Inspirational message at The Green

Ellen MacArthur hosts conference at University
Groundbreaking corporate degree is launched
University sets national ‘greenprint’
Welcome to the Winter edition of News & Views.

Since the autumn, the University has once again had lots to celebrate and I’m pleased to be sharing these exciting successes with you in this edition.

The University was pleased to welcome Ellen MacArthur to the University campus at the beginning of December for the Ten+One Conference. The international three-day summit was chaired by Ellen and involved 10 leading speakers and activists on the theme of the ‘circular economy’ (page 4). This year Europe’s largest and most high-profile public science event, the British Science Festival, comes to the University of Bradford, read more on page 5.

Pages 6 & 7 take a look at the UK’s longest graffiti mural which was painted on campus by international street artist Mohamed Ali. Life in the Wall was painted on the hoardings of The Green, the new student accommodation which will be opening later this year.

Morrison’s supermarkets, in partnership with the Bradford University School of Management, have launched a new initiative which offers undergraduates a salaried job whilst studying for a BSc in Business and Management (page 9). And, for the second year in a row the University has won The Times Higher Award for ‘Outstanding Contribution to Sustainable Development’ (page 10).

The University Award Ceremonies were due to take place in early December, but with adverse weather conditions the University had to make a very difficult decision to cancel four out of the five ceremonies, the first time it has ever had to do so. The snow and disrupted travel meant that the University closed at midday on Wednesday 1 December and was also closed on Thursday 2 December. More information about this and the ceremonies can be found on page 11.

This edition’s My View is written by Forensic Archaeologist, John McIlwaine, who discusses a project that Archaeological Sciences are involved in; the search for some of the victims of Northern Ireland’s Troubles (pages 12 and 13).

Our Learning and Teaching (14 and 15) pages look at the relaunch of Chemical Engineering and work carried out by the Escalate Centre over the past year.

Research and Knowledge Transfer news (pages 16-21) highlights the Science Bridges China event held at the World Expo 2010 in China, as well as news of exciting work being done across the University in new areas of research and knowledge transfer.

I hope all of our readers had a wonderful Christmas and wish you all the very best for 2011.

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Our contributors
Mark Dolby and John McIlwaine

Our photographers
The following photographers have supplied images for this edition of News & Views: Simon Stock and Victor De Jesus
A group of the world’s leading Circular Economy thinkers and advocates – including Ellen MacArthur – are challenging business and society to re-design the materials we use and to revolutionise the manner in which we make them. In a Circular Economy, waste becomes food for another cycle or process rather than simply being thrown away. This ‘cradle-to-cradle’ approach is a paradigm shift from the ‘cradle-to-gravel’, or linear take-make-dispose, manufacturing model which casts off as much as 90 per cent of materials it uses as waste – some of it toxic.

Senior business and education stakeholders gathered at the end of November at the University for the Ten+One conference, so called because it featured 10 lectures around one key perspective on the transition to a sustainable economy. They learnt more about a model gaining advocates across the globe.

Ellen MacArthur, whose new Foundation is working with business and educators to promote interest in the Circular Economy, said: “It’s time for a rethink. Cradle-to-Cradle products and services are designed so that after their useful life they provide value, either as ‘biological nutrients’ that safely re-enter the environment or as ‘technical nutrients’ that circulate without being down-cycled into low-grade uses. It’s about how to thrive in a changing world, one where waste is no longer affordable.”

The yachtswoman has spent the last four years working with government, business, NGOs and the public sector to learn more about the complexities of the challenges we face. Her new Foundation is supported in areas fundamental to the sustainability of the UK – Education; Energy; Communications; Transport & Design - by Founding Partners B&Q, BT & CISCO (joint partners), National Grid and Renault. The University, through its ‘Ecoversity programme’, has an academic partnership with the Foundation which will see the launch of an accredited educational programme in early 2011 to help create a community of business and educational leaders for the ‘re-design’ revolution.

Speakers at the Ten+One event included Euan Sutherland, CEO B&Q plc; Douwe Jan Joustra, Programme Manager Cradle-to-Cradle; and Chuck Bennett, Vice-President, Aveda Earth & Community Care, Aveda Corporation.

For more on The Ellen MacArthur Foundation visit: www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org

To see a short video interview with Ellen about her visit to Bradford visit: www.bradford.ac.uk/news-and-views
In a major coup for the area, the British Science Festival, Europe’s largest and most high-profile public science event, will return to Bradford in September 2011 - its first time in the city for over 100 years. A diverse range of stakeholders, including the University which will host many events, are now working hard to bring the festival to life in what has been recognised by festival organisers as a district of science industry and education.

Many academics from the University will be amongst the organisers of events around the theme of ‘Exploring New Worlds’. Roland Jackson, Chief Executive of the British Science Association, said: “We are thrilled to be returning, on our third visit since 1873, to Bradford; a diverse city with thriving cultural and educational institutions.”

Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Mark Cleary, said: “As a University with a strong history in science and engineering and a focus on research-informed teaching, we are delighted to be bringing science to the people of Bradford. Science is crucial for future innovation and in creating new employment opportunities, and I look forward to working with organisations, businesses and communities to make this festival a resounding success.”

Organised in partnership with the University, the Festival was launched at a breakfast event on campus in November. It brings over 350 of the UK’s top scientists, engineers and commentators together to discuss the latest developments in science and technology with the public. Tens of thousands of visitors regularly attend a wide variety of events – from hands-on family days, to debates on current hot topics and unique opportunities to question the UK’s top scientists.

Almost every year since 1873, when the British Science Association was founded as the British Association for the Advancement of Science, the Festival (previously known as the Annual Meeting) has taken place at a different location around the country. Bradford has previously hosted the Festival twice - in 1873 and 1900.

The festival will run from 10-15 September. For more information visit www.bradford.ac.uk/british-science-festival

Ten years of success at the RTS Awards

For the tenth year running, students from the School of Computing, Informatics and Media have won recognition for their work at the Royal Television Society (RTS) Yorkshire Student Awards. The glitzy regional awards give students the opportunity to showcase their work to some of the industry’s big names, providing a great boost for the winners’ CVs.

Previous winners from the University have gone on to work for successful production companies such as TT Fusion, Red Frog Multimedia and Redstar studios in a wide variety of production roles.

RTS Yorkshire Student Awards recognise the best student work from across the region and are the only awards which are judged by professionals in the television and broadcasting industry.

The Entertainment category was won by final-year students Peter Janaway, Jack Silverman, Vicky Weeden, Andrew Sykes and Melissa Szuzko. Their final-year project ‘Neighbourhood Noise’ (pictured) looks at the underground live music scene in Bradford through the eyes of musicians. Final-year students Gavin Russell, Ashley Jones, Chris Solier, Bilal Afzal and Damen Hughes came runner-up in the Factual category with ‘Highly Addicted’ which revealed the lives and experiences of a drug world in a northern city.

To view an interview with two of the winning students visit www.bradford.ac.uk/news-and-views

Above and top: shots from ‘Neighbourhood Noise’, one of this year’s award-winning films by final-year students
Inspirational message at The Green

During autumn, international street artist Mohammed Ali transformed the building site hoardings around The Green student village into an inspirational piece of artwork.

His work, called Life in the Wall, helped raise awareness of environmental issues and the power of education, two of the core principles of The Green. A talk from the artist was held to allow members of the public to learn more about Ali’s work. A grand finale event was held on 1 October with performances from urban poets David J and Jonzi D, along with percussion, bringing the themes of the artwork to life.

Work on The Green, Sustainable Student Village is progressing well and the first block of townhouses is almost complete, with all the internal fixtures and fittings in place. The high-quality accommodation, which will be the most environmentally-friendly student accommodation in the UK, will be completed by September 2011. A ‘show house’ will be open in late January for future students to look at. It will offer a unique and enviable living experience, including the following features:

Outdoor space
Going against the grain of student accommodation, the development will feature house gardens including patio areas for the townhouses and ample green space for everyone to enjoy. Built-in barbeques add to the outstanding offering.

Community Spirit
All spaces have been designed to create maximum interaction between residents to ensure students enjoy a village atmosphere. A biodiversity pool will create a central place to meet and relax, and there is retail space potentially for a café.

Location
The Green is situated in the heart of the city campus, giving it a highly desirable location. It is a stone’s throw from the Students’ Union, the library, the sports centre and the main areas of teaching space.

Internal design and features
Clean lines will maximise space and high-quality fittings have been used. The apartments have attractive en-suite bathrooms with showers, and the townhouses have six bathrooms shared between 12 people. Bedrooms have been designed to provide comfort and good spaces to study.

Communal areas have been designed to encourage interaction, and the accommodation includes three spaces in the townhouses – lounge area, dining area and kitchen, and two in the apartments – kitchen and dining area. This is a superior offering to many student accommodation developments.

Transport and facilities
Being located at the city campus, The Green is just a five-minute walk from the city centre and two train stations and a major bus interchange. In addition there will be a considerable number of cycle racks on site, to encourage green travel.

A laundry will be available on site, along with vending machines, and the possibility of a retail unit/café. It is a stone’s throw from the shops and cafés available on campus.

Visit www.bradford.ac.uk/news-and-views for images, video footage and an interactive panorama of ‘Life in the Wall’
The University's fundraising ambitions have got off to a strong start, with £146k raised in philanthropic donations in 2009/10. The generosity of Bradford's donors has also enabled the University to claim an additional £140k from the Government’s Matched Funding scheme for higher education in respect of donations made between 2008 - 2010.

The Matched Funding Scheme was introduced in August 2008 by the Government to encourage voluntary giving to higher education institutions. Administered by HEFCE, the Scheme runs until this summer – to qualify, funds must be received prior to 31 July.

The University of Bradford is in Tier 2 of the scheme, which means that for every £2 donated, £1 is given by the Government, allowing Gift-Aided donations from many individuals to be almost doubled.

The University is relatively new to formal fundraising, having set up its first fundraising function in 2009 to harness support from stakeholders, alumni and friends of the University for the benefit of current and future students, and to support its high-quality research work.

The generosity of supporters has benefited a wide range of projects, including scholarships and prizes, new facilities for the School of Management, and new equipment for student radio station RamAir. In addition, many alumni chose to make a gift to The Braduate Fund (see below), which has funded a range of areas such as hardship funding, additional learning opportunities, equipment for student societies and support networks for international students.

The University has a huge range of worthwhile causes to support, from research into cancer therapeutics to hardship funds for students in desperate need. To find out more about donating to the University, please visit www.bradford.ac.uk/giving-to-bradford

"I am so thankful to the donor for receiving this Christmas hardship money, which helped me through this tough phase in life."

A recipient of £50 hardship money
University helps progression to level four

The University is giving AS-level students an insight into university life. The scheme, a national first, gives students the opportunity to study modules in Psychology, Science or Law giving them an edge when applying for places at university. The modules are also designed to develop study skills, as well as communication and presentation skills.

The University of Bradford’s School of Lifelong Education and Development has awarded certificates to 35 Year 12 students for successfully completing modules in the Progression into Level 4 (P2L4) scheme in 2010. Dean of the School of Lifelong Education and Development, Nadira Mirza, said: “This scheme offers a fantastic opportunity for students of Bradford to achieve qualifications which will place them ahead of other applicants when applying to study in higher education.”

After completing the scheme, the students have now gone on to successfully study at universities including Oxford, Imperial College London, Edinburgh, Leeds, Manchester and Bradford.

Interfaith dialogue in the city goes from strength to strength

1,500 people from the Bradford community and beyond have taken part in thought-provoking and challenging discussions over the last 18 months as part of the ‘Faith and the City’ programme.

The programme was launched in 2008 by the School of Lifelong Education and Development, in partnership with the Bradford District Faiths Forum, and is led by speakers who are authorities and critics in the broad fields of religion and politics.

The purpose of Faith and the City is to raise the level of debate amongst all communities and to encourage them to collectively think about difficult issues around cohesion, faith, politics and values.

Dean of the School of Lifelong Education and Development at the University, Nadira Mirza, speaks to News & Views about the programme:

“The University has a commitment to opening up programmes like these to all of its stakeholders, in and beyond Bradford. It is particularly important that the University has participation from the student body, who are our leaders of tomorrow and authors of their own future and of this city, and from community and business leaders, who have a powerful role to play in these debates and can help to create a future for the city.

“Interfaith issues are of paramount importance to both the School of Lifelong Education and Development and the University. Feedback from previous Faith and the City events demonstrates that our students, staff and the communities we serve are keenly interested in discussing, debating and sometimes disagreeing on matters of interfaith relations and their potential implications in today’s world.

“Here at the University we are proud to host such influential speakers. Having hosted internationally recognised speakers such as Shami Chakrabarti, Mona Siddiqui, Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, Ziauddin Sardar, William Dalrymple and Fatima Bhutto, we are committed to facilitating this form of dialogue which we hope will benefit the communities we serve. The programme’s success is evidenced by the range of speakers who are keen to come to Bradford and be part of the series and the staggering 1,500 people who have attended the talks over the last 18 months.”

The partnership between the University and Bradford District Faiths Forum has grown in success over the last 18 months. In 2009 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the partners to formalise their strong collaborative approach and sustained intentions to continue to work together on interfaith dialogue.

For more information visit www.bradford.ac.uk/sled or call 01274 234009.
New corporate degree is launched

Morrison’s supermarkets, in partnership with Bradford University School of Management, have launched a new initiative which offers undergraduates a salaried job whilst studying for a BSc in Business and Management.

The programme provides candidates with a debt-free university education whilst working in a fast-paced business, followed by an exciting career on graduation. It is an attractive option for those looking to develop a career in the retail industry. The company already currently employs around 40,000 16-24-year-olds and has 3,500 employees set to achieve retail/ modern apprenticeships.

The corporate degree places are available within the manufacturing division of Morrisons, the UK’s second biggest fresh food producer, and a key part of the supermarket’s business. As a vertically integrated business, Morrisons is closer to source than any other retailer and owns its own supply chain including meat processing plants, produce packing houses and abattoirs, meaning there is a wealth of opportunity for long-term career development on offer.

The three-year earn-as-you-learn programme is a mix of block learning at the School, distance study, on-the-job work experience and work-based projects in the food manufacturing division business.

The programme has been designed for Morrisons by Julian Rawel, Director of Executive Education at the School of Management. He said: “The CBI and government are calling for university education to be more relevant to business. With university funding for extra places so stretched, I believe the concept of the corporate degree is something that every FTSE 50 company will want to offer.

“The investment that businesses make in future talent will stay in their organisation. Students gain the skills and experience they need for career progression, plus the enrichment of a university education, a salary, no debt and a job.”

Trainees will learn about all aspects of food manufacture at Morrisons through placements at one of 15 centres, located from Aberdeen to Northampton.

The corporate degree builds on an existing partnership between Bradford University School of Management and Morrisons. The School advises on in-house training programmes for Morrisons Academy and delivers postgraduate training for middle and senior managers who can go on to MBA study.

Norman Pickavance, HR Director, Morrisons said: “We believe it is vitally important that industry and education sectors deliver vibrant new solutions which enable people to keep developing and gaining qualifications whilst they learn. We’ve always focused on training our own, and our former Chairman Sir Ken Morrison, who retired after 50 years’ retail experience, attended evening classes at Bradford University School of Management in the 1960s.

To view an interview about the new corporate degree visit www.bradford.ac.uk/news-and-views

Easier treatment in sight

Individuals from West Yorkshire thought to be suffering from a range of eye diseases will no longer have to travel as far afield as Manchester or Newcastle to undergo key diagnostic tests.

The Bradford School of Optometry and Vision Science at the University has launched an electrodiagnostic testing unit which will be able to assess patients from across the West Yorkshire region. Having this unit in the West Yorkshire region will not only significantly cut journey times, but will also reduce the length of the anxious waiting period for many patients.

The new unit will carry out tests for NHS and private hospitals in the region, allowing doctors to manage particular eye diseases more efficiently. Dr Declan McKeefry, Reader in Visual Neuroscience and Director of the Electrodiagnostic Unit, said: “At present, there is little or no provision for this kind of diagnostic testing in the West Yorkshire region. Currently, patients are being sent to centres in Manchester, Sheffield and Newcastle in order for these tests to be performed.

“This is unsuitable from both the point of view of patients, as well as for clinicians who are exploring ways to improve waiting times. Our aim is to provide a quality visual electrodiagnostic service to the region, embedded into the existing academic research and clinical infrastructure of Bradford School of Optometry and Vision Science.”

Mr Shafiq Rehman, Consultant Ophthalmologist at Calderdale & Huddersfield NHS trust, said: “This is a wonderful development - it’s about time that we had access to specialised ocular electrodiagnostic services in the Yorkshire region.”

The programme places are available at one of 15 centres, located from Aberdeen to Northampton.

A patient being examined in the Visual Electrodiagnostic Testing Unit at the University of Bradford. Such tests are invaluable in diagnosing a variety of hereditary or acquired eye disorders.

Helping students to see things more clearly

The Eye Clinic at the University’s Bradford School of Optometry and Vision Science is looking for volunteers to have their eyes tested by final-year Optometry students.

Being a volunteer at the Eye Clinic is easy and requires just a couple of hours of time and a little patience in order to help students gain valuable experience. All clinics are supervised by qualified members of the School, and volunteers will receive a 25 per cent discount on any spectacles purchased, and will also receive a small contribution towards travel.

For more information call the University Eye Clinic reception on 01274 234649 or visit www.bradford.ac.uk/optometry/the-eye-clinic. The Clinic is situated on Listerhills Science Park, Bradford BD7 1HR.
University is greenest in UK

Bradford has once again been acclaimed as the greenest university in the UK.

For the second year in a row the University has won The Times Higher Award for ‘Outstanding Contribution to Sustainable Development’. The award was given at a ceremony in London at the end of November.

The University’s institution-wide project ‘Ecoversity’ represents a concerted attempt to marry the social, environmental and economic aspects of sustainability. The Ecoversity programme has won numerous awards over the last few years, including an International Sustainable Campus Award.

The Times Higher Awards are the premier awards for the higher education sector, recognising excellence in a number of key areas.

A core element of Ecoversity is the Education for Sustainable Development programme, which embeds sustainability into the curriculum of all students studying at the University.

Bradford Royal Infirmary Matron, Louise Fox, said: “Many of our children were in hospital on Christmas Day so for the School of Health Studies to take the time and effort to make these toy donations is really special and will certainly have lit up many a poorly child.”

"For children in hospital, play can help speed up their recovery and put a smile on their little faces.”

As shoppers were frantically in search of their last-minute Christmas presents, staff and students at the School of Health Studies were busy collecting gifts for local children who were spending the festive season in hospitals in Bradford and Airedale.

Some of the most seriously ill youngsters were not able to return home for Christmas and in Bradford Royal Infirmary alone, up to 67 children and young people spent Christmas in hospital.

Dean of the School, Shirley Congdon, commented: “We work very closely with both Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Airedale NHS Foundation Trust, who provide an excellent level of support for our students whilst they are on their clinical placements. We wanted to be able to express our thanks and to bring some festive cheer to families whose children are spending Christmas in hospital.”

Bradford Royal Infirmary Matron, Louise Fox, said: “Many of our children were in hospital on Christmas Day so for the School of Health Studies to take the time and effort to make these toy donations is really special and will certainly have lit up many a poorly child.”

"For children in hospital, play can help speed up their recovery and put a smile on their little faces.”

"It is fantastic to have won this accolade for the second year running."

The Times Higher Awards are the premier awards for the higher education sector, recognising excellence in a number of key areas.

Award judge Patrick Finch, Bursar and Director of Estates at the University of Bristol, said: “(Ecoversity) stands as an exemplar of how a commitment to sustainability in practice can bring about transformational change in a higher education institution. The project commenced in 2005 and has delivered outstanding results year on year, which continue into 2010 and hopefully will continue for many years to come.”

In 2004, Bradford’s main campus was seen as run down and its poor student accommodation was interspersed with car parks and uninspiring open spaces. The University embarked on an integrated sustainability programme embracing the linked ideals of health, wellbeing, sociability, biodiversity and ecological landscaping.

This led to the demolition of 1,500 energy-inefficient student bedsits and a significant investment programme over the period 2005-10. Highlights now include an indoor/outdoor social space known as the Atrium; a sustainable conference centre; a refurbished sports centre which has attracted a 640% rise in membership; a more spacious and energy-efficient Students’ Union; the Peace Garden designed by staff and students; and an apiary which now houses 60,000 bees.

A 1,000-bed student village called The Green is currently under construction, which will be the most environmentally-friendly accommodation in the UK. Due for completion in September 2011, the development will be the first-BREEAM* Outstanding student living complex.

A core element of Ecoversity is the Education for Sustainable Development programme, which embeds sustainability into the curriculum of all students studying at the University.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Geoff Layer, said: “It is fantastic to have won this accolade for the second year running. It represents the hard work by our staff and students as we progress our journey of sustainability. We are proud to be a sector-leader in sustainability and our unique approach is something which attracts students to Bradford.”

* BREEAM is the most widely recognised rating of environmental building development.
Honorary Graduates

During the first ceremony, which did run in the morning, Dr Ingrid Roscoe was made an honorary Doctor of Letters for her work as the Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire and for her continued support and commitment to the University and the Bradford region.

Ingrid’s father, Dr Arthur Allen, was in Devon with the RAF forces being mobilised for D-Day. Her future god-father, a school friend of Arthur, provided a refuge for Ingrid’s mother, Else. Her father died during her childhood and in 1958 her mother married a Yorkshire industrialist, Brigadier Kenneth Hargreaves (Lord-Lieutenant 1970-78) and the family moved to Wetherby, Yorkshire. Ingrid started to become involved in voluntary activities as a young mother, first locally and then nationally, choosing principally to support arts-orientated causes. She began to publish articles on aspects of the fine and applied arts.

Ingrid was made a Deputy Lieutenant in 1994, Vice Lord-Lieutenant in 1999 and became the first lady Lord-Lieutenant in the north of England in 2004. She was High Steward of Selby Abbey from 2000-2008. She is a trustee of York Minster and of the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, a patron of the Prince’s Trust for West Yorkshire, patron of the National Mining Museum, President of the Royal British Legion in West Yorkshire and President of the Leeds Philharmonic Society.

Ingrid said: “I’m absolutely thrilled to be receiving the award. Bradford is immensely important because it is a melting pot of nations and the way forward for our world is for a lot of faiths to come together, and work together, and Bradford has taken a lead in that. Bradford has taken a lot of leads; all sorts of cutting-edge courses have started from this University and I think that’s wonderful. Bradford is a melting pot and I’ve been involved in that for many years.”

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mark Cleary, said: “During the first ceremony on the Wednesday morning we were being contacted by many graduands to inform us they would not be able to attend. We had a duty of care to protect the safety of all of those on campus, and all those thinking of coming to the campus.

“With this in mind we felt we had to postpone the ceremonies. This decision was not taken lightly and we sincerely sympathise with graduates, their friends and families who have been affected. We will be holding a rescheduled ceremony on Monday 18 July for graduates affected.”

For more information about the rescheduled ceremonies visit: www.bradford.ac.uk/awards

You can watch Ingrid’s interview in full at www.bradford.ac.uk/news-and-views.
My View:

John McIlwaine

The University of Bradford is proud to celebrate top-quality international research especially when it comes to knowledge transfer and the University’s strapline of ‘Making Knowledge Work’. However, in the area of the forensic work undertaken by Archaeological Sciences at Bradford, it is hard for the University to celebrate their achievements openly due to the work being done as part of an operation for criminal investigation.

Forensic Archaeologist at the University John McIlwaine is proud to be sharing with our readers details of a project that Archaeological Sciences are involved in: the search for some of the victims of Northern Ireland’s Troubles.

As far as most of the world is concerned ‘The Troubles’ in Northern Ireland came to an end with the signing of ‘The Good Friday Agreement’ in 1998. For many in the Province however, there continues to be a powerful legacy of loss, pain and grief. It is said that ‘time heals all’ but for the families of ‘The Disappeared’ the suffering has continued for decades.

‘The Disappeared’ of Northern Ireland were people abducted, murdered and secretly buried during the 1970s and early 1980s by proscribed organisations, principally the Provisional IRA, although other organisations also participated in the practice. The families of ‘The Disappeared’ have had to struggle with not just the trauma of loss and the pain of bereavement, but also the agony of not knowing how, or why, their loved ones were taken. For them, there have been no funerals. They lack graves to mourn at, and so for them the grieving process has never properly started. In addition, the families have been left feeling isolated and vulnerable as the community has often been silent concerning these cases, due to an underlying fear of the consequences of speaking out. Despite this, the families have continued to campaign for decades, in the face of intimidation, for the return of their loved ones.

In 1999 as part of ‘The Good Friday Agreement’ a unique organisation, the Independent Commission for the Location of Victims’ Remains (ICLVR), was established by Treaty between the British and Irish Governments. The sole purpose of the ICLVR (usually referred to as ‘The Commission for the Disappeared/ the Commission’) is to obtain information, in strict confidence, which may lead to the location and recovery of those listed among ‘The Disappeared’. Whilst it is supported by both governments, the Commission acts independently and any information gleaned by it cannot be passed to any other agency and cannot be used in any court of law. This model has attracted a lot of international interest from places where similar tragic events have taken place. In 1999 and 2000, on the basis of information received by the Commission, a number of sites were investigated and several bodies recovered.

However, there are still a number of outstanding cases and the Commission asked independent forensic expert Geoff Knupfer to conduct a review of these cases and suggest a new way forward. Geoff was selected for his expertise having been the Director of the Centre for Applied Socio-legal Studies at the University of Teesside and previously Chief Superintendent...
Critical to forensic work is the fact that it does take a special type of individual. Fortunately, I am not trying to do this on my own. I have the support and expertise of my academic colleagues, Rob Janaway and Andy Wilson, both of whom have substantial amounts of forensic experience with extensive criminal cases work in the UK. They are able to contribute their specialist knowledge which comes from their internationally respected research in taphonomy, textiles, fibre, hair and other forms of trace evidence. Rob contributed significantly to the early stages of the field programme, but as the demands have grown he has taken more of an advisory role due to his heavy work commitments. Whilst Rob had to downsize his direct contribution, our fieldwork continued thanks primarily to the efforts of two key members of the team, Bobby Friel and Niamh McCullagh. Bobby was a mature student with us back in 1999 and has built up a vast array of archaeological and forensic experience over the years, whilst Niamh McCullagh, a highly experienced Irish archaeologist, undertook an MSc degree in Forensic Archaeology and Crime Scene Investigation at Bradford in 2006/7. She has played a vital role in the project since then. She has undertaken some of the most arduous work and deserves a medal for her efforts. Added to them has been a highly skilled and dedicated team most of which have strong connections with the University. They have been quite simply outstanding throughout a gruelling programme of work in sometimes horrific conditions. For example when the team arrived on site a couple of weeks ago, the temperature was -15°C, and when asked by our machining contractors whether the team was going to work, the response was: ‘Well, that’s what we came here for’.

Usually as forensic archaeologists, we work for the Police in a criminal case and we know little or nothing about the person we are looking for above the key operational details we need. One unusual feature of this work is that I have come to know the families very well as the Commission has regular meetings with them to keep them informed of the work programme and the developments. I brief them on the work of the forensic archaeology team. This makes it all very real especially for myself and Bobby (Friel) as we both grew up in Northern Ireland during ‘The Troubles’ and have witnessed at first hand the destruction and suffering that those days brought. The families recognise this; at the second meeting I ever attended one of the driving forces of the families, the brother of one of The Disappeared, asked a couple of questions about the work. He then just looked at me and said: ‘This isn’t just a job to you is it?’

It was a privilege to be asked to lead the team but on occasions it has proved very hard and not just due to the constraints of weather and terrain. We have had successes which are wonderful but not every search has been fruitful. When things don’t go to plan it is really tough when you have to tell a family that we can’t bring them their loved one. The worst was a search we did in France. It took nearly two years of tripartite negotiations between the British, Irish and French governments to allow the work to take place. We were led to believe that the intelligence was reliable; however, this proved not to be the case. The team was very down afterwards and personally I was absolutely gutted. The family was very understanding and appreciated that everything that could have been done for their loved one, had been done. It still doesn’t make you feel any better. Bobby and Rob constantly remind me that ‘our job is to search for remains and once located, recover them. No matter how good you are, you can’t find what isn’t there’. They are right, but still, it doesn’t sit well.

However, we have had more success than anyone predicted possible at the start of this project, and there are still a couple more sites to investigate. If new information comes forward on the site where we have not yet recovered the victim’s remains we will return to continue our work. Hopefully one day the victims will be recovered and their families can have peace and closure. Whatever happens next, the families can always rest assured that everything humanly possible has been done to bring their loved ones home.
The Escalate employer engagement programme continues to build upon the University’s expertise and capacity to provide responsive workforce development opportunities for local employers.

Working with West Yorkshire Lifelong Learning Network, Escalate have appointed a Higher Level Skills Co-ordinator to work alongside the Bradford Council Employment and Skills Team and the Employment and Skills Board, helping local employers identify their skills and training needs and locate solutions that might be available through the University and local colleges. This includes full programmes, such as vocationally focused foundation degrees, or shorter certificate courses, as well as more innovative arrangements such as a ‘progression agreement’ from a vocational award or an apprenticeship where the University might accredit an employer’s own training programme.

In order to facilitate the development of bespoke higher education programmes for specific sectors or employers, Escalate has developed a ‘Professional Studies’ framework designed to enable a rapid and flexible response to employer needs. Celia Moran, Director of the Escalate Programme, explained: “Escalate has teamed up with a number of private training providers to accredit tailored programmes for specific roles, and these have been designed to meet both organisational objectives, and the requirements of a higher education award, enabling organisations to reward staff achievements and provide progression opportunities for further study.”

Escalate has been working with Yorkshire Housing, a major regional provider of social housing, to identify skills and training needs, and develop a workforce development solution that will enable them to deliver their corporate objectives.

The Yorkshire Housing Corporate Plan is focused on achieving excellence and they have restructured their housing services in order to deliver this. To ensure staff are able to perform their roles within the new structure, Yorkshire Housing have created the Housing Services Learning Paths. The Housing Services Learning Paths is a programme of learning for staff in all roles and will include core learning on customer service, interpersonal skills, self-management and understanding the Yorkshire Housing business. An individual skills needs analysis will highlight other areas for development specific to the individual’s role.

Escalate has been a key partner in identifying the core learning needs and creating the skills needs analysis survey. The Learner Development Officer has worked closely with Yorkshire Housing to identify the skills required by creating a competency framework that takes into account the knowledge, expertise and behaviours required for each individual role.

These have been mapped across all roles within Housing Services and used to determine the questions for the Housing Services Skills Needs Analysis Survey.

An online survey will be used to identify areas for development, which has been made specific to each role so that individual learning needs can be identified as well as the learning needs of a larger team. The survey has been written using Yorkshire Housing’s own eLearning portal and is fully integrated with online learning materials and the appraisal process.

Vicki Illingworth, Learner Development Officer, said: “Key to this project’s success is the fact that this is not an ‘off the shelf’ needs analysis adapted to fit the client, but a truly bespoke analysis designed around the needs and objectives of Yorkshire Housing at both an organisational and an individual level.”

For more information on creating a bespoke skills needs analysis for your team or organisation, please contact Vicki Illingworth (Learner Development Officer) on 01274 235637 or email v.i.illingworth@bradford.ac.uk
Dr Darwin Liang from the School of Engineering, Design and Technology was presented with a finalist prize at the Higher Education Academy’s Engineering Subject Centre Teaching Awards 2010. The Awards provide an opportunity for engineering academics to receive national recognition for their outstanding learning and teaching practices.

John Dickens, the Centre’s Director, said: “Dr Liang was short-listed as a result of the outstanding teaching used within the second-year Electrical and Electronic Engineering programme. One of the assessment panel stated that the teaching employed represented ‘a thoroughly well-reasoned, systematically implemented revision of a course’ that was aimed specifically at reducing dropout rates; the results of which include some impressive exam success rates along with ‘some interesting information about students’ attitudes to this new approach’.”

Details of the award, together with a link to the case study ‘Student-centred Activity-based Learning and Teaching using Technology’ developed from data gathered through an observation of the teaching components, interviews with students and student questionnaires and focus groups, are available at www.engsc.ac.uk/teaching-award/2010

Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Learning and Teaching, Professor Geoff Layer, said: “This approach came at a time when the University was investing significantly in expanding its range of science-based courses in line with a national and international agenda. By linking staff in Engineering and Chemistry we have created a dynamic new degree programme with excellent employment opportunities - another good example of ‘Making Knowledge Work’.”

Teaching excellence receives national recognition

Successful bid for inclusive and sustainable curriculum resources

The University’s expertise in inclusive curricula, education for sustainable development and digital literacy has been further recognised by the award of over £21k.

The award came from the Higher Education Academy and JISC to create open educational resources (OER) that can be used in initial training courses for university staff across the sector. The ORIC (Open Educational Resources for the Inclusive Curriculum) project will further develop materials in our existing PG Certificate for Higher Education Practice (PGCHEP) and is being conducted in collaboration with the University of Salford.
University showcases expertise at World Expo in Shanghai

In September the University was host to Chinese and UK ministers, senior industrialists and academics in the UK pavilion at the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai.

The University’s Science Bridges China programme was asked by UK Trade & Industry (UKTI) to showcase the programme’s successes in forging partnerships and creating collaborative ideas for new drugs and healthcare products with top universities and healthcare companies across China.

The World Expo is often described as the Olympic Games of the economic, scientific and industrial world. Typically held every five years, the Shanghai Expo was the biggest so far, with exhibits from over 200 countries and 73 million visitors.

Only one year into the three-year programme funded through Research Councils UK (RCUK), Bradford’s Science Bridges China is already proving a phenomenal success. The University believes the model it has developed offers a channel through which other UK universities and companies can create collaborations with China to accelerate the delivery of new products and technologies.

The Bradford-China programme is funding 11 innovative research projects which are expected to lead to new drugs based on both Western and traditional Chinese medicines, as well as new medical devices and therapies.

Paul Thorning, Director of the University’s Institute of Pharmaceutical Innovation which forms part of the Science Bridges team, says: “China is a superb match for the UK in terms of linking new technology with the ability and funding to take ideas to market. In the UK, we’re IP-rich but lacking in funding, so many
Innovative ideas fail to flourish. China has well-funded, well-equipped institutes and the ability to ‘think big’. Funding for new ideas is readily available as is access to strong science and large-scale clinical trials. There’s also a genuine desire in China to collaborate with the West.”

Dr Jiansheng Du, R&D specialist for UKTI, said: “The University has been able to make a success of its Science Bridges programme because of the existing relationships with China which gave them a strong foundation to build on. With its expertise in drug screening, drug design and medical technologies, the University provides an excellent opportunity for Chinese pharmaceutical companies.

The event in the UK Pavilion at the Shanghai Expo 2010 was a huge success. It began with a welcome from Carma Elliot - the Consul General from the British Consulate in Shanghai.

This was followed by a speech from the UK Science Counsellor from the British Consul General, Beijing, David Bacon. He spoke about UK Partnership with China in Science and Innovation in Life Sciences.

Many presentations were given from academics in the Science Bridges team and covered areas such as Open Innovation and Innovation Case Studies. The team was joined by their long-standing partners in Innovation, the Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica (SIMM) and various universities from around China.

The event also included signing ceremonies between the University and various partners:

- A framework collaboration agreement between the University of Bradford and Sichuan University
- A collaboration agreement for open innovation between Changzhou Science and Technology Bureau and the University of Bradford
- Three open innovation projects with Changzhou Government in Taste Masking, Alzheimer’s disease and tissue engineering for a dental implant
- A collaboration agreement for a project set to make frontline malaria treatment Artemisinin cheaper for treatment between Jilin University, SIMM, TianjinCrystec and the University of Bradford

The day was a real celebration of science and technology and provided a great opportunity for the University to show how open innovation workshops work, with the hope of attracting new business opportunities.

Research helps medicines go down without the sugar

A spoonful of sugar is the traditional way to help medicines ‘go down’. But getting young children to take foul-tasting medicines - even if their lives depend on it - requires more than a bit of added sweetness. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), each year over eight million children die of diseases that could be avoided if essential medicines were available in appropriate formulations for children.

Researchers from the University are working with colleagues from China to make some of the most bitter-tasting medicines, from both Western and traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), easier to swallow. The aim of the research is to develop a suite of technologies that can mask the horrid taste of essential children’s medicines in liquid form for use across the world.

“It is possible to reason with an older child and persuade them to take a medicine despite the taste,” explains Dr Marcel de Matas from the University’s Science Bridges China programme.

“But with a six-month-old baby, reasoning won’t get you very far. Sweetness is much more shorter-lived than bitterness, so even where a sweetener is used, you’ll often get a nasty aftertaste. A young child will remember that the medicine tasted horrible, and will spit it out, refuse to swallow or simply refuse to take it at all. By making a medicine taste neutral, it can be mixed easily with food and drink, which means it will work effectively anywhere in the world.”

Also involved in the project is a UK company, BioSuspensions Ltd, who will provide new technologies for creating liquid formulations from otherwise insoluble medicines. A large proportion of essential medicines are insoluble, making the creation of formulations for children even more difficult.

The project was developed during an open innovation workshop run by the University of Bradford in Changzhou as part of their Science Bridges China programme. It is being funded by the city government in Changzhou, with the aim of generating new technologies within two years which can be commercialised through a jointly-owned spin-out company based in China.

Grass looking greener for malaria patients

The frontline malaria treatment Artemisinin could soon be treating more people for less cost, thanks to a research collaboration between Bradford and Shanghai.

Artemisinin is the leading treatment on the market able to combat drug-resistant strains of malaria, but a more efficient form of the drug is urgently needed. The active ingredient is just one per cent of the plant and when taken in tablet form, poor solubility means that the amount of the drug absorbed into the bloodstream can be as low as 20 per cent.

An extract of a grass grown mainly in China and Vietnam, Artemisinin is also vulnerable to poor harvests, changing agricultural practices and natural disasters. Stocks were devastated in 2008 by the Sichuan Earthquake.

About 3.3 billion people – half of the world’s population – are at risk of malaria, with around 250 million new cases each year and nearly one million deaths, mostly in the developing world.

Experts in drug design and delivery from the University of Bradford are working with scientists from Jilin University and the Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica to create a version of the drug that retains more of the active ingredient during manufacture and can be taken up more easily by the body.

“Our research is focusing on making the best and most effective use of the stocks of Artemisinin that are available to us,” explains Professor Peter York, who is leading the project at Bradford.

“We’ve worked in the past with other challenging drugs, so we believe we’re well placed to make an impact. While other research groups are looking at modifying the plant or synthesising the drug to overcome the problems of supply, we want to ensure we are able to create a medicine that works efficiently at minimum dosage, wherever the supply comes from.”

The research will also look at ways to improve the rate of solution and absorption of Artemisinin through the Super Critical Fluid process, by modifying the size and form of the drug particles and possibly incorporating hydrophilic polymer into the drug particles. Absorption studies and chemical analysis will be carried out by the Chinese project partners.

For more information about the China Science Bridges programme visit: www.bradford.ac.uk/science-bridges-china

For pictures and videos from the visit to Shanghai visit www.bradford.ac.uk/news-and-views
People have long enjoyed the calming sounds of a babbling brook, waves breaking on the beach, bird song or a quiet stroll through the countryside. Now, University of Bradford researchers have been able to show that low background noise combined with visual scenes comprising a high percentage of natural features such as plants, water and rocky outcrops do indeed lead to high ratings of tranquillity.

They have developed a way to predict levels of tranquillity allowing designers to incorporate calming elements in their plans, even in urban places. One of the benefits of such a prediction model is that it shows to what degree high noise levels (e.g. from traffic) can be compensated for by increasing the percentage of natural features (e.g. tree planting or the introduction of water features).

Tranquil spaces have been proven to be “restorative” in that they have psychological and physiological benefits and help us recover more quickly from stress, and therefore should be within easy reach of each and every citizen.

Collaborating with researchers from Sheffield University who had access to fMRI (functional magnetic resonance imaging) equipment, the team also looked at how such restorative environments affected brain function. Professor Watts, from the University’s Centre for Sustainable Environments, who is based in the School of Engineering, Design and Technology, proposed an experiment that examined the visual effects on the perception of sounds by studying the brain response to two contrasting visual environments, one tranquil and one non-tranquil, but which had the same accompanying sound. Professor Watts found that the sound heard a few tens of metres from a surfing beach is very similar to the noise heard from a motorway carrying heavy traffic at a distance of a few hundred metres. Both are characterised by a steady “roar”.

Using detailed brain-scanning and analysis techniques, the research found that tranquil spaces (beach scenes) cause distinct brain areas to become “connected”, whilst man-made environments (motorway scenes) can disrupt the brain connections. It suggests that for tranquil scenes the brain is reflecting on the positive aspects of the visual and auditory sensations, while in the non-tranquil scene there is a lack of integration and possible rejection of auditory stimuli.

It is expected that the findings of the research, published in the NeuroImage journal, will assist in the design of further experiments aimed at developing optimum restorative environments which will have long-term health and wellbeing benefits for citizens.
A PhD student from the University has developed a wireless robot which is controlled simply by using the human eye.

The project uses sophisticated eye-tracking technology and could change the lives of thousands of disabled people.

Suraj Verma, a Master of Science student from the University’s School of Engineering, Design and Technology, has created the robot, under the supervision of lecturer Dr Prashant Pillai.

Intelligent Recognition for Interactive Systems (IRIS) Communication, the name given to the project, has been developed to employ eye-tracking technology in the field of robotic navigation, home automation and media and marketing research.

A head-mounted eye tracker has been developed which detects the movement of the human eye and accordingly controls the navigation of the robot via Bluetooth. The developed system can also turn on/off lights and other electrical appliances in the room using the X10 wireless protocol - an open standard for wireless control of household electronic devices using bursts of radio frequency signals.

The main aim of this project was to aid physically challenged people in communicating and being able to control their household appliances. Systems using sound and touch to control a computer are available to help disabled people, but the IRIS Communication system uses eye-tracking to control the computer and other household appliances.

Dr Pillai said: “The advanced eye-tracking technology used in this project has several practical future applications in the research area of assisted living, especially for the disabled. The technology used in this project could be extended to control an electric wheelchair by just looking in the direction in which you want it to go, and this is what we would like to explore next.”

Apart from real-time control of the robot and the household appliances, the IRIS system can also be used in the field of media and marketing research as the system can be used to determine the amount of attention given by a user to any form of media such as advertisement posters, magazine articles and websites. The system could assess the effectiveness of outdoor posters and hoardings to see if they attract the attention of pedestrians.

The system can be easily extended to control the computer mouse, browse the internet, replace game controls and operate a mobile phone via the computer.

To view a news report of this story visit www.bradford.ac.uk/news-and-views

Control the future with the blink of an eye

Master of Science student Suraj Verma (left) with his lecturer Dr Prashant Pillai

Bupa partners with Bradford Dementia Group

Leading care home provider Bupa Care Services is partnering with the University’s internationally recognised centre for excellence, Bradford Dementia Group, to provide its care home staff with specialist dementia care training.

The training, called ‘Person First, Dementia Second’, is being rolled out to every member of staff working in Bupa’s specialist dementia care homes, from managers and carers, to administrative and domestic staff. The training aims to show how having a comprehensive understanding of an individual can help to create a better quality of life for people living with dementia.

Professor Murna Downs, Head of the Bradford Dementia Group, said: “We are delighted to work in partnership with a leading care home provider to meet the Government’s commitment to ensuring people with dementia live well in care homes.”

Dr Graham Stokes, Director of Dementia Care at Bupa, said: “It’s vital that all our staff get to understand how the world looks from the point of view of someone with dementia and how to respond and react to people living with the condition to provide continuing quality of life. Bradford Dementia Group has an excellent reputation and we are pleased to be working with them as part of our ongoing efforts to continually improve our dementia care and demonstrate leadership through collaboration with world-class partners.”

More than 8,000 staff working in 150 of Bupa’s specialist dementia care homes across the country will benefit from the training by Bradford Dementia Group.
Propolis made by bees contains healing properties

Research and Knowledge Transfer

Bees take the sting out of mouth ulcers

The healing properties of propolis - a mixture of resin and wax made by honey bees to seal and sterilise their hives - have been known for many years. But its use in medicine and food supplements has been limited because the sticky substance is not water soluble and has a strong, off-putting smell.

Now researchers at the University’s Centre for Pharmaceutical Engineering Science have developed a way of purifying propolis that retains its medicinal properties, but makes it dissolve in water and eliminates its pungent smell. The technique has already led to the development of a new mouth ulcer gel and opens the door to a huge range of other pharmaceutical and nutraceutical applications for the substance.

“Propolis is a complex chemical mix and a very useful natural product,” explains Centre Director, Professor Anant Paradkar, who led the research.

“Propolis has been shown to be anti-microbial, anti-fungal, a strong anti-oxidant, non-allergenic and can boost the immune system. It also promotes wound healing and has anaesthetic properties.

“There is a substantial market for propolis-based products - particularly in China, the USA and South Asia. The main stumbling block in developing products has been the solubility and odour issues, which our formulation overcomes.”

Professor Paradkar’s team has been developing the new technique to purify propolis in collaboration with natural medicine manufacturer, Nature’s Laboratory. The researchers have helped the company develop a new propolis-based mouth ulcer gel, which has better anaesthetic, anti-microbial and anti-fungal properties than gels already on the market and is safe for use in children.

“A problem for mouth gels is that adhesion to the skin membrane inside the mouth is difficult - because of the nature of the surface, the gel can simply slide off,” says Professor Paradkar. “As propolis retains some of its stickiness even in a water soluble formulation, when it is applied to specific areas in the mouth, it adheres more effectively.”

The Centre has gained funding for a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) with Nature’s Laboratory, to further develop the purification system for use at a larger scale and support the creation of new propolis-based products. The aim is, through the KTP, that the company will be able to set up a purification process to increase its own manufacturing capacity.
Researchers at the University of Bradford are aiming to develop novel anti-cancer medicines by providing key expertise for three clinical trials. The phase I trials, funded by the Medical Research Council and Cancer Research UK, are trying to find more effective medicines for bowel cancer and solid tumours which continue to grow despite standard treatment such as chemotherapy.

Dr Paul Loadman from the Institute of Cancer Therapeutics with support from Professor Anna Nicolaou, at the Bradford School of Pharmacy, is involved in a clinical trial led by Professor Mark Hull, Head of Molecular Gastroenterology at the University of Leeds.

Professor Hull and researchers throughout the UK are investigating whether daily doses of a fish oil extract and aspirin can help stop pre-cancerous growths from developing in the bowel. Dr Loadman and Professor Nicolaou are involved in analysing samples from the trial to find markers in patient samples which may indicate in which patients the drugs are best likely to work. The work is financed by a research grant awarded by the Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME) programme, which is funded by the Medical Research Council (MRC) and managed by the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR).

Professor Chris Twelves, Head of Clinical Cancer Research Groups at the University of Leeds and St James’s Institute of Oncology, and Clinical Director at the Institute of Cancer Therapeutics, said: “Dr Loadman and his team play a vital role in this trial, providing high-quality pharmacokinetic data and analysis that are fundamental to the success of the trial.”
A rough night in aid of charity

A rough night for most students would usually involve dancing into the small hours but Fiona Pooley, a Health and Social Care student at the University, had a rough night of a very different kind. She recently spent a night sleeping out to raise money for charity. Fiona had been working at an emergency night centre for homeless people, and it was this work that inspired her to try and do something to help. Along with around 50 other fundraisers, she spent the night behind a church in Leeds, in a sleeping bag and lying on a cardboard mattress.

Describing the evening, she said: “I was listening out for rats as we had been told they would appear if there was any open food or drinks left lying around. It also rained from 1am onwards and I woke up to a soaking wet sleeping bag and clothing and a puddle of water around me on my cardboard mattress.”

Fiona’s experience ended at 7am and she admitted that her first thoughts were of a bath and going home to bed. She is continuing to work at a night centre whilst completing her second year of study at the University’s School of Health Studies.

The group has raised £7,000 for the Simon on the Streets charity which helps homeless people in Leeds.

Dyson design role for Engineering graduate

An innovative design for a multipurpose child buggy helped Industrial Design graduate Daniel Kraszewski (pictured) secure a job with design and technology company Dyson. Daniel studied in the University’s School of Engineering, Design and Technology and has enjoyed success in the Innovation Hothouse Competition organised by the Royal Academy of Engineering. After winning his regional heat, with his buggy concept, he went on to be one of six winning finalists in the national final at the London Design Festival.

Daniel, from Poland, said: “Studying design at Bradford was exciting and equipped me with skills and knowledge that are essential to the industry and made me very competitive in the job market. The design tutors have many years of industrial and academic experience and they keep the course challenging and interesting. The time spent at Bradford changed me and my life forever.”

50 fundraisers spent a night sleeping out to raise money for Simon on the Streets, the charity which helps homeless people in Leeds.
A recent exhibition, at Gallery II based on a research study by Ruth Bartlett, Senior Lecturer in Dementia Studies at the University, curated by Caroline Hick, Fellow in Visual Arts explored some of the issues facing people diagnosed with dementia and illustrated through cartooning.

The work is based on a research study about men and women who campaign for social change. These men and women have dementia but live relatively normal lives. A growing number of people diagnosed with dementia are campaigning for better public services and awareness by speaking out in public, lobbying politicians, and educating others. The study sought to discover what motivates people to take such action and to uncover the impact it has on their sense of wellbeing and of being a citizen. The research study was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and the cartoon work is funded by a knowledge transfer grant from the School of Health Studies at the University.

The gallery exhibition shows the process of working in collaboration with a key informant, visual sociologist, and professional cartoonist in order to create a set of cartoons with which to disseminate selected study findings. At the core of the exhibition an interactive storyboard of the process of collaboration is drawn on the gallery walls, and visitors will be encouraged to add their thoughts and comments to the piece.

After being approached by students at the University with the idea of putting together a performance piece for Black History Month, Iain Bloomfield from Theatre in the Mill and artist Alicia Campbell worked with students to support their development of a piece to reflect on the ‘black’ experience.

After successfully winning a bid to the University’s Cultural Fund, the performance explored in sociological and political terms what the term ‘black’ means to the student body.

The group decided that they wanted to explore current experiences of being black, to question rather than provide answers and to capture confusions and inconsistencies in thoughts and attitudes, rather than smooth things out. Students roamed campus with video cameras to get their peers to answer three questions:

1. How do you identify yourself?
2. What is black?
3. When I say black, what do you see?

The resulting interviews were made into three short films which were shown as part of the performance. The outcomes of this will be available to watch on the Theatre in the Mill website. To view these visit: www.bradford.ac.uk/theatre

Mark Robinson from the Tasmin Little Music Centre said: “The children have been working together on confidence-building performance, movement, team working, leadership and musical skills. The repertoire of songs and music they perform address environmental issues such as social behaviour, caring for each other, climate change, cultural diversity, ethical play and inter-personal communication.”
EXHIBITIONS
GALLERY II, CHERSHAM BUILDING, UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD
TEL: 01274 235495, EMAIL: gallery@bradford.ac.uk
OPEN MON/ TUE/ WED/ FRI, 11AM – 5PM
THURSDAYS, 11AM – 6PM
FREE ADMISSION
Feb – May
Fight the Power – Punch Records
Richmond Building Atrium
The latest art project and exhibition by Punch (formally Punch Records) in Birmingham, presents images and posters of protest and propaganda.

Feb – May
Bad Moon Rising – Parker Williams
Atrium Restaurant
Parker Williams’ work re-visits the “classic period” of American film noir of the 1940s and 50s – a low-key black and white style that has its roots in German expressionist cinematography.

7 – 25 March
Peace Offerings – Cyril Mount
Gallery II
Exhibition Launch: Friday 4 March

8 April – 27 May
Wonderland – Robert Hope
Gallery II
Exhibition Launch: Thursday 7 April

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THEATRE IN THE MILL
THEATRE IN THE MILL
UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD
TEL: 01274 233190
EMAIL: theatre@bradford.ac.uk

4 February
Elephant in the Room – Joanne Hartley
7.30pm £3
Northern Creative Theatre introduces the dysfunctional Bagshaw family who coexist with an unspoken void between them. Dark, absurd and set against a powerful soundscape; Elephant in the Room is a close-up focus on the minutiae of life for one seriously repressed family unit.

18 February
Word Life
7.30pm £6.50/£5/Students pay what you can
A night of moving and original wordplay curated by Joe Kriss of Word Life based in Sheffield.

19 February
Martin Stephenson Support the Old Heartbreak Band
7.30pm £6.50/£5
Martin Stephenson is the songwriter and frontman for his band the Daintees who were and still are an original force in the British music scene.

4 March
The Life and Deaths of Dominic Statton
7.30pm £6.50/£5/students pay what you can
Dominic Statton is starting to question if he is in the right job. He doesn’t mind the long hours. Or the supervisions. Or the risk assessment forms. Or the timesheets. It’s the ‘having to kill people’ that’s making him a little squeamish.

18 & 19 March
Optimism - Fuzzy Logic
7.30pm £6.50/£5/students pay what you can
Blending dark clown with multimedia and unusual physicality, this production is both brutal and dreamlike, presenting a constant stream of unlikely characters, peculiar situations and striking visuals.

1 & 2 April
Falling Sickness
7.30pm £6.50/£5/students pay what you can
An interactive thriller that combines the excitement of gameplay with the spectacle of theatre.

4 April
When Night Falls – Instant Dissidence
5.30-8.30pm - Pay what you can
A one-on-one interactive performance playing with the dark side of intimacy...

OTHER EVENTS ON CAMPUS
For more information about conferences, short courses or day schools, contact Events Bradford on 01274 233217, email events@bradford.ac.uk or visit www.bradford.ac.uk/events