time will prove which of those works are able to sustain these ideals over time.”

Susan’s current work spans the globe, from Egypt to China, Morocco to South Africa. She’s assisting Jordan and Iraq to develop a web-based system to manage cultural heritage sites for the national authorities, and is developing techniques for historic earthen buildings in Peru to cope with seismic movements.

For Kim, the focus is on projects in the US, including conservation of murals in the rotunda of the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

A highlight of Susan’s career was her role as project director of the team that oversaw the addition of the Sydney Opera House, perhaps the most celebrated piece of modern

architecture, to the World Heritage list. It’s no wonder that she cites it as her favourite piece of architecture.

“It was a fantastic moment when the Sydney Opera House was inscribed on the heritage list,” recalls Susan.

“It is an incredibly beautiful building designed by a master architect and with a huge number of highly talented engineers, builders and craftspeople. Its construction is a great story and the building is symbolic of Australia’s emerging distinct cultural identity,” she says.

“It holds a special place in my heart – I get a thrill every time I enter the building or stand in the foyer with a glass of champagne looking out over Sydney Harbour during the intermission of a performance.”

For Kim, each new project brings its own special experience: “As New York Philharmonic conductor Alan Gilbert said when asked which was his favourite Beethoven symphony: ‘the one I’m conducting now’.”

For more information on the Centre of Conservation Studies visit:  
[www.york.ac.uk/archaeology](http://www.york.ac.uk/archaeology).

**R**esponsible for revolutionising children's science writing, Nick Arnold author of the award-winning series of children's science books, *Horrible Science*, graduated from York in 1984. Nick's books are on sale in over 40 countries worldwide and have sold over 15 million copies.

# HORRIBLE SCIENCE



An interview with alumnus Nick Arnold on his award-winning children's science books

In 2009 Nick Arnold became the first children's author ever to win the prestigious science literacy award, the Thompson Reuters Record Award for Communicating Science. He has transformed a subject previously presented in children's literature as a list of dull facts to learn by heart, into an explosively colourful, entertaining and, crucially, educational topic. Yet Nick did not study science at university. He graduated from York with a degree in History and went on to take a PhD in the same subject. "As a child I was always interested in things that were dramatic and gruesome," he says, "so I gravitated towards studying history." But, he explains to **grapevine**, his interest in science derives from his dad: "He was a doctor so indirectly I took an interest in medicine."

He continues, "I had a natural passion for books and writing which my parents certainly didn't discourage. When I was at York, if I imagined myself writing books it was as a writer of history books."

How then, precisely, has Nick ended up as the author of an internationally selling empire of science literature? "By accident," he suggests.

"After I graduated I wanted to work in publishing but, like today, jobs were scarce. After a while searching,

I was offered one with a publisher of children's science books."

This job led to a 'eureka moment' where Nick realised "just how interesting science was". Soon he was commissioned to write a children's book called *Horrible Science*.

Did Nick have any notion of just how successful the *Horrible Science* series was going to be? "I certainly saw it as the beginning of my writing career," he says, "but I never imagined it would be so successful."

He continues: "I'd dreamed of being a writer since I was eight. Just being able to write was a reward. Any money or success that came with it was a bonus."

Has Nick's lack of training in the academic field of science ever hindered him in his writing?

"When you are writing science for a younger audience it's surprisingly helpful **not** to have a science background," he says.

"Because I'm learning myself whilst I'm writing a science book, I gain a unique insight into science that helps me communicate it in a clear and accessible way for young readers."

He continues: "Obviously I have a good working knowledge of science and can certainly hold my own in a

scientific debate. A children's science writer should certainly not be ignorant."

Nick believes it is "more of a challenge" for science academics to write for children. "To write for children you have to put yourself in their shoes. It's difficult for academics to remove themselves so far from the complexities of their subject and do this."

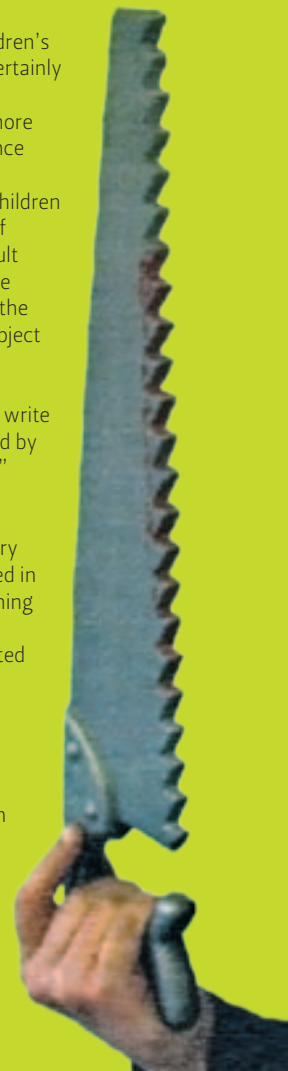
Nonetheless, Nick confirms, "Every word I write about science is checked by a professional scientist."

Nick believes his presentation of science as an entertaining literary genre should be reflected in the contemporary teaching of science in schools.

"If science is presented to kids as a series of long words to learn, it will not be attractive to them," he says.

"The crucial thing about science education for the younger age group is to inspire children's imagination."

Nick believes that





if children are inspired by science at a young age, they will want to learn more. This, he says, "will certainly create strong science departments in schools. The best teachers understand this. I've seen this method of teaching implemented and it does work."

Nick's work also extends to teaching science in schools, and although not a scientist by profession, he has attained respect from the academic science community for his work.

He recently became the first children's science author ever to win the ultimate science literacy award, the Thompson Reuters Record Award for Communicating Science. According to Nick, the award "meant a great deal" to him because it "was wonderful to be recognised by practising scientists".

He believes the award also represents recognition of the importance of

## **"Because I'm learning myself whilst I'm writing a science book, it helps me communicate science in a clear and accessible way for young readers"**

children's science education. "Children's science writing is often regarded as being outside what science is all about; not a serious topic," he says.

"This award demonstrates recognition of how important children's science is and how crucial it is to keep talking about science to keep it alive in the next generation."

So what are Nick's future plans? Will he keep writing *Horrible Science* or do new alternative projects lie on the horizon?

"I wouldn't want to write hundreds of *Horrible Science* books," he says. "The idea would be overloaded." Instead he "would love to write history books for children".

The next project on Nick's horizon is not aimed at a British audience. He is writing a *Horrible Science* book aimed at Chinese readers. "I was the first British author to tour

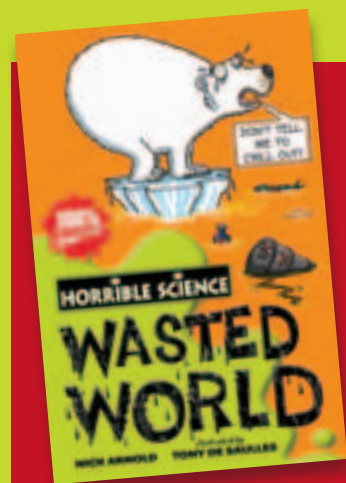
China and *Horrible Science* was very popular there," he says.

He continues, "China is a vast country which is changing very fast. My book is about global warming... the information and characters are designed to appeal to Chinese readers and I hope it will have an impact in the future."

Nick admits that a definite achievement of his work has been the happiness it has brought to so many children. He is "particular pleased" when he receives an email from a scientist saying if it hadn't been for his books they wouldn't be in science now.

For a man with no formal education in the sciences, who merely wanted to write books, Nick has done well and he's not finished yet. "I've travelled along the road but not gone as far as I want to go."

"Writing," according to Nick, "is a road and a process, never an aim in itself."



For more information on Nick and his books visit his interactive website at [www.nickarnold-website.com](http://www.nickarnold-website.com).

**T**he University of York has a long history of supporting sport at all levels, from British University and Colleges Sports competitions to inter-college matches and of course, the casual sportsman.

Historically, student elite athletes have struggled, unaided, to balance academic challenges with the demands of their chosen sport. Now, thanks to support from alumni through the York Annual Fund, the University of York Sports Scholarship Programme has been created to enable these athletes to successfully combine their academic and sporting demands throughout their time at the University.

This three-year pilot programme, which launched in 2010/11, provides support tailored to the needs of the individual, providing financial support for equipment, injury treatment, coaching and competition expenses. There is also a support team headed by a performance manager, who can help them achieve their sporting goals.

To qualify for the award of a Sports Scholarship athletes had to show they had competed at junior international level at their chosen sport and have a desire to progress to higher

levels. The first four elite athletes were chosen from applications that came from sports ranging from skiing to lacrosse.

There is no doubt that all have benefited from the ability to compete in high level competitions around the country as well as gaining access to support specific to their sport, additional training and new equipment.

#### **Katherine Gracey (Physics, 2011)**

Katherine is an international fencer who has just returned from competing in the Commonwealth Championships. Katherine fences for the University team and fences internationally for Northern Ireland with aspirations to compete for Great Britain. Katherine is currently ranked in the country's top 50.

#### **Louise Highton (current Medical student)**

Louise is an international fencer who has competed for Great Britain Juniors. Louise fences for the University team and has aspirations to move up to the Great Britain Senior Team.

#### **David Tee (current Chemistry student)**

David is an international skier and a member of the England Alpine Ski Team. David has won numerous junior titles and is a member of the University ski team.



Katherine Gracey and Louise Highton



Charlotte Austwick

#### **Charlotte Austwick (current Accounting, Business Finance and Management student)**

Charlotte is a golfer who has desires to turn professional on completion of her studies. Charlotte finished second in the English Girls Championships and was the top English player in the recent Ladies Junior Open in Scotland.

# SPORT AT YORK

Elite Athlete Sports Scholarship Programme

Student David Tee in action

## THE KEY TO SUCCESS

# Interview with... Sam Asfahani, SU Sport President

By Hannah Clugston (current English student)

**U**nderneath an American football kit, stationery, sheets of paper, photos and newspaper clippings, I find Sam Asfahani, sitting in the midst of the mess and also success.

He's done it all, but instead of hanging up his shoes, Sam has taken on the role of President of York Sport for another year. What could have induced him to do that?

He explains: "The thing I found hardest is that so much you want to do in the Students' Union takes more than a year, and I'd started a lot of things that I wanted to see finished. I was very happy with what we'd done so far, but I wanted to make sure other projects were completed. And to be honest, I love the job! Out of all the jobs in the SU, being President of York Sport is the one where you really get to engage with students the most. Every Wednesday afternoon and every Wednesday night, I am training with the clubs and going down to the college sport events. The nature of the role means you are talking to students pretty much non-stop and I didn't really want to lose that aspect."

It is clear that his passion for the job runs parallel with this year's triumph by the University of York at the annual sporting battle with Lancaster University, the Roses. "What I'm proudest of is organising the Roses rugby match to take place at the home of rugby league team, York City Knights. That's something we've been working on for two and a half years now, he says."

Sam is still humble, even in this overt admission of pride, attributing the stadium sell-out to the support of

students. "We had over 1,500 people there; it showed to me how much people do actually get behind sport at key moments. That was a great event and people turned out en masse to support our boys in the rugby."

This year's Roses victory also sits comfortably in a stream of achievement by York's sports teams. "We've had a really successful year. Our clubs have performed brilliantly over the season and carried it through to Roses," he says.

Although the Roses trophy is safely back in York, Sam still has plenty of work to do. The University is currently building a major £9m sports development called York Sports Village and Sam is working with the University to make sure it opens on schedule in summer 2012. "The SU and the University are working hard to ensure that the clubs get what they want and that this sporting provision is the best it can be. Whether it's by reducing costs, improving facilities or increasing support, current projects and those in the pipeline, will revolutionise our sporting environment," says Sam.

Asking him to describe the new York Sports Village is like asking a child about Disneyland: "The biggest thing is going to be the swimming pool. It'll be the first time in our history that we have one. It means four or five of our clubs will be able to come back onto campus and means we can encourage more people to take up water sports because they don't have to travel so far."

The development will also feature a 100-station gym, three further five-a-side pitches and a full-size 3G astro turf pitch, something Sam promised when he first ran for President of York Sport. "It's going to completely revolutionise sport at York," he says.

From 2012 Sam has also ensured



Sam with Chancellor Greg Dyke, accepting the Roses Cup

students can enjoy York Sport free of charge, all while improving current training and drawing students into new sports, "We're trying to implement a coaching network so that we can improve the quality of things like college sports. That way we can encourage people to try out new sports and get proper coaching to increase participation."

So what's his secret? Why does Sam continue to succeed in his role? "I think the biggest thing you need is approachability. Understanding that every club is different as well, there's no blanket answer to all of them. And experience, I don't think you could do this job without having already run a sports club yourself, because in the end you're trying to command the respect of 60 presidents," he concludes.

With his three keys to success, approachability, understanding and experience, where will Sam go once his second term is through? On to sport of course!



# Managing angina

*York research group  
gets to the heart of  
the matter*

**Dramatic results have been achieved in rehabilitation programmes devised by York Cardiac Care Research Group to help patients improve their diet and lifestyle, and slow the progression of coronary disease.**

A recent review conducted by Professor Bob Lewin of York's Department of Health Sciences found that over 5,000 more patients received cardiac rehabilitation in 2008 than in the previous two years. This increase is due to a large degree to the research group's combined efforts to both raise patient awareness about this service, and to help monitor the cardiac rehabilitation levels of service through the annual audit and resulting report.

The group plays a leading role in developing rehabilitation programmes for cardiac diseases. The Angina Plan, a home-based rehabilitation programme, is now running across the UK and is promoted through NHS hospitals, GP surgeries and clinics. The programme includes a self-help goal-setting manual for patients and the distance training of nursing staff to support them as facilitators. The Angina Plan is currently used in 63 NHS facilities, ranging from primary care clinics to rapid access chest pain clinics, and around 1,000 facilitators are now employed on the project.

A randomised controlled trial conducted among 142 patients with newly diagnosed angina, compared the self-managed Angina Plan with a routine, practice nurse-led educational session. Patients following the Angina Plan were found to have 43% fewer angina episodes as well as a reduction in symptoms, including anxiety and depression.

As a result of the study, the Angina Plan is now included in the clinical pathway for the management of stable angina, set by the Scottish Intercollegiate Guideline Network (SIGN). It is also referred to in the European guidelines for the management of stable angina as a programme shown to improve outcomes.

As a clinical psychologist with expertise in cognitive-behavioural treatments, chronic



Professor Bob Lewin

***“Our group’s main focus is to develop and evaluate methods of helping patients change their lifestyle, achieve effective self-management of their illness and reduce their risk of future heart disease”***

disease management and health behaviour change, Professor Lewin, who leads the British Heart Foundation Care and Education Research Group, has a unique approach to developing effective self-management programmes.

“Our group’s main focus is to develop and evaluate methods of helping patients change their lifestyle, achieve effective self-management of their illness and reduce their risk of future heart disease,” he says. Through various booklets, manuals and multimedia monitoring tools patients are encouraged to set

realistic aims about introducing health improving behaviours in their lives, such as a more active lifestyle, better diet and deeper understanding of their condition for themselves and their carers.

Heart disease affects an estimated 2.6 million people in the UK. In response to demographic changes and the growing burden of chronic diseases associated with a western lifestyle, governments around the world have started to focus on improving patients’ self-management of their illness. As a result of this growing trend towards self-management, the research group is involved in both primary research and advising and supporting developments at national and international levels.

Working closely with the British Heart Foundation which is funding a large part of the research, the group has developed and evaluated chronic disease management interventions through randomised controlled trials. For example, another member of the research group, Jill Pattenden, is supervising two British Heart Foundation project evaluations. The first, Heart Matters, is an online lifestyle check programme which aims to support people in adopting healthy behaviour. Over 19,000 people have registered online and completed the check since January 2010. The second evaluation, Hearty Lives, is a major British Heart Foundation programme, designed to reduce health inequalities in 11 deprived areas of Britain.

The research group also runs the National Audit of Cardiac Rehabilitation, linking the majority of the cardiac rehabilitation programmes in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in a patient-level audit of processes and outcomes. It shows locally and nationally what these services are achieving and identifies any problems of inequitable provision for particular sections of the population.

According to Professor Lewin, “Using our data the British Heart Foundation has campaigned very successfully to bring an awareness of the problems of provision to Parliament and the Department of Health, resulting in a number of actions at the policy level; our audit will be able to record if any improvements reach the patients.”

# Alumni publications

Jeffrey Rozelaar (*History and Politics, 1966*) **Ticket to Yesterday**

NF AB

Dr John Charlton (*History and Politics, Derwent, 1970*) **Don't you hear the H Bomb's Thunder?**

NF

Juliet Ash (*English, Langwith, 1971*) **Dress Behind Bars: Prison Clothing as Criminality**

NF R

Jane Brooke (*Sociology and Economic History, Vanbrugh, 1972*) **A Darker Night**

F

Dr Iain Edgar (*Philosophy, Alcuin, 1970*) **The Dream in Islam: from Qur'anic Interpretation to Jihadist Inspiration**

NF R

Dr John Heeley (*Sociology, 1972*) **York: a premier league European tourist destination?**

NF R

Roger Boyle (*Mathematics, Alcuin, 1975*) **ISE Image Processing, Analysis and Machine Vision**

NF R

Rama Kant Agnihotri (*Linguistics, Vanbrugh, 1979*) **Problematizing Language Studies – Cultural, Theoretical and Applied Perspectives: essays in honor of Rama Kant Agnihotri**

NF R

Ms Anna Halager (*Linguistics, Vanbrugh, 1981*) **Volume I: Andersen, Hans Christian: Shadow Pictures from a Journey to the Harz Mountains, Saxon Switzerland**

R

Dr Michael Thomas (*Chemical Education, Alcuin, 1981*) **Lorica Segmentata, a Catalogue of Finds**

NF R

Dr Sean Gabb (*History, Alcuin, 1982*) **Blood of Alexandria**

F

Jonathan Crichton (*Philosophy, Wentworth, 1983*) **The Discourse of Commercialisation and Discourses of Deficit**

NF

Nicola Baird (*Politics, Derwent, 1986*) **Homemade Kids: thrifty, creative and eco-friendly ways to raise children**

R

Dr Paul (Oz) Hardwick, (*English and Art, Langwith, 1992*) **English Misericords: The Margins of Meaning**

F

Dr Catherine Davis (*Housing Studies, Goodricke, 1993*) **Housing: did it have to be like this? A socialist critique of New Labour's performance**

NF R

Ruth Eastham (*Chemistry, Langwith, 1993*) **The Memory Cage**

F

Elizabeth Evenden (*English, Goodricke, 1994*) **Religion and the Book in Early Modern England: The Making of John Foxe's 'Book of Martyrs'**

NF R

Dr David Severs (*History, Goodricke, 1994*) **Bedale's Clockmakers**

NF R

Dr Jonathan Davies (*Public Administration and Public Policy, Langwith, 1996*) **Critical Urban Studies**

NF R

Simon Swift (*Philosophy and Politics, Vanbrugh, 1996*) **Black Shadows**

F

Dr Alessandro Ferrara (*Economics, Alcuin, 1997*) **Controlling Shadow Prices in Multi-Level Government**

NF R

Matthew Reed (*Politics, Goodricke, 2002*) **The Bad Boys of Cricket**

NF

Craig Fox (*History and Politics, Wentworth, 2004*) **Everyday Klansfolk: White Protestant Life and the KKK in 1920s Michigan**

NF R

Anna Piela (*Women's Studies, Wentworth, 2010*) **Muslim Women Online: Faith and Identity in Virtual World**

NF R

Publications included on this page have been submitted by alumni during 2010/11 and are listed by graduation year. Visit [www.YorkSpace.net/alumni-in-print](http://www.YorkSpace.net/alumni-in-print) for full details on all on the alumni books listed here and for details on how to submit your own publication.

# Alumni notices and news

## Professional Networks launch dates

You may have read about our new Professional Networks programme on page 19. The launch of the initial three networks takes place in November – visit [www.YorkSpace.net/profnetworks](http://www.YorkSpace.net/profnetworks) for further details. The initial three networks include the following sectors:

- **Finance, Management and Law** (including banking, politics and business) held at PriceWaterhouseCoopers on 28 November
- **Media, Journalism and PR** (including television, performance and broadcasting) held at BAFTA on 22 November
- **Third Sector** (including charities, voluntary and non-profit organisations and social enterprises) held at The King's Place on 14 November

To express your interest in attending, visit [www.YorkSpace.net/events](http://www.YorkSpace.net/events).

## Careers – call for alumni support

The Careers Service would love to hear from you if you are currently working in any of the following sectors and would like to take part in our networking events to support current students in their career planning:

- Politics – February 2012
- Life Sciences – March 2012
- Publishing and Journalism – March 2012
- Third Sector – May 2012
- Advertising, Marketing and PR – May 2012

If you are interested, or would like to find out more, please contact [alumni@york.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@york.ac.uk).

### Thank you to...



**Lesley Wild**, Chairman of Bettys & Taylors, who kindly hosted a recent event for alumni and friends in Bettys Café Tea Rooms. The event was followed by a networking event at the Biltmore Bar in York which was well received by over 70 local alumni. The next York event

will take place in late October. Look out for your invite to an alumni event near you as we will be hosting further alumni city group events throughout 2011/12. Visit [www.YorkSpace.net/events](http://www.YorkSpace.net/events) for further details.

### Apologies to...

**John Scott** (*English Literature, Alcuin, 1993*) who featured in the last issue of **grapevine** in the article 'University days', about his book *University at Last!* We accidentally referenced the wrong course, college and year.

### Congratulations to...

**Sara Davies** (née Johnson) (*Management, Derwent, 2006*) who won the Ernst & Young Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year 2010 for her business Crafters Companion.

**Toby Sharp** (*Mathematics, Goodricke, 1996*) from the Microsoft Research Cambridge team who has won the Royal Academy of Engineering MacRobert Award.

**Dr Andrea Saenz-Arroyo** (*Environmental Economics and Management, Vanbrugh, 2005*) who has been selected as a recipient of a 2011 Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation, which is annually awarded to outstanding global leaders who are working to preserve and protect the world's oceans and marine species.

**Joanna Moody** (*PhD English Literature, Langwith, 1990*) who was one of three editors awarded the Ezra Pound Society Book Prize by the prestigious Ezra Pound Society of America 2011 for *Ezra Pound to his Parents: Letters 1895 – 1929*.

**Thomas Ransley** (*History of Art, Halifax, 2007*) – who has retained his place in the Great Britain eight rowing team.

**Julia Deakin** (*English with Educational Studies, Langwith, 1976*) who has won the 2011 Yorkshire Open Poetry Competition. Julia hopes to publish her second full-length collection later in 2011.

If you have any queries, please contact [alumni@york.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@york.ac.uk) or call +44 (0)1904 32 2680 for more information.

# On the grapevine

Alumni **memories** and **career updates**

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**P**lease send your entries to [alumni@york.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@york.ac.uk) or complete the contribution on the YAA update form to feature and return via post or visit [www.YorkSpace.net/onthegv](http://www.YorkSpace.net/onthegv) to submit your news online or read entries in full.

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## 1967

**Philip Pughe-Morgan** (*History and Social Sciences, Derwent*)

I have just been visiting the alumni website, and have admired your excellent page on the Roses tournament and its history. I know it's water long gone under the bridge (!), but I noted the comment that Lord James instituted the first Roses competition in 1965, when York and Lancaster rowed on the Ouse. I know, I was there, in fact I stroked the York four (we didn't have eights in those days). We lost, unfortunately, but it's great to know that the competition grew and extended, and that York has been so successful down the years.

## 1969

**Roger Devenish** (*English*)

who passed away in December 2010 in Salisbury after a bicycle accident.

## 1970

**Peter Burley** (*History, Langwith*)

Since the last entry I have been appointed a magistrate and a Trustee of the Battlefields Trust ([www.battlefieldstrust.com](http://www.battlefieldstrust.com)). I am also working for a variety of health regulators. I am still using my degree, writing and researching on the Wars of the Roses. The current big project is on the battle of Barnet (1471), so if any alumni live there and are interested we would love to hear from them. The kids have left home and are developing careers with health charities. We have a cliff-top cottage sleeping eight in Port Isaac (North Cornwall) and would welcome any direct approaches out of season (Google 'Lower Garrick'). The London Alumni Group is thriving and I have organised several events for them including a sell-out talk by Linda Porter on Katherine Parr.

## 1970

**Margaret Deacon** (*Economics and Statistics, Langwith*)

I have retired and now live in Stow-on-the-Wold, which is a lovely and friendly place. After a very busy working life, I am really enjoying having time for hobbies and getting involved in local organisations – but even more for my increasing gang of grandchildren.

## 1971

**Ken Wild OBE** (*Mathematics, Langwith*)

2010 was an interesting year! Having reached a certain age in 2009, I retired as a partner of Deloitte, where I spent 30 years in the specialist accounting technical group, heading it up, first on a UK basis, and latterly globally. Both Jo (née Wolf) (PGCE, Wentworth, 1973) and I were looking forward to further travel (having holidayed extensively in Asia, Africa and Latin America). I also wanted to give more to my school governor role and seek further charity involvement. I accepted a Fellowship at the Judge Business School, part of Cambridge University, teaching two full days a week, fitted around a three-week trip to India. November brought a pleasant surprise when Accountancy Age gave me the Outstanding Career Contribution Award at its annual awards ceremony. The year was topped by an OBE in the New Year's Honours List.

## 1972

**Peter Seymour** (*Music*)

Yorkshire Baroque Soloists' recording of Bach's St John Passion has just been released by Signum Records (SIGCD209). Email Peter directly at [ps22@york.ac.uk](mailto:ps22@york.ac.uk) to purchase a copy.

## 1973

**Richard Hadfield** (*Chemistry and Education, Alcuin*)

Richard Hadfield and Deborah Hartley retired from teaching in December 2010 and are now living in Leeds.

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[www.YorkSpace.net/onthegv](http://www.YorkSpace.net/onthegv)

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**1973**

**Prudhisan Jumbala**

(*Sociology, Vanbrugh*)

As life comes nearly full circle, it would be good to hear from Simon Smelt (*Sociology, 1973*), Fred Johnson (*Sociology, 1973*), Evelio Cabrejo Para, Alison Henry (*Language, Vanbrugh, 1975*), and Jane Cooper of the group that shopped around the colleges for our dinners in 1971/72.

**1975**

**Sue Griffiths** (née Grimsey)

(*Politics and Sociology, Alcuin, 1975*) who died in May 2011 aged 57, three years after a diagnosis of extensive cancer. After her degree, Sue lived first in London and then Sevenoaks, Kent. She married David in 1978 and had four daughters of whom Helen too was a York student. Sue was active and much loved in her community as guide leader, fundraiser and music maker. She will be much missed by her university friends for her cheerful, straightforward and positive approach to life, demonstrated recent reunion weekends.

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**1978**

**Penelope Florence** (*English*)

Currently Professor Emeritus at the Slade School of Fine Art UCL, and working in the USA. In the UK, I felt that retirement was (g)looming, but then this opportunity in California came up, and I have a new career here at 62. Terrific!

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**1978**

**Stephen Flynn** (*Economics, Langwith*)

After York I went on to Durham to complete an MSc, where I met Anne, now my wife. Since then I have worked in Human Resources – the last 12 years as an HR Director. We live in Bedfordshire with our son Dominic.

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**1978**

**Dr Margaret Steele** (*Medieval Studies*)

I registered at Oxford University after I retired from teaching in 1982. I received a PhD from Oxford in 1994 when I was 70 (again in Medieval Studies). A copy of my thesis is in the British Museum Library: A study of the books owned or used by John Grandisson, Bishop of Exeter (1327–1369).

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**1979**

**Dr David Keeffe** (*Music, Vanbrugh*)

As perhaps one of the few students who did a BA in Music (1979) and then a DPhil in Computer Science (1984), I turned full circle and recently graduated with an MMus in composition from the University of Melbourne, Australia. It's been quite a journey!

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**1980**

**Diana Toolan** (née Davies)

(*Economics and Politics, Derwent*)

I have recently renewed my contact with York because my son is now family Yorkie no 2 (Dominic Toolan, *Mathematics, Vanburgh*). Together with my husband Terry we dropped him off on a beautiful Autumn day in October and wandered round to Derwent B block to find it looking exactly the same and a party in full swing on the lawn. If only I could have moved straight back in! I work in education (BTEC and Edexcel qualifications) and have two other children – Gilbert (Surrey, Economics) and Rosa (taking A levels) – and live in the shadow of the Wembley stadium arch. Visit [www.YorkSpace.net/memories](http://www.YorkSpace.net/memories) to read Diana's full entry.

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**1982**

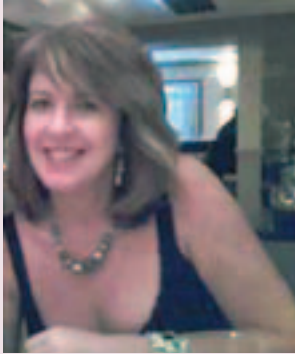
**Dr Sean Gabb** (*History, Alcuin*)

I have four books to be published in 2011 – *Blood of Alexandria, Sword of Damascus* (both under the name Richard Blake), *The Churchill Memorandum* and *A Manifesto for Reaction*, under my own name. The first three, I hope, will make me richer. The fourth, I hope, will upset all the people I dislike.

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**1984**

**Jacqui Kershaw née Clarke**  
(*Sociology and Politics, Wentworth*)



Jacqui died in April 2010 after a short battle with cancer. Helen Gallagher (*Politics and Sociology, Wentworth, 1984*) – her close friend from York days and over the past 30 years, spoke at her funeral, describing ‘Clarkey’ as “funny, irreverent, feisty and brave, with an Irish twinkle – a real dancing queen”. Many University friends attended Jacqui’s funeral, where she was remembered as “one of the brightest lights at York – a genuinely friendly, funny and loving person”. Jacqui leaves behind her two sons, Conor and Daniel.

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**1989**

**Martin Miles** (*Electronics and Electrical Engineering, Langwith*)  
Recently I returned to Uni to get a first in Architecture. I’m now a research assistant for the University of Glamorgan looking into the Hydrogen Economy and happily living in Cardiff. This time I’ll get a PhD!

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**1989**

**Simon Sweeney** (*Linguistics and English, Wentworth*)  
I joined the York Management School as a lecturer in International Political Economy and Business in January 2011. Formerly employed at Sheffield Hallam and York St John, I’ve had a long association with York as an Associate Lecturer and I’m very happy to work full time at the university where I had such a wonderful postgraduate experience over 20 years ago. Meanwhile I’m still researching a PhD at Leeds on European Security and Defence Policy.

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**1991**

**Rupe Bayfield** (*Mathematics, Derwent*)  
Lived in Edinburgh for 18 years, happily married with three daughters! Set up my own recruitment business – CyberTeam – in 2004, and have enjoyed growing that. Currently recovering from neurosurgery for a brain tumour and other cancer surgery – desperate to get back on the beer and cudgel! Would love to hear from any of the old crowd!

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**1992**

**Dr Paul Hardwick** (*English and Art, Langwith*)  
My third collection of poetry, *The Illuminated Dreamer*, has now been published. Since my last collection, *Carrying Fire*, I have read in all manner of interesting places, including Glastonbury Festival (twice) and, earlier this year, a series of universities, libraries and cafes in the US.

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**1993**

**Susan Dawson** (*Mathematics, Alcuin*)  
After graduating I took a PGCE course at Nottingham then I worked in a few different jobs and relocated to West Yorkshire for several years. Now I’m back in my home town of Lincoln and I have set up my own business focusing on fun and uplifting gifts under the guise of Cheer Boxes and can be found online at **www.cheerboxes.co.uk**. It is in the early stages but so far working for myself is far more fun than working for others, the drawback is that there is only me here the office parties are a bit quiet!

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**1995**

**James Rollin** (*Economics and Social History, Goodricke*)  
Emma and I are pleased to announce the safe arrival of our baby son, Tom Geoffrey David Rollin, who was born on 14 February 2011, weighing 9 pounds 6 ounces. James and Emma Rollin.



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**1997**

**Mark DeBacker** (*Archaeology, Alcuin*)  
Emily De Backer and I are happy to announce the arrival of our second child, Abigail Olivia Rose. She is a sister to Ethan, who is now two years old.

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**1997**

**Lucie Guilbert**  
(*Archaeology, Vanbrugh*)  
I have been a zoo manager, prison officer, shepherd, castle keeper and youth housing project worker. Now returning to outdoor work again at Lee Abbey, an international Christian community, for a year in North Devon.

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**1997**

**Lutfey Siddiqi** (*Economics and Econometrics, Goodricke*)  
I’m currently employed with the Swiss bank UBS as a Managing Director and also serve as an Associate Professor (Adjunct) at the National University of Singapore.

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**1998**

**Ceiri Torjussen** (*Music, Alcuin*)  
I now work as a freelance music composer for Hollywood feature films, TV, animation and commercials. I moved to Los Angeles when I came to study for a Masters and have lived here ever since. I now have a Green Card. There is an extensive CV on my website at **www.ceiri.com**.

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## 1999



**Khalid Shahjahan** (*Biology with Education, Langwith*) and **Gemma Shahjahan (née Priestley)** (*English Language and Linguistics, Goodricke, 2001*) Solicitor and Partner, Khalid and his wife, Business Development Manager, Gemma are delighted to announce that their household has been extended by another two feet! At 12:59pm on the 26 of June 2011, 8lb 8oz Zara Elisabeth Esmé Shahjahan finally made her grand debut. Parents are hoping she will follow in their footsteps and become a graduate of the University of York but watch this space.

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## 1999



**Jonathan Isaby** (*Language and Linguistics, Wentworth*) and **Claudia Isaby (née Stern)** (*English Literature, Wentworth, 2008*) In June 2007, former *Vision* deputy editor Jonathan returned to York for a party to mark the newspaper's 20th anniversary, where he met Claudia, who was then serving as the

award-winning publication's features editor. Romance blossomed; Jonathan proposed two years later (at the Blue Bicycle in York) and they were married in London on 18 September, 2010. As the photo shows, 18 fellow York graduates were among the guests for their special day, with Jonathan's speech including a somewhat unconventional wedding toast – to the University of York! Chris Miller acted as an usher, while Louisa McLennan gave a reading, with the full list of York graduates in the photo being: Matthew Stallabrass (*Vanbrugh, History, 1998*), Stuart Anson (*Economics, Langwith, 1999*), Duncan Flynn (*History, James, 2002*), Chris Miller (*Economics and Politics, Langwith, 2000*), Gareth Knight (*Politics, Alcuin, 2000*), Paul Goodman (*English, Langwith, 1981*), Dylan Whitfield (*Chemistry, Derwent, 2000*), Helen Whitfield (*née Wainwright*) (*Chemistry, Derwent, 2000*), Nick Littlewood (*History, Langwith, 1997*), Jenny Littlewood (*née Hulbert*) (*Maths, Langwith, 2000*), Gareth Williams (*Political Philosophy, Derwent, 1998*), Graham McMillan (*Politics, Langwith, 1998*), Louisa McLennan (*Philosophy and Politics, Derwent, 1999*), Julie Knox (*English, Goodricke, 1999*), Rajini Vaidyanathan (*Philosophy, Politics and Economics, James, 2000*), Nicola Sleat (*née Bates*) (*Politics, Alcuin, 2002*), Jaime Graham (*Experimental Physics, Goodricke, 1995*), Sara Nuwar (*History, Derwent, 1998*), Rajini Vaidyanathan (*Philosophy, Politics and Economics, James, 2000*), Nicola Sleat (*née Bates*) (*Politics, Alcuin, 2002*), Jaime Graham (*Experimental Physics, Goodricke, 1995*), Sara Nuwar (*History, Derwent, 1998*).

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## 2000

**Elizabeth Moore (née Roberts)** (*Sociology and Economic History, James*) I married Matthew in September 2010, with a couple of my closest fellow York graduates present, and Matthew's friends from St Andrews. We're living in our beloved North East. Since graduating I've worked in information management in the education sector, currently working for the Open University in the North, which is wonderful.

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## 2001

**Elizabeth Kendall** (*English, Vanbrugh*) I am now a fully qualified Shiatsu practitioner on the Complementary and Natural Healthcare Council register. I live and work in Surrey, giving treatments at Optima Health in Cobham and the Oatlands Park Hotel in Weybridge. I'm happy to give York alumni a discount! I try to visit York every year or so and am looking forward to a summer trip to catch up with uni friends (and stock up on bread from Via Vecchia).

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## 2001

**Vincent Mellor** (*Mathematics, James*) Since leaving York in 2003 after my MSc, I have moved to Australia and completed a PhD in Mathematics at the University of Queensland. The topic of my research was 'Numerical Simulations of the Ising model on the Union Jack Lattice'. I have also presented the work at the XXIV International Conference on Statistical Physics of the International Union for Pure and Applied Physics in Cairns and the Australian Mathematical Society meeting in Brisbane. Currently I am preparing a paper on the research and working out the next challenge.

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## 2001

**Gemma Shahjahan (née Priestley)** (*English Language and Linguistics, Goodricke*) See Khalid Shahjahan (*Biology with Education, Langwith, 1999*)

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## 2002

**Harriet Hughes (née Rowlandson)** (*Psychology, James*) See Simon Hughes (*Biology, James, 2004*)

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## 2003

**Alexandra Hughes** (*History, Alcuin*) Gareth (*Politics, Alcuin, 2003*) and Alex Hughes (*née Plant*) (*History, Alcuin, 2003*) married in May 2010. They were delighted to have several former York alumni in attendance, including Laura Pilgrim (*Politics, Alcuin, 2003*) Thomas Bray (*Electronics, Alcuin, 2004*), Andy Barker (*Chemistry, Alcuin, 2003*), Julia Grant (*History, Alcuin, 2003*) Tony Coupland (*Computer Science and Mathematics, Langwith, 2004*) and Juli Coupland (*Computer Science, Halifax, 2004*).

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## 2003

**Edwin Beasant** (*Electronic Engineering with Music Technology Systems, James*) See Lucy Wright (*Art History, Halifax, 2006*)

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## 2004

**James Alexander** (*Langwith, Politics and Economic and Social History*) Since I left in 2004 I have been Students' Union President, a campaigns manager for the Labour Party, a Labour Councillor for Holgate in York, worked at York St John and stood in the 2010 general election. I have recently been elected Leader of City of York Council and am the youngest council leader in the country at the age of 29.

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## 2005

**Jonathan Bufton** (*Politics and Sociology, Derwent*) and **Kate Rushworth** (*Politics, Halifax*) Although we both studied Politics we didn't get to know each other until January 2004 as members of YSTV. Love blossomed in front of and behind the cameras and we started going out in the summer of that year, and have been together ever since. We got engaged in June 2011 during a holiday to New York, appropriately enough! We now live in London, where Kate works for BBC Worldwide and Jonathan for ITV. We plan to marry in Spring 2013.

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## 2006



**Lucy Wright** (*Art History, Halifax*) and **Edwin Beasant** (*Electronic Engineering with Music Technology Systems, James, 2003*)

Our new band, Pilgrims' Way, released its debut album on the Fellside label in July 2011, and featured in an interview on the Mike Harding Show for BBC Radio 2. We were both very involved in music during our time at York – Edwin was part of the Woodstock headlining band, The 14, and I was co-founder of the York University Folk Club society.

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## 2004

**Simon Hughes** (*Biology, James*) Simon and **Harriet (née Rowlandson)** (*Psychology, James, 2002*) met in James College in 2001 across a romantic James quad. They married on 28 December 2009 in Binsted, Surrey. They now live and work in Geneva and eat a little too much cheese.



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## 2006

**Jessica Roy** (*History and Politics, James*) Getting married to fellow York alumnus, **Ben Pickett** (*Politics, Derwent, 2005*) with Best Man, Andrew Whittingham (*History, Derwent, 2005*) and two of my three bridesmaids also York graduates: Charlotte Mason (*née Edy*) (*History, James, 2006*) and Susan Allen (*History of Art, Halifax, 2006*).

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## 2007

**Liam Wright** (*English and Philosophy, Halifax*) I set up my own media company in Manchester, Banter Media, which is starting to grow. Banter Media can help with all of your media needs and thus we strive for our clients to rely on us for all of their digital and print needs. Visit [www.bantermedia.com](http://www.bantermedia.com) for details.

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## 2007

**Charlotte Bilsland** (*History, Langwith*) I would like to congratulate my lovely friends Thomas Oldershaw (*English Language and Linguistics, Langwith, 2007*) and Jane Lloyd (*English, Langwith*) on their recent marriage. Jane came over for two terms in 2008 from the University of Michigan on an American exchange programme. They have been together since Jane arrived and have managed to maintain a long-distance relationship between the UK and America before finally getting married in September 2010 in Michigan.

This was a truly Langwith A Block wedding with six other members of Langwith A Block being bridesmaids and groomsmen! This is a message to anyone that long-distance relationships can work and that true love really does exist – Tom and Jane, I am so happy you are finally together at last and can't wait for the next reunion. Congratulations!



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## 2008

**Claudia Isaby (née Stern)** (*English Literature, Wentworth*). See Jonathan Isaby (*Language and Linguistics, Wentworth, 1999*).

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## In memoriam...

### Raymond Burton CBE (1917 to 2011)



Raymond Burton, who passed away in February aged 93, led the modern development of the high-street clothing chain founded by his father Sir Montague Burton, and was a generous benefactor of the Jewish Museum in London and the University of York.

Raymond had been a supporter of the University since its foundation, indeed his £2m gift back in the 1990s led to the creation of the Raymond Burton Library for Humanities Research, and over the years he has quietly sponsored concerts and the Centre for Eighteenth Century Studies and made other donations.

There are too many examples of his extensive generosity, at home and abroad, to enumerate. The University's recognition of his long-term support was expressed in the award of an honorary doctorate in the millennium awards in 2000, and of the Morrell Fellowship in 2007, an award which recognises outstanding contributions to the University.

Through his outstanding generosity to libraries and museums, his name will forever be recognised in the University, as a witness to his support for the civilised and humane virtues of knowledge, freedom and social justice.

### Lord Harewood (1923 to 2011)



George Lascelles, the 7th Earl of Harewood, who passed away in July 2011, was the first Chancellor of the University of York, from 1963 to 1967. Active in local and national musical and sporting life, and a significant local landowner, he played a key role in the early years of the University's life and enjoyed a close working relationship with the first Vice-Chancellor, Lord James.

Lord Harewood was active in fundraising for the University's Department of Music from its inception – his contacts leading to major benefactions for performance space and instruments. In the 1960s, he presided over the University's first graduation ceremonies and escorted the Queen round the first buildings of

the Heslington campus in 1965.

After stepping down as Chancellor, Lord Harewood remained involved and interested in the life and work of the University. During an inventory of Harewood House, a number of documents relating to the slave-owning history of the Lascelles family were discovered. Lord Harewood deposited this archive in the University's Borthwick Institute and gave his support to a major research project to conserve and investigate the papers. He also donated his unique collection of broadcast recordings by the leading classical performers of the 20th century. His support and gifts will always be valued and his legacy lives on at the University today.

## Staff fondly remembered

**Julie Hirst** (*Women's Studies*, 2003) passed away from cancer, shortly before Christmas 2010.

Julie worked in the Equality and Diversity Office at the University as one of its co-ordinators.

**Bill Hodgson**, died in April 2011. He was Clerk of Works at the University for the decade of the 1990s. He was a passionate woodcarver whose sculptures earned

international reputation. Bill's last piece on campus, 'Aspiration', is an 18-foot chainsaw carving created from an old oak tree.

**Joyce Guy** passed away in October, 2010. She was a lecturer in Social Work in the Department of Social Administration and Social Work from 1966 to 1972.

**Dr Keith Alderman**, formerly Senior Lecturer in Politics, died in

January 2011 after a long illness. Keith was appointed lecturer in Politics in 1963 and remained at York until his retirement in 2003.

**Philip Rahtz**, founding Professor of the Department of Archaeology, passed away in June 2011.

**Dr Peter Hanson**, a founder member of the Department of Chemistry, who died peacefully at home on 16 May, 2011 after a long illness.

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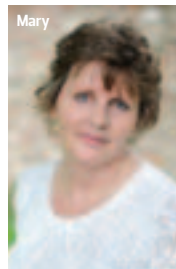
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