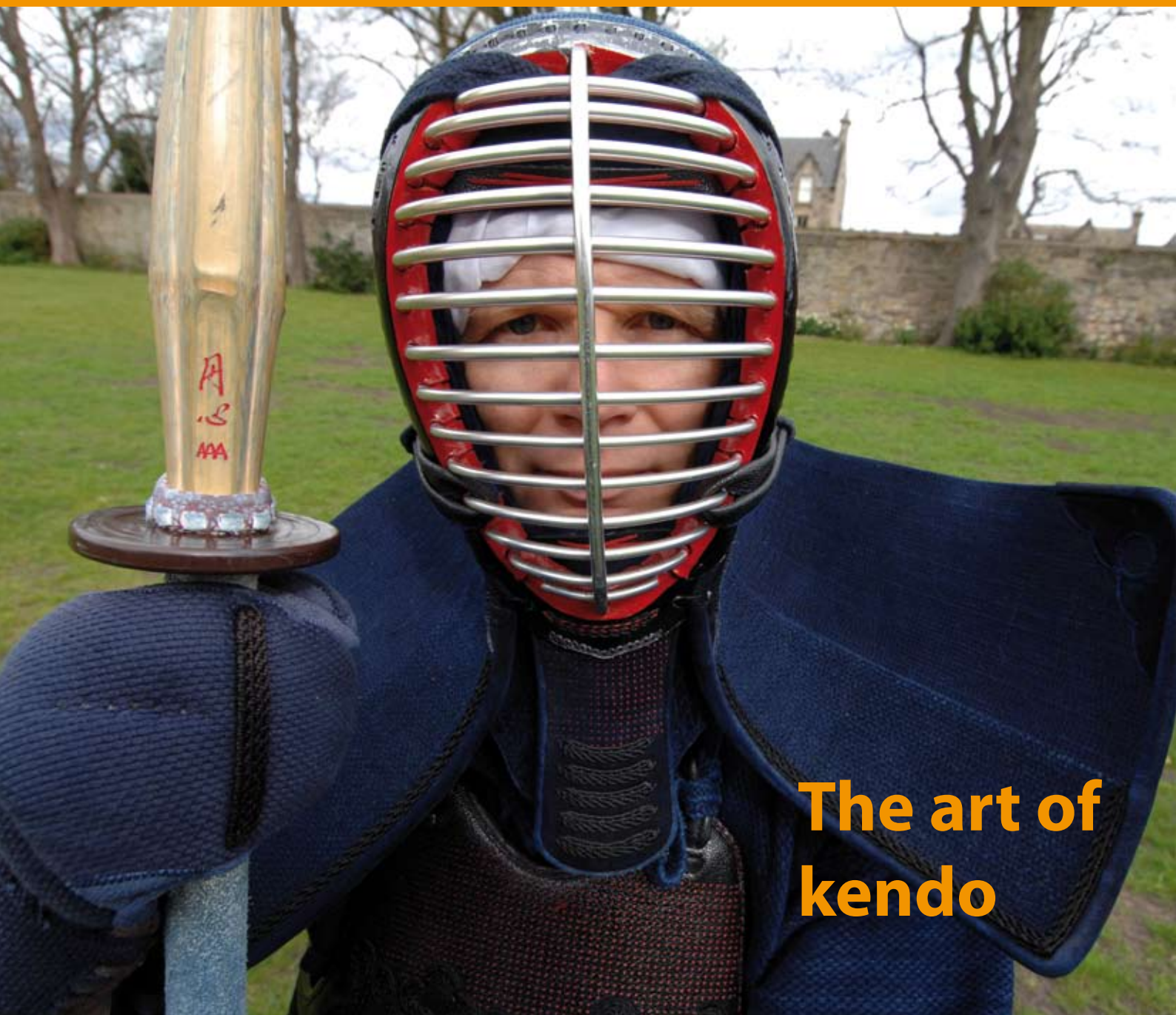


University  
of  
St Andrews

# University of St Andrews

## The StAndard

Staff Magazine, Issue 11, June 2007



**The art of  
kendo**

**Catering for retirement**  
**St Andrews in Malawi**  
**Cultivating the curriculum**

Scotland's first university

# Contents

**Page 1: Welcome**

**Pages 2-14: PEOPLE**

**Pages 15-18: TOWN**

**Page 19-23: OPINION**

**Pages 24-33: GOWN**

**Pages 34-40: NEWS**

*The StAndard* is financed by the University and edited by the Press Office under direction of an independent Editorial Board comprising staff from every corner of the institution. The Editorial Board welcomes suggestions, letters, articles, news and photography from staff, students and members of the wider St Andrews community. Please contact us at [magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk) or via the Press Office, St Katharine's West, The Scores, St Andrews KY16 9AX, Fife Tel: (01334) 462529.

Cover picture: Michael Gratzke

Credit: Alan Richardson, Pix A-R

## *The StAndard* Editorial Board

### **Chair:**

**Stephen Magee** is Vice-Principal (External Relations) and Director of Admissions.



**Joe Carson** is a Lecturer in the Department of French, Disabilities Officer in the School of Modern Languages, Warden of University Hall and the Senior Warden of the University.



**Jim Douglas** is Assistant Facilities Manager in the Estates Department and line manager for cleaning supervisors, janitors, mailroom staff and the out of hours service.



**John Haldane** is Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Centre for Ethics, Philosophy and Public Affairs.



**Chris Lusk** is Director of Student Services covering disability, counselling, welfare, student development, orientation and equal opportunities.



**Jim Naismith** teaches students in Chemistry and Biology and carries out research in the Centre for Biomolecular Sciences.



**Niall Scott** is Director of Corporate Communications.



**Dawn Waddell** is Secretary for the School of Art History.



**Sandy Wilkie** works as Staff Development Manager within Human Resources, co-ordinating the work of a team of three staff who support personal and management development activities for all University staff.



# Welcome

**Welcome to the 11<sup>th</sup> issue of *The StAndard*, an informative read of news, reviews and comment - and the one in which we get serious.** Two strong opinion pieces lead this issue, beginning with an honest piece from your editors about the importance of feedback, which is very much echoed by an argument by the staff Newsletter team on why both publications have their place in the University.

On a less opinionated note, from fire-raising suffragettes to the story behind the recreation of medicine at St Andrews, we hope there is, in this issue, something for everyone.

Given our commitment to people-focused stories, we take a closer look at a wide variety of University staff, from their lives and loves to their first impressions of St Andrews. Three well-known faces step into the hot seat, while Professors of Divinity and Chemistry share the highlights of their academic careers and hopes for the future. We also welcome new staff Emma Jane McAdam, Lisa Prudom and PC Angie McLaren, and say goodbye to Hamish Johnston, a well-known face to colleagues across the University.

The creativity continues on the more physical side – first with cover star Michael Gratzke, founder of St Andrews' only kendo (Japanese fencing) club, to staff recruiters Margaret Lindsay and Susan Kelly, who are encouraging colleagues to dip their toes into the ancient art of reflexology.

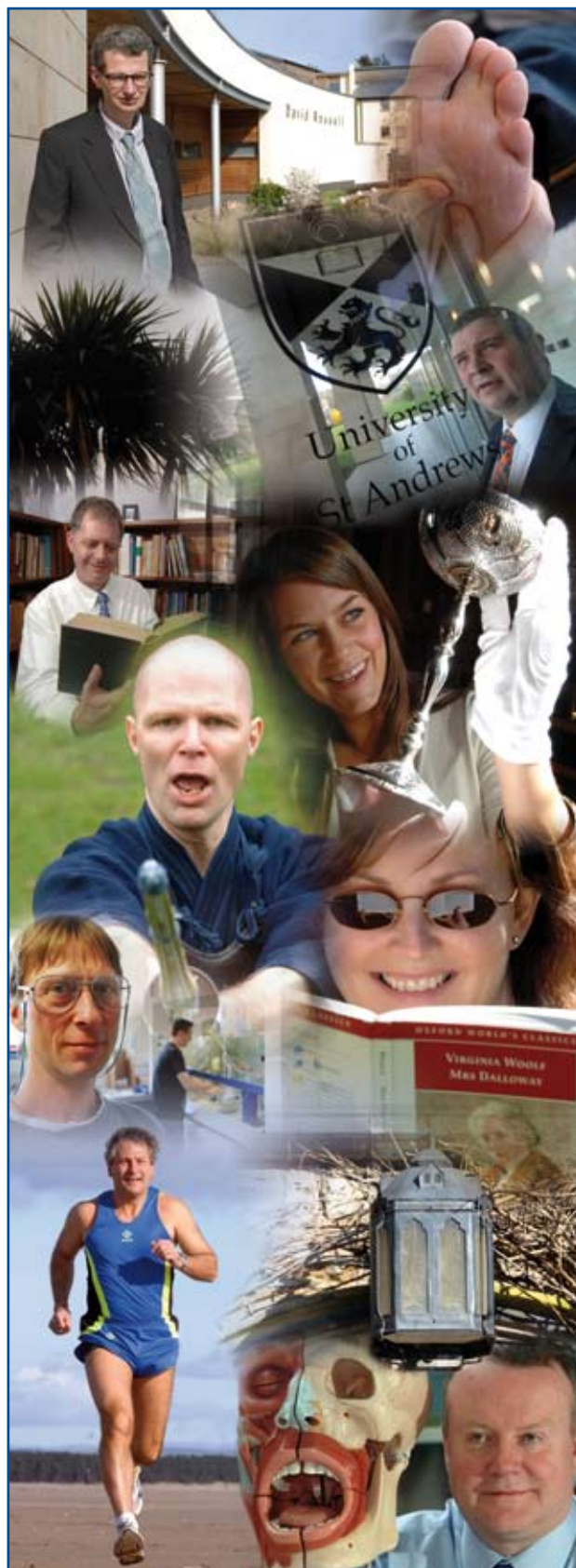
A new feature capitalises on the expertise of our own film buffs, who have agreed to supply their personal recommendations for the best DVDs, both new and old, available at the Library. We also go back to the University's information management co-ordinator, Mark Robinson, to find out exactly what has been asked of the University since the Freedom of Information Act came into being five years ago, while Derek Watson answers the question 'what exactly is ethical investment, and what is the University doing about it?'

Going back to the importance of feedback, we value and rely upon your comment, contributions and suggestions. Do you like the magazine? If so, please tell us! If you don't, please tell us why.

Let's get one thing straight - *The StAndard* isn't ours - it's yours. If you think it should be different, help us make the changes you want to see.

We look forward to all feedback for the next issue, due out 1 November. Until then... enjoy!

As always, *The StAndard* thanks all contributors and acknowledges the use of images supplied by: Alan Richardson: Pix-AR, Bruce Pert, broad daylight, Dave Heron, Kathy Pritchard-Jones: Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group (CCLG), the staff Newsletter team, Peter Adamson and Tim Fitzpatrick Special Collections, University Library, the National Library of Scotland, Anne Stewart, Alex Marr and Blackwell Publishing.



# In the hot seat (of learning)

Would you like to put yourself or a colleague in the hot seat? Email us at [magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk) with your suggestions.

**NAME:** Dr Colin Mason

**POSITION:** Director of Learning and Teaching Development, SALTIRE

**LAST GOOD BOOK** – *The Naming Of The Dead* by Ian Rankin. I have read all of his works since coming to Scotland in 1996. This is a highly recommended way of finding out about the subculture of Edinburgh and Fife towns in particular, but Scotland more generally, for we English immigrants.

**FIRST RECORD BOUGHT** – The Jimi Hendrix 33½rpm LP, *Are you Experienced* with its bright orange-pink and blue psychedelic cover, bettered only by the more shocking (to my mum anyway!) cover on the next release, *Electric Ladyland* – my first double gatefold album.

**TOP HOLIDAY DESTINATION** – I reluctantly reveal that it is Treyarnon Bay, near Padstow, Cornwall, where my family have returned approximately every other year for more than 30 years to a gloriously underexploited location overlooking a fantastic surfing beach, but also within a 12-mile radius that includes Newquay to the south and Padstow to the north. Prices have gone through the roof everywhere else but not here. The sound of surf thrashing against the cliff all day long (and night) soothes rather than disturbs, and the view of the setting sun is spectacular.

**HAPPIEST CHILDHOOD MEMORY** – Having the freedom and safety (or naive parents) to head out of the house after breakfast to the woods to play all morning with friends – returning only when hungry or if assigned a particular time for dinner (as it was then, lunch now of course!), and if my mate, Gordon, had on his watch to ensure we knew exactly when to call a halt to our game of Tallyho.

**IDEAL MEAL** – Chicken Madras with naan breads or more usually chapatis (naan were considered posh) at almost any one of Bradford's cafes in the 1970s. The term by which they described themselves was 'restaurant'; but that was questionable since cutlery was optional; crockery inevitably was chipped, water – cloudy – and walls, peeling! However, the smell and taste of the food was simply divine (normally).

Colin takes his early morning run on the West Sands



**MOST PRIZED POSSESSION** – My NAIM Hi-Fi system (CD player, tuner, pre-amps, power-amps, power supplies and assorted cables) all coming from that Southampton-based stable of 'world class hi-fi'.

**CHILDHOOD AMBITION** – Easy – to play Number 10 for England at Twickenham. I didn't quite get there, though I did captain our grammar school first fifteen, and played a couple of times for the County Durham under 18s.

**FAVOURITE LOCAL HAUNT** – Easy again – the West Sands. I have been running on the West Sands as early in the morning as my weary body will drag itself out of bed (my brain disowned it years ago – so that I feel less pain).

**FIRST LOVE** – Struggling here – though I do recall shedding lots of tears one time when I found the cage door ajar on a makeshift rabbit hutch at the bottom of our garden. Snowy had gone; stolen or escaped I now can't remember, but she never came back. So instead, we buried a fluffy toy bunny *in memoriam* underneath the soil over which the hutch had sat. I cried a lot for the first two days, less the next two days and had stopped crying altogether by the fifth day, a Saturday, when mum and dad bought our first cat. So, was that love?

**ALL-TIME FAVOURITE FILM** – No contest – *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*. One and two liners to give eye-teeth to have created.

**CURRENTLY PLAYING ON STEREO** – Ruthie Foster *Stages* – a sampler of her first three albums, but all songs recorded in smoky, downtown bars in New York, where she plays acoustic guitar with her partner on accompanying vocals, and an occasional backing band of drums, bass and electric lead guitar.

**THE PERFECT WEEKEND** – Sitting in a field in Cornwall (no guesses where) in a luxury six-berth tent with front flap raised, facing west as the sun is setting. The evening meal has

just been consumed: first course – three cold beers; second course – barbequed rump steak with salad and several bottles of Cabernet Sauvignon; third course – Ruthie Foster CD (on repeat) played through an upgraded NAIM hi-fi system (compared to my own present incarnation) powered through a separate power-feed from a hook-up electricity supply. Drift to sleep; awake at 6am: run six miles, swim/surf for two hours, breakfast; lunch, lift west-facing tent flap, await sunset and repeat above sequence as necessary, or until battery meter reading indicates, ‘now fully charged’.

**NAME:** Gill Gardner

**POSITION:** Senior Admissions Assistant, Office for North American Recruitment

**LAST GOOD BOOK** – I am currently reading *Mrs Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf as part of the English module for the Evening Degree. I am enjoying it although I am not quite sure what is going on in it! Because of the studying required for the Evening Degree throughout the year, I only get to read the type of books I enjoy during the summer and the last good book I read was *Salem Falls* by Jodi Picoult which was a real page turner. I graduate in June of this year, so I am looking forward to having the freedom to read all my favourite authors again!

**FIRST RECORD BOUGHT** – *Mull of Kintyre* by Paul McCartney and Wings. I still know all the words...

**TOP HOLIDAY DESTINATION** – In my dreams, it would be the Caribbean or the Maldives, but as I haven't been fortunate enough to holiday there (yet), I would say Crete, or any of the Greek Islands.

**HAPPIEST CHILDHOOD MEMORY** – I was brought up in Bahrain and, as a horse-riding fanatic, my earliest memory is either mucking around at the stables or cantering in the desert on the lovely Arabian horses, with the freedom to go anywhere as there were no fences to restrict us, only numerous pipelines which we used as jumps.

**IDEAL MEAL** – For a starter I love a good prawn cocktail with fat juicy prawns caught locally; my main course

would be a nice chicken curry, not too hot; and for pudding I really like apple crumble and ice cream.

**MOST PRIZED POSSESSION** – my children who are now teenagers and make me laugh at their comments on the world! My son hopes to go off to the Royal Navy next year and I am worrying about this already...

**CHILDHOOD AMBITION** – I wanted to go to Africa and work with the lions like Joy Adamson, or, be a mounted policewoman in London.

**FAVOURITE LOCAL HAUNT** – The Grill House at lunch time – they do a brilliant veggie chilli! Or New Look on payday...

**FIRST LOVE** – A horse called Najeem – she was about 15 hands, white and very fast which I loved! And my Siamese cat, Suki, who was murdered by a pack of wild dogs.

**ALL-TIME FAVOURITE FILM** – *Pretty Woman* with Julia Roberts and Richard Gere – a real feel-good movie.

**CURRENTLY PLAYING ON STEREO** – Nothing really – I don't have time to listen to the radio! I just listen to good old 80's music on my iPod when I am walking my dog.

**THE PERFECT WEEKEND** – Friday night is spent 'chillin' with a curry and a bottle of wine catching up with a week's worth



Gill taking a break in the sun with *Mrs Dalloway*

of US programmes such as *Ugly Betty*, *Desperate Housewives* and *Lost*. On Saturday I would have a short lie-in and then walk the dog for an hour or so, and then sit in the garden (which will have been laid out by Ground Force) and read or paint, or perhaps go riding, and then out for a nice meal in the evening with my husband. On Sunday I would have a longer lie-in and then a late breakfast with the Sunday papers and then head out somewhere different with the dog for a walk with the family, coming home to a nice Sunday meal (cooked by my maid!).

## PEOPLE



Alexander with his  
Labradoodle Scribble

**NAME:** Dr Alexander Marr

**POSITION:** Lecturer in Art History

**LAST GOOD BOOK** – Yukio Mishima, *The Sea of Fertility*.

**FIRST RECORD BOUGHT** – Michael Jackson, *Bad*.

**TOP HOLIDAY DESTINATION** – Istanbul.

**HAPPIEST CHILDHOOD MEMORY** – My Grandfather.

**IDEAL MEAL** – Woodcock, but any game will do.

**MOST PRIZED POSSESSION** – A book of poetry given to me by my father.

**CHILDHOOD AMBITION** – To survive school.

**FAVOURITE LOCAL HAUNT** – Costa.

**FIRST LOVE** – Sheba, a black Labrador. I currently have a Labradoodle called Scribble.

**ALL-TIME FAVOURITE FILM** – Woody Allen's *Manhattan*.

**CURRENTLY PLAYING ON STEREO** – Bob Dylan, *Time out of Mind*.

**THE PERFECT WEEKEND** – No admin.

## Musical notes

Do you have a soundtrack to your life? Is there one song that always cheers you up, makes you sad or reminds you of days gone by? What tunes inspire you, relax you or get you in the mood?

From what they listen to at work, home, in the car or on holiday, *The StAndard* asks members of staff to name their top ten tracks of all time. Send yours to [magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk)

**NAME:** Eileen Drummond

**POSITION:** Office Manager, Estates

1. *Black Hills of Dakota* by Doris Day – Very early memories of radio on a Sunday afternoon.
2. *Livin' Doll* by Cliff Richard (original version!!) – First record bought for my new record player when I was around 14.
3. *Only 16* by Neil Sedaka – On jukebox when I was 16.
4. Early Beatles tracks *Love Me Do*, *All My Loving*, *Let It Be* – Definitely a 60s Chick!
5. *Whiter Shade of Pale* by Procol Harum – Top of the Pops in 1967 and was played a lot on the ship I sailed to Canada on and the lyrics fitted ('feeling kind of seasick').
6. *Bohemian Rhapsody* by Queen – Essential 80s music.
7. *Answer Me, January February* or anything really by Barbara Dickson – I went to school with Barbara and have followed her career from an unknown folk singer in the pubs and clubs of Dunfermline to the West End stage and TV.
8. *O Sole Mio* by Luciana Pavarotti – Memories of holidays in Italy.
9. On my stereo at the moment – The re-worked *Love* album by the Beatles.
10. On the car stereo – *Nothings Gonna Change My World* by Barbara Dickson, from *The Songs of Lennon, McCartney & Harrison*.



**NAME:** Janice McGregor

**POSITION:** Dyslexia Adviser, Student Support Services

1. *Rockin' all over the World* by Status Quo - just the best for cheering you up, vacuuming etc!
2. *Norwegian Wood* by The Beatles - memories of when I was studying and when I met my husband.
3. *Rock around the Clock* by Bill Haley and His Comets - reminds me of my teenage years and was so different to all other music at time.
4. *Let's spend the night together* by the Rolling Stones - good to get you singing.
5. *Everything I do* by Bryan Adams - a moving song.
6. *Folsom Prison Blues* by Johnny Cash - I just like it.
7. *Move It* by Cliff Richard - my teenage idol.
8. *Dust my Blues* by Eric Clapton and Bluesbreakers - memories of the wild 60s.
9. Anything by Eva Cassidy - I just like all her songs.
10. *Theme for Jupiter* from Holst's *The Planets* suite - 'I vow to thee my country' makes you feel very patriotic.



## St Andrews' researcher wins Crufts!

**As the Netherlands Dog Team stormed to victory at Crufts this year, few would fail to have noticed their owners' distinctive matching tartan waistcoats (pictured).** The colourful designs were the latest creation of Dr David Wishart (School of Management), who designed 'Tartan of Holland' in 2005.

David, author of *Whisky Classified*, was commissioned by his publisher in Utrecht to design a new tartan especially for the Dutch, for use at Scottish events such as the annual Dutch Whisky Festival.

The resulting design combines the colours of the Netherlands national flag (red, white and blue) with orange, for the Royal House of Orange.



Clearly a winning design, the Dutch won both the team and individual Obedience World Cup at the Crufts event, held in March in Birmingham. The tartan-tinged team was no doubt spurred on by one dog appropriately named Mamamia's Tyke and Twinkle's Laddy Boy!

It isn't the first time David's design has been worn during a competitive event - the tartan was also worn by a Dutch rowing team that competed at Henley recently.

# The art of kendo

**“The sword is a very special weapon, and the art of sword fighting is a very special and ancient one. It is a craft which produces something of great beauty and skill.”**

***Michael Gratzke***

**Within ten minutes of Michael Gratzke watching his first kendo session at Cambridge in the 1990s, he was hooked.**

An ancient sport, which involves sparring using bamboo swords, Michael practised kendo for two years before heading up to St Andrews to join the School of Modern Languages in the summer of 2003. A year later, he established the area's first and only kendo 'dojo', St Andrews Kendo Club, which is today a thriving club with members from all over Fife and Tayside.

Practiced by millions in Japan and steeped in historical tradition and culture, kendo (Japanese fencing) is considered to be a true heir to the traditions of the samurai and is the fastest growing martial art form in this country.

For Michael, a lecturer in German, the sport demonstrates more than an interest in keeping in mental and physical shape – he is fascinated by the mechanism of violence turning into culture, and his research deals with issues such as violence in German war literature, heroes, masculinity and masochism. “In the true sense of kendo, there is a willingness to be killed. Traditionally, it's a way of life and death,” he points out.

Describing it as ‘as much an art as a sport’, Michael considers kendo to be ‘a wonderful combination of training of mental, psychological and physical skills.’

“Kendo isn't like any other martial art and is the only one in which you use swords in sparring (in unison with the spirit and body). It isn't a self-defence class designed for practical use, but it does teach you to hold yourself differently in everyday life. It is good for improving posture and self-discipline as well as concentration. Kendo can be very empowering and can be especially good for shy people to help them find confidence and assertiveness, or can help outgoing people control their temper,” he said.

The concept of ‘the way of the sword’ is of course centuries old and is a crucial part of Japanese culture. As a martial art, kendo developed in the nineteenth century as part of modernised culture, and in the Second World War, Japanese soldiers carried swords. Over the years, kendo has been fully integrated into the school curriculum, and today it is hugely popular in universities there. Many employers have their own dojos and hold training sessions before work, while many in the Japanese police and the military are fully trained in kendo.

Of course, today's practitioners of kendo ('kendoka') do not use real swords, but train with 'swords' made from bamboo ('shinai') and wood ('bokuto'). Wearing a uniform of 'hakama' (divided skirt) and 'keikogi' (jacket), and later progressing to 'bogu' (armour), kendoka aim to hit (or 'cut') pre-defined areas of the body; with points being scored for each 'cut'. Training sessions involve choreographed sequences of techniques as well as sparring sessions, while the spiritual aspect of kendo is expressed in meditation at the end of every session.



**The way of the sword: Michael cuts a striking figure in his full kendo gear**

Kendo arrived on these shores in the fifties, but it wasn't until 1964, when Kendo Nagasaki entered Britain's great wrestling ring, that the martial art really entered the country's mass consciousness. In the same year, (coincidentally, since Nagasaki never actually competed in kendo) the British Kendo Association was established, with clubs forming in Scotland in the seventies. While kung fu and karate have been immortalised in film by Bruce Lee, Jackie Chan and 'the karate kid', the biggest popular culture nod to kendo goes back to 1977 and the light-sabre wielding Luke Skywalker in *Star Wars*. More recently, the Tom Cruise film *The Last Samurai* featured the concept of Japanese sword-fighting, though Michael isn't convinced it was the martial art's finest moment!

In the last five to ten years kendo in Scotland has witnessed an upsurge in interest, with a few hundred practitioners (compared to just 50 as little as five years ago) joining clubs from Aberdeen to Edinburgh. While the more established martial arts such as judo and karate are still the



most popular, kendo is the fastest growing martial art in the country, with individual dojos having their own distinct fighting style.

"The group in Scotland is like one large dojo family," said Michael. "In fact, there are kendo families who go to classes together, and some of the larger clubs hold classes for children too. There is a great community spirit and dojos in other cities are very welcoming of guests from elsewhere."

In St Andrews, at the beginning of the year, the group bravely head down to the East Sands, where they practice in freezing conditions (and bare feet!) on the beach. Joined by kendoka from all over Scotland, the annual event is aimed at taking members outwith their comfort training zone and into more unpredictable conditions.

St Andrews Kendo Club currently has around 20 members and is the only one available to the local area, covering Fife, Dundee and surrounding areas. Consisting of a mixed-sex group aged between 18 and 50, there is no 'weight class' and all members practice together,

regardless of levels of experience, size or strength.

"It's not about brawn, but speed, timing and spirit," said Michael. "Kendo is more inclusive than other martial arts because there is no outward indication of ability or level, no belts, no colours. It's all about learning from others within the group, as we all practice together."

The dojo is affiliated to Edinburgh Kendo Club, and is a member of the British Kendo Association. In a nod to their St Andrews base, the club's fan-shaped 'mon' (seal) is based on a design found carved into an ancient stone in the vicinity of St Andrews Cathedral.

As with many martial arts, Michael describes kendo as a way of life, which isn't about simply winning a sparring contest, but is a never-ending journey which 'can be at the same time a very rewarding and very humbling experience'.

"Kendo is not about beating your opponent, it is about making progress in the art of kendo which can take a lifetime. It is a real challenge for the

mind and body and those who practice learn a lot more about their emotions; we deal with the 'five classic evils' – hesitation, doubt, anger, fear and confusion – and how to conquer them," he explained.

And as Michael suggests with the phrase 'martial arts meets cultural arts', kendo is more than *just another martial art*. Fully integrated into bigger kendo events are aspects of traditional Japanese culture such as tea ceremonies, calligraphy classes and dancing demonstrations.

A rough Western translation of the club's motto, 'ichi go ichi e', is 'life isn't a rehearsal'. This ethos is demonstrated in the full commitment shown during sparring sessions, in which students are asked to 'treat everything you do as a unique opportunity and give it your best effort. Don't act half-heartedly, saving yourself for the next fight, but commit fully as if it were the last and only thing you have to do. This is how you show your opponent the greatest respect.'

Gayle Cook

**St Andrews Kendo Club trains every Monday and Thursday evenings at St Leonards School, with special sessions for beginners starting in October – if you are interested in joining, please contact Michael on (46)3671, email [mg43@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:mg43@st-andrews.ac.uk) or visit [www.standrewskendo.co.uk](http://www.standrewskendo.co.uk)**

# Searching for an alternative route?

**It may seem like a coincidence that two members of the staff recruitment team have recently qualified to provide a range of alternative therapies** – after all, interviews can be a stressful experience, and what better than a nice head massage to relax the senses before the big moment?

But caring though they are, it's not just a coincidence! Margaret Lindsay and Susan Kelly both decided to develop these skills as a way of helping themselves through difficult situations.

*The StAndard* caught up with the pair, who have between them become professionally qualified in reflexology, Indian Head Massage and Swedish Body Massage, to find out more about what holistic therapy means and how it can help us with the everyday stresses of life and work.

It was Susan who first picked up on her life-long interest in alternative therapies, when she enrolled in the Reflexology diploma at Elmwood College in 2005. Although she had always been interested in the subject, it wasn't until a relative's chronic medical condition was



**Susan and Margaret de-stress University Quaestor Derek Watson and Vice-Principal (External Relations) Stephen Magee**

treated successfully with reflexology, that she began to think seriously about taking it up.

Initially enrolling on a web design course, Susan happened to spot a leaflet for a six-week introductory course to reflexology, and was subsequently persuaded by her tutor to enrol on the year-long practise certificate programme. Taking it alongside the necessary diploma in Anatomy and Physiology, Susan became fully qualified to practice reflexology last year, while working part-time for the University.

Margaret meanwhile, had been having similar thoughts - having lost her mother to cancer, she wished she could have done something to help manage the pain. It inspired her to follow Susan onto the Elmwood course in 2006, swiftly followed by a similar certificate in Indian head massage, while Susan has since completed another in Swedish body massage.

During the course of their studies, a requirement of the course was to enlist friends and family for case studies, and

some lucky colleagues in HR were given free treatments in their lunch hour!

Reflexology dates back to ancient Egyptian times and was introduced to the UK by Eunice Ingham, who wrote *Stories the Feet Can Tell Thru Reflexology* in 1938.

Susan and Margaret describe reflexology as a holistic therapy which uses the feet to map other areas of the body, where pressure points on the feet stimulate particular organs or corresponding areas on the body. For example the instep represents the spine, while the top of the big toe represents the top of the head. Both left and right feet are used as they represent different areas, such as the left foot being used primarily for heart issues.

"It can have benefits for most illnesses and can be used to manage pain, but is particularly beneficial for treating stress," said Susan.

Margaret agreed, saying "It's all about the human touch, and for those who are afraid of baring their feet, we can use the hands or even the face."

Sometimes it can take just one session for the benefits to be felt. Susan described one patient with sinus problems, which literally unblocked while she worked. Others, of course, can take longer, and it can take between four to six sessions to feel the full effect.

"Everybody's different but I've never treated anyone who didn't get something out of it," Margaret said.

While Susan notes that other countries are miles ahead when it comes to taking alternative therapies seriously, there are health centres in this country utilising holistic methods alongside more traditional remedies.

As Margaret said, "Some people do tend to use alternative therapy as a last resort, after trying everything else, they feel they have nothing to lose. It's such a pity because often people say to us they wish they'd tried it years ago, but often it is a fear of the unknown."

"What's good about it is that it's non-invasive and suitable for anyone, any age and either sex," agrees Susan. Indeed, Susan's youngest client was a four year old, while Margaret's oldest was her eighty-eight year old father, who was originally cynical but can now feel improved flexibility to his ankles.



All sessions begin with a confidential consultation, which investigates the person's lifestyle and diet, in order to build up a complete picture. While most clients tend to come for a reason, you don't actually have to be sick or stressed to get something out of a reflexology session. It can be used to help all manner of ailments, from headaches to backache, but some find it a relaxing treatment or a good way to release pent-up emotions.

Often, Margaret and Susan can tell there is a problem with a particular area of the body if they come across a 'blockage' in the corresponding area of the foot. Other insights can be gained by looking at representations of the 'past and present' in feet, where the left foot is said to hold information about the present while the right alludes to the person's past existence.

"It's amazing what you can learn, it really does work and most people don't believe in it until they have tried it themselves," said Margaret.

Margaret's more recently acquired skill in Indian head massage dates back 4,000 years and is the oldest form of head massage – babies in India are treated with massage and from a young age are encouraged to massage siblings. Using special oils such as coconut or sesame, it's particularly good for aiding stress-relief or headaches.

Meanwhile, the Swedish body massage recently added to Susan's skills, involves deep tissue massage and can be good for relaxing sore muscles or improving circulation and lymphatic drainage.

Both now work through word of mouth, putting their skills to use on friends and family, and while they agree it is hard work, they both feel it's worthwhile to witness the benefits first-hand.

"There are some days, after a day at the office, that I would love to have something done myself!" joked Margaret, although they have been known to take turns at treating each other.

As to the future, both Susan and Margaret will continue to treat individual clients, but will also shortly begin their own 'treatment nights', which will involve the pair visiting the homes of friends and offering treatments, along the lines of a 'holistic girls' night in'.

Both are available to visit individual clients for consultations and treatments in their own home.

**If you would like to find out more or book a session with either Margaret or Susan, you can contact them on [Margaret.Lindsay@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:Margaret.Lindsay@st-andrews.ac.uk) / (46)2567 or [sbk@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:sbk@st-andrews.ac.uk) / (46)2589.**

**Human Resources would like to run a pilot scheme for 4 - 6 weeks, offering staff who are either currently absent from work or who have been absent in the past (short or long term), the opportunity to participate in alternative therapies. The purpose of the pilot study is to find out if there would be benefit in formalising such a scheme.**

**If this applies to you and you would be interested in trying out the above therapies, please contact Susan or Margaret to discuss this further.**

**Alternatively, pop along to Mansefield on Monday 11 June between 5.15 - 7pm for an open session hosted by Margaret and Susan.**

# On the starting block

**In this issue *The StAndard* welcomes Emma Jane McAdam, Lisa Prudom and PC Angie McLaren to their new posts...**

### **Emma Jane McAdam, Project Curator**

**Emma Jane joined the University's Museum Collections Unit in January from the Scottish Museums Council (SMC) in Edinburgh. One of Emma Jane's key roles at the moment is in developing plans for the University's new museum, MUSA (read the latest news on MUSA on p39).**

Born in Stanley in the Falkland Islands and raised in Northern Ireland, Emma Jane is a graduate of the Universities of Dundee (MA Modern History) and Sheffield (Master's in Arts and Heritage Management).

Emma Jane's heritage experience goes back to her position at the Falkland Islands Tourist Board in which she designed and managed the interior of a new heritage/visitor centre (the Jetty Centre), which is now open in Stanley. No stranger to St Andrews, Emma Jane actually came back to the UK in 2002 to take up the post of Assistant Curator with The R&A's Golf Heritage Department, based in the British Golf Museum in St Andrews.

In 2005 she moved to the SMC, where as Museum Development Officer, she travelled all over the country providing advice and support to predominantly small independent museums, assisting them to locate funding and advising on other development and general curatorial issues. Emma Jane was then appointed External Programmes Development Manager, which involved engaging museums in Scotland with tourism and marketing initiatives and other types of external programmes, enabling them to link to funding opportunities and promotional activities.



**Emma Jane with The Guild Cup (1613-14),  
part of the University's historical collection of silver**

The post at the University appealed to Emma Jane 'because it combines regular curatorial duties (collections care, research on the collection and exhibition work) with managing the MUSA project.' She also realised that she began to miss working with, and getting to know, a specific collection and liaising directly with visitors to museums.

As Project Curator, Emma Jane will utilise a number of different skills, including project management, fundraising, curatorial knowledge and also some creativity.

Emma Jane is particularly looking forward to working with the University's collections, and playing a key role in the development of a new museum facility, which she views as a 'great opportunity'. She said, "A new museum is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for any organisation looking after historically significant collections and we are very

fortunate to be in this position. The prospect of getting to grips with the detailed building and design side of a new museum project is also really exciting, and watching the new galleries installed in the museum, and seeing the new educational suite, the Learning Loft, become functional will also be very rewarding."

It is a position which has already brought Emma Jane into contact with a number of areas within the University, as well as external agencies such as architects and engineering specialists. Recently, Emma Jane has been working on progressing the fundraising activities for MUSA, including approaching new Trusts and Foundations and working with the Development Office to corner the corporate sponsorship market.

So far, Emma Jane has enjoyed her first few months here, and notices that 'the pace is fast and there is always something to do!'

## **Lisa Prudom, Network Liaison Officer – WHAN (Fife), Office of Scottish Recruitment and Wider Access, Admissions.**

Originally from Leamington Spa in Warwickshire, Lisa moved up to Scotland in 1995 from Wales after graduating from the University of Glamorgan (BA(Hons) Public Sector Management) – indeed, it was a quick move; she graduated on the Friday, and moved to Dundee to start her first job at Dundee Teaching Hospital's NHS Trust on the Monday morning! Based at Ninewells Hospital, Lisa – at just 22 – was Business Planning Manager and Business Manager for the then Professions Allied to Medicine Directorate. She stayed there for three years before leaving to join General Practice, a demanding role managing a team of twenty, where she remained for eight years.

A good advert for lifelong learning, Lisa became a Corporate member of the Institute of Personnel and Development during her Ninewells days. Then, while working in General Practice, she gained not just a Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Education, but started an MSc in Primary Care, for which she is currently writing her dissertation. The latter course gave her additional opportunities to be involved in some exciting new projects within the NHS - Lisa was actively involved with organisational development for NHS Fife as a Facilitator and as an Action Learning Set Facilitator on their 'Leading and Learning Programme', a collaboration between Fife Council and NHS Fife to develop leaders and managers for the future.

Lisa believes her appointment at St Andrews was mostly down to fate -

"At the time I wasn't looking for a new job at all, but happened to be looking at the University's website for another reason when I saw the post advertised. The closing date was that day, so at lunch-time I quickly completed the application form and emailed it over".

Lisa's post is part of a National Project funded by the Scottish Funding Council and NHS Scotland. The aim of WHAN (Working in Health Access Network) is to raise awareness of healthcare as a career and to encourage participation in further and higher education for individuals who may have the ability but have not considered this a possibility.

Lisa will work with pupils from S3 to S6 from all of the secondary schools in Fife, as well as adult learners and those hoping to get into employment or further study. Her role involves

providing information about the range of career opportunities the NHS can offer and put on events with health professionals from all disciplines. The long term aim of the project is to build lasting links and networks between the NHS and education.

Lisa said, "The NHS has given me fantastic opportunities work wise and educationally. I'm passionate about it as an organisation and can hopefully spread this message and enable others to share in this experience. I am very much looking forward to working in an educational setting and hopefully influencing others to reach their potential whatever their background and stage of life."



**Lisa outside her office at St Katharine's West**

## **PC Angie McLaren, University Liaison Officer.**

Angie, who has been with Fife Police since 1996, is the University's new Liaison Officer. Angie always wanted to join the police, but at the time of leaving school found that she was 'too young and a bit on the short side'. Instead, she completed a degree in Quantity Surveying, but by the time she graduated the height restrictions had been abolished; she applied again and this time was accepted.

Angie has been posted at several stations within East Fife, including St Andrews, and for the past four years she has been with Eastern Division Community Team.

Her new University role covers community safety and crime reduction (she takes over from Ruth Goldie).

Angie is looking forward to the new challenges, "Over the coming months I hope to work with the University on a number of issues including personal safety, property security and drug and alcohol awareness."

Happily, she has found the University to be 'very welcoming and extremely



**Angie chats to Wendy Houldsworth and Ailsa Ritchie**

helpful' and looks forward to working with staff and students across the University.

# Catering for retirement

**When it came to looking for a job, Hamish Johnston knew what he wanted: something in university catering or hospitality, in a location by the sea or countryside.** He literally looked at a map of the UK and pinpointed a few areas which appealed to him for geographical reasons. As it so happened, St Andrews was one place which not only provided the perfect location, but was also currently offering employment. Happily, the University was the first employer to respond to Hamish's application, and so it was that he made the move up here from Sheffield back in 1975.

Hamish, the University's Head of Support Services who retires this September after 32 years, always knew he wanted to work in the catering industry – from holiday jobs in local hotels down in Sheffield, he progressed to Portsmouth Polytechnic to study Hotel and Catering Administration. No stranger to Scotland either, Hamish's father was from Kirkcaldy and the family spent many holidays up in Dunbar, where his grandparents lived.

"It's funny I ended up here," he said, "because though we never actually visited St Andrews, I grew up looking over at Fife from Dunbar. It was a happy coincidence that I was made the offer really."

Hamish joined the University as Assistant Domestic Bursar (now known as Assistant Residence Manager), and was based at the then David Russell Hall, where he also lived. Back then of course, DRH was considered one of the 'modern' blocks. It has now been completely revamped into the 21<sup>st</sup> century environmentally-friendly David Russell Apartments.

"At that time there were around 3,000 students, St Andrews was a small and friendly place and it was easy to get to know people quickly back then. Over the years, the town has grown up with the University and there have been a

number of changes to both since I first arrived," said Hamish.

Hamish initially only stayed for three years (he worked at Bangor University for six months in 1978), after which he did some conservation work in Glasgow, where he helped with the West Highland Way, which had just opened. Hamish returned to St Andrews in 1979. It was not long after, during a conservation trip to Tentsmuir Forest in 1980, that he met his wife Charlotte, who was a student at the University. In the years following, the pair decided to settle in the area, initially living in a cottage in Dairsie.

Following a year long stint as general assistant to James Barr, the Bursar of Residences, Hamish was made Manager of the Central Catering Unit in 1980, which was set up to help cope with the shortage of chefs at the University's 11 catered residences. In 1982, he was made the Assistant Bursar of Residences, and when Residential and Business Services was created in 1989, Hamish took on the role of Head of Support Services, which makes him responsible for over 300 members of catering and housekeeping staff at the University.

The intervening years have witnessed a number of changes not just to the University but especially to the residential system, which has seen the closure of three halls (Southgait, Hepburn and Hamilton Halls), the Staff Club, Central Catering and the development / redevelopment of New Hall and DRA, as well as an annexe at John Burnet.

Hamish explained, "When I joined the University, DRH was actually the new hall (it was built in 1971) which even then ran as a hotel-style operation with conferences over the holidays. There were no en-suites of course and DRH along with Andrew Melville were the only two mixed-sex halls. The scale of the Residences operation is something



**Hamish in his office**

that staff in the University rarely understand fully - we now have over 3,500 beds spread across twelve sites and cater for almost a million meals a year."

Hamish describes how he watched not just the University but the world modernise over the last 32 years – from the advent of the computer, internet and email to the University developing its own HR department and policies. For Support Services in particular, changes have been afoot through external pressures. "So much has changed in terms of legislation and we've had to keep on top of changes in health and safety, food hygiene standards, and Houses in Multiple Occupation. We are now externally accredited through Investors in People, Hospitality Assured, EatSafe and Green Tourism awards, and we have worked hard to develop training and customer care over the years," he said. In terms of changes in and around the University, Hamish notes that it used to be 'much easier to get around', and so uncommon was car-use back then, that 'all the administration staff used to park at College Gate!'

One of Hamish's biggest challenges over the years has been his involvement with the catering of major events in the University calendar, such as graduation, and external functions such as the Open Championship, which he describes as 'exhausting but fun'.

"I couldn't have done my job if it wasn't for the support of all the people I work with across the residence system, and throughout the University," he commented.

Fast forward 24 years of graduations, arranging everything from formal dinners, the Graduation Ball and ever increasing numbers of garden parties (and sizes of marquee), as well as a grand total of SIX Open Golf championships, Hamish has been part of the University during a period which has seen three Principals, three Chancellors and 11 rectors. When he arrived in '75, Stephen Watson was Principal, Lord Ballantyne was Chancellor and Alan Coren (editor of Punch) was Rector.



Where it all began: Hamish outside the new DRA

Now, at the youthful age of 54, Hamish is taking early retirement, which he will spend with Charlotte at their home in Colinsburgh. Now looking forward to 'just relaxing, worrying less and having a nice life'.

Hamish will enjoy the occasional trip back to St Andrews, if former colleagues promise not to pester him about work in the street!

Gayle Cook

## Books

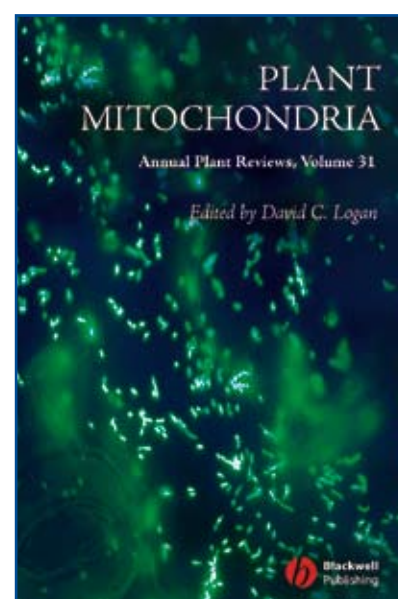
# Plant Mitochondria

**Senior Research Fellow David Logan has edited an important collection of papers about plant mitochondria.** David, whose work in the field is well known and internationally respected, has brought together many of the world's leading researchers for *Plant Mitochondria*.

Mitochondria – sometimes referred to as 'cellular power plants' – are critical organelles in the metabolic regulation of almost all eukaryotic organisms (e.g. animals, plant, fungi). Knowledge of their biochemistry and molecular biology in plants has been fuelled over recent years by the rapid progress made in genome sequencing and the ability to manipulate gene expression.

The recently published book brings together and reviews for the first time many recent advances in plant mitochondria research. Aimed at plant scientists, cell and molecular biologists, and biochemists, the book's first chapter on mitochondrial dynamics is written by David and School of Biology colleague Iain Scott.

*Plant Mitochondria* is published by Blackwell Publishing.



# Easter Parade



Cleaning staff put their heads together recently by taking part in an Easter bonnet competition, organised especially for the cleaning staff in the United College / North Street area. Over 20 members of staff turned their hands to the traditional Easter craft of making Easter bonnets and painted boiled eggs. The special event, which included a buffet of Easter goodies, was organised by supervisor Anne Stewart and held on

Good Friday. Judged by Jim Douglas, the winners (who received chocolate Easter eggs) were –

Hats: 1<sup>st</sup> prize – Jan Cassidy  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize – Cath Finlay & Angela Alexander  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize – Isobel Davie

Eggs: 1<sup>st</sup> prize – Kaye Cummings  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize – Jan Cassidy  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize – Elizabeth Ferguson



Pictured are some of the entries and the members of cleaning staff who took part in the competition with supervisor Anne (front left), who was particularly impressed by one entry (Cath and Angela's bonnet) which was made entirely with cleaning materials!

# Ontario to St Andrews

Students from Queen's University in Kingston and the University of Western Ontario arrived to spend their junior year in St Andrews as part of an established exchange programme supported by the Canadian Robert T Jones Jr Scholarship Foundation. The University has ties to both universities going back many years.



**The students, along with others from St Andrews who will be travelling to Ontario later this year, are pictured with Principal and Vice-Chancellor Dr Brian Lang, Dr Debra Dawson (University of Western Ontario), Gill Gardner (International Office), and Frank Quinault (SALTIRE)**

# Obituary

**Anne Biltcliffe, Support Adviser, Student Support Services (6 April 1943 - 15 March 2007)**

Anne Biltcliffe started working in Student Support Services in August 2002 as a Support Adviser. Her previous experience as a Psychiatric Nurse in the community was invaluable to her work with us in Student Support Services. Anne helped hundreds of students to overcome difficulties they were having whilst studying. Some of these were quite profound, but Anne always found ways to support students in achieving their academic potential whilst coping with such problems.

She did this with a tremendous amount of care and attention and with a sense of humour that she was renowned for. Anne will be sadly missed by her colleagues and the students she worked with.

*Ailsa Ritchie, Student Support Services*

# Movie matters

## Mad about movies and keen to hear the latest tips for the best new film?

Perhaps you love catching up on the golden oldies or are trying to diversify into world or arthouse cinema. Whatever the case, if you love films and would like to learn from those who know more than most about movies, read on for *The StAndard's* new 'DVD digest'...

In each issue members of the University's Centre for Film Studies will share their views with *StAndard* readers and recommend their pick of new and existing DVD releases. All titles will be available in the University's Library for staff and students to borrow.



The three top titles selected this month include a Czech film from the sixties, a South Korean monster movie and a recent box office hit.

## ***The Party And The Guests* (1966), Czechoslovakia, dir. Jan Nemec**

Between 1963 and 1968, Czechoslovakian cinema enjoyed a brief golden age, as a new generation of directors and scriptwriters gave rise to an extraordinary film movement, known as the Czechoslovak New Wave; when the 1968 Soviet invasion put an end to any relative freedom of expression in the country, many of these films were banned, and their directors blacklisted. Such was the fate of *The Party And The Guests*, directed by Jan Nemec in 1966, a masterpiece of absurdist satire which was considered so dangerous by the Communist authorities to be banned 'forever'. This wonderful, darkly humorous film has now been released on DVD for the first time ever; it charts the adventures of a group of 'guests' summoned to a banquet in the countryside by a sinister political leader, who uses flattery, paternalism and intimidation to secure their compliance. Shot entirely on location in black and white, the film develops at a slightly surrealistic pace, as the initially baffled 'guests' gradually slide into complicity and conformity; only one of them, played by New Wave director Evald Schorm, will dare to defy the system and abandon the 'party', with alarming consequences. This is a fantastic film which, far from being dated, appears more topical than ever.

**Elisabetta Girelli**

## ***Pan's Labyrinth* (*El laberinto del fauno*) (2006), Mexico/Spain/USA, dir. Guillermo del Toro**

Preceded by international box-office success and showered with awards in Spain, Britain and the US, *Pan's Labyrinth* is an absorbing fantasy film of innocence versus evil that brings a fresh new spin to the subject of the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). In the immediate aftermath of the conflict, a young girl named Ofelia and her pregnant mother move into the mountain headquarters of the latter's new husband, the fascist captain Vidal. The nearby forest is both the setting for the violent clashes between Vidal's repressive forces and the *maquis* (guerrilla fighters from the defeated republican army), and the gate to a parallel world of fairies and monsters where Ofelia loses herself, led by a horrific but seductive creature—the faun of the title. The story is magnificently enriched by the use of imaginative computer-generated effects and lush visuals. However, the power of the film's classic fairy-tale structure—Ofelia must carry out three tasks to prove her identity as the long-lost princess of a magic kingdom—ultimately resides in its ability to evoke the true horrors of a historical reality that haunt the fictional netherworld. Retrieving a long tradition of films about the Civil War seen through a child's eyes, the film pitches newcomer Ivana Baquero in the role of candid Ofelia against a truly menacing performance by Sergi López. As the splendid centrepiece of Guillermo del Toro's projected trilogy on the Spanish Civil War (started in 2001 with *The Devil's Backbone*, and soon to be followed by *3993*), *Pan's Labyrinth* deploys the escapist pleasures of horror and fantasy towards a sustained meditation on a traumatic historical past.

**Belén Vidal**

## ***The Host* (2006), South Korea, dir. Joon-ho Bong**

*The Host* is the best film to come out of Asia since *Ring* (1999). This monster movie is no cheesy Godzilla film. It's the story of a city terrorised by a monster that is home grown, mundane, everyday, clumsy, repugnant, and absolutely unrelentingly terrifying.

The film's major strength is its ability to blend moments of suspense and terror with hilarious comedy. The dysfunctional family provide many of the laughs as they take on the hunt for the monster that has captured their little sister. The caricatured mad scientists - various representatives of the US military-industrial complex - deliver the rest. This extremely effective combination of tension and laughter is joined by a heavily disguised subtext of trenchant socio-political commentary, concerning the general misuse of the South Korean people by their own government and the US. However, this subtext is seamlessly weaved into the action, and never really detracts from the enjoyment of the gripping storyline.

*The Host* is proof that South Korean cinema, for several years the toast of Asia, is finally stretching its murky, slimy tentacles into Europe. You may think you have seen it all before, but you've never seen it quite like *The Host*.

**David Martin-Jones**

# Lunching on a sunny afternoon

It's well known that in the summer season when the students (and many academics) leave us, tourists and golfers literally replace them overnight. Have you ever enviously watched a bustling family tuck into fish suppers on a bench while you trudge to Tesco and back in your lunchbreak? Or wanted to head down to the beach with an ice-cream and watch the world go by? Who wants to sit in the office, trail around the same old shops or pay for a sit down lunch, when all you need is a sandwich, some sunshine and a decent location? Who says only tourists and day-trippers can enjoy the town?

In the spirit of summer, *The StAndard* brings to you its favourite local haunts for some al fresco eating at lunchtime. Not only does it provide that all important quota of feel good vitamin Ds, working in St Andrews allows for a plentiful amount of peaceful, scenic locations; perfect for getting away from it all. Quads, castles, beaches, grassy knolls and benches; St Andrews really does offer a micro mini-break in your lunch hour. So next time you get fed up with the filing or hit a wall writing that report, grab a book and head outside for a good old-fashioned break.

## 1: The Quad Rating

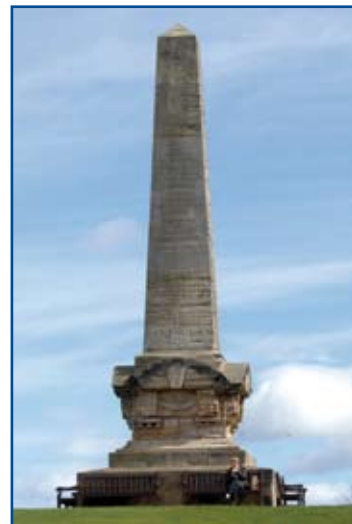
Beautiful and ancient as it is, I've always thought there was something a little too open about St Salvator's – its really just one big square of grass, even if it is surrounded by stunning architecture. And it's the buildings themselves that lead to that lack of privacy; who wants to tuck into a baguette under the watchful eye of overlooking offices or camera-poking-through-the-gate tourists? Take a trip through the gate to the left of Lower College Hall though and onto the lawn for a far more private area, with a smattering of benches, steps and a good deal less footfall. Even when students are playing football on the lawn, it's a lovely peaceful area away from all the hubbub of town and yet close enough to most of the central University offices.



## 2: The Martyr's Monument Rating

If you work on The Scores, it doesn't take five minutes to reach a bustling area with a panoramic view of the beach, sea and golf course; all encased in a grassy area which is a sun trap at lunchtime in the height of summer. If you want to feel like you're on holiday in your lunch hour (don't we all?) this is the ideal location – usually filled with a combination of tourists (from the nearby hotels), day trippers

(usually feasting on fish suppers) and assorted workmen – for a spot of people watching. Don't bother taking something to read 'cause there's too many distractions (and it can get windy) and beware of using suncream unless you don't mind acting as a human flypaper – last year was a freak year for greenfly down by the water and delousing post lunch takes the shine off the sunny break.



**3: The 'other' Quad**

Rating



Ahh, St Mary's. My favourite Quad of the two; it just seems more interesting, more historic, more disjointed and a little less perfect. Perhaps it's the quaint twig that is Queen Mary's hawthorn, or the winding path leading to those little nooks and crannies, that makes St Mary's a more altogether homely Quad-that-isn't-really-one. An almost perfect lunch can be had with a baguette from Cherries taken over

South Street to one of the benches by the Bute. I'm not telling which is my favourite, but there are a good few to choose from, though even in late March it was beginning to get busy! Not so many tourists around in this more secret Quad; just a smattering of staff from nearby offices and labs, and the friendly passing janitors, who never fail to say hello.

**4: The Cathedral**

Rating



There's nothing like a walk to the Cathedral and back at lunchtime to reinvigorate the senses and appreciate what this small town has to offer. I like to take my wrap from Butlers there – it does stay warm if you ask for it extra toasted, though I must grumble about the rise in prices almost immediately following our glowing review back in Issue 2. My favoured combo is the 'Moon over Mihami' – but taking out the oak leaf, getting grippy over the Jarlesberg and upping the price, does not make for a good combination! Despite this, they are in all their dripping fabulousness, a very tasty treat at lunchtime, and eaten on one of the benches overlooking the sea in summer is a truly relaxing break. Only the passing tourists interrupt the view now and again, otherwise you're not likely to bump onto many colleagues so far on the edge of town – until now, maybe. Doh!

**5: Anstruther**

Rating



Now there's getting away from it all and there's getting away from it all. Don't tell the boss but I sometimes go to the Anstruther Fish Bar for a quick bag of the best chips in Scotland at lunchtime. It might seem like a trek, but can easily be done in an hour, queuing time included, and the trip is well worth it if you're looking for a decent break. Have your chips and eat them looking out onto the harbour alongside a collection of tourists and day trippers; in term time the school children are sensible enough to use the other chip shop. You could top it all off with an ice cream but actually you're better heading back to St Andrews for the far superior Luvians or Thorntons' cones. All in all a jaunt to Anstruther at lunchtime is worth doing at least once in the summer – try it with a colleague and return to the office together with a knowing smile. Whether this will be as do-able following the new parking charges remains to be seen – it could be a problem getting that precious free parking space back at the end of it, and even those chips might not be worth the hassle and extra pounds.



**Do you have a favourite spot where you get away from it all at lunchtime?** Email [magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk) with your comments.

These reviews are conducted by anonymous members of the University community and do not necessarily reflect the views of *The StAnd* editorial board or the University.

## Guess where?

Again, we take a closer look at some of the town and gown's most distinctive features – can you guess what it is yet?

Answers on page 41

1



2



3



4



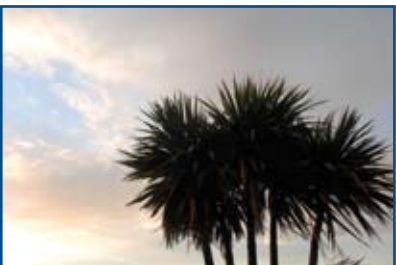
5



6



7



8



9



# St Andrews in Malawi



**By Brian Lang,  
Principal & Vice-Chancellor**

**One of my first shocks, driving from Malawi's Blantyre airport into town, was the number of roadside workshops offering coffins for sale.** Every few hundred yards, among the open fronted shops meagrely stocked with bicycle parts, selling vegetables or furniture, an incongruously garish sign depicts a coffin and promises low prices. This is a real market in operation, providing an everyday necessity for a population whose HIV/Aids infection rate is estimated at anywhere between 12% and 40%.

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Blantyre is Malawi's most important hospital, the summit of a healthcare system that would be creaking even without the added burden of HIV/Aids. Around 80% of patients in this hospital have ailments either directly related to, or complicated by, HIV/Aids. With some University of St Andrews medical colleagues last week, I visited the children's oncology ward. I will never, ever, forget the sight of seriously ill infants lying in rows of open boxes for beds in grotesquely overcrowded conditions, their mothers', aunts' and grandmothers' faces lacking any signs of optimism or hope.

Malawi's health service suffers from lack of capacity, lack of skills, lack of equipment, lack of any flexibility. While Scotland, with half of Malawi's population, produces on average 800 doctors a year, Blantyre School of Medicine produces 35. Of those, a proportion will be attracted abroad by better working and living conditions. It has been said that there are more Malawian doctors in Manchester than in Malawi. A proportion will succumb to Aids. Those who remain to serve the country's sick, need professional development as doctors do in any country but absence of trained staff in



**Children in the Oncology ward, Queen Elizabeth Hospital**

itself exacerbates the capacity problem. Undergraduate medical training needs to increase in volume. There are too few teachers (there is one qualified pharmacologist in Malawi) and meagre resources (iffy, at best, internet access). The existing medical education process led in Blantyre by Professor Simon Broadhead achieves wonders despite all this, but outside help is needed.

The lively and articulate group of medical students we met wanted, more than anything else, contact with their peers in Europe. They would appreciate one-to-one email relationships to compare notes, and to talk about similar experiences through the learning process. We can offer much more than that. Ten to 12 week stays in a Scottish medical school during their recess (October to December in Malawi) to attend classes and carry out a dissertation project would make them better doctors. By way of reciprocity,

opposite numbers from Scotland spending their summer months working in a Malawi hospital or clinic would give these budding doctors a quite different perspective on the practice of medicine. For qualified staff, brief visits of a few weeks at a time to Scottish hospitals would also enhance expertise. Return visits by Scottish colleagues to Malawi would be an obvious, and beneficial, quid pro quo.

For those seeking higher qualifications, a joint Scottish/Malawi PhD is a real prospect, using a model St Andrews has developed with three South African universities. This has the objective of making exposure to the Scottish higher degree experience available, while keeping it affordable to African students. At the same time the likelihood of the student remaining in his or her home country to practice, and not joining the drift to Europe or the USA, is maximised.

Just as important, possibly more so given the circumstances of Malawi, is the need to increase the capacity among health care workers up to the level of doctor. Nurses, pharmacists, physiotherapists are in desperately short supply. Better-trained trainers are needed. Here, surely, is an opportunity for Scotland's universities to bring their various and complementary strengths to bear. St Andrews can train doctors and health care administrators. Other institutions can train physiotherapists and nurses. Even better, we can all teach teachers how most effectively to teach, to reinforce Malawi's efforts towards sustainability in healthcare education.

The Scotland-Malawi Co-operation Agreement is in place and a reassuringly large number of healthcare managers in Malawi are aware of its existence and intentions. The danger is that aid to Malawi under this programme might be provided in a number of uncoordinated, one-off 'initiatives' that have no



continuity built into them. The worst thing we could do would be to throw Malawi a few short-term projects that show no willingness to stay the course. Malawians want our help and readily say so, but they do not want gestures.

The Scottish Executive's Malawi project builds on long-standing links. David Livingstone may have been pretty hopeless as a missionary and a mediocre, at best, explorer. But Scotland is held in warm regard

in Malawi. Jack McConnell's visit is remembered well and often referred to. The efforts of civil servants in Edinburgh such as the excellent Liz Grant demonstrate Scotland's determination to help. The spirit of the Co-operation Agreement must not be compromised by too many MSPs making inappropriate and unnecessary visits to Malawi. Scottish help to Malawi can make a real difference. As for those who want to debate the constitutional niceties of Scotland's intervention in Malawi, or who question the legitimacy of a Scottish 'foreign policy', let them take this sophistry to a Malawian children's ward and look those mothers in the eye. What is important is that Scotland's help is sustained, long-term, and properly thought through. No matter the outcome of the May elections, Malawian expectations must not be disappointed. Scotland's universities can play a vital role in putting at least some of those Malawian coffin vendors out of business.

## Setting *The StAndard* straight

**Following a recent call for volunteers for contributions to this issue, *The StAndard* was met with a friendly response from an academic, who volunteered that he found the magazine 'embarrassing' and, in all respects, a complete waste of money.**

A further accusation that the magazine is not really for staff, but 'clearly aimed at another audience', and the claim that their opinion was echoed by fellow academic colleagues, met with a bemused response, since we haven't heard anything similar in the three years since *The StAndard* was launched.

One of the biggest questions and challenges raised when we first began the process of creating the University's first staff magazine was 'how do we please everyone?' The simple answer is of course, you can't. What might interest a member of staff in Admissions might not hold the attention of an Anthropologist, or vice-versa. The pitch

of the magazine was deliberately set at what could be described as a friendly and informal, and most importantly accessible, manner – whether this could also be described in the negative as 'cosy banality' is for each reader of course to decide. Ultimately, what we needed to create was something for all – from those who keep the University clean, tidy and environmentally-friendly, to those who achieve top-ranking results in the RAEs. Clearly, it remains one of our biggest challenges.

To answer the question, who is *The StAndard*, the *University's staff magazine*, really for? To put it simply: each issue has a print run of just over 2,000 – there are just over 2,000 members of staff at the University – and every single issue is distributed to staff (with every new member receiving a copy of the most recent issue). It is, as we have always said, by staff for staff. It does not attempt to engage with the outside world, with other universities, funding

bodies or even the local community. Its primary aim is and always has been to engage, entertain (we hope) and inform staff. Each member of Court, of course, gets a copy, and some students may pick up a spare copy now and again. Often features from the magazine's pages have ended up appearing in the local newspapers too (to the further delight of those staff involved).

But this publication is not vetted nor created by College Gate – its content is neither dictated nor approved by the Principal (believe it or not, he receives his copy at the same time as everyone else). Likewise, contributors are not approached on the basis of them 'saying something nice' about the University. Actually we are always surprised at how positive some are in their praise of the University, when answering the question 'what makes you stay here?' Similarly, we have never refused to publish anything on the grounds of unsuitability.



Going back to the reason we started *The StAndard* in the first place – according to the 2003 staff survey, one of the biggest complaints was that there was a dire need for increased communication and collegiality across the entire institution. Most of you felt not quite a part of the corporate whole, some of you said you didn't really mix with or know anyone outwith your own buildings. So it was the need for engagement that formed the basis of the University launching its first magazine with the tagline 'for staff, by staff'. As is the nature of St Andrews, with staff and students often accused of apathy (for example student election turnout, staff survey response and the Staff Newsletter's current predicament), feedback hasn't been easy to come by, but on the whole the responses have been positive. One member of staff recently commented that they found out more about their boss from their 'hot seat' profile than they had done in all their time here; many say they look forward to doing the 'guess where' most, while others confess to enjoying the sheer nosiness of reading about others. Those who feature within the pages or on the front cover, ask for extra copies to

share with family members; others are inspired to recommend future 'victims'. Importantly, new members of staff say that it's a good way of finding their feet and offers them the opportunity to introduce themselves to the University community.

Of course, we can't force engagement - the fact that our recent critic stopped reading the magazine in November 2005, can only lead to the opinion that there are some that simply aren't interested in learning more about their colleagues and the bigger picture about the place in which they work. Incidentally, the issue in question featured poets, psychologists and papal bulls; outreach and orienteering efforts, charity and cancer events, lunch reviews, news on the framework agreement, parking plan and staff survey and debates on the staff club and HMOs... topped off with members of staff who selflessly give up their time to help the local fire and lifeboat service – hardly a frothy mix.

We have always sought to make you the reader key to the process, but in the

absence of any real critical suggestions for change of content or style, we take the view that 'no news is good news' and have continued to churn them out. Over the coming months though we would like to review the whole process and style of the magazine – and we ask this: what do you like or not like about *The StAndard*? What would you like to see more, or less of? Is the pitch right or do you feel there is 'nothing for you'? Does it look too corporate? Would you like to see a more frequent publication? Or perhaps in a different format (eg online, A5 size) or style?

In light of the sad possible demise of the staff Newsletter (see overleaf for their final call for help), now is an important time to share YOUR view on what you would like from YOUR publication.

This magazine is what you make it, which is why we are asking for your honest comments – all views will be taken on board for the next phase of *The StAndard*, which we hope to set even higher in the process.

# The Staff Newsletter under threat

*The University indicated to the Editors of the Staff Newsletter two years ago that they should begin to seek additional and alternative funding consequent on the University's decision to start The StAnd.*

*The University took the view that it could fund no more than one publication from central resources and advised the Editors that they should not continue to rely upon central funding which would be gradually phased out.*

*Here the Editors argue why they believe the Staff Newsletter should be preserved as a small but important component of University life.*

The Staff Newsletter started in November 1967. Successive editorial boards have contributed their own style to the journal, have improved its design, modernised its production and rationalised its distribution. Unless the Executive changes its mind, this tradition will come to an end with the June issue, and the Newsletter will not reach its 40th anniversary. In this article we describe the contribution that the Newsletter makes to the life of the University, and argue that support should continue from central funds.

The Newsletter started out as the Staff News Sheet, the journal of the Non-Professorial Staff Association. This was in the days when the professors ruled their departments and controlled the University. Times have changed and the University's ruling oligarchy is differently composed, with power now in the hands of a small group of professional executives. We're not sure how this was allowed to happen, nor whether things are worse now than they were in the days of the professoriat, but for most of us the basic fact remains: we were foot-soldiers then and are foot-soldiers still.

Foot-soldiers are known to be grumblers, and anyone who goes around the University is bound to detect



critical noises, some unjustified and exaggerated, others quite reasonable and worth listening to. It doesn't do the University much good to have negative comments appearing in print, but vague inarticulate discontent does much more harm. The Newsletter keeps open a channel of communication from those outside to those on the inside of the Executive tent, something whose importance has been repeatedly emphasised in the results of staff surveys.

We also publish stories (mainly, but not always, provided by the University's Press Office) about the activities of all sections of the University staff. Often these will be about research, and it is important to remind everyone that the University's existence is justified by its academic excellence. We try to present these stories in terms that make sense to us as lay-people, and so we hope they make sense to our readers as well. Not all our stories are academic in nature, and we record achievements in all

aspects of University life. We believe that this is an important function in an institution where the opportunities for informal meetings are diminishing, as the pressure of work grows and the enchantment of the little screen and the keyboard becomes more and more powerful.

Finally, the Newsletter provides a Diary of Events and a section of personal advertisements. The small ads provide our clearest indication that the Newsletter is read throughout the University. Advertisers return to use the service again, suggesting that it works. New members of staff and visiting staff use the advertising columns as ways of finding accommodation, and by the same token staff going away on sabbatical find tenants and house-sitters.

We believe we have made the case for regarding the Newsletter as making a small but useful contribution to the life of the University, but we are challenged

by the Executive on two further points: couldn't the Newsletter be put online, so as to save the printing costs, or alternatively couldn't we find some other source of funding?

There have been earlier threats to the Newsletter and in response we have experimented with online versions. The advertisement section is still online, and we also provide a copy of each edition in Acrobat format, which people can download. For a couple of years we provided an online version which actually exploited the capabilities of the web to give extra information, pictures and weblinks. However, we are convinced that a paper edition is what our readers want. Some staff still don't have access to computers at all, and many have only shared and limited access. Staff who are using computers all day need things to take them away from their chair and screen, for the sake of both their physical and mental well-being. Rest areas should be stocked with many things, including informal and recreational reading matter, and this is where the Newsletter finds its natural place, as a focus for discussion. People also take the Newsletter home, where it helps to keep families in touch with what the University is up to, and so helps maintain a connection between our home and working lives. In short, the Newsletter is a contribution to the social life of the University, not an object of solitary interest. If we distributed the Newsletter online as an Acrobat file, it would undoubtedly be downloaded and printed out; printing it single-sided, on departmental printers would cost the University a great deal more than producing it in the Print Unit.

We are castigated by the Executive for not seeking alternative sources of funding. We have considered this, but rejected it as impracticable. There are two possible sources, advertising and subscriptions.

As anyone who has done it will know, looking for advertisers (or sponsors, to put it more genteelly) is a time-consuming and thankless task. The editorial committee all have their own

work to do and cannot take on this extra task. To do it we would need to employ a business manager. No doubt we could find a hard-up postgraduate student who would make an excellent job of it, but they would need to be paid, which would increase the amount of money we would be looking for. Since the Newsletter was reduced in size to meet the recent cut in funding, it is now at a stage where it cannot reduce the contents any further, so that it would need to grow again to accommodate advertisements, again making the whole thing more expensive. The advertisers would need to cover not only the current modest production costs, but additional costs of getting and displaying the advertisements. Furthermore, some of the editors feel that the responsibility of taking money from outsiders would change the nature of the commitment required of them, making them unable to continue in the role.

Many of the same points apply to subscriptions. In its present form the Newsletter would require a subscription of under four pounds per year; if we reverted to our previous format and frequency it would be about seven pounds. The cost of collecting and recording sums like these would be disproportionate. It has been suggested, we don't know how seriously, that the Finance department would collect the subscriptions for us, but it would hardly be worth their while.

There is another argument against levying a subscription. We have stressed the importance of the Newsletter, but we delude ourselves if we imagine that staff are waiting for the appearance of the next edition with the eagerness of the American fans of Dickens who went to meet the ship from England to find out what had become of Little Nell. We are sure many of our readers would willingly give five pounds a year to the Newsletter, but equally sure that after the first year the numbers would begin to fall off. Each individual reader would make the same calculation that the Executive are now making, with many finding something better to

spend their money on – their children, their favourite charity or themselves. We claim not that the Newsletter plays a large part in the life of every reader, but that it makes a significant contribution to the collective life of the University, and as such it should be funded by the University, not by individuals.

Since we began publicising the threat to the Newsletter we have received many messages of support. A frequent comment has been that the Newsletter is better value than *The StAndard*. We have never made this claim ourselves. When *The StAndard* was launched we were assured that it did not constitute a threat to the Newsletter, and we believe that those who work on *The StAndard* take this view, as is suggested by their kindness in giving us space to make our case. *The StAndard* is produced by professional journalists, has a large production budget and is designed with at least half an eye to external readers. As such it has a huge barrier to overcome before it can achieve credibility as a channel for bottom-up communication. The Newsletter, on the other hand, is produced by amateurs on a shoe-string, is an embarrassment to the Executive if it falls into the hands of outsiders, and for these very reasons has a sort of credibility that *The StAndard* has not yet achieved. We believe, and we think *The StAndard* believes, that both publications contribute to the well-being of the University. Unfortunately the Executive have raised the idea of competition by declaring that they cannot afford to fund both of us.

It is, of course, impossible to quantify the value of the Newsletter (or *The StAndard*) in any kind of rigorous, cost-benefit fashion, but it is very clear from the messages that we have received that the value of the Newsletter is widely recognised. We hope that the Executive will acknowledge this, and will continue to provide the very modest funds necessary to sustain this long-established service to the University community.

# It's all academic

**What attracts leading academics to St Andrews and what makes them stay? This feature focuses on individual researchers, looking at their achievements so far and their hopes for the future.**

**This issue, we spoke to researchers in homogenous catalysis and Christian doctrine.**

**NAME:** Paul C J Kamer

**POSITION:** Professor of Chemistry

**AREA/S OF RESEARCH:**  
Homogeneous catalysis

**WHAT MADE YOU CHOOSE THIS FIELD OF RESEARCH?**

I have always had a broad interest in several fields of chemistry, including biochemistry, organic, organometallic and inorganic chemistry. Catalysis is a multidisciplinary research area in which you can combine all these aspects of chemistry. An additional advantage is that catalysis research can lead to useful applications. Many catalytic reactions are directed at the design and the clean and efficient synthesis of new functional molecular systems. The reactivity, biological activity and material properties of these systems are ultimately determined by the molecular structure; small electronic, steric and geometric changes on the molecular level can have huge impact on meso and macroscopic properties. Catalysis makes a huge contribution to the development of new products and materials in an environmentally friendly way.

**WHY IS YOUR RESEARCH IMPORTANT?**

Catalysis plays a key role in chemical conversions by making them faster and more selective. In more than 80% of the industrial conversions, catalysis is pivotal for the preparation of the desired, highly sophisticated products from a wide range of feedstocks. Still, the development of highly selective catalysts is required for preparing medicines, fragrances, new materials in a stereoselective manner and using routes with high yields of the desired products. Catalysts contribute to a



better use of feedstocks by making the conversions more selective and to a consumption of less energy by accelerating the reactions at lower temperatures. It is a great challenge to develop novel catalysts and catalytic materials which prevent formation of chemical waste and energy demanding work-up and purification of intermediates. In this way you can combine great fun in fundamental scientific research with useful and important applications.

**WHAT DO YOU MOST ENJOY ABOUT YOUR WORK?**

Chemistry by itself is fun; you can create novel materials and try to understand how nature works. As a research project student I realised that I was synthesising molecules which no one had made before; I was creating something new. It is a great joy when you start to understand how subtle changes in the structure of a molecule influence the macroscopic properties of a product or material, and even better when you

are able to predict which structure you require to obtain the desired properties. Research is always full of surprises and you often face very unexpected results. That can be frustrating because things turn out differently than you expect but it can also provide new insights and opportunities.

Another aspect of working in an academic environment is that you are always in contact with new young people. It is a nice experience to work with young and enthusiastic students and post-docs.

**WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING FINDING YOU HAVE MADE?**

I guess that is in the field of ligand design and development. Ligands are organic molecules that bind to metals, thereby changing the properties of the metal like chemical reactivity. We use this to influence and steer the catalytic properties of the metal. In one of our projects we were looking for ligands that bind at two positions



to the metal. Normally the bond angle of these ligands is  $90^\circ$  but it was predicted that we needed ligands that enforce a bond angle of  $120^\circ$ . We designed such a ligand, and when I synthesized and tested the catalyst performance we indeed found the most selective catalyst known for a reaction called hydroformylation. This gave us a new class of ligands which showed remarkable behaviour in several catalytic reactions. This was a clear example of real rational design of molecules, but of course I do not mention the ten other structures that looked as promising but were no good at all.

#### **AND WHAT DEVELOPMENTS AND/OR CHALLENGES DO YOU FORESEE IN THE FUTURE?**

A sustainable future of this world requires a massive reduction in chemical waste production and energy demand. Therefore, a new generation of catalysts for important chemical conversions must be developed that enable chemical conversions in a clean way. As an example, the oil industry, which is based on catalytic conversions, produces in general less than 100g chemical waste per kg of product. The pharmaceutical industry easily produces over 100kg of waste per kg

of product by applying traditional chemical reagents. I foresee a change from traditional synthetic production methods that produce these huge amounts of chemical waste to all-catalytic multi step methods with little or no waste production. To achieve this we need major improvements on existing catalysts and invention of new catalysts for reactions that are unknown now. These are great challenges but successes have been reported already.

#### **WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO ST ANDREWS?**

When things were changing at the University of Amsterdam I was looking around for new options. In that time I was approached by David Cole-Hamilton and asked if I would consider moving to St Andrews. Because both Amsterdam and St Andrews were among the top research centres in homogeneous catalysis this seemed quite appealing, but it was also a difficult decision. I ended up with being offered a position in both places and St Andrews offered more new opportunities and challenges in a flourishing and challenging environment. This was also acknowledged by the European Union who gave a significant grant to sponsor my transfer.

I was impressed by the informal and friendly atmosphere in St Andrews. All agreements between me and the University were made in no time and all promises were kept. I was surprised that the School of Chemistry had arranged everything very well with the Principal's Office and I received an offer within one day after my interview. I know myself and from my Marie Curie colleagues who are in the same mobility programme that many other institutions operate in a less adequate and reliable manner.

#### **AND WHAT MAKES YOU STAY HERE?**

As already said the School of Chemistry is a growing and flourishing department with great scientific quality. Since I have been here I have seen many new young staff members arriving, which is a good sign. People are friendly and co-operative and in my opinion St Andrews can become one of the world leading centres in catalysis research.

Apart from science it is also quite an experience to change from one of the most crowded and hectic places of Europe to the beautiful environment of St Andrews. I think nature is amazing in Scotland and we should take great care of that.

**NAME:** Trevor Hart

**POSITION:** Professor of Divinity, and  
Director of the Institute for Theology,  
Imagination and the Arts (ITIA)

**AREA/S OF RESEARCH:**

In broad terms, my interests lie in the field of Christian doctrine, chiefly in the modern period. Much of my research in the last ten years, though, has been focused specifically on the relationships between Christian theology and human imagination. This involves quite a lot of work with the artistic imagination, but ranges much more widely than that. In fact, once you start to dig, you quickly discover two things about what we habitually refer to as 'imagination' (apart from the fact that it's hard to pin down any agreement about the meaning of the term once people step back from using it and think about it!). First, it crops up all over the place in the most fundamental discussions about all sorts of different practices and areas of concern (including many of the things which matter most to us as human beings); and, second, there is remarkably little attention granted to it as a phenomenon in its own right.

**WHAT MADE YOU CHOOSE THIS FIELD OF RESEARCH?**

In 1996 I was invited to deliver the Drew Lecture on eschatology (the doctrine of the 'last things') at Spurgeon's College in London, and chose as my topic the nature of Christian hope. Hope is, of course, a fundamentally imaginative human disposition. When we hope for something, we are looking forward to things (imagining things) that may or may not actually come to pass. Preparation for that lecture involved quite a lot of reading in a number of different fields (philosophy, psychology, cultural theory, as well as theology) and led me to wider reflection and research on the nature of our imaginative engagements with things. I quickly realised just how pervasive the impact of the imagination is, and how much it shapes the ways in which we experience and make sense of what it means to be human in the world.



**WHY IS YOUR RESEARCH IMPORTANT?**

Christian theology is concerned first and foremost with God, and with the world and its history as a theatre of God's own presence and action. This means that, in principle, the theologian should be interested in the whole of reality, and the whole spread of human learning, and concerned to make sense of it all in the light of who God has shown himself to be, and the purposes and promises of God revealed in Christ. I suppose the first thing to say about this is that, like any other human work of 'making sense' of things, theology is itself a highly imaginative venture, and an understanding of how imagination functions is important to its self-understanding as such. Secondly, because talk about imagination crops up so pervasively, careful study of the category seems likely to yield fruitful results in terms of which to develop a distinctively theological approach to some key facets of our shared humanity (understanding, desire, memory, hope, love, trust, creativity, joy, to name just a few). The arts in particular are central to so much of what we are and do as human beings, and serious theological encounters with works of art, with practitioners in the arts, and with

different understandings of what such works and practices may have to tell us about the world and our place in it can offer vital insights not just to theology, but to the arts themselves. Better to understand what it is to be imaginative may, in other words, be better to understand what it is to be human, and that's obviously something of importance not just for the theologian, but for all of us.

**WHAT DO YOU MOST ENJOY ABOUT YOUR WORK?**

I enjoy most of what I do, but supervising postgraduate students is probably the thing I get the most satisfaction from. I have a great bunch of research students working on projects which interest me and inform my own work, and we have a weekly research seminar in the Institute for Theology, Imagination and the Arts which is a source of constant intellectual stimulation, as well as an enjoyable occasion.

**WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING FINDING YOU HAVE MADE?**

It's difficult to say. Some of the most interesting work I have done recently has been on the background to J R



R Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, and Dorothy L Sayers' *The Mind of the Maker*. ITIA held a colloquium in March 2004 to mark the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tolkien's Andrew Lang Lecture in St Andrews ('Fairy Stories', 8 March 1939), and a volume of essays based on the papers from that colloquium is just about to be published. I've also been working on a bigger book situating the idea of artistic 'creativity' within a Christian theology of creation, and both Tolkien and Sayers have been a fascinating source of theologically informed reflection on the subject. Some work I have been doing on visual art has to do with specific theological resonances and allusions in Giotto's frescoes in the Arena Chapel in Padua. I have a hunch which I have still to work out and do some more research on. So, quite apart from being interesting, I'm hoping that that may give me an excuse to go back to Padua for another look!

#### **AND WHAT DEVELOPMENTS AND/OR CHALLENGES DO YOU FORESEE IN THE FUTURE?**

There is relatively little serious work being done as yet at the interface between theology and theatre. What has been done thus far has tended to treat drama as literature, rather than attending to its distinctly performative dimensions. ITIA has already had several research students complete dissertations in this area, and there are others currently working in the field. On the strength of this, we are hoping to develop a major research project on theology and theatre, and I envisage being very involved in that. As ever, securing external funding

for such work is a challenge, but I'm hopeful that some carefully targeted bids may bear fruit. It's work which, as well as bringing theology and the performing arts together at an academic level, will have to have some very practical aspects and outputs, and some of those will involve dissemination of the findings within the wider community (for instance, a public 'production' of some sort involving folk from the town, and possibly some investigation of the possibilities for teaching 'theology' through drama at various educational levels, including secondary and primary).

#### **WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO ST ANDREWS?**

I was ready for a move from my previous post (a lectureship in the University of Aberdeen), and St Andrews had a good reputation as a place with both an established track record and prospects for future development. I hoped that coming to a Chair here would give me the freedom to develop some of my particular interests, and that is precisely what has happened. So, it was a good decision!

#### **AND WHAT MAKES YOU STAY HERE?**

Why would anyone want to go elsewhere? It's a great University, a great town in which to raise a young family, and in terms of the work I do, it provides an ideal situation so far as colleagues and students are concerned.

# Cultivating the curriculum

**This month, 143 students will graduate from the Bute Medical School, the first to successfully complete the new BSc Honours degree in Medicine implemented since the re-establishment of the medical school at St Andrews.** The day will be particularly satisfying for staff at the Bute, who have been part of the establishment of a new medical school delivering a brand new curriculum aimed at creating a 'more complete and better prepared doctor'.

It's been a long and challenging three years though, and not just for the students who will leave St Andrews and head off to one of the Scottish medical schools or Manchester to complete their clinical training. It's been a labour of love for the staff of the Bute too, who have dedicated much time and effort into not only delivering the new curriculum, but in creating it in the first place.

In the weeks leading up to graduation, *The StAndard* caught up with Dr Simon Guild, Head of Undergraduate Learning and Teaching at the Bute, and rewound back five years to find out exactly what went into bringing a Medical School back to St Andrews.

We soon learned that it wasn't just a case of seeking the necessary approvals from Court – as Simon describes it, it really was a case of 'starting from square one', in which every single aspect of the curriculum was changed. From teaching, exam and assessment procedures to creating a curriculum which reflected the changing needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century doctor, Simon and his colleagues eventually created a programme which is aimed at setting St Andrews' graduates well on the road to being competent doctors, with the range of skills now essential for success in the field. The result is an innovative, and in many ways unique, paperless curriculum, which provides the doctors of tomorrow with a sound scientifically-based medical degree.



Simon Guild

When the decision was made to re-instate medicine in 2002, and Professor Hugh Macdougall was appointed Dean of Medicine, Simon was a lecturer in Pharmacology, based in Biology. Though he still lectures, Simon became Director of Teaching, taking on a role which 'involves much more than just running exams and timetables'. Describing his initial role as a 'champion for change', he was responsible for carrying out a review of existing teaching methods, as well as what was going on in other medical schools. It was a steep learning curve, and the period was one which Simon describes as 'the hardest and most tiring, but certainly most interesting period of my life'.

"It was a group effort," he said, "We had to find out what was going on nationally so that we could establish what could be considered best practice. It was a real challenge to develop a completely new curriculum bearing in mind that at that time public perception of the medical profession was strained because of the Shipman case and the Kelly enquiry."

With the principal aim of creating rounded graduates with the necessary

medical, scientific, research and personal skills, Dr Guild and his colleagues set about creating a tailor-made curriculum, which would not only meet the University's stringent standards, but those set externally by the GMC (General Medical Council).

"What we wanted to create at the end of the three years here is a graduate with the all-round skills now needed to succeed in the medical profession – someone who not only has the technical and scientific training and knowledge, but who can communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. Nowadays there is a lot more emphasis on professionalism within the field, which goes beyond knowing how to diagnose or treat a condition. Historically doctors haven't been good communicators, but people do trust their opinion. What we needed to create was a curriculum that didn't just cover the necessary clinical and scientific training, but which placed additional importance on patient care and communication, because after all the most important person in the process is the patient."

The resulting philosophy behind the new programme is based on

the core principles of competence, professionalism, reflection and independence, which address the importance of ethical awareness, personal values and self-directed learning, as well as the core clinical skills and scientific knowledge of medicine.

As the philosophy suggests, the programme is aimed at “underlying the concept that medicine is an art as well as a science.”

An additional challenge over the last four years has been meeting the needs of both the new medical degree and the existing BSc General degree in Medical Science, which ran in parallel with the new course and continued until the final students graduated in 2006.

The starting point for the new programme was to create an integrated curriculum building upon the strengths of the existing medical science courses, while making them clinically relevant – and it is this scientific edge that sets St Andrews apart from the other medical schools in the country.

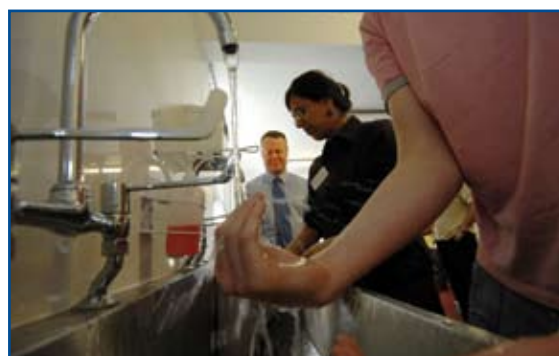
It was a role which sent Simon out and about and put him in touch with external agencies such as local health boards, government, health professionals and bodies and other medical schools both in Scotland and England, which opened his eyes to what was going on not just locally but nationally.

The end result was what is described as a ‘spiral curriculum’ – one which begins in year one with the basic functions of the body and revisits each area in higher detail in subsequent years. The ‘clinical context and contact’ element means that students spend time out in the community as well as in the classroom; crucial practical experience for the doctors of tomorrow. From the beginning of the first year students are partly taught in small groups and taught to engage with each other and other areas of the University, which in turn builds confidence. This is an important part of the ‘first year experience’ that sets the trend for the rest of the programme and ensures engagement of the students in their chosen degree.

Furthermore, enquiry-led studies, which provides students with case studies, and methods of student-centred learning forms the core of the first three years and provides relevance to students by teaching them to work with mock patient cases.

There are three sections which run through the course – knowledge, skills and attitudes – and St Andrews is very much leading the way in combining the importance of the medical sciences with the patient-based learning approach to achieve well rounded students competent in all of these three components.

“To encourage reflection and professionalism we teach our students to look at the situation from the patients’ point of view. When they are looking at case studies or out on visits, we ask them to keep a journal which they can use as part of their portfolio and reflect on what happens, noting how they feel and how they think the patient might feel. It’s all part of their personal development as the doctors of the future, leading them to develop behaviours and views which are in the best interests of the patient,” said Simon. A unique element of the St Andrews’ Honours degree in Medicine is that all students undertake an Honours research project – we are the only university in Scotland to include this – which equips students with vital skills in research. These research-teaching linkages are an important part of the teaching philosophy of the new curriculum. As Simon pointed out, “Medicine is an area which is always changing – just look at the advances which have been made in the past 40 or 50 years. As a result, doctors nowadays need to be good researchers as well to keep up with the latest developments. To equip them for this, we teach them problem solving skills, combining good research skills with the obvious medical and scientific skills. It’s all about lifelong learning,” he said.



**Simon overseeing stringent hand-washing practice**

One great innovation is the development of an online course management system, GALEN (named after a famous anatomist), as a method of delivering the curriculum content electronically to students. A system which can be tailored individually by students, it contains information such as timetables and lecture notes, which can be downloaded and printed off in advance of lectures. Lecturing staff have noticed a change – students come to lectures with the notes printed out, appear better prepared for classes, and no longer need to furiously scribble notes while they talk.

“We’ve noticed that students are actually listening to lectures now and we are no longer seeing just the tops of their heads!” said Simon. And for those who suspect that students would simply skip classes because they already have the notes, class attendance does not appear to be adversely affected. Indeed, students have provided positive feedback, and figures indicating how many students access the system round the clock suggest that it is an invaluable resource. It also serves as a useful tool to staff, who can use it to manage student records, text students and even monitor class attendance! In addition each student can view practical videos and perform online formative assessments via GALEN to keep up with their progress in achieving the course learning objectives and outcomes.

The novel methods and strong science-base of the St Andrews medical degree has attracted interest from not just Manchester – the traditional partner for

St Andrews - but also the other Scottish medical schools (Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow). This bodes well as the Bute Medical School intake will double in size over the next few years with 104 Scottish Funding Council sponsored places continuing their clinical training in Scotland and 80-100 continuing to proceed to Manchester as before, but under different funding arrangements.

"Our fundamental curricular revision three to four years ago meant that we revised not only our curriculum content but also our own teaching and assessment methods and the ways in which we set and monitor our own standards. We had to re-learn our educational practices and basically embrace the change. I believe what we have developed in the course of this endeavour could be of use to other Schools and Departments within the University, not to mention other medical schools. It's amazing how far we've come; just four years

ago the medical future at St Andrews was uncertain. We've gone from being potentially closed to a position where we are expanding and developing a whole new ethos. It's a complete turnaround and in many ways we're trailblazing a particular way of reforming medical education as no other medical school has so far attempted to do," said Simon.

In light of constantly reviewed policies and changes in methods of teaching and assessment, Bute staff will continue to evolve ahead of the pack. With a core management group and committees charged with reviewing the curriculum and IT as well as methods of teaching and assessment, colleagues are continually coming up with new ideas for ongoing improvement. Everyone has the opportunity to be part of the process, including students, who can input to the various committees, providing feedback on the new curriculum and teaching methods, as well as suggestions for the future. As

Simon notes, 'the feeling of having the power to change things for the better really gives people confidence, and helps us achieve our aim of creating the most effective and modern student-centred curriculum.'

And the signs are so far so good, with initial results from reviews conducted internally and by the QAA and GMC providing positive feedback.

But the real success lies in the students graduating this month, as Simon says, "It's really great to see these students turn into embryonic doctors in front of our eyes. All the strengths of the students who previously graduated from the old curriculum have been retained and supplemented by strengths gained from the new curriculum reflecting what is best practice in modern medical education. By the time they leave St Andrews, they are well on their way to becoming fully-fledged medics."

*Gayle Cook*

## SASOL SciFest

Dave Heron from the School of Physics & Astronomy has recently returned from the SASOL SciFest in South Africa, after being invited by the organisers to present a 'talkshop science show' for the third consecutive year.

With help from the University, Dave was able to take his show "Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, It's Superconductor!" to enthusiastic science pupils from local schools. In particular, the show travelled to local townships where students from some of the poorest parts of the East Cape were able to see first hand the amazing levitating magnet (see picture).

Previous success from the Science Festival has included winning two awards (Best Presentation and Best Outreach) in 2005 with the show 'Tripping the Light Fantastic' (also from

the School of Physics & Astronomy) as well as 'The Science of Golf' which won the award for Best Presentation last year.

Upon completing his PhD in superconductivity and magnetism,



**Dave impresses local children with some science**

Dave hopes to set up his own science communication company liaising between schools within Scotland and science PhD students conducting science outreach as part of their funding remit.

**Anyone interested in helping Dave with such a venture should contact him on [dogh@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:dogh@st-andrews.ac.uk)**

## Caption fantastic!

Each issue *The StAndard* will trawl the University's photo archives, past and present for strange, surprising and humorous images calling out for an entertaining caption.

**Last issue our image captured of Jim Douglas prior to the arrival of HE Khatami last year, met with the following response:**

"Jim was just practicing his pose for the next Jack Vettriano picture."

"Quick! Someone get that walkie-talkie off him, or he'll be doing his karaoke Frank Sinatra impression."

"It's the next best thing to a screwdriver!!"

and...

"Beam me up Scotty!"



And, even though *The Saint* have –ahem– nicked our idea, we couldn't resist including the following snap from Gordon Brown's recent visit to the University to open DRA.

**Suggested captions (anonymous or otherwise) can be sent to [magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk) or by post to the address on the inside cover. The best captions will be printed in the next issue. Likewise, images for possible use are welcomed.**

## 'The Mad Militants': suffragettes and St Andrews, 1913

**I saw an article in the press recently about the Gatty Lab being set on fire by the suffragettes – can you shed any more light on this?**

*Archivist Rachel Hart (pictured right) tells the story of local suffragette activity, from newspapers and the manuscripts of Professor William Carmichael McIntosh.*



At 2 am on 23 June 1913 a fisherman at sea off St Andrews spotted a fire at the East Sands. On his return to land he alerted the coastguard and fire brigade. The fire, at the Gatty Marine Laboratory, was tackled from 5 am and extinguished by 6.30 am. It was found that access had been gained during the night through a broken window which had first been covered with soft soap and brown paper. The fire had been started deliberately with a dozen flasks of inflammable liquid. The damage to the East wing of the Gatty, estimated at £500, was severe as the fire had caught hold of a wooden partition and spread to the roof. The scientific papers and drawings of W C McIntosh (1838-1931), Professor of Natural History from 1882-1917, were protected by their glass frames and covers and only a small number were destroyed. The collection is held today in the University Library's Special Collections Department.

Two placards were found by the door of the Gatty, alluding to the suffragette movement and, together with a small footprint, this was seen as evidence of the involvement of 'misguided women incendiaries', 'these senseless wicked lawbreaking women' (WCM Album VI/8-13).

**'a band of  
determined  
ruffians'**

**'those  
feckless  
suffragettes'**

**'a pack of fools'**

The Gatty fire took place at a time when suffragette activity in Scotland had moved on from events such as a peaceful grand pageant and procession through Edinburgh in 1909 and a protest walk from Edinburgh to London in 1912. As imprisoned women in England were force-fed to break hunger and thirst strikes the protests became

more violent. Shop windows were smashed in Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow in 1912, the first recorded instance of suffragette violence in Scotland. Pillar boxes had corrosive and flammable liquids poured into them and there were arson attacks on Perthshire Cricket Club, a stand at Ayr racecourse and Leuchars Station.



**Suffragettes marching in St Andrews**

Leuchars station was completely wrecked in a fire on 30 June 1913, just a week after the Gatty incident. The fire, first spotted by the signalman at 1.25 am, burned fiercely and, despite the attendance of the Guardbridge Paper Mill fire brigade, it could not be extinguished. The remains of similar flasks to those found at the Gatty indicated that the Leuchars fire was also the work of militant suffragettes. A similar method had been used at a recent fire in Dundee. £2,000 worth of damage was caused at Leuchars. The police searched for two ladies who had lodged near Leuchars Junction and had been discovered to be 'of a militant persuasion'. However they had disappeared before the police were able to visit them. There was no suffragette literature found at Leuchars but they were nevertheless held to be responsible for the damage.

The report of the Gatty fire in the *St Andrews Citizen* of 28 June 1913 noted that "the outrage came as a shock to the citizens and has caused much uneasiness in the city, as there is no saying what other valuable property may be destroyed by the mad militants". The St Andrews Women's Suffrage Society in the same paper, however, condemned "in the most emphatic manner the damage done to the Gatty Marine Laboratory which is alleged to have been caused by a woman or by



The Gatty after the fire

women who have adopted militant methods", restating their preference for "constitutional action, justifying the extension of the franchise to women by reason and argument".

Professor McIntosh, then aged 75, 'who has always done so much to help on the scientific education of women at the University of St Andrews', received many letters of condolence and expressions of shock from around the world at 'the dreadful outrage perpetrated by those dangerous lunatics' on his marine laboratory. The event received wide local, national and scientific

press coverage. It provoked extreme reactions in his correspondents, such as: "Those wretched lunatics the 'militant suffragettes' what diabolical children of destruction they are. I think their heads should be turned and their heels cut off their boots and that the worst of them should be sent to St Helena and St Kilda and if they tried on a hunger strike on board ship they might be made capital food for sharks!"

Only one correspondent offered a word of caution: "I am not for always blaming the suffragist or suffragette. The situation so frequently left behind may be simply as a blind and to avert suspicion. The covering of the glass with soft soap is another method which indicates the presence of a studious blackguard rather than a political enthusiast." As one outraged male acquaintance of McIntosh noted: "St Andrews is the last place I would have thought the woman folks would have played their pranks in". Whoever was responsible, it is unclear why the Gatty was selected as a target.

The First World War brought an end to the militant suffragette campaign. Women over 30 were given the vote in 1918 (men could vote at 21). Women were able to vote on the same conditions as men from 1928.

**'take all these women and hang them in a row'**



Do you have a historical question or challenge for the Special Collections team?

Email us at [magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk)

# Information flows

**You might remember way back in Issue 4 (March 2005) we looked at that dreaded phrase ‘Freedom of Information’ and explained exactly what it meant for the University and its staff.**

Hopefully you will remember its meaning: that anyone has the right to access recorded information held by the University (or any other public body), regardless of when it was created, by whom or which form it is held in. Since its inception, thousands of requests for information have been made to Scotland’s public authorities and universities are no exception.

When Mark Robinson (pictured) joined the University in September 2003 as its FOI officer, his first challenge was to set up the University’s Publication Scheme, a requirement of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. The scheme is designed to contain or link to as much of the University’s publicly available information as possible. While at the end of 2006 the publication scheme contained around 1,000 records, it continues to grow as new information is added, and in the last two years it has been accessed around 400,000 times each year.

Since the Act came into full force on 1 January 2005, you may have noticed a plethora of stories reaching the newspapers using information gleaned through use of FOI around the globe (since it’s a worldwide legislation) – from new insights into Marilyn Monroe’s death to those celebrities who have turned down the offer of an honorary degree, journalists have been one of the single largest groups of people to make the most out of the Act since it came into being. This University alone has been asked on several occasions for copies of confidential paperwork relating to the conferment (or refusal) of honorary degrees, with one Scottish Sunday title taking a particularly dogged interest.

But it’s not just exclusive-hungry journalists who have taken hold of the new legislation; rather a whole host of individuals, staff and students, have utilised FOI to find out that piece of

information they have often longed for, but until recently have not had the right to ask for it. Bearing in mind those asking don’t have to say what they plan to do with the information, it is often a case of information apparently going nowhere in particular.

Two years on, we caught up with Mark (now Information Management Co-ordinator) to ask him how the University had fared since the implementation of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

At the time of our first chat, Mark had noted a slow initial uptake on the Act, which seemed to mirror the experience of other UK HEI’s. Since then, for many at the University it has been a case of ‘business as usual’, for others (particularly in Admissions, Registry and Finance) it has meant more work meeting that dreaded 20-working day deadline. While most requests can be completed within two days, others take longer (the average response time is 13 working days) and considerable manpower researching information and records. Of course the University does not always have to provide all of the information, and each year brings a small number of queries which are considered to be exempt from the Act; other times the University simply does not hold the information.

Since individuals requesting information do not have to cite the Act (anonymity has now been waived, all requesters must now provide a name), nor give reasons for asking, Mark has had to be alert to the possibilities of information being passed on to third parties. Happily, most requests are fairly straightforward and are dealt with swiftly.

Mark said, “It has been a learning curve for everyone involved, not just us FOI



**Mark Robinson**

officers, but the people making requests and even the Scottish Information Commissioner’s Office. It has also freed up people’s concept of withholding information, which you can no longer do, unless an exemption applies, and forced us to think about how we store information.”

So how many requests have been made to the University and what sorts of things have been asked? In terms of figures, in 2005 the University had 93 requests, which dropped to 58 in 2006. At the time of writing, the first quarter of 2007 saw five requests come in (compared to 35 and 11 during the same period in 2005 and 2006). The first year of requests saw a whole range of queries from planning applications, pass marks, budgets and student numbers, to library fines and salaries. One even took a particular interest in our drainage, while another asked about our windows.

The majority of requests back in the beginning were lodged by the press and individuals with no known connection to the University. Those who did identify themselves as members of the media (around a quarter of all requests, who typically hedge their bets by asking all universities the same question), hit predictably sensational areas such as cheating, failure rates, violence on campus, grievances and the Royal Family. 2006 meanwhile met with requests on Kate Kennedy, residences, the Library and investments, from a similar range of individuals. Around a third of those were again from the

press, enquiring into our security, ethics, alcohol use and Bob Dylan, with one being particularly interested in how good (or bad, as they presumably hoped) our students' grammar is. Mark meets with a national user group once a quarter, which is useful for him to glean how St Andrews stands in comparison with other Scottish Higher Education Institutions, and to find out about the latest developments in best practice. According to recent research, there were over 900 requests in 2006 across all the Scottish HEIs, with the most common requests being about human resources, teaching and assessment, finance/investments and admissions. The majority of requests were by unknown persons, while the largest known group were journalists; others who figured highly were those who sent all institutions the same round robin email (usually journalists) and repeat requesters. Lower down the list were staff, students and campaigners.

It is estimated that FOI requests cost the HE sector in Scotland over £130,000 in 2006; most requests tend not to be charged for. In terms of who gets the most, last year Glasgow University received around double the amount of requests than any other Scottish university had recorded. Their 200 requests were followed (in descending

order) by Strathclyde, Edinburgh, Glasgow Caledonian, Napier, Dundee, Aberdeen and St Andrews. Mark is not the only one to notice a downturn in requests; other Scottish HEIs report a fall in figures, while most have noticed that requests have become more focused, as a result of increased familiarity in 'working the system'.

"There are lots of theories as to why people are using the Act less," said Mark. "Probably the initial surge of requests were from those who had a question which had always bugged them. Then we had a lot of rigorous but seemingly inconsequential requests, but those have gradually faded away. After the first year, perhaps people realised that nothing earth-shattering was being revealed. Others have become more refined in their questioning."

Of course there are those who still ignore requests in the hope that they will go away, but Mark points out this is not best practice and continues to rely on staff to deal with routine requests promptly and efficiently – the golden rules are to 'be prompt and don't self-censor'. Rather than ignore a tricky query, don't hesitate to contact Mark if you're stuck. Indeed, if the University deals with requests well and in good

time (remember that all requests for recorded information must be dealt with within 20 working days) it is unlikely that the requester will have any grounds to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office.

Our final question to Mark was, has he ever been tempted to use the Act himself? Yes, he admitted, over the last two years he has made a few personal requests to other bodies, but not to the University!

Gayle Cook

**It is worth remembering that most requests for information can be handled on a 'business as usual' basis, but if any of the following circumstances apply, please contact Mark:**

- The request mentions freedom of information or similar
- You do not hold some or all of the information requested
- You think that some or all of the information requested should not be provided
- The 20 working day timeframe may not be met

**Mark is always available to provide advice or training on FOI-related queries. Contact him on [foi@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:foi@st-andrews.ac.uk) or (46)1780. Guidance is also available at [www.st-andrews.ac.uk/foi/](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/foi/) [www.scotland.gov.uk/government/foi](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/government/foi) (Scottish Executive site) and [www.itspublicknowledge.info](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info) (Scottish Information Commissioner's site).**

## Summer walking programme

**At the time of writing, summer appeared to have arrived early** – assuming June also brings fair weather, University fitness instructor Lyndsay Gallacher (who we welcomed in the last issue) will put her best foot forward and launch a walking programme for the fairer months.

Lyndsay said, "Summer is an ideal opportunity to vary your exercise routine and get active outdoors. We all know how uplifting it is to get outdoors and escape from our hectic daily routines for a while.

"Walking regularly is an ideal way to increase your fitness levels, maintain a healthy weight, and decrease stress levels. By walking as part of an organised group you will also have the opportunity to meet people and form new friendships. Overall it can bring physical, psychological and social benefits to your health."



Each walk will be led by a trained walk leader, and routes will be planned to ensure that walkers get the most from their spare time, whether it be your lunch hour or after work.

**If you're interested in getting out and making the most of the fair weather, Lyndsay would like to hear from you – she is also looking for volunteer walk leaders. Contact her on (46)2193 or [leg10@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:leg10@st-andrews.ac.uk)**

# Sustainable investment – investing for good?

By Derek Watson, Quaestor and Factor

**The University currently holds a modest amount of endowment funds (£35million) that it invests along traditional lines, holding through pooled investment funds some government and corporate bonds, property assets and equities.** Equities are invested partly in tracking the UK stock market and partly in active global markets with the aim of exceeding global returns by around 2% per annum over a five-year rolling basis. The funds have been generated over the centuries largely for specific purposes – establishment of academic chairs, prize and book funds and scholarships and bursaries. It is this latter category that has been the attention of fundraising and income generating activities in the last six years as we have strived to generate funds to ensure that those who would benefit from a St Andrews education, may receive financial assistance to meet the costs of moving to this remote part of Scotland to develop as scholars and people.

The University has adopted a traditional and arms length approach to its investment policies, leaving to investment and fund managers decisions of which territory, industry and then which particular stocks to pick. In doing so, the University has taken comfort from the Socially Responsible Investment strategies of our investment managers to ensure that our funds have been invested appropriately. This arms length approach has been in line with the accepted view of the duties of care on Trustees to invest for the purposes of maximisation of profit (generally considered to be in the short term).

Our students, most notably the Ethical Investment Campaign (EIC), do not believe that this arms length approach is right. They believe that as a University that promotes sustainability through our teaching and our research, aspires to become more green in our operations and that wishes to help in leading society to a more sustainable future, we should do more than delegate the investment of our money to 'faceless investment managers'. Perhaps they are right.

In November 2005, the EIC organised a demonstration of student feeling in this area on a freezing cold day. They met with the Principal, Dr Brian Lang, and after listening to their arguments, he committed the University to working with the student body to find another way of investing our money. Since then, the EIC along with the Students' Association President have worked with myself and academic colleagues from various parts of the University to develop the basis of an investment strategy which takes more interest in how our money is used, rather than just on the basis of how much it earns – although this aspect cannot be ignored.



The major stumbling blocks in the development of any investment approach with a social conscience have been the fiduciary duties of Trustees and the impact on financial returns required to meet the primary purpose of the funds – the purpose for which they were given.

In terms of the legal issues, the University is content to place reliance on the United Nations Environment Programme's Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), who commissioned a report in this area by legal firm Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer. The University is satisfied that this report indicates that it is entitled to take into account wider issues which are aligned with the interests of the funds stakeholders, as long as the approach to investment continues to involve a high degree of professional expertise, and there is diversification in the asset base taking into account due regard for items of risk and return. Indeed, it could be argued that consideration of more factors than simply a company's current performance will lead to better long term investment returns.

The second barrier which we have faced is uncertainty on the impact on financial returns from the endowment assets. Traditionalists will tell you that by shifting the focus from a broadly based approach which covers the breadth of the market will increase volatility relative to the whole market. Such a statement is probably true. However, there is no empirical evidence available to show the long term consequences of a 'bias' within an investment portfolio towards sustainable issues. It should be noted that this lack of long term evidence is in respect of over or under performance. Limited studies have indicated that sustainable or ethical bias within investment funds, can lead to improved performance. Despite these limited instances, the lack of long term evidence creates a risk and an uncertainty.

In March 2007 the St Andrews students held a referendum on whether the University should take environmental, social and humanitarian concerns into account when deciding where to invest its funds. Not surprisingly, 87% voted in favour but with no clear view on how this should be implemented. However, of those who expressed a view, 76% of students indicated

that this should only be done if the risk of under performance was minimal or small.

As a result of the work that has been done over the last 18 months and in recognition of the views of the current student cohort, the University is considering changes to its investment approach. Such a change would be to a strategy of investment remaining focused on the primary purpose of the funds and still managed through expert investment managers with proper regard to the balance between risk and return, but which places emphasis through stock selection on encouragement of good corporate behaviours in terms of business ethics, environmental management, promotion of human rights, good employment practices, community investment, production of sustainable products for essential services and a discouragement of animal testing purely for cosmetic purposes. The managers could

achieve this encouragement through investment in those companies with strength in these criteria (Inclusion Criteria), by disinvesting in companies whose performance is poor (Exclusion Criteria) or by working with company management to change and improve their practice (Engagement). The actual approach to the policy goal will be a matter for the University to manage.

If the University proceeds with this approach it also intends to create a discussion group which will have the opportunity to meet and discuss investment issues with the appointed investment manager(s) directly. This group, it is hoped, will include members of staff, students, alumni and other stakeholders who will have an opportunity to play a part in the ongoing monitoring and direction of strategy in this area. This group's thoughts would be provided to the Investments and Collections Committee who would retain control over the

investment strategy on behalf of the University Court.

It is important that in making decisions in this area, that the whole University community has an opportunity to comment. If you have views, either supportive or not of this proposed movement in strategy, I would ask you to contact me with your comments. Likewise if you would like to be involved in the group that plays a role in the ongoing monitoring of this strategy, again please contact me by email on [Quaestor@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:Quaestor@st-andrews.ac.uk)

The EIC firmly believe through national campaigning that if they can get all universities to adopt a more proactive stance in this area that our collective voice may begin to change the world for the better. Change at St Andrews won't change the world, but it might be a step in the right direction. I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

## Research staff mentoring scheme

**An exciting new developmental initiative between the universities of St Andrews and Dundee began in January.** The mentoring and networking scheme for research staff promises to help mentees develop their career plans, and strengthen links between the two institutions.

The scheme involves post-doctoral researchers being matched with experienced researchers, lecturers and principal investigators to embark on a mentoring relationship. Mentees can use their mentors' experience to seek advice on any number of issues – anything from reviewing their CV to writing grant proposals to discussing pre-presentation anxiety. Mentors can therefore act as role models, supporters, challengers, idea-bouncers, coaches and facilitators – amongst others!

The scheme has so far attracted over 60 participants, and 25 mentoring pairs have already been matched. Several participants have opted to be matched across institutions, which can add an extra dimension to the mentees' development.

The mentoring component of the scheme is being co-ordinated by Staff Development in St Andrews and Academic Professional Development in Dundee. In addition, GradSkills in St Andrews and Generic Skills in Dundee

are also involved in the project by providing a networking component to the scheme.

The networking strand of the scheme aims to allow all participants to come together every three months to meet and build networks. After an informal lunch, there is the opportunity to listen to a guest speaker on a subject of interest to the research community. The first networking meeting took place in St Andrews at the end of March.



**Staff from St Andrews and Dundee take part in the briefing session**

Professor Jim McGoldrick from the Leadership Foundation gave an engaging talk on his 'personal leadership journey.'

The scheme co-ordinators are always looking for new people, in particular mentors, to come forward and join the scheme. For more information please contact [staff.development@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:staff.development@st-andrews.ac.uk)

# University's 'hidden treasure' to be revealed

**The University hopes to reveal a new view in the historic town – an ancient 'hidden treasure' unseen for far too long.**

Currently obscured by a forbidding wooden door, the picturesque garden of St John's House and the Department of Mediaeval History will soon, it is hoped, be in the public eye once more.

St John's Garden is located between a number of listed buildings on South Street and its access point in Market Street. The garden and its adjoining properties were owned by the Knights Hospitaller of the Order of St John and the actual use of the garden can be traced at least as far back as John Geddy's panoramic map of St Andrews of 1580. An archaeological excavation in the garden in 1999 uncovered its late mediaeval soil and a wide variety of mediaeval pottery.

Thanks to local effort and a unique partnership between the University, the St Andrews Pilgrim Foundation, the St Andrews Preservation Trust and St Andrews World Class, the garden will be hidden no more as a result of the proposed replacement of the present unattractive entrance with a more fitting wrought iron gate (similar to that which offers a view into St Mary's College on South Street) beneath a new stone arch.

If planning permission is granted, the project will include the garden being replanted in accordance with its historic character, refurbishment of the exteriors of the wall and garages at either side of the new gate and repair of the pavement adjoining it.



*Before and after?*

## Treasures of the John Murray Archive

**Former University employee Cate Newton returned to St Andrews recently to give a public talk on an extraordinary collection of letters and manuscripts now owned by the National Library of Scotland.**

John Murray, who was born in Edinburgh, established one of the greatest of all British publishing houses in 1768. Since then, seven generations of the Murray family have maintained an archive of letters and manuscripts that has become a national treasure. Literary highlights include the most important Byron collection in the world. A scientific milestone was the publication by the Murrys, in 1859, of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*.

Other famous names represented include Jane Austen, JM Barrie, David Livingstone, Walter Scott and David Wilkie. The current John Murray decided that this remarkable collection should pass into public ownership and it was acquired last year by the National Library of Scotland.

The free talk at the Byre Theatre was arranged by Frank Quinault, a colleague of Cate's during her time here.

**For more information  
on the archive visit:  
[www.nls.uk/jma/index.html](http://www.nls.uk/jma/index.html)**



*Byron's seal*

## University Museum - update

**Back in November, we revealed that the University is to transform the old coachhouse on The Scores into a new museum, MUSA (Museum of the University of St Andrews).**

We can now report that, thanks to a near-half million pound grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the new museum is on its way to becoming a reality, with building work scheduled to start in May.

The new home for the University's renowned collection of artefacts will be situated next to the School of Art History, and the opening of MUSA is now scheduled for summer 2008.

Artefacts which will be on permanent public display in MUSA include the University's three mediaeval maces, which are currently only on show during graduation ceremonies. Other items include the Thomas Chalmers window from St Salvator's College Chapel, college silver, an oil painting by Scottish Colourist Samuel Peploe, stunning wax anatomical models and silver archery medals won by famous students between 1620 and 1750.

Further funds from the University and from a range of other bodies and private donations have brought the current funding total to over one million



**Architect's plans of the new museum, MUSA**

pounds, with efforts continuing to raise more to complete the project.

A range of sponsorship options have been formulated with packages ranging upwards for gifts received from £100 to corporate sponsorship options of over £300,000. Special packages can be tailored to individual requirements and ranges of benefits are available including membership of a Friends of MUSA group.

**For information on the MUSA project, please contact Emma Jane McAdam, Project Curator, Tel: (46)3946, email: [ejm92@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:ejm92@st-andrews.ac.uk)**

**To make a donation or support MUSA, please contact the Development Office, Tel: (46)2113, email: [develop@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:develop@st-andrews.ac.uk)**

## Events

**The following events are taking place across the University in the months ahead:**

### **EASTCHEM Mini Symposium 5 June, School of Chemistry**

EASTCHEM (The Edinburgh and St Andrews Research School of Chemistry) will host a day-long mini symposium, 'Contemporary Main Group Chemistry'. Keynote international speakers will be Herbert Roesky (Gottingen), Peter Roesky (Berlin), Rainer Streubel (Bonn) and Guy Bertrand (Riverside, USA), while David Cole-Hamilton, Derek Woolins, Petr Kilian and David O'Hagan from St Andrews will make their own presentations.

### **Practical and Effective Project Management 5 & 6 June, Queen's Hotel, Dundee.**

The course (hosted by the University of Dundee) aims to provide a practical 'project management toolbox' for staff to use in a variety of ways and in a number of settings, in order to make a positive difference to their day to day work.

For further details and to book a place visit: [www.st-andrews.ac.uk/hr/staff-development](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/hr/staff-development)

## **Postgraduate Combinatorial Conference (PCC) 6 - 8 June, School of Mathematics & Statistics.**

CIRCA (Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Computational Algebra) will host the 18<sup>th</sup> annual conference organised by, and for, current research students in all areas of combinatorics and discrete mathematics.

Talks will be given by students and three invited speakers: Dr Carrie Rutherford (London South Bank University), Prof Bruce Sagan (Michigan State University), and Prof Robin Wilson (Open University). In addition, there will be two talks on 'post-PhD life': Dr Colva Roney-Dougal (St Andrews) will speak on working as a postdoc, and Dr Steve Waton (Goldman Sachs, London) will speak about what interviewers in the City expect from combinatorics PhDs.

The conference is being generously supported by the London and Edinburgh Mathematical Societies as well as the British Combinatorial Committee.

For further information visit:  
[www-circa.mcs.st-and.ac.uk/~pcc2007](http://www-circa.mcs.st-and.ac.uk/~pcc2007)

## **Religion and Public Life in Late Mediaeval Italy Conference, Thursday 14 to Saturday 16 June, Department of Mediaeval History, St John's House, South Street.**

Speakers include Professor Dennis Romano (Syracuse), Professor Maureen Miller (Berkeley) and Professor Giovanna Casagrande (Perugia). For further information contact Dr Frances Andrews on [fea@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:fea@st-andrews.ac.uk)

## **Permutation Patterns 2007 11 - 15 June 2007, School of Mathematics and Statistics.**

The School of Mathematics and Statistics and CIRCA are hosting the 5<sup>th</sup> Permutation Patterns conference. Topics will include enumeration questions, forbidden pattern questions, study of the involvement order, algorithms for computing with permutation patterns, applications and generalisations of permutation patterns. Plenary speakers are Mike Atkinson (University of Otago, New Zealand) and Martin Klazar (Charles University, Prague).

For further information visit:  
[www-circa.mcs.st-and.ac.uk/PermutationPatterns2007](http://www-circa.mcs.st-and.ac.uk/PermutationPatterns2007)

## **Europe and It's Other: Interperceptions Past, Present and Future 6-8 July, New Hall and the Gateway.**

A major international conference will be hosted by the School of Modern Languages under the IECIS (Institute of European Cultural Identity Studies) research umbrella, with speakers from around the world.

For further information visit: [www.st-andrews.ac.uk/modlangs/IECIS/iecis\\_forthcoming.php/](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/modlangs/IECIS/iecis_forthcoming.php/)

## **Summer School and Conference on the Method of Lexical Exceptions 2-8 September, School of Modern Languages.**

The Summer School will be taught by Dr Christopher Beedham and will be based on his book, *Language and Meaning: The structural creation of reality*.

The 'method of lexical exceptions' is a method of research in theoretical linguistics which starts from the premise that unexplained lexical exceptions to a grammatical rule are not part of the structure of a language, but are a symptom of the fact that the rule is wrong. The purpose of the Summer School is to show participants how the method works, so that they can then use the method themselves on other areas of grammar in their own languages. Topics will include the passive and irregular verbs.

For further information visit [www.st-andrews.ac.uk/modlangs/school/lexephhomepage.php](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/modlangs/school/lexephhomepage.php)

## **2007 ITIA conference: The Offence of Beauty 3-5 September 2007, St Mary's College.**

The Institute for Theology, Imagination and Arts will host a three-day conference asking the question 'What can a theological perspective on beauty offer to the arts today?' Speakers will include Professor Trevor Hart.

## **The European Reformation Research Group's annual conference, 4 to 6 September, Reformation Studies Institute, St John's House, South Street.**

Now in its 17th year, ERRG's annual conference is the UK's principal forum for postgraduates and researchers working on all aspects of the Reformations in Europe, including the British Isles, and on related subjects. For further details contact Dr Bridget Heal on [bmh6@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:bmh6@st-andrews.ac.uk)

For further information visit:  
[www.st-andrews.ac.uk/itia/events.html](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/itia/events.html)

## **CDMA Conference 5-7 September 2007, School of Economics & Finance.**

The fourth annual Centre for Dynamic Macroeconomic Analysis workshop will include participation from researchers contributing to the ESRC's World Economy and Finance Programme.

For further information visit [www.st-andrews.ac.uk/cdma/conference2007.html](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/cdma/conference2007.html)

**Would you like an event or conference listed in the next issue of *The StAndard*?  
Email [magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk)  
with your events for November - March.**

# Guess Where? Answers



1. St Katharine's West / Arts Building car park



2. SALTIRE



3. J & G Innes Bookshop, South Street



4. St Mary's Quad (under arch on way out)



5. Bute Medical School



6. Leuchars Rail Station



7. Palm-like trees outside Physics & Astronomy



8. Environmental Health & Safety Services, North Street



9. A water at work bottle!



University  
of  
St Andrews