

THE UNIVERSITY *of York*

# magazine

March 2008

## African children find hidden worlds

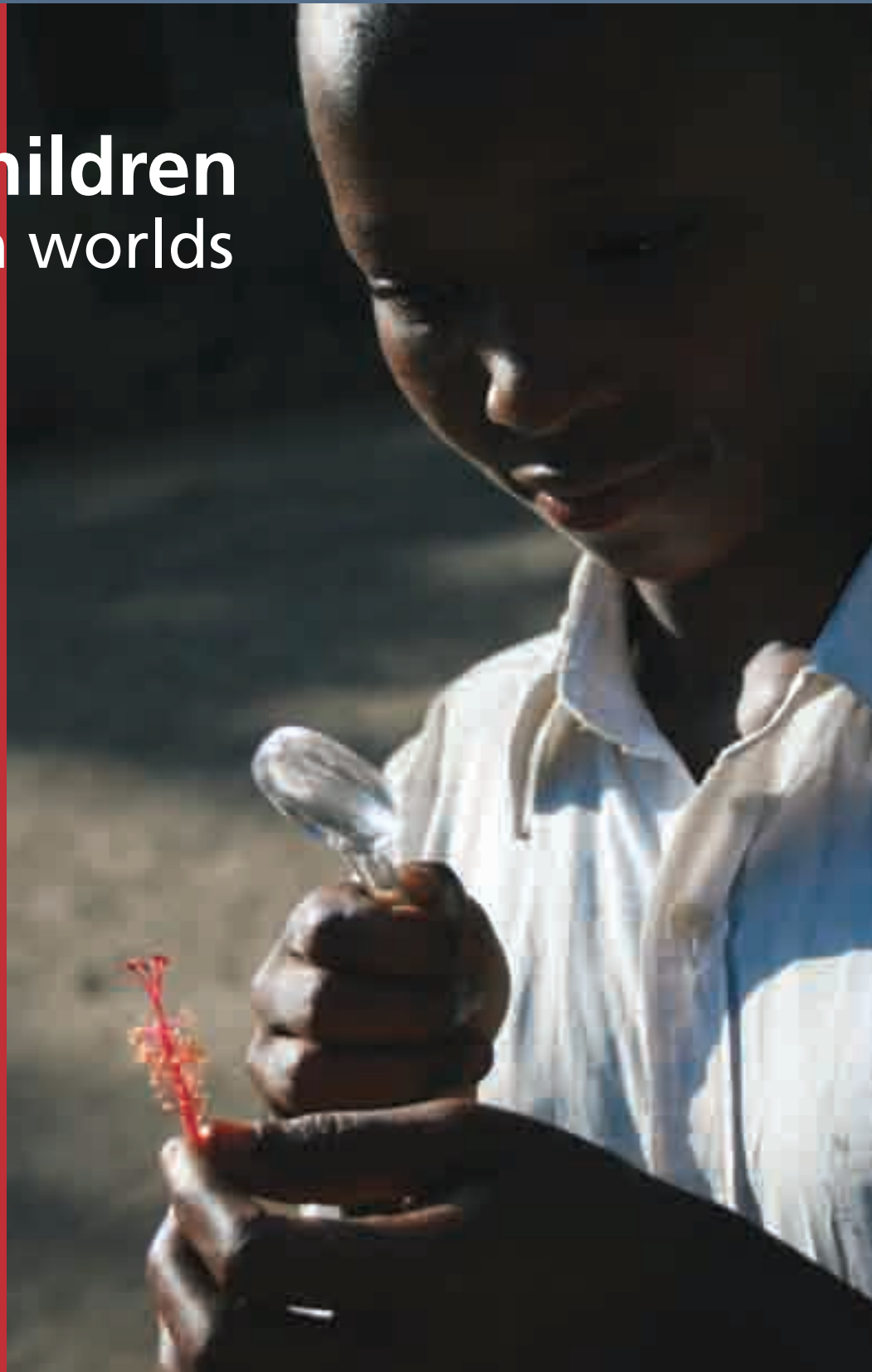
Pupils on African sugar plantations are recreating an insect's-eye view of the world in art, thanks to the unique 'Hidden Worlds' project run by the University's Centre for Novel Agricultural Products (CNAP).

The scheme started on home soil in schools around York, where staff took microscopes into primary classrooms and encouraged the children to create artwork based on what they saw.

Before long, staff had been approached by Illovo Sugar, which owns plantations in Tanzania, suggesting that a similar project might benefit Tanzanian schoolchildren.

In the new scheme, volunteers are supplied by Gap Activity Projects, a UK charity which arranges placements for young people. CNAP staff in the Department of Biology train them as workshop leaders before they travel out to Africa.

Continued on page 2



## York's high quality teaching staff recognised

The Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Awards have been made to eight staff and two teams this year. The scheme recognises and rewards colleagues who demonstrate excellence in teaching and/or learning support at York. Each award is worth £1,000 to support the award holders' professional interests and will be presented at this summer's graduation ceremonies.

"Even in the run-up to the RAE, with the pressure it exerts on research-intensive institutions like York, these awards demonstrate that University of York staff have maintained their commitment to high quality teaching," said Deputy Vice-Chancellor Trevor Sheldon. The candidates are nominated by their HoD and views are also sought from colleagues and students.

### Teaching award-winners

Cathy Dantec, Language and Linguistic Science, Dr Kate Giles, Archaeology, Dr Robert Greenall, Physics, Dr Janine Henderson, HYMS, Dr Tim Howell, Music, Dr Steve King, Computer Science, Dr Peter Mayhew, Biology, Dr Nicola McDonald, English, Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice (PGCAP) team (Lesley Catt, Dr Doriana Delfino, Simon Duckett, Dr Sue Grace, Dr Sylvia Hogarth, Juliet Koprowska, Dr Nicola McDonald, Dr Jean McKendree, Dr Geoff Oxford and Stephen Smith) and the eMasters Social Policy and Social Work team – (Kevin Caraher, Matt Cornock, Theo Cuthbertson, Kevin Hall, Jane Lund, Ellen Roberts, Dr Carolyn Snell Pomfret and Helen Story-Samuels).

Juliet Koprowska (Social Policy and Social Work) and Dr Andrew Parsons (Chemistry) have been selected for nomination to the National Teaching Fellowship Individual Awards Scheme. Fifty awards, each worth £10,000, are offered by the Higher Education Academy to recognise individuals who have made an outstanding impact on the student learning experience.

## Helping African schoolchildren to uncover 'hidden worlds'

Nicola Smith, Schools Officer at CNAP said, "Schools in Tanzania present rather different challenges from working with York school students. One big problem is simply explaining the concept of 'magnification' to a class of upwards of 60 kids whose first language is Swahili."

Instead of introducing the children to microscopes straight away, volunteers start with ordinary handheld magnifying glasses - which are themselves a novelty - before introducing the more advanced equipment.

A free exhibition about the project with photographs, children's artwork and other resources will be on show at the York Festival of Science in York Mansion House every weekday from 12 to 2pm from 7 to 16 March.

Cover story continued



## Branching out at Heslington East

From seedling to maturity, locally grown young trees nurtured in a special nursery will have a key role to play in the development of the campus expansion at Heslington East.

A five-acre nursery, protected by a rabbit-proof fence, has been set up by Estates Services where nearly 40,000 locally-sourced trees and shrubs will be cultivated. There they can become accustomed to local soil and climatic conditions before being transplanted to other parts of the site.

Mostly native species are being chosen, principally oak, ash, field maple, wild cherry, silver birch, mountain ash, crab-apples, hawthorn, and blackthorn sourced from Johnsons of Whixley, a local supplier.

"There's a tremendous amount of landscaping to go into this project, it is integral to the development of that site and trees are a key part of it," said Grounds Maintenance Manager Gordon Eastham. "In many ways, the landscaping is as significant as the built environment, and we are placing enormous importance on making it a real asset to this area."

"Existing trees will be retained where possible and, along with the huge number of new trees, they will help us to diversify habitats to encourage wildlife. There are a number of oak trees already on the site, and we have collected as many oak seedlings as possible to grow on and become part of the tree cover," he said.



Let's dig: Graham Smith, Darrel Moore and Chris Sockett of Estates Services plant the new saplings on Heslington East

# Royal accolade for the University

In a ceremony at Buckingham Palace on 14 February, the University was awarded one of the 20 Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education for research carried out in the Centre for Health Economics. Accepting the awards from Her Majesty the Queen were Professor Brian Cantor and Professor Peter C Smith, Director of the Centre.



## Greg Dyke to lead the British Film Institute

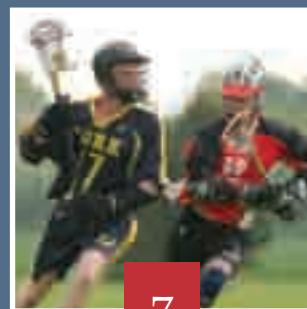
The UK Film Council has named the University of York Chancellor Greg Dyke the new Chair of the British Film Institute (BFI).

The BFI is funded by the UK Film Council to carry out a range of activities supporting and developing film education and culture in the UK. Greg Dyke takes up his new role at the BFI this month for a four-year term replacing film director Anthony Minghella. Greg Dyke was Director General of the BBC for four years and is Chair of HIT, a production company specialising in TV programmes for the under fives.

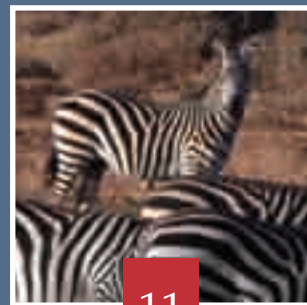
"The BFI has probably got the best film library in the world," he said. "At a time when the whole world is being changed by the digital revolution we have a unique opportunity to make content available online to the whole of the education sector and, if we have the rights, to the public at large."



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## York scientists foster India links

**Academics from the University of York and one of India's leading research institutes are pooling their resources to address major scientific and technological challenges.**

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bangalore hosted a visit by York scientists in February and a joint collaborative research seminar. Topics under discussion ranged from discovering ways of improving the treatment of human muscle disease to human-computer interaction and language processing in computers. They also focused on investigations of the ways plants cope with adverse ground and climatic conditions to help to develop more robust food crops; nanospintronics which promises to revolutionise data storage, and electron microscopy.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Director of the IISc Professor P Balaram and Vice-Chancellor Professor Brian Cantor, to formalise the research links between the two institutions.

## 'Virtual' centre to guide on emerging technologies

**Phil Willis MP, chair of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Innovation, Universities and Skills, opened a new online research centre hosted by the University's Science and Technology Studies Unit (SATSU), in February.**

The Centre for Prospective Regulation (CPR), a 'virtual' centre comprising core staff at York, and associate members at other leading UK, European and US universities, will store vital intelligence and analysis on methods of regulating emerging technologies.

Representatives of the Human Tissue Authority, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), the Food Standards Agency (FSA), and the

Human Genetics Commission were present at the event, as well as prominent academics from the UK and Europe.

The new Centre's director, Dr Graham Lewis, said, "The Centre will provide evidence-based advice to government agencies and the private sector on how to regulate emerging technologies in healthcare, such as personalised medicine and stem cell research, and in sectors such as the food, information and consumer products industries.

"In this way we can encourage innovation and new technologies that benefit society while taking account of public concerns about safety, privacy or other issues."

## Top ten finish for student entrepreneurs

**A team of students from the York Management School has reached the final of a prestigious national business competition.**

Around 250 teams entered the IBM Universities Business Challenge and the York team's participation in the final at IBM headquarters in London guarantees them a top ten finish.

Team members Katherine Groom, Laura Williams, James Jones, Suraj Gangani and Andrew Wells believe they have established a strong team dynamic - and they have enjoyed working together.

Professor Steven Toms, the Head of the York Management School said, "We are really proud of the students' achievement. Their entrepreneurial team-spirited attitude is exactly what we try to encourage, and, as the students have shown, it gets results in the business world."

## University submits sustainable travel blueprint

Reducing car use is an important component of the University's campus development plans and it has now submitted a sustainable travel plan to the City of York Council, which aims to limit car use on Heslington West and the new Heslington East expansion.

Despite an increased workforce, the last six years has seen a fall in the proportion of staff using cars, and an increase in numbers travelling by cycle, on foot, and by bus or train.

"Our aim is to continue to monitor traffic in and around campus and reduce the car traffic directly attributable to staff and students. We hope that the measures we put in place - particularly on public transport - might reduce car use by others too," said Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Estates and Strategic Projects, Elizabeth Heaps.

These measures include tighter parking regulations, a more flexible system to encourage less frequent car use and car-sharing. The travel plan also features improved pedestrian routes and better disabled walking routes across campus, as well as measures to encourage staff and students to switch to cycling or public transport.



Traffic in Heslington is monitored regularly, and one in three cars is directly attributable to York staff and students

# Law and Management Schools to get new headquarters

The Law and Management Schools will be part of the first cluster of buildings on the University's extension at Heslington East.

With currently 415 undergraduate and 120 postgraduate students, the Management School is experiencing rapid growth. Its teaching and research links with Computer Science are strong, and it is developing a number of joint courses with the York Law School.

The York Law School, which takes its first students in autumn 2008, has been inundated with applications – nearly 700 for 65 places. Both Schools have an urgent need for space and will move to their new premises in 2011.

Goodricke College will be the first building on Heslington East, with a scheduled opening of October 2009, followed by the Department of Theatre, Film and Television, the Department of Computer Science, the Creative Technologies Hub, and the Law and Management Schools.

## New accommodation is a hit!



Happy tenants: Jane Jukes and Sarah Freites catch up on campus gossip in one of the kitchens

New student accommodation built on the Bleachfield site has brought an extra 245 bed spaces to the campus.

Now part of Vanbrugh College, the new blocks are proving very popular with the students who have moved in.

"We love living here, the communal areas are great, with spacious kitchens which are good for socialising," said one. "The area is well lit and we feel very safe and having cycle storage is a great advantage." Students also praised the plentiful storage space in the study bedrooms.

The buildings will be named after Barbara Scott OBE and Sir Donald Barron, two people who have dedicated their time to the University in different ways over many years.

## York offers postgrad engineering

A new four-year Engineering Doctorate (EngD), associated with the Large Scale Complex IT Systems (LSCITS) programme and bid for by the Department of Computer Science, has been approved by the EPSRC.

Teaching will cover the development of complex systems, and aspects of entrepreneurship and management, mainly in York but also in Bristol, Leeds, Oxford, and St Andrews. The research element will be in industry, and several major and local companies such as IBM and Salamander have expressed an interest in hosting students. The management aspects of the EngD programme will be taught by the York Management School. The first intake starts in October this year and will graduate as Doctors of Engineering in 2012.

## People

Helen Cadbury, who is taking the higher certificate in creative writing in the University's Centre for Lifelong Learning, has had a short story accepted by Radio 4's Afternoon Reading. Her story *Nature's Way*, about a woman who wins the Lottery but can't decide whether to claim, was broadcast on 21 February. Helen also works at Askham Grange Open Prison, developing literacy and reading skills among the women prisoners.



Nicky Waller, of the Chemical Industry Education Centre in the Department of Chemistry, has won a Young Achiever 2008 award for her work in the Tees valley area supporting school teachers and encouraging pupils to enjoy science. The award was made by the North East Process Industries Cluster which seeks to promote the industry as a career choice for those leaving school and university, and to recognise the best and brightest young people already working within it.



Jo Hossell is the Department of Biology's new Energy Manager. She will lead the Departmental Objective of reducing energy usage as well as supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Action Plan. A questionnaire on energy awareness has already been circulated to staff in the Biology Bulletin and an Energy Awareness week is planned for late April. A Biology Energy Page will be launched shortly.



## 25 years of IET quality

The Departments of Computer Science and Electronics have been awarded a plaque by the Institution of Engineering and Technology to mark the 25 years that it has accredited their courses.

"We know that the standard of our teaching and course content is high, but it is good to have the recognition of an important external body," said Dr Steve King, deputy head of the Computer Science Department. "Prospective applicants to our courses appreciate the mark of quality that IET accreditation represents."

## University in trailblazing mental health initiative

The Department of Health Sciences is joining forces with a charity and a primary care trust to support 4,000 people a year with mild to moderate mental health needs.

It is part of a pioneering initiative in the Stoke on Trent area to open up access to the most modern treatments. The project will be launched in April to support people with anxiety, depression, obsessive compulsive disorders and other common mental health problems.

The Healthy Minds Network (HMN), a partnership between the Department of Health Sciences, the mental health charity Rethink, and the Stoke on Trent Primary Care Trust (PCT), will work with GPs to offer a range of services.

The model for the Healthy Minds Network has already received national recognition. The PCT has been awarded Pathfinder status for this approach to the Government's drive to increase the availability of psychological therapies.

Under the new scheme, every person referred by their GP to the Healthy Minds Network will be contacted within 48 hours. Experienced primary care mental health workers will work with individuals to decide on the best treatment and support for them.

Professor of Mental Health David Richards said, "People with mental health problems living in Stoke have demanded better access to a much wider range of treatment options to help them recover. I am delighted that Rethink and the University of York will be working with the people of Stoke and the PCT to make this wish a reality."

## Yorkshire improves e-mentors

Educational Studies will be using Yorkshire, the University's centrally supported VLE, to support e-mentoring between PGCE English students and their mentees at Tadcaster Grammar School.

Each PGCE student will keep a blog to reflect on the mentoring process, which will be reviewed by the course tutor. "The project is expected to have a direct impact upon the academic skills of both the trainees and the school pupils involved, in terms of sharing best practice with each other," said Dr Richard Walker, VLE Project Leader.

Yorkshire continues to attract new projects that explore different ways of enhancing teaching and learning. The Department of Philosophy is also using the VLE to develop a suite of self-study modules to support independent learning in the areas of Critical Thinking and Reading Logic. Find out more about Yorkshire at <http://vlesupport.york.ac.uk/>

## Science Park's new social space



Richard Gregory, OBE, Executive Chair of Science City York and Susanne Gilbert, Managing Director of York Science Park

Park Central, the new £1.1 million extension linking the Innovation Centre and the Bio Centre, was officially opened last month.

It houses a year-round café and an exhibition area as well as more office space for Science Park tenants. The project received £695,000 from Regional Development Agencies, and £410,000 from York Science Park (Innovation Centre) Ltd.

Said Simon Newton of the Enterprise and Innovation Office, "These developments will really help York Science Park and the wider science community in York. Shared space and networking chances like the café in Park Central nurture collaboration between businesses. The space is urgently needed to retain and develop the growing number of technology-based companies in the region."

## Computer updates announced

This year there will be an extensive programme of refurbishment and replacement of PCs in computer classrooms in 19 locations across the campus.

"In Goodricke and Alcuin, 115 University-maintained PCs will be replaced while the other 500 plus PCs will be cleaned, checked and rebuilt," says Brian Souter, of Computing Service.

Most of the work will be done with minimum inconvenience to users by closing one room in turn each week over the Easter and summer vacations.

## Jack Lyons

Jack Lyons, a great benefactor to the University since the early 1960s, died in Switzerland on 18 February. His charitable trust enabled the building of the main Concert Hall, and numerous other projects in the Department of Music. There will be an obituary by Professor Roger Marsh of the Department of Music in the next *Magazine*.



Creaking jaws: Chris Watson records crocodile sounds for BBC's *Life in Cold Blood*

## Sounds of nature in tooth and claw

The composer and sound recorder for BBC's stunning wildlife programme *Life in Cold Blood*, gave the closing address at an event hosted by the Music Research Centre in January.

Chris Watson has worked on many of the wildlife series made by David Attenborough with the BBC and was awarded a BAFTA for *The Life of Birds* in 1998. His album *Weather Report* was named in *The Guardian's* '1,000 Albums to Hear Before You Die' list.

"During his presentation we heard surround-sound recordings of many diverse natural landscapes, ranging from killer whales off the coast of Vancouver to the insides of a zebra carcass being torn apart by predators on the African plains," said Dr Damian Murphy of the Department of Electronics, who organised the 2nd SpACE-Net Spatial Audio Workshop.

The workshop brought together 70 spatial audio researchers, practitioners and artists, drawn from various fields of science, engineering and the arts from the UK and Europe. Delegates also heard two specially-composed works based on animals in swarm and the paintings of Mark Rothko by sound artists Mathew Adkins and Daniel Jones.

The Spatial Audio Creative Engineering Network (SpACE-Net) is funded under the EPSRC's Culture and Creativity programme.

## York Annual Fund – enhancing student experience

The University's Sailing Club will get a new fleet of Fireflies thanks to a £10,000 award from the York Annual Fund. It was among grants totalling nearly £80,000 agreed by the Disbursement Group this year.

The Student Support Fund awarded £58,000 for entrance and accommodation bursaries, and four MA Scholarships. Projects to benefit from the Opportunity and Building Funds include a Skyshed for Physics, to enable larger groups to use the University observatory, and a series of workshops on Ghanaian music that will be run at schools throughout York. The fledgling student Opera Society received £1000, while the Waterpolo and Lacrosse clubs received grants of £1050 and £548 towards new equipment.

"The York Annual Fund receives donations from alumni and is all about enhancing the student experience. The Group was particularly delighted to be able to give substantial support to the Sailing Club so York can compete with other top universities' sailing teams," said Susie Fothergill of the Development and Alumni Relations Office.

For full details of all awards or to find out more about applying for support, visit [www.york.ac.uk/admin/dao/Supporting/What\\_donations\\_support/annualfund\\_index.htm](http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/dao/Supporting/What_donations_support/annualfund_index.htm)

The University's Lacrosse Club received a grant in the latest round of York Annual Fund awards




## MoD chooses York for its new software initiative

High Integrity and Safety Critical Software has been identified by the Ministry of Defence as 'the critical enabling technology' for modern defence platforms, network enabled capability and complex infrastructure. The

Department of Computer Science is to play a key role in its new Software Systems Engineering Initiative (SSEI) to improve technology and practice in this area.

The SSEI will be a virtual team

led by BAE Systems, but the initial research work will be undertaken mostly at York. Professor John McDermid will be SSEI's Technical Director and the research will also involve University spin-off company YorkMetrics.



## Mapping the world – in greater complexity

Where do people live, go to school, shop and travel? What is the state of their health or their impact on the environment? These are just some of the questions with a crucial spatial dimension that can be mapped and visualised.

Digital systems – such as Google Earth – have made mapping increasingly sophisticated. In fact, the more complex our understanding of the world, the more important visualisation and analytical techniques become to help to identify patterns and the effect of geography, space and location on past, present and future behaviour.

The University's new Spatial Informatics Laboratory in Wentworth College has advanced software held by no other UK university, and can explore these issues. It will be used by sociologists, economists, health scientists, epidemiologists, archaeologists, ecologists, environmental scientists, and specialists in computer science to develop and apply new techniques for examining spatial information, both in physical and virtual spaces (such as web 2.0 or Second Life).

At the launch in January, Professor Roger Burrows of the Department of Sociology's Social Informatics Research Unit described how such information is affecting the Social Sciences. Not only can it allow better sociological analysis, but the availability of the technology also affects the behaviour of individuals and therefore society, for instance by encouraging people to move to different school catchment areas.

The laboratory comprises ten high-spec computers with dual monitors plus an Access Grid Node to allow collaborative work in the UK and overseas. The facility can be used 24 hours a day. For further information, contact Dr Darren Reed (Sociology) on [djr14@york.ac.uk](mailto:djr14@york.ac.uk). Staff can also join the Geographical Information Systems (GIS) community at Yorkshire.

## Sign up for Complex Systems summer school

The York Management School and the Department of Computer Science are running a summer school on 'Building capacity in complex systems and complexity theory' under their Researcher Development Initiative using a ESRC joint grant.

The seven-day school will introduce the attendees to the dynamics of complex systems in computer, natural, and social sciences such as social interaction within communities, biological systems (eg ant colonies), markets (eg the stock exchange), business organisations, and social systems defined at various scales.

"All participants will get the chance to discuss and develop their own research interests through close interaction with members of the York Centre for Complex Systems Analysis," said Dr Kiran Jude Fernandes.

The School is open to doctoral students, post-doctoral fellows, researchers, junior faculty members, and industrialists, with an active interest in aspects of complexity.

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

## Have your say!

## And we will donate £1 to charity

How do you feel about your working conditions, work-life balance, job satisfaction and your working environment?

The University is running a staff opinion survey in April and May this year based on these and other issues which have been raised at focus group discussions.

The survey will be run by Capita People Development, an independent research consultancy with considerable experience of conducting staff surveys in universities and can be completed online. Staff who do not have computer access will receive a printed copy.

Your comments will be reported anonymously, and the University will make a donation of £1 to charity for each completed survey. The results will be fed back to staff, and used to inform action plans to address the findings.

Some staff will remember that a 'Well-Being' survey

was carried out in 2001 as a result of which the Staff Counselling Service was set up; the survey running in April and May will seek your opinions on a broader range of issues.

"The University is committed to making appropriate changes to improve the working lives of staff, so we really want to get your views on what would make a difference," said Deputy Vice-Chancellor Trevor Sheldon who is the leading the project. It will be overseen by the Employee Engagement Steering Group, composed of members of staff from various University departments and representatives from HR.

Further information about the survey will be available on the HR website

[www.york.ac.uk/admin/persnl/](http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/persnl/)

## Vacancies for College deans and tutors, 2008 to 2009

- Are you a member of staff or a graduate student who wants to play an active part in York's vibrant and world class college system?
- Do you want to acquire new skills and experiences?
- And be rewarded with living accommodation for helping make York's college support system the best a modern University can provide?

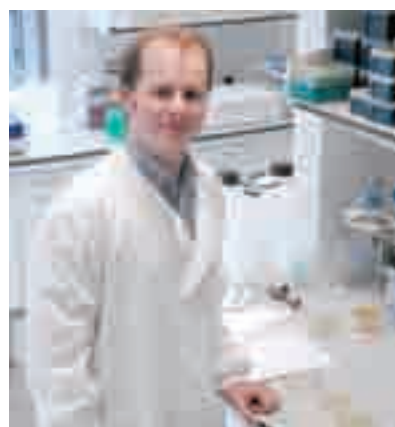
All University Colleges will soon have vacancies for various resident Deans and Tutors. Talk to the College Provost then visit [www-users.york.ac.uk/~cat4/application.html](http://www-users.york.ac.uk/~cat4/application.html) for details and how to apply. Closing date for applications is mid-day on 16 May.

## RESEARCH

### 'Invisible' bacteria dupe the human immune system

Researchers in the Departments of Biology and Chemistry have characterised an important new step in the mechanism used by bacteria to evade our immune system.

It is an 'invisibility cloak' which means that bacteria like *Haemophilus influenzae*, a common cause of ear infections in children, can move about the body without the risk of being attacked by the immune system.



Research leader Dr Gavin Thomas

The multidisciplinary team has been studying how bacteria capture the molecule used to make the 'cloak', called sialic acid. They have now discovered an enzymatic activity that helps in the more efficient capture of sialic acids released from our cell surfaces. As well as using the sialic acid to make the 'invisibility cloak' other bacteria use similar methods to capture sialic acid as a simple food source, so they are literally eating us from the inside!

Dr Gavin Thomas, of the Department of Biology, who led the research said, "This novel enzyme, as well as other steps required for the formation of the 'invisibility cloak' that we have discovered in York, now offers the chance to develop novel antimicrobials against these bacteria."

The team used the Centre for Magnetic Resonance based in the Department of Chemistry, and the Technology Facility in the Department of Biology.

The research is published in the latest issue of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*.

# Yorkall

**Carol Robbins, Receptionist in Heslington Hall, has a secret passion for historical embroidery.**

I've always loved history, but prior to this post at the University, I worked for 30 years as a police administrator. It was a very stressful environment, dealing with up to 50 different jobs in a day, and with very long hours. I had to let up on my historical interests as they would be swamped by work. Then I spent some time with a friend who had broken her back in a high-speed car chase. She was a keen embroiderer and I became interested in it too.

Pattern and embroidery dates back to Egyptian times, and it was much admired. Woven patterns date from 945 BC and embroidery on linen, with figures and animals worked in gold, dates from 672 BC.

This piece of 'blackwork' embroidery – black thread sewn onto 'evenweave' fabric - is my own design. It's based on a 'diaper' pattern inspired by the blackwork embroidery seen on the linen worn by Tudor monarchs in their portraits, especially as painted by Hans Holbein. Blackwork,

or Spanish work, was brought to England by Catherine of Aragon, who became Henry VIII's first Queen in 1509. Blackwork uses a double running or Holbein stitch, which was generally used on edges and anywhere that a reversible stitch was required because both sides show.

At the moment I am working on a bell pull with black hieroglyphics on white. I recommend historical embroidery as a creative, relaxing hobby. It takes me researching all over Britain in museums and great houses, sometimes with friends from the York Embroiderer's Guild or the Elvington Needlers.



You can contribute to Yorkall about your interests beyond the University.

Send 250 words to [magazine@york.ac.uk](mailto:magazine@york.ac.uk).

# African wildlife at the mercy of climate change

**U**nder the shadow of Kilimanjaro, Amboseli is one of the most scenic national parks in East Africa. Traditionally, the Maasai people grazed their cattle here and the name is derived from the Maasai word 'embosel' meaning a dry open area. The park is managed to benefit both its traditional users and the diverse wildlife that the park is famous for, but it is now threatened by climate change.

Dr David Western, a Nairobi-based conservation expert who has studied the region for 40 years, is coordinating a new project to chart the consequences of climate change on people, animals and protected areas. The project unites staff from the Environment Department with scientists from the African Conservation Centre (Kenya) and the University of California San Diego and Missouri Botanical Garden (USA), as well as drawing heavily on traditional knowledge in the area.

Dr Jon Lovett of the Environment Department, who developed the project with David Western, said,

"Traditional herders have recently become more vulnerable to drought and habitat loss - climate change poses an even greater threat. Our project will help local people to conserve biodiversity and so sustain their livelihoods."

The research will build on the work underway in the University's Historical Ecology of East African Landscapes and York Institute for Tropical Ecosystem Dynamics headed by Dr Paul Lane (Archaeology) and Dr Rob Marchant (Environment).

Funded by the Liz Claiborne Art Ortenberg Foundation and other donors, the scientists will map the distribution of plants, mammals and birds in the borderlands – and model their vulnerability to climate change. Results will be used to create management strategies for this vitally important area.

The borderlands of Tanzania and Kenya are characterised by a wide range of habitats with one of the largest concentrations of wildlife on Earth. Environments range from permanent swamps to dry



plains, and lush montane rainforest to savannah grasslands, teeming with herds of elephants and wildebeest. The scenery and biodiversity are drivers of an economically valuable tourist industry for Kenya and Tanzania: each year over one and a half million visitors are drawn to the region's 14 national parks, earning the two nations over \$0.5 billion in vital revenue.

**The borderlands of Tanzania and Kenya are characterised by a wide range of habitats with one of the largest concentrations of wildlife on Earth**

## RESEARCH

# More people with 'end stage' heart failure are able to die at home

**Researchers from the Department of Health Sciences have found that 72 per cent of patients who received support from their pilot project 'Better Together' were able to die in their place of choice.**

The project aims to provide day and night supportive and palliative care for eligible 'end stage' heart failure patients and their families, to see if it would enable them to be treated and die where they wanted to be.

Fifty-seven patients with a mean age of 80 were referred to 'Better Together' of which 67 per cent were men. Thirty-eight patients have died, 63 per cent within a month of referral. The referrals were from both British Heart Foundation heart failure specialist nurses and Marie Curie Nurses, and although fewer patients were referred than anticipated, nurses taking part in the project reported increased knowledge and skills from being trained together and working collaboratively.

Jill Pattenden, Senior Research Fellow in Health Sciences, comments, "The lower number of referred patients than expected may possibly be due to healthcare professionals not initiating the conversations about the end of life that they would have done with cancer patients. People with heart failure and their families are often not aware of the seriousness of their disease, and often wish to be resuscitated when they are actually dying."

## Accent on Yorkshire dialect

**Language experts have created the UK's first digitised database of the Yorkshire dialect. The database contains dozens of interviews with Yorkshire men and women, talking about their lives and their experiences growing up in York.**

The vast collection was originally gathered in the late 1990s by Dr Sali Tagliamonte, then a York-based lecturer. The process of digitising the material has now been completed, and in all more than 90 hours of recorded speech is now available for study by students and academics.

Drawing on the newly digitised data, students will discover how English dialects vary from one speaker to the next, both within Yorkshire and further afield.

Using specialist software, students will learn to measure different aspects of linguistic production and to analyse their findings quantitatively. This kind of analysis is crucial in fields such as speech language pathology and forensic linguistics.

Dr Bill Haddican, a lecturer in the Department of Language and Linguistic Science, said, "Many of our students are from Yorkshire and surrounding areas. The new corpus will let them study language change and structure in Yorkshire - a dialect in which many already have a keen interest."

Similar digital resources are already available at the University for other regional dialects, including London, Newcastle and Derby.

### Yorkshire

**Blathered up** *Dirty, covered in muck*

**Fugglin** *Cheating*

**Mardy** *Miserable, awkward and stubborn*

**Taistril** *Reprobate*

**Wankle** *Unsteady*

# DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

## Biology

Professor Colin Kleanthous co-chaired the 2008 Biomolecular Interactions and Methods Gordon Research Conference in Ventura, California. Dr Nick Housden presented at the session there on 'Macromolecular machines and assemblages' and Katie Lilly, a PhD student in Professor Kleanthous' lab, gave a poster talk and won a year's subscription to *Science*.

Dr Sean Sweeney at the Peninsula Medical School in Plymouth gave a talk 'Using *Drosophila* to dissect roles for sphingolipid in neurological disease'. Dr Sweeney is to join the editorial board of the journal *Invertebrate Neuroscience*.

Dr Roger Sturmey spoke on 'Novel methods for embryo selection' to the Belgian Society of Reproductive Medicine, in Brussels.

Dr Paul Genever at the School of Systems Life Science at Kyushu University, Japan, presented 'Mesenchymal stem cells in 3D'.

Professor Jenny Southgate spoke to the Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy, University of Cambridge on 'Strategies, cells and materials for bladder tissue engineering'.

Dr Fiona Bolland spoke on 'Functional tissue engineering of the urinary bladder' at the Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering annual 'Work in progress' meeting.

At the British Association of Urological Surgeons meeting, Dr Peter Rubenwolf, a visiting Clinical Research Fellow, won the first prize for: 'A biomimetic tissue from cultured human urothelial cells: a model to explore aquaporin-mediated water and solute transport across urothelium'. First year PhD student Lisa Clements presented a poster on 'Over-expression of telomerase (hTERT) increases lifespan but impairs the differentiation potential of human urothelial cells in culture'. Third year PhD student Nick Smith presented a poster on 'Toll-like receptor expression and activation in human urothelium'.

## CNAP

As a member of the Royal Society working group on biofuels, Professor Dianna Bowles took part in the launch of the report: *Sustainable biofuels: prospects and challenges*. In the US, she lectured on 'Sugars, biofuels and sustainability' at the BioEnergy Science Centre, University of Georgia, and at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science gave an invited presentation on 'Resources from plants: the emerging bio-economy'.

Professor Simon McQueen-Mason spoke on 'Realising the potential of second generation biofuels' at the launch of the Yorkshire and Humberside Assembly's *Biofuels Report*. At the Canada-EU workshop on 'Biorefineries - biofuels and bioproducts' he spoke on 'Improving plant cell walls for use as a renewable industrial feedstock'. Professor McQueen-Mason gave a 'webinar' (a seminar delivered over the web) on 'Second generation biofuels: cellulosic ethanol' for the Bioscience for Business KTN.

Professor Ian Graham gave a seminar: 'From seed biology to designer oils: renewable feedstocks for the 21st Century' at the University of Bristol.

Dr Maggie Smallwood spoke on 'Fighting malaria with a medicinal herb' to the Café Scientifique in York.

## Computer Science

The Department has begun collaborating on a five year research programme in Large Scale Complex IT Systems (LSCITS) with the Universities of Bristol, Leeds, Oxford, and St Andrews, funded by the EPSRC.

## Educational Studies

### Centre for English Language Teaching

Annie Hughes at the Materials Development Association (MATSDA) conference on 'Developing materials to meet needs and wants' in Limerick spoke on 'Linking principles and practice in Teaching English to Young Learners: creating meaningful and purposeful materials and activities for the young language learner' and gave a linked workshop.

### Centre for Innovation and Research in Science Education

Nirmala Ragbir-Day spoke on 'Transforming the way teachers influence learning in the classroom: an evaluation of the UK teacher effectiveness enhancement programme' at the conference on 'Management of transformation' in New Delhi.

At the annual conference of the Southern African Association for Research in Mathematics, Science and Technology Education (SAARMSTE) in Maseru, Lesotho, Fred Lubben presented papers with co-researchers at the University of Cape Town about understanding undergraduate students' use of visual representations in physics and also with colleagues at Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) about the use of argumentation by engineering students. At the same event Martin Braund presented, with colleagues from CPUT, about a scheme to help student teachers use argumentation in their teaching. He also spoke on 'Fundamental classroom change: A CPD programme to improve teacher effectiveness'.

## English and Related Literature

Professor John Bowen gave the annual Dickens Birthday lecture in Portsmouth, Dickens's birthplace, on 'Dickens and the devil'.

Professor Derek Attridge gave the opening address at the first James Joyce Graduate conference at the University of Roma Tre.

Professor Nick Havelly gave a paper: 'Mountstuart Elphinstone's Dante manuscript and the Literary Society of Bombay' to the Asiatic Society of Mumbai, and subsequently gave a TV interview about the Society's 14th century copy of the *Commedia*. He also gave a paper on 'Clerics and the *Commedia*' at Harvard University, and at the Centre for Italian Studies, University of Pennsylvania.

Professor Vicki Mahaffey gave a talk at Durham University on 'A portrait of the artist as a sympathetic villain: melodrama, forgery, and silent film'.

## Health Economics

Professor Mike Drummond spoke at the American Association for the

Advancement of Science's 2008 annual meeting, the first time that Health Economics has been included in this prestigious event in North America for science and technology. In the session 'Health economic evaluations of medical technologies: is the cost worth the cure?' he spoke on 'The international distinctions in health economic evaluations'.

Emanuela Castelnovo spoke on 'Assessing the economic value of a drug during development: the public payer and the commercial perspectives' to the British Pharmacology Society. She also gave a seminar on 'Assessing the economic value of a drug during development: a Bayesian value of information approach' at the Centre for Research on Innovation and Internationalisation, Bocconi, Milan.

Five papers by CHE staff were presented at the UK Health Economics Study Group conference in Norwich.

Professor Peter C Smith spoke on 'Innovations in service delivery: assessing performance' at a WHO meeting on health systems, in Bled, Slovenia. He also presented the UK experience with 'Pay for performance in health care' at a seminar of the Haute Autorité de Santé in Paris, and on efficiency measurement in the public services at an EU workshop in Brussels.

## History of Art

Dr Jason Edwards gave a paper, 'Generations of Modernism: Edmund Gosse's sculptural criticism c1894 to 1907' at the College Art Association in Boston.

## Housing Policy

Professor Mark Stephens addressed two all-party Parliamentary groups, one on 'Personal debt' and another on 'Housing', at the House of Commons.

Professor Steve Wilcox met the Financial Secretary to the Treasury to present evidence on options to reform the tax credit scheme in areas with high housing costs. He also gave evidence to the Welsh Assembly on their proposed derogated powers to amend the operation of the 'right to buy' in Wales.

The Minister for Housing and Planning has commissioned an independent review of the private rented sector, to be carried out by Dr Julie Rugg and David Rhodes.

Professor Suzanne Fitzpatrick has become a thematic expert on housing for the EU's URBACT II programme, which brings together relevant parties at local, regional and international level to exchange and learn on a wide range of urban policy themes. They aim to improve the effectiveness of sustainable integrated urban development policies in Europe.

## Language and Linguistic Science

The York-Essex Morphology meeting (YEMM) was held in York, organised by Dr Alexandra Galani, with speakers Dr Paolo Acquaviva (University College Dublin/Universität Konstanz), Dr Theodore Marinis (Reading) and Dr George Tsoulas (York). YEMM involves discussing issues in morphology, exchanging ideas from different theoretical perspectives and publicising different frameworks and morphology research. It also includes student presentations.

### Law School

Ben Fitzpatrick delivered a paper to the Annual Meeting of the NW branch of the Justices' Clerks Society in Liverpool, on the law relating to bad character and hearsay evidence.

### Management

Dr Russell Mannion has edited a special issue of the *Journal of Health Organisation and Management* about the role and impact of incentives in health systems. He has been appointed to the Scientific Committee of the International Society for Quality in Health Care.

Professor Andrew Pendleton gave an invited keynote address on 'Ownership, Corporate Governance, and Labour' to the Association of Industrial Relations Academics of Australia and New Zealand, in St Kilda, Melbourne.

He presented on the same topic at a Graduate School of Management conference at La Trobe University, Melbourne.

### Mathematics

Professor Zdzislaw Brzezniak gave an invited lecture at an international meeting 'Stochastic partial differential equations and applications VIII' in Levico, Italy.

### Music

Professor Roger Marsh at the Oxford Literary Festival spoke on James Joyce's Women, especially Molly Bloom and Anna Livia Plurabelle, as read aloud by Irish actress Marcella Riordan.

### Philosophy

Dr Michael Beaney spoke at University College Dublin on 'Analytic philosophy and the foundations of mathematics' and 'Frege, Russell and Bradley: an analysis of their relations on the analysis of relations'.

Dr Dorothea Debus spoke on 'Experiencing the past and thinking about the past' at Birmingham University, and gave a paper on 'Memory, imagination and narrative' at an interdisciplinary workshop on memory, in Oxford.

Dr Michael Beaney, Richard Flockemann and Professor Tom Stoneham are organising the 2008 British Society for the History of Philosophy conference, at the King's Manor on 'Causation 1500-2000', including speakers Professor David Wootton (History) and Professor Thomas Baldwin (Philosophy).

### Politics

Dr Adrian Leftwich gave papers at the World Bank and the USAID in January on 'Leaders, élites and coalitions in development'.

### SPSW

Dr Marilyn Crawshaw spent a week in Uganda to make arrangements for two postgraduate social work students to undertake placements with Hospice Africa Uganda; to meet the Aids Support Organisation and Positive Men's Union; and to explore the potential for collaborative links with the Department of Social Work at Makerere University, Kampala.

Professor Mary Maynard gave

a paper 'Ageing as a problematic: problems, possibilities and pleasures' at the international Gender Studies centre, University of Oxford.

### Social Policy Research Unit

Dr Hilary Arksey spoke on 'Improving independence - can homecare reablement make a difference in the long term?' at a seminar in London organised by Research in Practice for Adults.

Professor Nina Biehal lectured on 'Family support for adolescents: what does the research tell us?' at a conference on Family Support at Leeds Metropolitan University.

Anne Corden and Dr Michael Hirst gave a workshop 'Death of a life partner: the financial implications' at 'Mixed methods research in social work', an ESRC and SWAP (the Social Policy and Social Work subject centre of the Higher Education Academy) in York.

Professor Caroline Glendinning spoke on 'Developing outcomes-focused services for older people' at a Making Research Count workshop in York.

Professor Gillian Parker gave a seminar 'Supporting parents with mental health problems: evidence from a systematic review' at the University of Leicester.

Dr Roy Sainsbury presented 'Towards a single working age benefit? From Incapacity Benefit to Employment and Support Allowance and beyond' at a 'Westminster briefing' conference 'National welfare to work reform: building opportunities and realising aspirations'.

### Deadlines for the University Magazine

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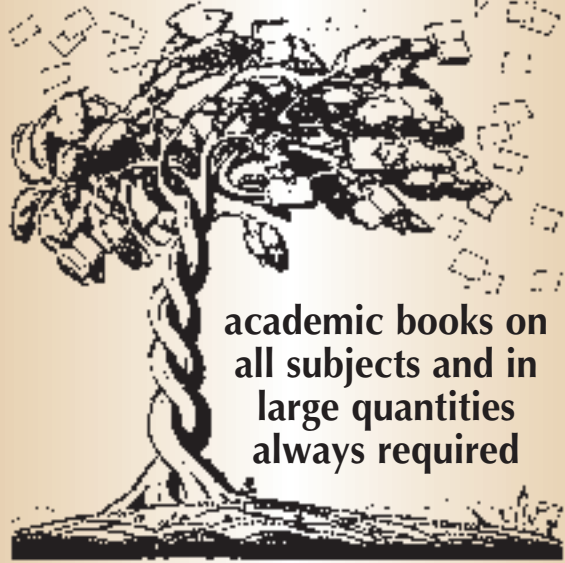
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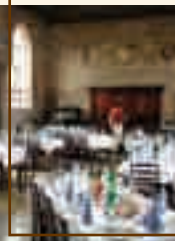
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**1 Animal, vegetable and mineral: an exhibition** of linoprints and copperplate etchings by Milena Dragic and Janis Goodman. *10am to 3.30pm weekdays, Senior Common Room, King's Manor. Ends 28 March*

**8 International Women's Week in York, until 15 March.** See [www.yorkwomen.org.uk](http://www.yorkwomen.org.uk) or call 01904 488870

**12 Possession: Ted Hughes and T S Eliot**, a lecture by Professor Ronald Schuchard, Emory University, USA, in the Department of English Modern School seminars. *5.15pm, Raymond Burton Library Seminar Room.*

**14 Storage solutions: understanding and treating lysosomal disorders of the brain**, a lecture by Dr Fran Platt, Department of Pharmacology, University of Oxford. *12.15pm, KI018, Biology*

**15 Yorkshire Bach Choir and Yorkshire Baroque Soloists** sing Bach's *St John Passion*, conducted by Dr Peter Seymour. Tickets from National Centre for Early Music, 01904 658338. *7.30pm, St Michael-le-Belfrey Church, High Petergate*

**15 National Student Drama Festival**, at which York students will give eight performances of their production of Steven Berkoff's *Metamorphosis*. Visit [nsdf.org.uk](http://nsdf.org.uk). *15 to 21 March, Spa*

*Complex and Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough*

**16 Independence, interdependence and dependence:** the experiences of young people with chronic illnesses, a SPRU seminar by Dr Janet McDonagh, Institute of Child Health, Birmingham Children's Hospital. *1.15pm to 2.15pm, ARRC Auditorium*

**25 Causation 1500 – 2000, a British Society for the History of Philosophy conference.** Speakers include Professor David Wootton (History) and Professor Thomas Baldwin (Philosophy). Details at [www.york.ac.uk/depts/phil/bshp/confs/causation/causation.htm](http://www.york.ac.uk/depts/phil/bshp/confs/causation/causation.htm). *Registration from noon, King's Manor. Ends 27 March.*

**1 The world and Lady Mary: Gender, medicine and culture in the time of Lady Mary Wortley Montague**, c 1690 to 1770. A Centre for Eighteenth Century Studies conference: register by 28 March with [cmb14@york.ac.uk](mailto:cmb14@york.ac.uk). *11am, Huntingdon Room, King's Manor. Ends 2 April*

**3 Membrane biology of *Leishmania* infection**, a lecture by Dr Syamal Roy, Indian Institute of Chemical Biology. *1.15pm, room KI018, Biology*

## APRIL

**9 Promoting housing supply**, a Centre for Housing Policy lecture by Glen Bramley, School of the Built Environment, Heriot Watt University. *1pm, room B 111/112 Alcuin B block*

**10 The Sheldon Memorial Lecture, by Katherine Webb**, on the life of Oliver Sheldon 1894-1951, co-founder of York Civic Trust and driving force behind the founding of the University of York. Entry by free ticket only, from JM Pickard, 21 School Lane, Copmanthorpe, York YO23 3SQ (with SAE) 01904 705530. *7pm, Merchant Adventurer's Hall, Fossgate*

**26 Baroque Day:** University Chamber Choir, University Baroque Ensemble and Compagnia d'Instrumenti perform J S Bach's *Brandenburg Concertos* and four of Bach's *Motets*. *10.30am, 1pm, 3.30pm and 7pm, National Centre for Early Music, Walmgate.*

**28 Identities, relationships and technologies in everyday life**, a seminar for the Centre for Women's Studies by Dr Elizabeth Silva Bortelaia, Open University. *1.30pm room VX330, Grimston House*

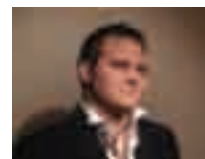
**28 Inaugural Lectures by Professor Marilyn Vihman and Professor Helen Goodluck** (Language and Linguistic Science) *4.30pm, P/L001, Physics*

**30 Tuberculosis: A global killer**, York Biology Lecture by Professor Douglas Young, Centre for Molecular Microbiology and Infection, Imperial College. *1.15 pm, room Biology KI018*

**30 Responsibility modelling in complex socio-technical systems**, a lecture by Ian Sommerville, University of St Andrews. *2pm in CS103, Computer Science*

**30 Ethics, religion and the meaning of life**, a Royal Institute of Philosophy talk by Professor John Cottingham, University of Reading. *6.30 pm, room V/045, Vanbrugh*

**30 Nicholas Nowicki**, a York alumnus, performs two of Ravel's greatest contributions to the piano repertoire, *Miroirs* and *Pictures at an exhibition* (Mussorgsky arranged by Ravel). *7.30pm, Sir Jack Lyons Concert Hall*



Contact the University Box Office on 01904 432439 or [boxoffice@york.ac.uk](mailto:boxoffice@york.ac.uk) for tickets to University events (unless stated otherwise)

**23 March Wings of Time**, an exhibition of film and photographs by artist in residence Thomas Newton, with other artists Alison Wilding RA, Tom Phillips RA, Nigel Hutchinson, Helen Whittaker, and Craig Vear. All respond to Laurence Sterne: "the days and hours of time, more precious, my dear Jenny! than the rubies about thy neck, are flying over our heads like light clouds of a windy day." Free entry. *Shandy Hall Gallery, Coxwold, York YO61 4AD 01347 868465. March/April - Sundays only - May/June daily except Saturday, 11am – 4pm. Ends 30 June*

