Still life in British art: York’s pivotal role in Tate Britain exhibition

VICE-CHANCELLOR TO STEP DOWN

ABBEY RETURN FOR YORK MYSTERY PLAYS

POPPY DISCOVERY’S ANTI-CANCER POTENTIAL
Professor Brian Cantor, the University’s Vice-Chancellor, is stepping down from his role at the end of 2013 and returning to full employment as a scientist and engineer.

A Vice-President of the Royal Academy of Engineering, Professor Cantor is acknowledged as a world authority on materials manufacturing, and his research has contributed to fundamental scientific advances as well as improvements in many industrial products. Before his appointment as Vice-Chancellor at York in 2002, Professor Cantor was Head of the Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences at Oxford University. While at Oxford he founded the Begbroke Science Park, an integrated research and development facility. At York, Professor Cantor has led the University through its most dynamic period of growth with the major campus expansion at Heslington East.

“It is an enormous privilege to lead one of the world’s best universities. York continues to perform extremely well in all areas of activity,” he said. “There is much still to be done over the coming months as we enter the University’s 50th anniversary year, and I look forward to continuing to work with my staff to enhance our academic activities worldwide.”
University awards six honorary degrees

Six distinguished people received honorary degrees at the University’s graduation ceremonies on 11, 12 and 13 July. Honorary degrees are conferred on individuals who have made a significant contribution to society. Recipients often have existing links with the University and are chosen from nominations made by its members.

They were: the award-winning writer and York alumna Linda Grant; Professor Peter Phillips, one of the world’s most influential economists; Professor Jun Chen, President of Nanjing University, one of York’s key international partners; Professor William Marslen-Wilson, an international expert in psycholinguistics, cognitive psychology and cognitive neuroscience; the former Chief Inspector of Schools, Sir Mike Tomlinson CBE, now Chair of MyScience, the body responsible for the National and Regional science learning centres and the national STEM centre based at York; and the politician and businessman Archie Norman, former Chairman of Asda, now Chairman of ITV plc.

The Times Higher Education 100 Under 50

The University of York has been ranked eighth in the world and number one in the UK in a new Times Higher Education world rankings of universities less than 50 years old.

“In just 49 years, York has managed to forge a powerful global reputation as a strong research-led university, and it performs very well against the world’s elite heritage institutions across the Times Higher Education’s 13 separate ranking indicators,” said Phil Baty, Editor of the Times Higher Education Rankings.

The new rankings relied on the world’s largest academic reputation survey – involving 17,500 academics – and an analysis of 50 million citations. According to the Times Higher Education, the ranking ‘employed the same sophisticated range of indicators as the prestigious Times Higher Education World University Rankings, with weightings carefully recalibrated to suit the profile of younger universities’.

Thirteen separate performance indicators were used, covering all core missions of a modern global university – research, teaching, knowledge transfer and international outlook.

This latest accolade, coinciding with the University’s recent invitation to join the Russell Group, confirms the University’s enormous impact in teaching, research and engagement in less than 50 years.

Sixteen new professors and three new readers have been appointed to mark the University’s 50th anniversary next year.

“We wanted to attract a group of outstanding individuals to complement the intellectual leadership and research expertise of our academic staff. It is with great pleasure that I welcome a group of people of such remarkable quality,” said Vice-Chancellor Professor Brian Canter.

The new Chairs are: Andrei Andreyev (Physics), Martin Bees (Mathematics), Michael Brockhurst (Biology), Dunstan Brown (Language and Linguistic Science), Peter Cowling (Computer Science), Brian Cummings (English and Related Literature), Mark Hodson (Environment), Thomas F Krauss (Physics), Mark Leake (Biology/Physics), Sharon MacDonald (Sociology), Professor Giuseppe Longobardi (Language and Linguistic Science), Professor Peter McGlynn (Biology), David Moon (History), Richard Nolan (York Law School), Martin Smith (Politics) and Catherine Wilson (Philosophy).

Robert Hollingworth (Music), Martin Webber (Social Policy and Social Work) and Paul Johnson (Sociology) have been appointed Readers.

Leading academics mark York’s golden jubilee

Over 3,000 people graduated from the University of York at July’s ceremonies.

Photo by Paul Shields
Cable fuels plant potential

The Business Secretary Vince Cable opened the new Biorenewables Development Centre (BDC), at the University on 5 July.

Based in the BioCentre on York Science Park, BDC integrates modern genetics with green chemistry and processing techniques to create renewable chemicals and materials. The Centre will support industry in developing manufacturing technologies that use plants, microbes and biowastes as the raw materials for high value products.

The open-access facilities bridge the gap between the laboratory and industry, providing companies and academia with a way to test, develop and scale up biorefining processes. BDC can also use molecular breeding to rapidly improve plants and microbes as raw materials for these processes. This creates the potential to source high value chemicals from plants by developing novel crops or improving those already in use.

Expansion of the Centre has been supported with £2.5 million from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and investment from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), part of a major infrastructure project led by Science City York to extend the assets and strategic potential of York as a leading centre for science and innovation.

“This investment by BIS is a reflection of the facility’s national significance and unique capability,” explains the centre’s director Dr Joe Ross. “The Biorenewables Development Centre will greatly expand the opportunities for industry to source its raw materials from plants and microbes.”

Voices of South Africa – new volume spans its rich literary history

Some of South Africa’s most renowned literary scholars, including Hedley Twidle, Stephen Clingman, Tlhalo Raditlhalo, Louise Viljoen, HP van Coller, Daniel Roux and Meg Samuelson, feature in a book jointly edited by the Department of English and Related Literature’s Professor Derek Attridge and Professor David Attwell.

The Cambridge History of South African Literature offers a complete portrait of South Africa’s literary production, organised as a chronological history from the oral traditions existing before colonial settlement, to the post-apartheid revision of the past.

The book was launched at two successful events in South Africa earlier this year. The first launch in Johannesburg saw Achmat Dangor, novelist and Chief Executive of the Nelson Mandela Foundation, speaking on South African literary history, and the second event in Cape Town featured novelist, critic and former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Town, Professor Njabulo Ndebele, speaking on the same topic.

Both events featured discussions with Professors Attwell and Attridge on the evolution of the volume, and were attended by leading figures in the South African literary world. The book and launch events received press coverage from South African media outlets including Mail & Guardian, Books Live and LitNet.

IN THE COMMUNITY...
York student volunteers rise to the challenge

University of York students, dressed in character, entertained visitors to the Museum Gardens in June, with stories inspired by exhibits from the Museum’s collections.

The Storytelling Festival, organised in conjunction with the Yorkshire Museum and Gardens, was part of the University’s Summer Term Challenge 2012, run by the Careers Service. The stories, developed and written by the students, included comically narrated tales of evolution, a carefully choreographed sword fight in Roman York, and a Medieval Murder Mystery starring members of the city’s guilds in 1212.

The Summer Term Challenge also included students collecting oral accounts for the York 800 celebrations, running events for the York Festival of Ideas and working with businesses to deliver York Children’s University activities. More than 160 undergraduate students from the Departments of Education and English and Related Literature took part.

Kate Bull, 20, a second-year English student, said “I really enjoyed the creative freedom we were given from both the University and the York Museums Trust – we were allowed to really let our creative juices flow.

“I experienced work within the Museum and Heritage Sector, which is something I now want to pursue in later life.”
Curtain up for student theatre internships

The company behind some of the most successful and innovative theatrical productions in Britain has launched a scheme which will give York students an opportunity to access exclusive graduate internships in the theatre world.

The Ambassador Theatre Group (ATG) is the largest owner/operator of theatres in the UK with 39 venues, a theatre producer and a leader in theatre ticketing services through ATG Tickets. Its portfolio of West End theatres includes the Apollo Victoria, Donmar Warehouse, Duke of York’s, Fortune, Harold Pinter, Lyceum, Phoenix, Piccadilly, Playhouse, Savoy, Trafalgar Studio 1 and Trafalgar Studio 2. Recent co-productions include Ghost the Musical, The Misanthrope starring Damian Lewis and Keira Knightley and Matthew Bourne’s The Nutcracker!

The scheme will be named after Greg Dyke, the University’s Chancellor who has been Chairman of ATG since 2009.

Susan McGuire, Head of HR at ATG, added, “This exciting connection with York will enable a select number of graduates to experience our diverse range of creative, production and management activities.”

New partnerships for Internship Bureau

The Careers Service’s Student Internship Bureau is developing new partnerships with major companies to secure paid internship opportunities for York students. These include an internship programme with the Index on Censorship, an internationally leading campaigning organisation for freedom of expression. Organisations as large as the Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA) through to one-person businesses have engaged with students through the Bureau. Recent projects have included the research and writing of a history of the Betty’s and Taylors savings bank accounts used by working class savers in the period 1820/96. The research forms part of a larger project on working class saving institutions with Professor Josephine Maltby, also of Management.

Our golfing star

One of the University’s sports scholars, Charlotte Austwick, is playing for the Great Britain Golf Team in the World University Golf Championships held in the Czech Republic in July.

The team is made of up seven students, four male and three female; five are from Scotland and Charlotte is the only female English university player. She recently finished first and second in two BUCS Regional Qualifiers, fourth in a Ladies National 36-hole event, fourth in the R&A Scholars Tournament and tied third at BUCS Strokeplay.

Her attendance at the tournament is being supported by the University’s scholarship scheme.

STAFF NEWS

Andrew Bettany, IT Academy manager, has been awarded Microsoft Most Valuable Professional (MVP) status out of only a few thousand current MVPs across the world, and less than ten in the UK in his area of expertise in the country, the Windows Expert – IT Pro.

Professor Mary Luckhurst (FTTV) has won one of the HEA’s prestigious new International Scholar awards for 2012/13. She has been selected as one of the leading international teachers and scholars in the UK and the award supports fellowships at City University New York and the Universities of Sydney and Melbourne in 2012/13 that will allow her to observe specialist teaching and to conduct her own research into actor training techniques in the USA and Australia.

Dr Linda Perriton (Management) won a prize in the biennial European Savings Bank Group academic competition for her research into how savings bank accounts were used by working class savers in the period 1820/96. The research forms part of a larger project on working class saving institutions with Professor Josephine Maltby, also of Management.

Dr Steven Johnson has joined the Department of Electronics as a Lecturer in Electronic Engineering, with his main research focus on nanoelectronic and biomolecular electronic devices.

Dr Peter Bull (Psychology) was interviewed by Channel 4 News for a feature on ‘The crying game: when politicians get teary’.

Dr Rowena Jacobs (Centre for Health Economics) has been appointed to the Council of Governors for York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and would welcome opportunities to help strengthen the multiple relationships and links the University has with the Trust so as to add value to both parties.
york concerts

Autumn includes the Fitzwilliam Quartet in a special programme marking the 40th anniversary of Shostakovich’s visit to the music department, and two leading soloists in the early music field: violinist Rachel Podger and recorder player Pamela Thorby. One of the UK’s most distinguished folk musicians, Kathryn Tickell presents Northumbrian Voices, inspired by the traditional musicians whose skills she has inherited. The annual Practical Project pays homage to American composer John Cage as part of the UK’s largest celebration of his centenary. Seasonal programmes from the University Chamber Choir and University Choir plus the University Symphony Orchestra concert complete the term.

Seeking a global perspective

A team from the University has joined the Higher Education Academy Internationalisation Change Programme which has been designed to help universities develop a culture of internationalisation at all levels of practice. The focus is on enhancing the quality of teaching and learning experiences for all students, both home and international. The proposal includes changing the design of programmes and modules and creating new, inclusive teaching-room practice.

Are you receiving me?

Poetry performed in British Sign Language was the subject of a linguistic analysis by Dr Richard Ogden ‘Are you receiving me?’, an interdisciplinary colloquium on the themes of disability and communication, hosted by the Department of Language and Linguistic Science on 13 June.

QAA Institutional Review success

The University of York received top marks in the recent Institutional Review by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) of all undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and learning.

The review, which takes place every six years, commended the University’s enhancement of student learning opportunities. It confirmed that the University’s awards and quality of student learning opportunities ‘meet UK expectations’ for threshold standards. This is the best outcome that can be awarded.
Academic, author and broadcaster Professor Jim Al-Khalili discussed some of the greatest enigmas of science in a major public lecture on 2 May.

During the fully-booked lecture, Professor Al-Khalili OBE, Professor of Physics at the University of Surrey and presenter of BBC Radio 4’s *The Life Scientific*, considered some of the most famous paradoxes in science. Is Schrödinger’s cat dead or alive? Why does it get dark at night, and where are all the aliens? He explained how these enigmas can be resolved with a little thought, and demonstrated how each can tell a profound truth about how our Universe works.

The lecture, ‘Paradox: The nine greatest enigmas in science’, was part of a science engagement celebration organised by the University’s Science and Society Group, featuring interactive stands showcasing science-related outreach from departments across the University.

Dr Martin Suckling’s (Music) septet *To See the Dark Between* was released on a new CD by the Aronowitz Ensemble.

Katherine Crocker (Economics) has won first prize in the Indigo Dreams Collection Competition in 2010 for her book of poems *Long Exposure at Cordoba*, described by a reviewer as a ‘wide-ranging, distinctive, and extremely good first collection’.

Elizabeth Harbord, Assistant Director in the Information Directorate, is retiring from the University in July, after almost 13 years in the University Library.

Professor Peter Raynes has been made a Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, by the University of Hull. A Leverhulme Emeritus Research Fellow and an Honorary Visiting Professor in the Department of Chemistry, Professor Raynes has worked on liquid-crystal materials and displays throughout his research career.

Professor Alan Baddeley (Psychology), one of the world’s most highly cited psychologists, who is best known for his ‘working memory’ model, developed with Emeritus Professor Graham Hitch, has received this year’s Lifetime Achievement Award from the British Psychological Society’s Research Board.

Two York academics, Professor Pete Biller (History) and Professor Kathleen Kiernan (Social Policy and Social Work), have been elected Fellows of the British Academy, the highest honour for scholars working in the humanities and social sciences. Professor Biller uses texts from medieval universities to investigate thought on topics such as population, and also works on medieval religion, heresy and inquisition. Professor Kiernan’s research interests include family environments and child well-being in the early years, family change in developed countries, and parental separation and children’s well-being.
Awards recognise excellence

The Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Outstanding Achievement aim to recognise and reward staff and students who are making a particularly significant contribution towards key elements in the University Plan.

The awards, now in their second year, are divided into categories corresponding to the Plan’s four themes: Excellence, Internationalisation, Inclusivity and Sustainability. The gold and silver award winners were chosen by a panel chaired by Vice-Chancellor Professor Brian Cantor and members of the University’s Senior Management Group, and the Gold Awards were presented at a meeting of University Court in May.

Winners in the gold category are: the Chemistry Postgraduate Administration Team; Professor Kieran Fernandes (Management); Dr Margaret Ferguson (Language and Linguistic Science); York Law Clinic; the Open Door Team; Andrew Wood (Catering); Professor Julian Richards and the Department of Archaeology; Joan Concannon (External Relations) and the late Jane Moody (Humanities Research Centre) for the York Festival of Ideas; Sue Johnston (Campus Services); Liz Waller and Stephen Town (Information Directorate); vocal chamber ensemble Les Canards Chantants; and Nigel Dandy (Academic Support Office).

Teaching Awards 2012

Thirteen Vice-Chancellor’s Teaching Awards were presented at this summer’s graduation ceremonies. The awards recognise staff and postgraduates or postdocs who demonstrate excellence in teaching and/or learning support at York.

Award winners are: Dr Oliver Craig (Archaeology), Dr Calvin Dytham (Biology), Dr Richard Waites (Biology), Dr Ann Kaloski-Naylor (Women’s Studies), Dr Nigel Lowe (Chemistry), Dr Nicholas Guyatt (History), Catriona Kemp (HYMS Librarian), Professor Paul Foulkes (Language and Linguistic Science), Dr Linda Perriton (Management), Dr Martin Smalley (Physics), Kyriaki Mikellidou (Psychology), Hannah Davies (Theatre, Film and Television), and Dr Vanita Sundaram, Dr Gillian Hampden-Thompson and Dr Kate Harper (Volunteering and Enrichment programme, Education and Careers).

What makes a good supervisor?

Undergraduate students were invited to nominate staff for the accolade of ‘Supervisor of the Year’ in a competition run by the Students’ Union. Winners were selected from over 250 nominations and announced at a celebration event on 27 June by Pro-Vice-

Blunkett asks where now for Labour?

The Rt Hon David Blunkett MP for Sheffield Brightside and Hillsborough gave a lecture for the School of Social and Political Sciences on ‘Where now for Labour?’

Dr Stuart Lowe, Senior Lecturer in Social Policy and Social Work, who invited the MP, said, “I met David as a university student in Sheffield’s Department of Political Theory and Institutions where I was from 1969 to 1972. I used to read for him, and I was amazed at his ability to refer back to points many pages previously with complete accuracy, a sixth sense that enabled him to be in the Blair Cabinet for eight years including as Home Secretary in the turbulent period between 2001/04.

“David’s guide dog, Ruby, would sit up in Bernard Crick’s lectures and growl at the mention of Karl Marx.”

In his lecture at York, David Blunkett recalled Crick’s iconic book, In Defence of Politics, in which he argued for the core nature of ‘politics’ as ‘the art of the possible’ with good governance based on ideas of tolerance, free thinking and the promotion of citizenship as central tenets of ‘political’ societies. The MP argued that we urgently need to relearn these lessons in the 21st century.

Peter lights up Olympic relay

Dr Peter Thompson of the Department of Psychology was among members of the University community chosen to take part in the Olympic Torch relay through York in June.

Dr Thompson has been Chair of the University Sports Committee for over 20 years and ran in every Great North Run from 1995 until 2007 with the Knavesmire Harriers, raising money for Action Medical Research.
Sound recordings captured from the North York Moors form part of Terrarium, a new performance event in celebration of this year’s North York Moors National Park’s 60th anniversary, by PhD composition student Jon Hughes of the Department of Music and freelance choreographer Simon Birch.

The piece will initially be performed in August in different locations across the Moors, and at festivals in Leeds and Hull. Terrarium is for two dancers, and will be performed in the landscape inside a specially made four-metre high transparent dome. The sound will be provided by a powerful 30 metre diameter ambisonic speaker array – eight independent weather-protected speakers arranged in a ring around the dome – creating an exciting sonic experience for the audience, who will be free to roam around, immersed in a 3D sound field.

Jon has been working with past and present York students to create the soundscape for the piece, and is mixing the material in the ambisonic set-up in the Music Research Centre, using panners and decoders written by the Department of Music’s Ollie Larkin and Dave Malham.

For more information and tour dates see www.yorkshiredance.com/terrarium.

Music on the Moors

The display at Tate Britain of 17th and 18th century still life paintings is one of the major outcomes of a three-year research project Court, Country, City: British Art 1660–1735 led by the University’s Department of History of Art and the Centre for Eighteenth Century Studies.

The project, jointly funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and Tate Britain, focuses on a period in British history that saw profound changes in the nation’s politics and society which in turn were reflected in the visual arts.

The intriguing title, ‘Dead Standing Things’, comes from a phrase coined in the 1650s by the author William Sanderson to describe pictures more familiarly known as still life paintings. Characterised as the detailed depiction of inanimate objects, this genre of painting had been established in the Netherlands early in the 17th century and was introduced into Britain by Dutch painters attracted to London’s thriving art world.

Professor Mark Hallett of the Department of History of Art and principal investigator of the project said, “The display at Tate Britain and the forthcoming conference showcase the wide-ranging and highly original new art-historical scholarship that is emerging on British art of this period. They also provide us with the chance to look closely at, and learn more about, some especially interesting and alluring works of art.”

The conference ‘Histories of British Art 1660–1735: Reconstruction and Transformation’ in York in September will mark the end of the ‘Court, Country, City’ project.

The exhibition ends on 16 September. For more information visit www.york.ac.uk/history-of-art/court-country-city.

Autumn term careers fairs

Over 100 key graduate employers and training providers will be invited to the campus to meet our students and staff in three Careers Fairs, organised by the Careers Service in October.

“We want staff from all departments to help us to encourage second- and final-year students to make the most of this chance to engage with the graduate market,” says Louise Thurston, Careers Service Marketing and Communications Manager. “Many students, particularly those from the arts and humanities, don’t realise that these events are aimed at them and that careers in, for example, management, finance and law are open to graduates from a wide range of disciplines.”

Careers in Technology is the first event on 18 October, followed by one on 23 October for Careers in Management and Finance, and Careers in Law on 30 October. At the three fairs, students will be able to learn about the different job sectors and the range of work available, meet specific employers and find out about vacancies for internships, graduate positions and the recruitment process.

“There is no need to book and students can pop in at any time during the day. However, to get the most out of the experience please encourage them to do a bit of preparation before they come, such as researching around the organisations they wish to speak to and preparing appropriate questions to seek out opportunities, tips and support networks,” says Louise.

For more details about specific employers attending, times and venues visit www.york.ac.uk/careers/events.
**NEWS IN BRIEF**

The Students’ Union (YUSU) RAG Committee is awarding small grants of between £200 to £1,000 to local charities and community groups to improve student–community relations. Applications for Community Fund grants open in Spring 2013. For more information contact Mike Britland, Community Development Co-ordinator, on m.britland@yusu.org or 01904 324114.

The Department of Chemistry Administration Team was shortlisted for the Outstanding Departmental Administration Team in the Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Awards. The team has brought in innovative procedures as examples of best practice across the University and HE sector.

In a victory of experience over youth, the University’s staff six-a-side football team won the final against Derwent College. The game was played on the JLD Astroturf pitch in driving rain, with only the core supporters of both teams braving the weather to see the staff team take a 1–0 lead at half-time. Derwent equalised in the second half but two late goals for the staff sealed the victory at 3–1.

The SPSW Online Masters programmes have been awarded ten Distance Learning Scholarships by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, for Autumn 2012 entry. The places are for those working in developing Commonwealth countries on projects that are directly relevant to the Millennium Development Goals, and are for entry to the MPA in International Development.

The Stockholm Environment Institute is now an official member of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition which was launched by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to fast track action to mitigate SLCPs around the world. See www.unep.org/ccac.

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### Sun, sea and ecology

In the Environment Department’s largest-ever field trip, a total of 120 second year students, five staff and three PhD students travelled to Tenerife to learn about some of the environmental pressures faced by the island’s population, including tourism, agriculture, water scarcity, a reliance on fossil fuels and the continuing threat of a volcanic eruption. The students had to work in groups to deliver small research projects which addressed a wide range of research questions including how the islanders and visitors manage their waste and how the ecology of the forest areas in Tenerife have developed over time.

#### All night gathering for gamelan’s 30th

An all-night shadow puppet play marked 30 years of the University of York teaching gamelan, one of the most striking instrumental ensembles in the world of music, at a major international symposium: The Gathering of the Gamelans.

The premiere of *Wayang Lokananta* – the Gamelan of the Gods featured story and puppetry by *dhalang* (puppeteer) Professor Matthew Isaac Cohen and music by gamelan composers from around the UK.

Weaving together myth, legend and folktales about music from the island of Java with the modern story of gamelan in Britain, the play brought together over 100 British gamelan musicians from 15 ensembles across England, Scotland and Wales for a marathon performance.

York was the first university in the UK to have a Javanese gamelan.
New role for Academic Co-ordinators

April 2012 saw a significant development for the role of Academic Co-ordinators when they assumed line management responsibility for Heads of Department.

For the three areas of Science, Social Sciences and Arts and Humanities, Professors Brian Fulton, Andrew Webster and Mark Ormrod will liaise between academic departments, support departments and the University’s structure of governance. Their new Support Groups, formally in place from August 1, will also help to improve communication and build capacity.

From October the three Academic Co-ordinators will also be members of University Research Committee to complement their existing membership of the Senior Management Group, Better Management Sub-Group and Planning Committee. This will mean their role covers the full spectrum of university policy and its implementation, acting as champions for the academic perspective as the University responds to the rapidly evolving external environment.

Brian Fulton: “York science departments provide internationally-recognised research excellence, coupled with a strong teaching ethos. These strengths have resulted in rapid growth in recent years and a marked increase in entry grades in undergraduate recruitment. A major challenge will be to build on our interdisciplinary activities to match the direction of research funding and to develop new and innovative approaches to tackling the main societal issues identified by government as priorities for funding. In this regard the re-organisation of the role of the Academic Co-ordinator is timely, providing a strengthening of structures in which inter-department collaboration can be developed.”

Andrew Webster: “The social sciences at York encompass 11 departments and almost 600 staff. As Academic Co-ordinator, such an academic resource makes my role in helping to build research and teaching links both pleasurable and always interesting, as new avenues of shared inquiry and training open up. Expertise in the fields of health, national and international policy and politics, societal challenges and change, legal, education and business programmes produces a rich portfolio of work. There is of course, the bread and butter stuff of HR, finance, space and all the joys of Better Management to contend with, and running my own research via SATSU. Being ‘on my bike’ – literally and figuratively – is what, I hope, keeps me fit.”

Mark Ormrod: “My aim is to promote the world-class academic excellence of the Arts and Humanities Departments in a way that preserves our distinctive traditions and promotes enterprise and innovation. York’s commitment to the Arts and Humanities is a source of pride (and of envy in many other institutions!), and it is my role to ensure that we fully embrace the opportunities offered. As someone whose own career has been influenced profoundly by York’s exceptionally strong tradition of interdisciplinarity, I am fully committed to developing the research excellence of existing and new centres and institutes. Working with talented and creative people across the University makes my job tremendously rewarding – and even, on occasion, quite fun!”

Traffic reduces as University expands

More people are leaving their cars at home and walking and cycling to and from campus, according to the latest annual transport survey.

In the last year, vehicle movements have fallen from 10,380 to 9,824 this year, a 5.3 per cent drop. Meanwhile there was a 32.5 per cent increase in cycle journeys, rising from 4,347 in 2011 to 5,764 this year. The number of pedestrians has gone up from 13,342 to 14,638. This reduction is in spite of a 15.1 per cent increase in the University’s population from 16,706 to 19,234.

The survey was carried out by an independent firm of traffic consultants.

“The University has worked hard to encourage staff, students and visitors to use sustainable forms of transport,” said Elizabeth Heaps, the University’s Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Estates and Strategic Projects.

“We are encouraged that car use is well short of the anticipated growth at the time of the Heslington East public inquiry – staff, students and visitors can truthfully be said to be voting with their feet!”
METAMORPHOSES BEGINS WITH A BANG

The launch event in the Ron Cooke Hub was accompanied by an installation recreating the beginnings of the Universe which was specially designed for the University’s 3Sixty immersive technology demonstration space by filmmaker Nik Morris.
There was a dramatic opening for the second York Festival of Ideas on June 14 with a lecture by cosmologist Professor Carlos Frenk, world-renowned as the scientific leader of the team who simulated the Big Bang.

This year’s Festival featured over 50 events with world-class speakers, exhibitions and performances under the banner ‘Metamorphoses’, and Professor Frenk’s talk was on the biggest metamorphosis of all. As the Director of the Institute for Computational Cosmology at Durham University, he builds model universes in state-of-the-art supercomputers to try to understand how our Universe evolved from simple beginnings to the complex structures composed of stars and galaxies that we see today.

Following its explosive start, the Festival continued for over a fortnight with a host of inspiring and interactive experiences for people of all ages with entry to many of the events free of charge. Themes included the turbulence of the financial markets, architecture in heritage, the perceptions and perils of ageing, how conflict transforms lives and new writers.

Speakers included best-selling authors Anthony Horowitz, creator of the children’s spy thrillers featuring Alex Rider, and Chinese writer Jung Chang, author of *Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China*. The American sociologist Professor Immanuel Wallerstein gave a lecture on capitalism and thinking beyond the current crisis, while the distinguished biologist and octogenarian, Lewis Wolpert, explored the scientific background and implications of our ageing population.

There was also a lecture to commemorate the organiser of last year’s inaugural Festival of Ideas, Professor Jane Moody, of the University’s Department of English and Related Literature, who died in October after a four-year battle with cancer.

The York Festival of Ideas is a partnership between organisations across the city including the University of York, City of York Council, York Museums Trust, York 800, York Theatre Royal, the National Centre for Early Music and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Young fans of Anthony Horowitz, the prize-winning author and York alumnus, queued up to get their book signed following his talk in Central Hall.

Children learned traditional dance moves and drum beats at the Brazilian Day held in the National Centre for Early Music.

At Science out of the Lab, an exhibition in York city centre, University scientists used props such as a giant nose, a plastic leg with maggots, and oversized microbes to explain to visitors the treatment and prevention of chronic diseases and disorders.

The exhibition of work by Jane McAdam Freud, daughter of artist Lucien Freud, and great granddaughter of Sigmund Freud, runs at the New School House Gallery on Peasholme Green in York until 25 August.
FOCUS ON...
Alcuin College

Named after Alcuin of York, the leading eighth-century English scholar, poet and teacher, Alcuin is one of the University’s very first colleges, accepting its first students back in 1967.

The College is located at the north end of Heslington West, and is closely integrated with the Departments of Economics, Health Sciences and Chemistry, and the Hull York Medical School, providing a home, support network and social scene for 542 resident students and many hundreds of staff.

Alcuin College has a distinctive identity, defined by its spirit of adventure and innovation, and excellent welfare support network. It runs a recycling scheme for students to exchange unwanted items, has an annual summer fete, and, like all the other university colleges, there is a strong sporting tradition at all levels of ability.

“Our culture is being enterprising,” says Provost Tony Ward. “My focus is to support innovation and the personal and academic development of members of the College and to foster the positive atmosphere that will help students make a success of their time at York.”

Provost Tony Ward is pictured far right at the annual Alcuin College summer fete when a new sculpture by former college member and award-winning sculptor Keith Mellard was unveiled. The fete was attended by the Lord Mayor of York, Councillor Keith Hyman.

Alcuin College has recently had a comprehensive refurbishment. All study-bedrooms are equipped with en suite showers as well as internet and phone connections. The undergraduate common room has both 3D and projection TV with surround sound audio.
Theatre producer Liam Evans-Ford has the challenge of staging the Mystery Plays in the shadow of the ruins of St Mary’s Abbey in York’s Museum Gardens for the first time in nearly a quarter of a century.

Liam Evans-Ford smiles a lot for a man with the weight of eight centuries of history on his shoulders. As community producer of the 2012 York Mystery Plays, he has the task of restoring one of the city’s greatest dramatic spectacles to the location which many believe has seen the most effective of its modern incarnations.

To describe his burden of responsibility as substantial is putting it mildly. He is marshalling an army of 1500 enthusiastic volunteers ranging from amateur actors and stagehands to costumiers and photographers, from front-of-house staff to musicians and choristers, as preparations gather pace for the open-air shows next month. Since their renaissance to coincide with the Festival of Britain in 1951, the Mystery Plays have always been a celebration of York’s social cohesiveness.

Two interchangeable casts each numbering 250 will help to ease the strain on the amateur actors of four weeks of nightly performances. They will be joined by professionals Ferdinand Kingsley, who plays God and Jesus Christ, and Graeme Hawley as Satan.

“Two are a number of reasons why we have two casts,” Evans-Ford says. “First, it gives more people more opportunities to be involved, and it’s always been a project that’s been professionally delivered with people from the city.”

University staff and students are taking part and Evans-Ford says that one of his main objectives has been to involve the city’s employers, large and small, in the project. By any measure it is a mammoth project – the stage area alone is bigger than any other in the UK. The entire floor area of York Theatre Royal’s stage and wings would fit into the Mystery Plays stage area four times over.

The sophistication of outdoor events in 2012 means the erection of the auditorium in the Museum Gardens will consume a fraction of the time it once took. Evans-Ford says the outdoor location is less daunting to the non-theatre-goer and will help to fulfil the mission to make the production as inclusive as possible.

Writer Mike Kenny has reduced the 48 plays in the York Cycle to a narrative lasting around three hours. Evans-Ford says the result provides a new dimension to the traditional story for a more secular age.

“People have been telling this story for over 800 years, so our challenge is to tell the story anew and find something that appeals to people who have faith and to those who don’t. It will be an epic event to come and see,” he promises. Bringing the drama to life has been the job of Damian Cruden, who is artistic director at York Theatre Royal and Paul Burbridge, who is director of Riding Lights Theatre Company.

Evans-Ford has no concerns about the capacity of his cast to rise to the challenge, even though he acknowledges some of them will never have been on stage before.

If all the tickets are sold for the 28 performances, the Mystery Plays will be seen by a total of 38,000 people. But it is no longer simply the performances that will be available for the public to see. In this digital age, every aspect of the entire production has been documented assiduously.

Evans-Ford says: “What the photography group is doing is covering every single rehearsal, every single costume-making session, script meetings and so on. Digitally, photographically and cinematically we can record a lot more so it means we have something quite substantial to add to the archive. With a project like this, you are sitting within a massive slice of history that’s been going for 800 years and that, hopefully, will be with us for another 800 years.”

The Mystery Plays run from 2–27 August

Dame Judi Dench (right) appeared in the 1954 Mystery Plays
SCIENTISTS UNLOCK POPPY GENES

BREAKTHROUGH COULD UPScale PRODUCTION OF PROMISING CANCER DRUG

Researchers in the University’s Centre for Novel Agricultural Products (CNAP) and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Australia have made a breakthrough which will help to accelerate production of noscapine, widely-used as a cough suppressant which also shows promising signs as an anti-cancer drug.
The discovery, published in the latest issue of *Science*, shows that the medical compound is controlled by a complex cluster of ten genes encoding five different enzyme classes. This is the most complex gene cluster ever found in plants.

The breakthrough came when the scientists found that poppy varieties producing noscapine express a number of genes that are absent in varieties that are noscapine-free. They then analysed the inheritance pattern of these genes in hundreds of offspring from crosses between noscapine and no-noscapine varieties.

When they saw that all of these genes are inherited together, the researchers realised they could be looking at an incredibly complex gene cluster. The identity and arrangement of genes in the cluster was determined by cloning and DNA sequencing.

“We were amazed to find that this gene cluster encodes for almost the entire biosynthetic pathway for noscapine,” said CNAP Director Professor Ian Graham. “With this one discovery we have been able to produce an outline of the pathway and define a number of the steps involved – something that normally takes years.”

Since the 1960s, commercial industrial techniques have focused on other medicinal poppy alkaloids like morphine and thebaine, used to manufacture pain-relief medicines. Meanwhile noscapine was still being extracted using traditional techniques which hampered supplies and limited its use as a full-scale anti-cancer drug.

Researchers from GlaxoSmithKline say that the fact that the noscapine genes are grouped in a cluster means that plant breeding will be faster and easier, allowing them to use more up-to-date commercial techniques to produce the drug and thus increase its availability.

“Many species are shifting their distributions northwards as the climate warms, but this previously scarce butterfly has surprised everyone by moving its range at over twice the average rate,” said lead author, PhD student Rachel Pateman, of the Department of Biology and the NERC Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.

In the past, the Brown Argus caterpillars fed mainly on rockroses, probably because the plant tends to grow on the hot south-facing chalk hills in the south of England, providing an attractive microclimate in which the caterpillars thrive. As summers have become warmer, the butterfly has been able to switch its diet to species of wild geranium.

Co-author Chris Thomas, Professor of Conservation Biology at York, said: “Because wild geraniums are widespread in the landscape, the butterflies can now move from one patch of host plants to the next and hence move rapidly through the landscape – expanding their range, generation after generation.”

Once considered scarce in Britain, with populations in steep decline, the researchers credit the Brown Argus’s dramatic reversal of fortune to the effect of climate on its ability to change its eating habits.

Warmer summers have led the Brown Argus butterfly to change its diet, allowing it to expand its range and spread northwards by nearly 80km, according to a paper by York researchers published in the latest issue of *Science*.

Noscapine was one of the first natural products to be chemically characterised. It was discovered in 1819 by the French chemist Pierre Robiquet, who later isolated Codeine. The compound has been used as a suppressant in cough mixtures for decades. More recently, it has been reported to have anti-cancer activity and is currently in early stage clinical trials.
THE COMPLEX NATURE OF COALITIONS

WHY DO SOME COALITIONS CREATE POLITICAL OPPRESSION AND ECONOMIC DECLINE WHILE OTHERS ENABLE COMMUNITIES TO REFORM AND FLOURISH?

In Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, protest groups rally against the country’s oppressive regime.
The study of coalitions can help us to influence international development as well as give insights into political science, says Adrian Leftwich, Honorary Fellow in the University’s Department of Politics and Research Director of the Developmental Leadership Program.

Most people associate the term ‘coalition’ with governmental coalitions, such as the present government in the UK, or the more common Italian, Israeli or Belgian governments where individual parties are rarely able to form a single party government.

But, understood simply as a group of individuals or organisations that come together to achieve a goal they could not achieve on their own, coalitions are not confined to governments but are a pervasive feature of all politics in all organisations and groups, even in university departments, churches and NGOs.

Depending on your point of view, coalitions can be ‘progressive’ or ‘predatory’.

Coalitions may be formal or informal, long-lasting or transient. They may bring together NGOs to unite round a campaign; they may temporarily bring together key government leaders with those in business to achieve some economic or social policy reform. They may be at the heart of a peace settlement in a conflict situation. They may seek to achieve or overturn a specific decision, policy or piece of legislation and then (if successful) may disband; they may seek to promote a cause or campaign (like Make Poverty History, or the Pro-life coalition in the USA); they may seek (as an ‘event coalition’) to achieve the maximum possible level of protest (as in the protests at the World Trade Organisation meetings in Seattle some years ago).

And, depending on your point of view, coalitions can be ‘progressive’ or ‘predatory’ in their aims or activities. For example, regimes such as that of President Mugabe in Zimbabwe, are not simply the creation of one man, but are usually a complex coalition of different interests – such as the war veterans, the security services, favoured business enterprises, some customary leaders and others, as in the case of Zimbabwe – all of whom gain from their hold on power.

Coalitions are therefore at the heart of all politics and this is nowhere more true than in the field of development where they can play a significant part in overcoming the pervasive collective action problems that define most challenges of development. But what brings coalitions into being? What factors shape more – rather than less – successful ones and, particularly from a developmental point of view, what facilitates the emergence and success of ‘developmental coalitions’ that promote sustainable growth, political stability and inclusive social development, rather than predatory or collusive coalitions?

With a £5m grant from the Australian Aid Agency (AusAID) the Developmental Leadership Program (DLP) has been working over the last three years to answer some of these questions and to generate policy messages that can assist the international community to help developmental leaderships and coalitions to emerge and succeed.

We have researched a wide range of coalitions in different countries, sectors and issue areas, including women’s coalitions in Jordan, Egypt, South Africa and the Philippines; at HIV-AIDs prevention coalitions in Uganda and South Africa; as well as at the inner politics of regimes such as those in Yemen, Mauritius, Botswana and Zimbabwe.

Work is about to start on the urban coalition that was instrumental in significantly reducing the violence that tore apart the Colombian city of Medellin for many years. And the DLP will shortly publish a comparative study of how informal coalitions at sub-national levels have shaped the different patterns of emissions reduction politics in China and India.

The work this far suggests some interesting hypotheses that we will continue to explore. For instance, ‘trigger’ events (sometimes called ‘critical junctures’ in the literature) often appear to play a catalysing role in the formation of coalitions for reform or change (and these may be a ‘threat’, a ‘crisis’ or an opportunity). The size and composition of the coalition, relative to its goals, can influence its effectiveness, as can the manner in which it both frames and strategises its activities in often very different institutional and political contexts.

The ability to draw on prior networks or to establish links with key players in the state organisations (in the case of advocacy coalitions) is often important, as is the ability to agree on goals, generate trust and sustain credible commitments to the purposes and functioning of the coalition. And the extent to which leaders of the constituent parts of coalitions can bring their followers with them, and the processes of internal management, matter too.

The study of coalitions serves as a lens through which to explore some of the key theoretical issues in political science, such as collective action problems and the relationship between structure and agency. With the prospect of a doubling of funding for the next three years, the DLP is beginning to make an impact on the thinking of key players in international development with particular regard to shifting their thinking and practices from predominantly technical approaches to one that understands better and engages more with the inner politics of development.

For more information about the Developmental Leadership Program visit www.dlprog.org

Case studies

Colombia

The DLP has embarked on a research project focusing on the city of Medellin in Colombia that was once the centre of some of the worst drug-related violence and community division in the world. Yet over the last two decades, thanks to the work of local reform coalitions, local drug-related and other violence has reduced significantly. How was it done?

Zimbabwe

Why and how do predatory coalitions gain control of some states? One of the DLP research projects (‘The anatomy of political predation’) explored why and how the enormous developmental potential of an independent Zimbabwe was transformed into a story of economic decline, political oppression and social conflict over the last twenty years. In putting its own political survival and benefits above the broader goals of development, the civil–military regime that came to rule the country became a predatory rather than a developmental coalition. This tragic story reveals how important it is for the international community to understand better the inner politics of developing societies so as to know when and how to support and promote progressive developmental forces in civil society over the long term.
Alan Hacker OBE

Alan Hacker, who taught in the Department of Music from 1976 to 1986, died on 16 April 2012, aged 73. After studying at the Royal Academy of Music (RAM) he was appointed, aged 19, as clarinettist in the London Philharmonic Orchestra and a professor at RAM. In 1966 Alan suffered a spinal thrombosis that resulted in permanent paralysis; in typically defiant manner, he embarked on a solo career in both contemporary repertoire – working in ensembles such as the Pierrot Players and Fires of London with Harrison Birtwistle and Peter Maxwell-Davies and founding his own contemporary ensemble Matrix – and early music, setting up and directing the Music Party.

In 1976 he was appointed to a lectureship at York and, along with other staff performers, which included the Fitzwilliam String Quartet, Graham Treacher and me, he helped to establish York’s reputation for historically informed performance alongside that for composition and performance of contemporary repertoire. He also developed and expected standards of performance in other areas of classical repertoire as a chamber music coach and conductor/director of University Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra. His ability to realise and help students express the intentions of the composer and to add their own insights had a profound impact on students and staff alike. His support and encouragement was unwavering and he never restricted his time for anyone, whether students, colleagues or audiences. If a more suitable space wasn’t available he would improvise; I remember him rehearsing ensembles – both professional and student – in city squares, and giving tutorials in his car outside the Department because there was no-one to help lift him into his wheelchair.

Throughout his life, Alan was involved in the local community, whether with The Wheldrake Singers and Orchestra or York Early Music Festival with which he was closely involved shortly after its foundation in 1977. Whilst at York he founded the Classical Orchestra and conducted performances of what were the first in modern times on original instruments of such as Beethoven’s 9th Symphony; no challenge was too great for him.

In the mid-1980s Alan decided to try to develop his conducting career, especially in opera, and left the University though remaining a close friend and making guest appearances as both player and conductor. He played the 2nd movement of Mozart’s clarinet concerto with the University Chamber Orchestra at Wilfrid Mellers’ memorial concert in 2008 and continued to teach several of our best clarinetists.

He was appointed OBE in 1988 and gained an honorary doctorate from York in 2004.

Professor Peter Seymour
Department of Music

AT THE CHALK FACE

Biology

Professor John Sparrow visited the Biological Research Centre, Szeged, Hungary and gave a seminar on ‘Drosophila flight muscle: a model for normal sarcomere development and disease’ at Eötvös University, Budapest. He also visited the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, taught PhD students at the University of Manipur and at the North East Hill University in Shillong on ‘Transferable skills – the successful scientist’s other toolbox’, and gave a lecture on ‘Developing enterprise skills for young scientists’ at the Institute of Biotechnology and Sustainable Development in Imphal.

Professor Jenny Southgate gave a talk on ‘Regeneration and differentiation: the yin and yang of tissue homeostasis’ at Johannes Gutenberg University, Germany, and was guest lecturer on the Masters programme in Bioengineering at the École Polytechnique Fédérale, EPFL, Switzerland. PhD student Matthew Lakins and former colleagues from the Centre for Immunology and Infection organised the inaugural meeting of the Stromal Immunology Group, with talks given by researchers from across Europe.

Chemistry

Dr Paul Clarke’s recent paper on the prebiotic formation of carbohydrates was reported in the Daily Mail and many other media outlets worldwide.

The Department hosted the Royal Society of Chemistry Organic Division North East Meeting. Peter Rayner won a poster prize for his work on ‘Chiral carbanions in a bottle’. Professor Peter O’Brien’s lecture, ‘Seeing is believing’, was on his group’s recent work using in situ React IR spectroscopy to monitor lithiation reactions. Professor O’Brien also gave a research seminar at the University of Nottingham.

Professor Sir John Holman has been invited to join the Royal Society’s Vision group which will develop the Society’s long-term strategy for science and mathematics education.

Computer Science

Professor Richard Paige gave a keynote at the Modelling in Software Engineering workshop at the International Conference on Software Engineering in Zurich, Switzerland.

Dr Dimitrios Kolovos organised a workshop on ‘Model comparison in practice’ at the TOOLS 2012 conference in Prague.

Education

The Department hosted the Centre for Research on Education and Social Justice Summer Term seminar, sponsored by the Higher Education Academy, with Dr Vikki Boliver (Durham) as principal speaker and Dr Paul Wakeling as discussant. Dr Wakeling has also advised HEFCE on fair access to postgraduate study and attended an invited seminar on the future of postgraduate provision.

Dr Gillian Hampden-Thompson presented a paper, co-authored with Professor Judith Bennett, on ‘Institutional features of schools, teaching and learning activities, and students’ engagement in science: a cross-national study of G8 countries’ at the annual meeting of the Comparative and International Education Society, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Dr Sarah Olive gave papers on ‘Shakespeare as icon and icon-maker in 21st-century British
television’ at the Renaissance Reincarnations conference, University of York and ‘Fabricating evidence: fictionalising an Early Modern play in murder mystery drama’ at the Popular Fictions conference, University of Newcastle. She also reviewed three productions in the Globe to Globe season at Shakespeare’s Globe as part of the AHRC Global Communities project: www.bloggingshakespeare.com/category/year-of-shakespeare.

Professor Chris Kyriacou presented a paper on ‘Competencies in social pedagogy and the mentoring of troubled school-aged children’ at the FESET conference held by the European Federation for Social Pedagogy in Marseille, France.

The Department hosted a joint conference, Creating Communities: Local, National and Global, bringing together the Creating Citizenship Communities project (Department of Education), the Children’s Identity and Citizenship in Europe Academic Network, and CitizED, the global higher education network for citizenship education. The Welcome address was given by Baroness Estelle Morris, who is a member of the Creating Citizenship Communities advisory board.

Effective Education, Institute for
Dr Tracey Bywater was appointed Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Children’s Early Intervention Trust. She also attended the Nurture Group Network conference, delivering a paper on ‘Perspectives on the psychological management of conduct problems’. Dr Bywater and Professor Robert Slavin contributed to panel presentations at the Blueprints conference in San Antonio, Texas.

Professor Robert Slavin gave a presentation on ‘Recipe for reform’ at a Social Research Unit launch event. He and Professor Nancy Madden also presented ‘Scaling up for success for all: The first 25 years’ at the American Educational Research Association meeting in Vancouver, Canada.

Professor Frank Hardman presented the final report on UNICEF’s Eastern and Southern African programme to emergencies in education at the United Nations compound in Nairobi, Kenya. This is part of a collaborative research programme, ‘Education in Conflict and Emergencies’, with the Post-war Reconstruction and Development Unit.


Electronics
At the Design, Automation and Test in Europe (DATE) Exhibition in Dresden, Dr James Walker, Simon Bate, Dr Martin Trefzer, Professor Andy Tyrell and Emma Brassington promoted the departmental spin-out company ngenics’ expertise in providing variation-aware cell library design, refinement and customisation services, and solutions to foundries, IDMs and fabless designers. At the conference, Dr Walker and Dr Trefzer presented on ‘A reconfigurable architecture for current and future challenges in electronic design and technology’. They have also presented initial designs for the new PanDa chip, which is being designed and fabricated as part of the EPSRC-funded project ‘Programmable Analogue and Digital Array’ with Professor Tyrell, which focuses on novel mechanisms to reconfigure devices and to produce variability tolerant architectures.

English Language Teaching, Centre for
The Centre hosted a British Association of Lecturers in English for Academic Purposes Professional Interest Meeting. Representatives from 30 UK universities discussed new Border Authority rules and how they impact on preliminary language and study skills programmes.

English and Related Literature
Dr Helen Smith’s monograph ‘Grossly Material Things: Women and Book Production in Early Modern England’ was published by Oxford University Press.

Professor Derek Attridge addressed the question ‘Is there an ethics of reading?’ at a conference on ‘The ethics of reading: the humanities in the public sphere’, organised by Princeton University’s Centre for Human Values.

Dr Ziad Elmarsafy gave a talk on ‘Thick translation and the world of the text: between Marracci and Sale’ at the ‘Translating the Qur’an’ conference held at the Centre for the History of Arabic Studies in Europe, Warburg Institute, London. Dr Elmarsafy also co-edited, with Dr Anna Bernard, a special issue of Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies, entitled ‘Intimacies: in memory of Mahmud Darwish’.

Professor John Bowen was interviewed on BBC Radio 4’s ‘The World’ at One on the occasion of Dickens’s bicentenary. He also gave the ‘Beginning the world’ keynote address at the Dickens’ World online conference. Sponsored by the British Council, he gave the keynote address at the International Dickens conference, British School at Rome, and a keynote address at the Dickens: lives in fiction...and afterwards’ conference, University of Milan.

Health Economics, Centre for
Marta Soares has been appointed to the Technology Appraisal Committee of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence for three years.

Dr Andrea Manca gave seminars at Erasmus (Rotterdam), Amsterdam, and Maastricht University in The Netherlands on his NIHR Career Development Fellowship research ‘Developing economic evaluation methods for decision making: the value of access to individual patient data’.

At the Population Health – Methods and Challenges conference, Birmingham, Dr Richard Cookson presented a paper on ‘Cost-effectiveness and cost-utility analysis of diagnosis and treatment strategies for uncomplicated malaria in Africa’ and Dr Susan Griffin presented a poster entitled ‘Incorporating health inequality concerns into cost effectiveness analysis to support decision-making’.

Professor Mike Drummond gave a presentation at the Economic Research Council meeting in London on ‘Value based pricing for pharmaceuticals’, and was a panel speaker for the discussion ‘Rewarding for risk’ at the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry annual conference on ‘Can we afford innovation in medicine?’

Dr Rowena Jacobs gave an invited presentation to Leeds and York Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust on ‘Payment by results for mental health services’. She also gave a presentation on joint work with Valerie Moran, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on ‘Efficiency of mental healthcare systems’ at an Expert Group Meeting on Mental Health Systems in Paris.

Dr Bernard Van den Berg gave a seminar on ‘Valuing informal care – an overview’ at the Health Economics Research Unit, Brunel University, London.

Professor Andrew Street taught a course on Health Policy and Politics in Lugano, Switzerland and gave an invited presentation at the Spanish Health Economics Conference, Bilbao on rewarding hospitals on the basis of patient reported outcomes. Four members of the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare came to discuss measuring the productivity of the healthcare system, productivity and efficiency analysis, and work with quality measurements such as PROMs. The meeting was headed by Dr Adriana Castelli. She and Professor Andrew Street also met Dr Mieko Fujisawa from the Japanese Government and the Tokyo Institute of Technology to discuss the CRe methodology in measuring outputs, inputs and productivity of the English healthcare system.

Health Sciences
Dr Cath Jackson, Dr Catherine Hewitt, Professor Kate Pickett and Dr Gerry Richardson (Centre for Health Economics) have won funding from NIHR PHR for ‘Pre-schoolers in the Playground’, a pilot randomised controlled trial of physical activity intervention for children aged nine to 12 months to four years old. Total funding for York is £90,000.

Professor Alan Maynard was appointed Chair of the Yale of York and Ryedale Clinical Commissioning Group.

Dr Karen Spilsbury won paper of the day at the RCN Research Society International Nursing Research Conference, London for ‘Lives remembered: evaluating the use of a creative writing approach to promote student nurse understanding of older people’. Dr Spilsbury also gave a paper on ‘Exploring Assistant Practitioners’ perceptions of their role in acute hospital wards.’ As part of a public engagement initiative, Dr Friederike Ziegler and Dr Paul Dempster are working with a Mental Health Research Advisory Board established by service users, carers, and interested members of the public.

The Wounds Research for Patient Benefit programme held a dissemination event to update staff and patients on the findings of a prevalence survey of complex wounds.

Ajit Jinjl spoke at the Global Scholars Symposium in Oxford where he proposed a more humane approach to economists by both industrialists and financial regulators.

The Department launched Equipoise, a new journal which highlights questions about health and healthcare and the ways in which York is responding through its leading-edge research and education. Download the pdf from www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences.

History
Dr Liz Buettner has been awarded a Fellowship at the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies in Germany from October 2012 to July 2013. She has also received a 12-month British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship for 2013.

Housing Policy, Centre for
The Centre hosted the Housing Studies Association annual conference on ‘How is the Housing System
Coping?” with Dr Alison Wallace speaking on ‘Making the transition from unsustainable homeownership to renting’, and Professor Rebecca Tunstall asking ‘Do people from neighbourhoods with poor reputations face “postcode discrimination” when looking for work?’ Professor Tunstall gave her inaugural lecture ‘What should we worry about when we worry about housing problems?’ Nicholas Please hosted the second annual meeting of the European Observatory on Homelessness, under the auspices of Feantsa, for which he is the UK representative. He also chaired a Making Research Count event, hosted by York, focusing on multiple exclusion homelessness. Alison Haddon spoke on ‘The Government’s role in tackling mortgage repossessions’ at the Preventing Repossessions in Challenging Times event at the Inn of Court, High Court, Belfast, organised by Housing Rights, NI.

Language and Linguistic Science
Dr Sam Helmuth and Dr Becky Taylor each presented a paper and Ghazi Alghethami presented a poster at the L2 Prosody workshop at the ESRC Centre for Research on Bilingualism at Bangor University.

Management
Professor Annie Wei organised the Special Panel on ‘Human Resource Evaluations and international knowledge diffusion’ at the Academy of International Business (UK and Ireland Chapter) annual conference in Liverpool. She also gave a paper on ‘Cultural proximity and local firms’ catch-up with multinational enterprises’ at the Chinese Economic Association annual conference held at the School of Oriental and African Studies.

Dr Keith Anderson’s new book The Essential PE: Understanding the Stock Market Through the Price Earnings Ratio was published by Harriman House. Professor David Higgins and Professor Aba de Jong (RSM, Erasmus University) organised a conference at York on ‘New’ Business History to stimulate debate and encourage the adoption of new approaches within business history.

Mathematics
Dr Stefan Weigert gave a talk on ‘Mutually unbiased product bases’ at the Centre for Quantum Technologies, Singapore.

‘Integrable models, conformal field theory and related topics’ was held at the King’s Manor, supported by the London Mathematical Society and Institute of Physics and organised by Dr Niall MacKay and Vidas Regelskis.

Medieval Studies, Centre for
Dr Mary Garrison gave the Liebnitz Lecture in the University of Leiden Library on ‘The intellectual world of the Leiden Pliny: a book from York’, accompanied by an exhibition of early medieval manuscripts from the Leiden Universiteitsbibliotheek.

Music
Elizabeth Haddon presented a paper at the Reflective Conservatoire conference, London, along with Dr Beatrice Szczepak Reed (Education) and Dr Darren Reed (Sociology), forming part of their interdisciplinary work on masterclass teaching and learning funded by the University of York Central Fund.

The second performance of Dr Martin Suckling’s violin concerto de sol y grana was given by Agata Szymczewska and the Southbank Sinfonia at St John’s, Waterloo.

Philosophy
Professor Peter Larmarque delivered the keynote address on ‘Thought, make—believe, and the opacity of narrative’ at How to Make Believe: The Fictional Truths of the Representational Arts, Lund University. He also gave a paper on ‘Wanting to know the author’ at the Actions in Art conference, New University of Lisbon, and contributed to an international workshop on his prize-winning book Work and Object (OUP) at the University of Parma.

Politics
Dr David Connolly, Kathryn Rzeszut (PRDU Research Fellow) and Andrea Vanisco (PhD researcher) presented papers at the panel on ‘Recovery from conflict: state building in fragile contexts’ for the Political Studies Association annual conference, Belfast. Dr Connolly also gave a paper on ‘Transitional governance in Afghanistan’ at the Marjan Centre for the Study of Conflict and Conservation, King’s College, London.

Dr Nick Ritchiev held a workshop at the University for current and former policy-makers, academics and independent experts on ‘Defaulying nuclear problems and telogenices’. He interned visiting Beijing and Shanghai as part of a delegation from the Royal United Services Institute, funded by the Foreign Office, to launch a new report on ‘Forging UK-China consensus on a strengthened NPT regime’.

Professor Werner Bonefeld joined Professor Nicos Christodoulakis (former Greek Minister of Finance, 2000/04) and Mr Luig Capranzta (Director of Fiscal Policy, BNP Paribas) to discuss the Euro Crisis at the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, University of Manchester.

As Research Director of the Developmental Leadership Program, Dr Adrian Leftwich participated in a meeting hosted by the Danish Institute for International Studies in Copenhagen, at which five major European development research groups outlined a Joint Statement on new development approaches in relation to Africa.

Dr Chris Rogers’s article, ‘Crisis, ideas, and economic policy—making in Britain during the 1970s stagflation’ was published in New Political Economy (available on first). Dr Sofia Vasilopoulou presented ‘Two level games? Fringe Eurosceptic parties and the media’ (with Katjaen Gattermann) at the annual general conference of the European Political Science Association, Berlin. Her paper, ‘The paradox of nationalism: The common denominator of radical right and radical left euroscepticism’ (with Daphne Halkiopoulo and Kyriaki Nanou) was published in the European Journal of Political Research. Dr Vasilopoulou attended the ‘Greece in crisis: the rise of populism in an age of austerity’ workshop at the Hellenic Observatory, London School of Economics, the Midwest Political Science Association conference in Chicago and the Political Science Association annual conference in Belfast.

Dr Martin O’Neill published Property—Owning Democracy: Rawls and Beyond (Wiley—Blackwell), co-edited with Professor Thad Williamson of the University of Richmond, Virginia. He participated in a workshop on property—owning democracy at the New York Institute for Philosophy at New York University and gave a talk at a conference on the same topic at the University of Zürich.

Dr Audrey Mitchell’s article (with Sara Templer) on ‘Paramilitaries, peace processes and the dilemma of protection: the Ulster Defence Association’s role in “Keeping a lid on Loyalism”’ was accepted by The British Journal of Politics and International Relations.

Professor Neil Carter was keynote speaker at a conference on ‘Environmental issues in political discourse in Britain and Ireland’ at the University of Toulon, where he gave a paper entitled ‘Red versus blue equals green? The party politics of climate policy in the UK’.

Professor Sultan Barakat led the panel ‘The future prospects for the Middle East following the Arab Spring uprisings’ at The Arab Spring: One Year Later conference, hosted by the Georgetown School of Foreign Service in Doha, Qatar.

Brigitte Rohwerder, PRDU Research Assistant, presented a paper at the round table ‘Older people and people with disabilities: vulnerabilities and capacities in situations of emergency and humanitarian crisis’ in Madrid.

Dr Luisa Gandolfi delivered a paper at the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies annual conference at LSE, addressing the emergence of neo-feminist discourses in North Africa. She also gave a paper on ‘Art, representation and resistance in the Arab–Israeli conflict’ in the ‘Cultures of resistance: the case of Palestine and beyond’ workshop at the University of Exeter.

Psychology
Dr Peter Bull gave a plenary lecture on ‘Nonverbal communication skills and clinical practice’ to GI Summit2: Sharing Innovations in Gastroenterology at the Marriott Hotel, Frankfurt.

Dr Bull and Dr Pam Wells gave an invited paper on ‘Follow-ups in Prime Minister’s questions’ to the Conference of the International Association for Dialogue Analysis, Åbo Akademi University, Finland.

Reviews and Dissemination, Centre for
The Centre hosted a workshop at the King’s Manor on behalf of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The aim was to bring NHS decisionmakers and researchers together to discuss how to increase the use of research evidence in NHS decision-making. Participants on the day included senior managers from Provider Trusts, Cluster Commissioning Boards and Public Health from across the North of England.

Social Policy Research Unit
Professor Nina Biehal gave keynote presentations on ‘Outcomes of adoption: findings from research in England’ at ‘What are the outcomes for adopted children?’ in Zurich, Switzerland; on ‘Living in children’s residential homes’ at ‘Children’s homes: getting it right, making a difference’ in Manchester; and on ‘Multi—dimensional treatment foster care in England’ at a Northern Ireland Health and Social Care Commissioning Board Practitioner Event in Antrim, Northern Ireland. She also gave a plenary presentation on ‘Outcomes for fostered children’ at ‘How is it working for children? Developments in fostering’ in London, organised by the British Association for Adoption and Fostering.

Dr Jenni Brooks and Dr Wendy Mitchell ran a workshop on ‘Personalisation and carers: the role
of carers in assessment, support planning and managing personal budgets’ at ‘Personalisation: Where are we at? Where are we going?’ organised by the University of Lincoln.

Professor Mike Stein presented on ‘Corporate parenting from care to adulthood, a research perspective’ to a Government ministerial cross-departmental seminar with Tim Loughton MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families. The seminar was chaired by Baroness Massey of Darwen and organised by the Department for Education and the National Care Advisory Service. He gave keynote presentations on ‘The neglect of adolescent neglect, messages from research at a time when working with young people affected by abuse and neglect’ at the University of Edinburgh, organised by the Scottish Child Care and Protection Network, and ‘Resilience in care and after’ at the Northern Ireland Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum Meeting held at Queen’s University Belfast.

Jim Wade gave a keynote presentation on ‘Home or away? Comparing outcomes for reunified and looked-after children who have experienced abuse or neglect’ at ‘Home or away: making difficult decisions in the child protection system’ at the University of Warwick, organised by Research in Practice. He also gave a seminar on ‘Maltreated children: weighing the risks of reunification and long-term care’ at Kingston University.

Social Policy and Social Work
Dr Chris Holden, Dr John Hudson, Dr Stefan Köhner and Dr Neil Lunt visited the Hong Kong Institute of Education, and a seminar at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, which has just joined the Worldwide Universities Network. Chris Holden and John Hudson visited Sun Yat-Sen University in mainland China to explore possible collaborations. In Korea, the group hosted a York–Korea Social and Public Policy Research Seminar, which included five of York’s former PhD students as well as a number of invitees from universities across Seoul. During the visit to Seoul, Neil Lunt presented work on medical tourism at the Catholic University.

Dr Carol-Ann Hooper presented a paper, co-authored with Dr Robert Gunn, on ‘Recognition as an ethical and moral duty’ at a BASPCAN Congress in Belfast.

Dr Elizabeth McDermott presented ‘Shame and young queers’ cyber-talk: Using online methods to understand self harm’ at the British Sociological Association Conference in Leeds.

Juliet Koprowska presented a workshop at the annual Systems-Centred conference in San Francisco, California, on the implications of neurobiological knowledge about the mirror neuron system in humans for professional learning. She also led a workshop on the Systems-Centred Therapy (SCT) method for dealing with anxiety.

At the UNICEF Regional Social and Economic Policy Network Meeting in Tbilisi, Georgia, Professor Jonathan Bradshaw gave papers on ‘Child well-being and the impact of the crisis in advanced economies’ and ‘Social protection for children in advanced economies and other middle income countries: lessons for CEECIS’.

Sociology
Professor CeliaKitzinger is the Principle Investigator for an ESRC Seminar Series Grant for a project called ‘Advance Decisions: informing implementation strategies through interdisciplinary and cross-national dialogue’.

Dr Nicholas Gane has been awarded a British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship to pursue research on ‘Neoliberalism: a missing history’, the influence of classical sociology on the early neoliberal political economy of the 20th century.

Dr Merran Toerien and Professor Paul Drew have been awarded University pump priming funds to study interactions in ophthalmology clinics. The proposed study, focusing on consultations with diabetes patients, will be developed in collaboration with health professionals at Central Middlesex Hospital.

Stockholm Environment Institute
Dr Johan Kuylenstierna and Dr Kevin Hicks attended a meeting at the US State Department in Washington to discuss the US-funded project co-ordinated by SEI on Facilitating Action on Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs) in Developing Countries.

Theatre, Film and Television
Dr Varsha Panjwani co-organised ‘Renaissance re incarnations’, an interdisciplinary conference with the Centre for Renaissance and Early Modern Studies on the 20th– and 21st-century afterlives of early modern men and women, with Dr Chloe Preedy (Cambridge).

Professor Mary Luckhurst won a £10,000 British Academy small research grant to support her scholarship at the City University of New York. PhD student Christos Manolas presented the paper ‘Exploring sound design in stereoscopic 3D cinema: an investigation of potential uses of auditory cues as a means to enhance the sense of depth in 3D cinematic scenes’ at the 3D Storytelling conference on ‘Moving your story into the third dimension’, London.

York Centre for Complex Systems Analysis (YCCSA)
At the International Conference on Information Processing in Cells and Tissues at Trinity College, Cambridge, Dr Simon O’Keefe gave a poster presentation on ‘Simulating neurons in reaction-diffusion chemistry’ with James Stovold. Graduate student Richard Greaves also presented a paper on ‘Extending an established simulation: exploration of the possible effects using a case study in experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis’.

Professor Kiran Fernandes and researcher Mike Perkins published a survey on York residents’ attitudes towards the police, with the support of North Yorkshire Police, Safer York Partnership and City of York Council.

Professor Susan Stepney visited Stirling University to give a seminar on ‘Complex systems simulation as a scientific Instrument’.

Dr Giuliana Indelicato gave a talk on ‘Non-icosahedral pathways for the expansion of icosahedral viral capsids: a coarse grained model’ at the Discrete and Topological Models in Molecular Biology conference in Tampa, Florida and a presentation on ‘Mathematical problems in the description of structural transitions of viral capsids’ to the Mathematics and Mechanics of Biological Assemblies and Soft Tissues Workshop in Milan.

Graduate student Celina Wong gave a presentation on ‘A coarsely discretized size-
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