

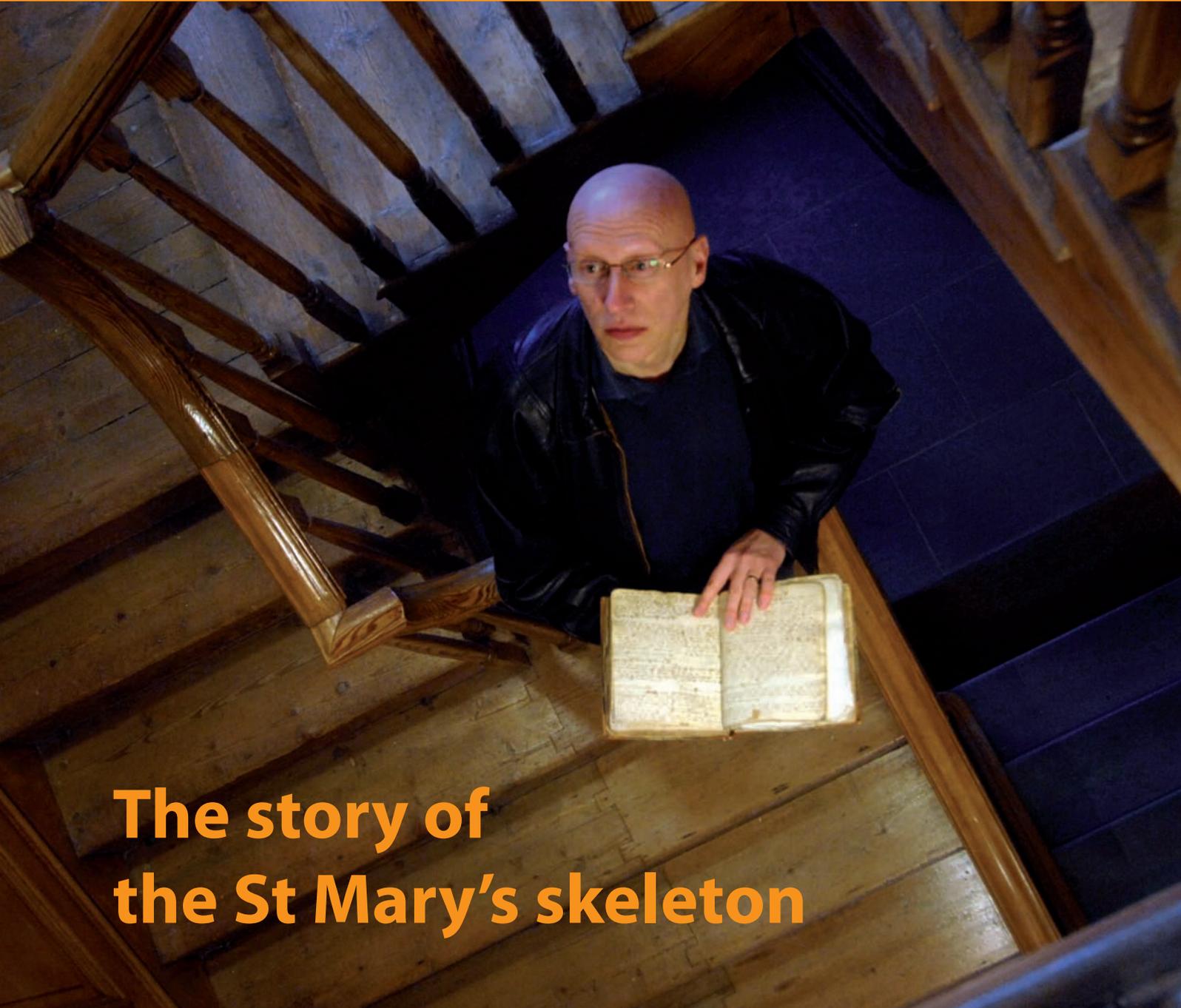


University
of
St Andrews

University of St Andrews

The StAndard

Staff Magazine, Issue 13, March 2008



The story of the St Mary's skeleton

Very superstitious
ELT's Open Door
Pam goes to the Palace

Scotland's first university

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Cover picture: Norman Reid investigates the story of the St Mary's skeleton

Credit: Alan Richardson, Pix-AR

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Welcome

Welcome to the 13th issue of *The StAndard* – given this is our third year anniversary issue, we hope the ominous numerical status isn't an unlucky sign!

To 'celebrate' the theme of superstition, we asked honorary Professor of History Peter Maxwell-Stuart to provide an insight into the unlucky subject – luckily for us, Peter is a mine of information - turn to page 24 for a fascinating history. Our theme of bad luck continues with the tragic tale of a former postman's skeleton, which was left hanging in a box for many years before finally being laid to rest. Norman Reid takes a trip back in time to investigate the story on page 38.

On a lighter note, our traditional 'Guess where?' takes on a new twist by seeking out the number 13 around town and gown – not as easy a task as you might think!

Musicality is a continued theme as colleagues Jim Naismith (CBMS) and Peter Adamson (LIS) provide their favourite tracks, while the St Andrews Chorus describe the rewards and challenges of hitting the high notes. Library staffer Pamela Cranston meanwhile shares her jaunt to Buckingham Palace for the launch of a book about pampered Palace pooches!

Back to academia, colleagues Sarah Broadie (Philosophy) and Richard Bates (Geosciences) answer questions about their research – turn to pages 22-23 for an insight into their work in the fields of ancient Greek philosophy and applied geophysics.

Meanwhile ELT (English Language Teaching) throw open their doors and provide an insight into a truly cosmopolitan environment just outside of town. Which leads us to two new important collaborations around the world – turn to pages 42-43 for new developments with universities in Pakistan and Malawi.

Cultural matters are on offer too with a riproaring spread on this month's *StAnza* highlights, while our Film Studies colleagues provide us with their tips of the best movies around, as well as a focus on the new 'Cinema and Cultural Engagement' programme.

Finally, we say farewell to some familiar faces and hello to some new ones, including the University's two new parking wardens – who must be the friendliest characters to take on such potentially difficult roles. We wish them all the best of luck.

Feedback on this issue and suggestions or contributions for the next issue, due out in June, are welcomed – email us at magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk

As ever, *The StAndard* thanks all contributors for this issue and acknowledges the use of images supplied by David Adam, Peter Adamson, Richard Bates, Trinity College, Cambridge, the Master and Fellows of Peterhouse, Calum Colvin, Gayle Cook, Pamela Cranston, Kishan Dholakia, Garry Doak, courtesy of The Royal Society of Edinburgh, Sean Earnshaw, Richard Fawcett, Peteke Feijten, GC University Lahore, Andrew Green, Jeremy Greenwood, Luke Kendall, Martin Kornberger, Thomas Krauss, Wengchang Li, Emma Jane McAdam, Lara Meischke, Patrick Miller, Gerald Priest, Alan Richardson, Pix-AR, Rhona Rutherford, The Royal Collection, Special Collections, *StAnza*, Peter Maxwell-Stuart, David Stutchfield, Sandy Wilkie and David Williams.



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
with your suggestions.

NAME: Dr Rossella M Riccobono

POSITION: Lecturer in Italian

LAST GOOD BOOK – *Ti prendo e ti porto via* by Niccolò Ammaniti and *The Tenth Man* by Graham Greene - I tend to read one book from Italian literature and one from foreign literature at the same time.

FIRST RECORD BOUGHT – I have never bought a record. By the time I could afford to buy them turntables were starting to disappear, so the first CD I bought was *Carmen* by Bizet (the whole opera).

TOP HOLIDAY DESTINATION – India where I will be going for three weeks in the summer this year to practise my yoga. Hopefully, I will also do some trekking in the Himalayas for one week.

HAPPIEST CHILDHOOD MEMORY – The first Christmas tree that my parents bought. I was six-seven and sick with...I cannot remember...but I remember having two injections a day and high fever. I could barely walk from weakness. Then I was carried to the living room and there it was... standing in front of my eyes, all lit up. It was like magic.

IDEAL MEAL – I am an easy person when it comes to food, but it has to be good food. My very top favourite dish is fish or seafood with a good bottle (to share – more than two glasses and I go tippy) of New Zealand white Sauvignon Blanc.

MOST PRIZED POSSESSION – If I was able to improperly consider people as possessions, I would have to say my two children: Gianluca (10) and Hannah Elisa (6). Materially, my most prized possessions are my dancing shoes, my yoga mat, my trekking boots and my laptop computer.

CHILDHOOD AMBITION – I always dreamt of travelling and meeting lots of different people and being able to speak to them in their language. I think that my life choices have always revolved around this initial idea of travelling, and in a way having specialised in Modern Languages and having lived in several countries around the world, I feel that my 'dream' has come true. The problem is that I have so many other dreams...

FAVOURITE LOCAL HAUNT – In St Andrews I love St Salvator's Chapel in the Quad. In Edinburgh (where I live) it's definitely Arthur's Seat.



FIRST LOVE – I was six and he was four and his name was Gianluca. He had the most beautiful dark eyes. I guess I named my son after him, but I didn't do it consciously. But even before him, I think I was in love with my father.

ALL-TIME FAVOURITE FILM – *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* directed by Philip Kaufman.

CURRENTLY PLAYING ON STEREO – *Exit* by Alice. I like her music. She is alternative and has a powerfully sensual voice.

THE PERFECT WEEKEND – Catching up with my children (I am a single mum). If they are not with me that weekend, then having friends round for a meal, or a good restaurant with good friends and the cinema or theatre. My perfect weekend away: hill walking or dancing tango.



NAME: Jon Purcell

POSITION: Director of Library Services

LAST GOOD BOOK – *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* (I am gradually working my way through the *Harry Potter* canon and am enthralled!)

FIRST RECORD BOUGHT – The theme music to *2001: A Space Odyssey*. It was my first 'grown up' film and I was captivated by the music and the space imagery!

TOP HOLIDAY DESTINATION

– Tuscany. Jacquie (my partner) and I adore the Italian Lakes - fantastic scenery, beautiful food (and ice cream), wonderful buildings and an opportunity to practise our Italian.

HAPPIEST CHILDHOOD MEMORY

– Growing up in County Fermanagh in a small border village in Northern Ireland and helping my cousins on their farm.

IDEAL MEAL – There is nothing to beat fish and chips from the One O One fish and chip shop in South Street. Home-made apple crumble and ice cream to follow.

MOST PRIZED POSSESSION – My Christmas present from our cat – a multi use pen / laser pointer / stylus / penlight. It's extremely useful and my favourite gadget - along with my Blackberry!

CHILDHOOD AMBITION – From primary school, history was always my favourite subject, so when younger, my ambition was to teach history!

FAVOURITE LOCAL HAUNT – The Cathedral ruins. I really appreciate the historic buildings in St Andrews and this is my favourite one.

FIRST LOVE – It is still County Fermanagh where I grew up in Northern Ireland. It is a beautiful county, sparsely populated with lots of lakes

and mountains. My other first love is reading - possibly the reason I became a Librarian!

ALL-TIME FAVOURITE FILM – *The History Boys*.

CURRENTLY PLAYING ON STEREO – *Harvest Moon* by Neil Young. This is a throwback to my undergraduate student days!

THE PERFECT WEEKEND – I work away from home so most weekends I travel back home to Newton-le-Willows in Lancashire to chill out, drink a glass or two of red wine, spend time with Jacquie and Harry (our cat) and catch up with friends. Bliss!

PEOPLE



NAME: David McCallum

POSITION: Project Manager, Estates

LAST GOOD BOOK – Most amusing was *The Sacred Act of Stealing* by Christopher Brookmyre – irreverent, clever, unlikely, yet believable – and with a Scottish setting. But for a good old-fashioned page-turning yarn, it would be *The Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruis Zafon. It's a tale of literary intrigue, and the context is post-civil war Spain, with the consequent suspicions and divisions. More twists than the Craigtoun – Pitscottie road.

FIRST RECORD BOUGHT – I'd like to say that it was something that's really stood the test of time, indicating a judgement for timeless music that belied my tender years, but that would be a lie. I can't honestly recall, but I think it was something by ELO.

TOP HOLIDAY DESTINATION – For long-haul it would be Vancouver. Great location, good weather, great food, skiing nearby, and a really relaxed pace of life. It's the one location in the world I've been to that I'd ever seriously consider relocating to. For a closer to

home destination, it would be the west coast of Ireland. It's as beautiful as the west coast of Scotland, but they're years ahead in hospitality - it's very child friendly.

HAPPIEST CHILDHOOD MEMORY – Eating. I was a hungry child, eating adult sized portions from around the age of 8 or 9. Nothing's changed there.

IDEAL MEAL – Indian. I've been lucky enough to travel a lot, and on occasions have ignored the indigenous dishes to try the 'local' Indian restaurants. I think we're spoiled for choice around here, but not having been bribed by any of the local establishments, I'm loath to name any in particular.

MOST PRIZED POSSESSION – As I'm sure most respondents in this column say, it would have to be my family. However, they were unavailable for a photo call, so I'll say my bike.

CHILDHOOD AMBITION – To feature in an in-house magazine in order to allow my immediate colleagues to taunt me for a prolonged period.

FAVOURITE LOCAL HAUNT – Either of the beaches. With young children they're guaranteed entertainment. Sand, sea, dunes, rocks, swings and cafés nearby to buy them ice cream and some coffee for the adults.

FIRST LOVE – See before for Indian food.

ALL-TIME FAVOURITE FILM – So many to choose from... *Dr Strangelove*, *Trainspotting*, *The Third Man*, *The Commitments*, but I think that *Ice Cold in Alex* has the edge.

CURRENTLY PLAYING ON STEREO – Currently, the selection moves chronologically from the Doors, to Elvis Costello, to Talking Heads, to Fine Young Cannibals, to Reef, to the Kaiser Chiefs.

THE PERFECT WEEKEND – The perfect weekend would be a bit longer than normal (perhaps a fortnight?). It would be to a sunny location, but without the travel hassles. It would be to an exciting location, but without the lager hordes from the UK. It would be off the beaten track, but easy to get to. Any ideas?

Pam goes to the Palace

Late last year, Pamela Cranston left the library behind for an evening at Buckingham Palace. Pam had been invited to attend the launch of a book dedicated to the Royal Family and their canine companions.

Noble Hounds and Dear Companions by Sophie Gordon is a Royal Collection publication that looks at the relationship between the Royals and their pets from the 1850s to the present day.

The invitation stemmed from Pam having done some research at Windsor Castle on Dundee photographer James Valentine's photographs in the Royal Collection. The University Library holds the Valentine archive, which amounts to some 400,000 items. Pam said, "I had previously given a talk on preservation issues at the Institute of Conservation (ICON), London. The Curator of the Royal Photograph Collection, Sophie Gordon, was there and we got talking about James Valentine material within the Royal Collection, which I later went to see first hand.

Commenting on the launch, which was held in the Queen's Gallery at Buckingham Palace, Pam said, "It really was a splendid occasion, with guests from all walks of life, not least a fair contingent from the doggy world, including breeders, Crufts judges and the President of the Blue Cross. I had a good chat to actor Sir Donald Sinden, whose brother Leon is also an actor and with whom my son Leigh worked when he was scenic artist at Perth Repertory Theatre. In fact it was a really pleasant and interesting evening altogether. At the end of it we were kindly presented with a copy of the book. Mine is now in the main library here at St Andrews."



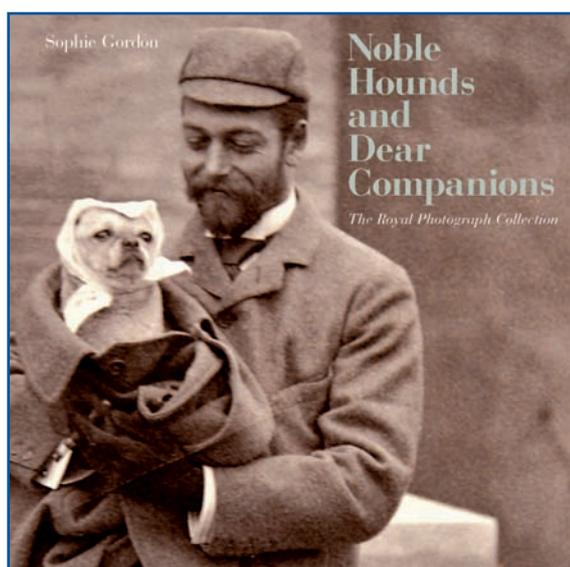
Pamela Cranston

Pamela Cranston is a member of the Photographic Team, Special Collections www.st-andrews.ac.uk/specialcollections

For more information on the book

***Noble Hounds and Dear Companions*, visit**

www.royalcollection.org.uk/microsites/noblehounds/



**Unknown photographer,
The Duke of York with pug, c. 1895**



**Unknown photographer,
Queen Victoria with Turi in her carriage, 1890s.**

Images courtesy The Royal Collection © 2008 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

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

NAME: Peter Adamson

POSITION: Computing Officer,
IT Services

1. *Monteverdi madrigals*, Nadia Boulanger and company – 1936, and not entirely ‘authentic’, but entirely musical – and unsurpassed.
2. Stravinsky’s *Symphony of Psalms* – almost any version of this indestructible masterpiece (but I do have a signed copy of his own first recording from 1931).
3. Beethoven’s *Sonata op. 110*, Artur Schnabel (recorded 1932) - I bought the 78s second-hand in 1963 for five shillings, and never looked back!
4. *For No One* by The Beatles – for open-ended memories from student days...
5. Busoni’s *Fantasia contrappuntistica* – an orchestration of this mighty edifice is one of my most played tapes.
6. Schubert’s *Sonata in B flat (D 960)*, Alfred Brendel – especially the slow movement: hardly a note on the page, yet a quiet and gentle universe.
7. *Minuet I* from Bach’s *Partita no. 1 in B flat (BWV 825)*, Dinu Lipatti – perhaps famous for his jaw-droppingly perfect ‘twiddle’ of notes introducing each repeat.
8. *Burlington Bertie* from *Bow* by Ella Shields – the definitive (1934).
9. *Where have you gone?* from Tchaikovsky’s *Eugene Onegin*, Leonid Sobinov – a beautiful little disc (with studio applause) from St Petersburg in 1901.
10. George Graham: *Advertising Plant’s Baking Powder* – this American spoof (recorded 1896) still makes everyone laugh, well over 100 years later!



NAME: James Naismith

POSITION: Professor of Chemical Biology

1. *The National Anthem of the Soviet Union* by The Soviet Army Choir – although I dislike communism and nationalism, it always reminds me of the Olympics when I was young. The Olympics were the first thing I remember seeing on colour TV (newly rented from DER); the neighbouring kids who came along to watch equally amazed at colour. The sentiments in the song are stirring. They may have had a murderous tyranny but at least the National Anthem was good.
2. *10.15* by The Cure – listening to this song even today makes me feel anxious (the bass line and drumming at the start); the tension in the song is superb. It resonates with the anxiety I often still feel about the future. This song I associate with losing the certainties of childhood.
3. *Porcupine* by Echo and the Bunnymen – the mournful guitar reminds me of how much I felt trapped at school. I viewed myself as a uniquely troubled soul. If you can't be a narcissist when young, when can you be? The album cover was photographed in Iceland (I don't know why). The videos of some of the songs were filmed in Iceland. It came out when I first began to think leaving Hamilton could be possible and what's more getting to a University might be a way to do it. At that time all my extended family, friends and parents friends, lived within a few miles of where they were born. The world seemed so much more interesting away from Hamilton. The irony is I ended up in St Andrews, where I came with bucket and spade as a kid.
4. *Heaven Knows I'm Miserable Now* by The Smiths – many people moaned that The Smiths were somehow miserable, yet the heartfelt lyrics had a lot of humour in them. As I have grown older, the line "I was looking for a job, and then I found a job and heaven knows ..." has had increasing resonance and not only for me I suspect. Probably my favourite band.
5. *(Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the) Toy Store* by Pianosaurus – immensely uplifting song, the band play on cheap kids' toys but the lyrics are profound and the tune great. Listen and laugh.
6. *Sunspots* by Julian Cope – the man I most wanted to be as a student but never dared. From the album *Fried*, relating to his brain after indulging heavily in LSD, he wore a turtle shell during the recording. As students we used to play this before going out. Once a friend got hold of a concert style amp I swear the air shimmered as we pumped out "neeee oh, it goes away" at some unbelievable decibel level. I still laugh about the Hall warden barging in and unplugging it. He seemed like an actor in a silent film. It was so loud you would not have heard a pneumatic drill. It was worth the twenty quid fine.
7. *Shatner* by The Wedding Present – all things from brother Gedge's earlier period are classics, the best even. I remember going to the gig in Edinburgh in '88; it was the most high-energy performance I have ever been part of.
8. *A Man is in Love* by The Waterboys – always reminds me of when I met my wife-to-be Rachel in Manchester; something clicked as our eyes met across the pool table. I potted the 8 ball and lost the game but proved the winner in the end.
9. *Memories of East Texas* by Michelle Shocked – this was a firm favourite of mine during my PhD in Manchester. Funnily enough I ended up working in Texas and was friends with the lab secretary who was from Gilmer, County Seat of Upshur. I loved Texas and always associate this song with driving along the endless roads around Dallas.
10. *Green Grow the Rashes* by Michael Marra – a very moving Burns ballad sung by one of the greatest voices in music. Listen to Marra and you know the man, as we used to say, 'has lived'. For me, it signifies my return to Scotland, learning to live in peace with my wanderlust and realising not everything is better elsewhere.



Parking Matters

On the road with the new University parking wardens

There can't be many parking wardens who are regularly met with a 'good morning' and a friendly smile... but the University's two new wardens – brought in to support the new regulations – appear to be an exception to the rule.

Four months into the implementation of the University's new parking guidelines, *The StAndard* caught up with Donald Macleod and John Brandie to ask them how they had fared working in jobs traditionally regarded as 'the enemy'.

Both amiable characters, Donald and John joined the University last October, just after the new guidelines were implemented across the University. A few months into their new jobs, both were happy to report that they had 'largely been accepted', and that so far staff and students appear to have accepted the new terms and conditions of parking in University car parks.

"We'd say that the situation has largely improved, particularly in certain car parks which were known to be a problem with inconsiderate parking in particular," they said.

In fact, in the first four months, *The StAndard* can report that staff and students appear to have 'overwhelmingly complied' with the new guidelines and have been mainly supportive of the potentially difficult roles taken on by John and Donald.

John, who was born just outside Dundee, joined the University after serving for the RAF for 39 years. An aircraft technician, John retired in August last year after spending large chunks of time in Hong Kong, Cyprus, the Gulf and the Falklands. Post retiral, his wife 'encouraged' John to apply for the part-time University post. John was initially attracted to the job because he enjoys walking, spending time outdoors and meeting people.



John (left) and Donald (right) leaving their base in North Street

"I live here and really it was the ideal position for me; I like being out in the fresh air and wanted to do something productive with my free time," he said. When asked if he had any reservations about taking on a role known more for its negative connotations, John said he had none because he 'gets on well with people'. "At the end of the day we are actually there to help – we're all working on the same side," he pointed out.

Donald meanwhile worked for the civil service for almost thirty years, working in both Edinburgh and Manchester and latterly at Caledonian House in Dundee. Locals might recognise Donald though from his most recent role behind the fish counter at Morrisons.

"I've really come full circle, having been born and brought up in St Andrews and lived in London, Bedford, Manchester and Edinburgh. Of course St Andrews isn't the town I left 32 years ago; it's changed a lot, but I always wanted to work for the University. It's a good employer and I like the historical presence," he said.

Donald was slightly more apprehensive about taking on the role, "I did have slight reservations, I must admit, especially going from tax inspector to parking warden!" he said, "But it's been good and I always get a cheery good morning from staff. We've had a really good reception all in all and even the town wardens stop and say hello. What you need to remember is that we're helping staff, rather than fighting them. We believe the new moves have worked in their favour; spaces are better managed and it's been especially helpful for the janitors, grounds and delivery staff, who can move about the University much easier now."

John and Donald split their hours, with either one working the morning, with a crossover at 12 and the other working the afternoon shift 'til 5pm. Based at 91 North Street (in front of SALTIRE), the job involves some paperwork at the beginning of each shift, though Donald and John are supported on that front by Fiona Kelly and Eileen Drummond in Estates.

The job involves checking all nineteen official University car parks throughout the day, from the North Haugh to the Gatty and everything in between. They walk everywhere - between them, John and Donald reckon they walk between five and six miles a day.

The new regulations were introduced to allow the University to take greater responsibility for the management of its own car parks, prevent unauthorised parking and provide a response to concerns raised by academic and non-academic staff in the Staff Survey.

Under the new rules the practice of reserving named spaces for individual members of staff has been outlawed – even the members of the Principal’s Office have given up their named spaces at College Gate in support of the principle that when it comes to cars, no member of staff is more equal than any other.

Every member of staff must now display a valid University permit on their car when parking in a University car park. Students are now only entitled to park in the three designated staff/student car parks at New Hall, David Russell Apartments / Fife Park and Albany Park. All car parks are now clearly marked

for permitted vehicles only and all registered vehicles are recorded on a centralised database, which Donald and John can check while they’re out and about. According to the new regulations, those not displaying valid permits or parking inconsiderately or illegally will be penalised.

It’s not a zero tolerance regime however – ‘offenders’ are given two ‘friendly’ warnings in the shape of a red warning sign placed under windscreen wipers (no more sticky residue!), before being levied with the £30 civil penalty (£15 if paid within one week) as a last resort. In the first four months, eight fines had been issued to staff, none to students and four to vehicles not registered with the University. First warnings seem to have the desired effect with numbers of second warnings dropping dramatically. Out of the 536 students registered, only 36 have been given warnings to date. Of the 1656 staff with registered cars, 271 have received first warnings, dropping to 47 second warnings.

“It’s all about a gentle approach,” said John. “It wouldn’t be fair to go in hard with fines, and we’ve even been known to help colleagues find spaces!”

Donald agreed, “Parking in certain places really was a terrible mess before, with little regard for other users in certain places – what was acceptable before is no longer acceptable, but we are looking for compliance rather than enforcement. And of course we’re open to offers of coffee and biscuits when we’re out and about!”

John and Donald can be contacted on 7171 (calls are diverted to mobiles).

Gayle Cook



Channel update – ASPIRE challenge

Readers might remember last issue’s piece on Management lecturer Anne Fearfull’s aim to ‘swim the Channel’ for charity.

Anne was to swap the chill of the English Channel for the Old Course pool, to swim the equivalent of the 22 miles in a warmer climate - all in aid of spinal injuries charity ASPIRE.

We’re pleased to report that not only did Anne complete the challenge, but so too did Head of School and Chairman of the Athletic Union Peter McKiernan! Anne said, “During the three month period in which we had to complete the 22 miles, Peter swam the equivalent of two Channels, completing six miles in one day. This was the day I did my ‘big swim’ where he very kindly accompanied me three times during the day to provide valuable moral support. I completed just short of six Channels during the same three month period, swimming 126 miles in total. I did the 22 miles on the 21st November taking 12 hours and 10 minutes.”

Peter commented, “Anne’s effort was remarkable and I suspect she is the only person in the UK Aspire competition to complete the swim on a single occasion. We are delighted at the amount of funding our sponsors have donated and thank them sincerely. Knowing that we had their backing helped us slip through the long, monotonous sessions in the depths of a Scottish winter.”

Both Anne and Peter successfully raised around £750 each, almost £1,500 in total for ASPIRE. Colleagues can still sponsor Anne and Peter via: www.justgiving.com/annefearfull and www.justgiving.com/petermckiernan

On the starting block

In this issue, *The StAndard* welcomes Angus Clark, Fiona Armstrong and PC John Dale to their new posts.

Angus Clark Director of Environmental Health and Safety Services (EHSS)

Angus joined the University in November last year from Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen. Though born in Wolverhampton, Angus was partly brought up in Fife, so the appointment is something of a homecoming!

A graduate of Strathclyde University, Angus started his career as an Environmental Health Officer in West Lothian before specialising in health and safety enforcement and moving to a promoted post in Aberdeenshire. For seven years Angus worked for the private industry managing the health, safety and environmental concerns of a world-wide group based at a 45-acre manufacturing site in Aberdeen. In 2003, when looking for a role with less travel, Angus became Health and Safety Manager for the RGU.

Describing his decision to apply for the St Andrews job as a 'good career move',



Angus said, "I have known the town of St Andrews since I was a wee boy and have visited regularly since then. The University I knew by reputation and the odd visit whilst working with RGU.

"St Andrews certainly seems to tick all the right boxes in both my professional and family life."

Angus is fortunate in that he had already met some of his unit staff at other HE events. However his new role affords the opportunity to engage

and collaborate with a wide variety of people at all levels. He is looking forward to getting to know colleagues from across the institution, noting, "It's a very friendly and welcoming community. I've already received a lot of help."

His role is a challenging one, but Angus is 'looking forward to helping make a real and positive difference to the working environment and health and safety culture at the University.'

Fiona Armstrong Press Officer, Corporate Communications

Fiona was thrown in at the deep end when she joined the Press Office at the end of November – just in time for the St Andrew's Day graduations! A recent honours graduate from Durham University (Theology BA Hons), Fiona was raised in Dundee and was previously employed by *The Courier* and *Evening Telegraph*.

During her gap year she worked as a reporter with DC Thomson & Co. Ltd., in Dundee, a position which she continued throughout her student days. In 2006, she enjoyed work experience as a TV production assistant for the BBC Proms in The Royal Albert Hall.



From the age of 14, Fiona presented a hospital radio show. This was broadcast on Bridge FM from Ninewells Hospital, Dundee. She has also written for other newspapers and publications in connection with her musical interests – including her claim to fame when she sang as a backing singer for Christina Aguilera at the MTV Europe Music Awards in 2003 (along with around 39 other members of the National Youth Choir of Scotland!).

Having studied in the university town of Durham, Fiona was keen to work in a similar academic environment.

She said, “I was eagerly seeking a challenging position to give me the opportunity to build upon my experience as a reporter and felt I would learn a lot from a job of this nature. On top of this, I have many happy childhood memories of eating ice cream in St Andrews’ cobbled streets and was certain I would enjoy working in this beautiful historical town.”

First and foremost Fiona was particularly looking forward to meeting people in and around St Andrews as well as helping to promote and enhance the University’s world-class reputation.

She was also attracted to the challenge of dealing with wide-ranging material on a daily basis. Fiona said, “I enjoy the spontaneous nature of each day, following up or putting out releases, answering media queries, helping to arrange interviews, and, of course, assisting my colleague Gayle to edit *The StAndard!*”

Fiona feels she has received a warm welcome in St Andrews. She said, “Everyone I have met has been extremely helpful, readily lending a hand.”

PC John Dale University Liaison Officer

When John joined the University in November 2007, he probably didn’t expect to find himself surrounded by students covered in shaving foam. But when he replaced PC Angela McLaren as the new University Liaison Officer, John arrived just in time for the annual foam fight on Raisin Monday!

Born and bred in Fife, John has been with Fife Constabulary since 1990 and is attached to the St Andrews Police Station in North Street. Having worked in both Central and Eastern Division Police areas, John is already familiar with the town with links to the University going back to 2001.

John’s role involves working together with both staff and students from the University on a number of issues including personal safety, crime prevention and the relationship between town and gown.

He liaises with a number of people in and around the University, especially staff in Student Support, working particularly closely with Disciplinary Officer Lara Meischke and Stewart Davidson, the University Security Manager. He also sits on the Town and Gown Liaison Group which meets at the University at regular intervals.

John is delighted to report that he has found the University extremely supportive and helpful and looks forward to working in close partnership in the future.

“So far, I’ve found staff here easy to work with and everyone is very enthusiastic,” he said. John is enjoying being part of the historic surroundings too, “I love architecture, so am thoroughly enjoying being around the University and town” he said.



John gets a warm welcome during Raisin Monday

Singalong in St Andrews

University staff and students singing together in St Andrews Chorus

By Peteke Feijten, School of Geography & Geosciences.

Every Friday night, students and staff of the University head for the St Leonards Music Room on the Pends, a music score clutched under their arms.

They are singers in St Andrews Chorus, on their way to the weekly rehearsal. The chorus is a mix of University and non-University people from St Andrews and the area surrounding. Covering a wide range of ages from 18 year old students to retirees well into their seventies, the mix gives the choir a rich and full-bodied sound. About one quarter of the chorus consists of students, while around a fifth cover staff from various departments including Chemistry, English, Mathematics and Geography.

Some choir members have been with the choir for a very long time, such as John Howie, a retired professor of mathematics, who joined the choir at its inception in 1977. Howie himself became the first President in 1995 when the chorus was reconstituted formally as a Choral Society with membership of, and some support from, the National Federation of Musical Societies (now known as Making Music). Before



John Howie

that time, the chorus was organised more informally, with Tom Duncan as conductor.

The choir sang an annual *Messiah* in December, and a spring concert accompanied by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, as part of the SCO's subscription series, beginning with Bach's *Mass in B Minor* in March 1978. When this relationship came to an end, the Chorus, conducted by Tom and sometimes by Jill Craig, might have died had it not been put on a new footing as an "official" choral society. John Grundy became its conductor, followed by Stephen Doughty in 2001, and the current conductor, Edward Caswell, in 2006.

Edward Caswell, apart from being a conductor, is a singer himself, and a teacher at the Royal College of Music and Drama. He has the special gift of always responding to the choir's efforts in a positive way, an example being his famous words after the break, "Ladies and gentlemen, thank you so much for staying!". Last November, he conducted a memorable performance of Handel's *Messiah*, in a sold-out Younger Hall. The choir has recently expanded quite dramatically from 80 to over 110 members, including many students.

The repertoire of the chorus is classical, with a major choral work performed every spring and autumn. John Howie says, "I love the repertoire - oratorios, masses, passions, requiems. It is a privilege to be part of a choir that keeps alive the wonderful, incomparable music of the western church, both protestant and catholic. I am addicted to singing, and I also sing in the Renaissance Group and the St Rule Singers.

Do you do something creative or interesting in your spare time?

Email us at

magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk



Peteke Feijten

"I have also been organist and choir director at Hope Park Church for close on 30 years. I especially love the Brahms *German Requiem*. When in 1954 I joined the Recital Choir as a first year student in Aberdeen University, it was the first work we performed. I was bowled over, and I still find the work deeply moving. My most memorable performance was, with John Grundy in charge, a complete performance of Bach's *St Matthew Passion* on a Sunday afternoon and evening. It is a sublime masterpiece, and I hope we'll do it again before I disappear into senility".



Eric Priest



Performing at the Younger Hall

The current president of the chorus is Professor Eric Priest (who, as John Howie pointed out, is the third president from the Mathematics Department, out of only five presidents the choir has ever had in total. There seems to be a special connection between mathematics and choral music in St Andrews!). Eric is a very enthusiastic president, who does a lot for the choir and radiates a fond love of singing. As any charity, the chorus employs several initiatives to collect funds for hiring music scores, venues and instrumental accompaniment for concerts. Last December, a number of choir members sang Christmas carols in Church Square, and twelve singers even travelled to Edinburgh to sing carols in the Balmoral Hotel.

Currently, the choir is rehearsing two pieces of music to perform in March. The first is *La Petite Messe Solennelle*, by Rossini, which will be performed on March 1 in Younger Hall. The second is Verdi's *Requiem*, which will be sung together with Dundee Choral Union, and accompanied by the Orchestra of the Scottish Opera, on March 16, in the Caird Hall in Dundee. Both concerts will be widely advertised in town, and tickets will be for sale in the Music Centre in Younger Hall, and the Art & Music Shop in South Street.



Some of the choir singing carols in Church Square

Anyone who would like to join St Andrews Chorus is welcome. No experience with choir singing is required. We do not take an entry

test, we just require the ability to hold a tune and an enthusiasm to sing. The choir is especially looking for tenors and basses. We invite anyone who likes choral music to become part of the choir, either as a singer, or as a friend and listener! For details, see our web site - www.saint-andrews.co.uk/sac or email pmf1@st-andrews.ac.uk



Peteke Feijten provides research and user support for the Scottish Longitudinal Study (www.lscs.ac.uk). She has been a member of the Chorus since 2006.

Dining with colleagues - Staff Dining Club update

How can collegiality be fostered in an institution as large and diverse as the University? What is the best way to provide a forum where staff - new and old – can meet members of other departments and different levels of seniority? The Staff Dining Club was founded in order to fulfil this role. Read on for news of how it has fared since its launch one year ago...

St Andrews is a friendly town and it is impossible to walk its streets without seeing familiar faces. Unfortunately, often they remain just that, familiar faces without names. Within the University we have a common bond of being part of the same intellectual community, but without a physical context in which one meets other members of the University it is difficult to cement these bonds. The occasions upon which a postdoc in Chemistry might meet an emeritus professor of Divinity are sadly limited.

Whilst the direct benefits of such contacts are difficult to quantify, they are nevertheless real. All of the great universities foster such interactions, from the Society of Fellows in Harvard to High Table in Oxbridge Colleges, the Faculty Club in Princeton to the Faculty Clubs in Berkeley.

The idea for the University of St Andrews University Staff Dining Club began with a small group of friends sitting over dinner and bemoaning the lack of social focus within the University. The Dining Club was envisioned initially as something of an experiment: to gauge the level of interest and to see whether it was spread through the University or confined to a lonely group of scientists isolated on the North Haugh. As it turns out, the response has been both strong and widespread.

Now a year old, the club organises dinners two or three times per semester, for University staff from all levels and departments. So far about ten of these have been held - all in the Golf Hotel - with typically thirty to thirty-five diners on each occasion.

Luckily St Andrews is well served with hotels and restaurants able to host such gatherings without the need initially for a dedicated building. There are considerable benefits for a local hotel to become the de facto Faculty Club, since the University term lies largely outside of the tourist season; the Golf Hotel has been particularly accommodating. As the Dining Club grows it will no doubt extend its activities. Lunches are one immediate possibility – those staff with



children may find these easier to get to. Places are open to all University employees on a first come first served basis and are advertised on the new University events calendar (formerly the Friday memos) or by direct mailing to those who have subscribed to the email list. The organisation is minimal: register for a place by email and turn up on the night with cash to pay for dinner. To register on the Dining Club email list, simply send an email to StAndrewsDiningClub@hotmail.co.uk

You will receive periodic emails letting you know about when dinners will be held. The administration of the staff club is currently carried out by Andrew Green (Physics & Astronomy). Volunteers to organise the odd dinner are always welcome.

Andrew Green

New Year Honours

The list of awards this year included two University figures – one part-time student and a new Professor.

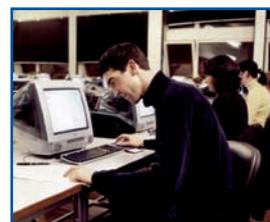
David Adam, who is a student with the Evening Degree programme, has been awarded the MBE for helping to raise more than £200,000 for charity in the past 27 years.

Corporal Adam, from the administration wing at RAF Kinloss, caught the fund-raising bug while at school in Dundee. Since then he has helped raise awareness of children who are terminally ill, disadvantaged or have disabilities.

David, who joined the University's part-time programme in September 2001 after completing an HNC in Accounting at Dundee College, is currently half way through his degree.

Meanwhile, newly-arrived Professor Jeremy Greenwood was awarded the CBE. Jeremy took up the position of Honorary Chair in CREEM (Centre for Research into Environmental and Evolutionary Modelling) within the School of Biology late last year.

Most recently, until his retirement in September 2007, Professor Greenwood was Director of the British Trust for Ornithology. Already familiar with his new colleagues at St Andrews, he developed close links with CREEM through his involvement with the National Centre for Statistical Ecology.



David Adam



Professor Jeremy Greenwood

Retirals

Technician Bill Blyth retired at the end of November after over 40 years' service. Initially employed by Biochemistry within the Bute and Irvine Buildings, Bill latterly worked in Biology, based in the BMS on the North Haugh. In addition to his role as a technician, Bill was also the mainstay of the Trade Union, covering technical and support staff in the University for most of his time here. He was the first member of non-academic staff to serve on Court and represented non-academic colleagues from 1979 to 1983; in addition he represented staff as a Trustee of the Pension Fund from 1972 to his retirement, attending numerous meetings on behalf of members.



Professor Ron Morrison, Head of School in Computer Science, took early retirement at the end of January, after 37 years with the University. Ron came to the University in 1971 from the University of Glasgow. He initially started as a Senior Research Fellow and promotion soon followed to Lecturer in 1972, Reader in 1984 and to Professor of Software Engineering in 1985. Ron has spent most of his time with the University as Head of School and, under his leadership, the School has experienced a huge expansion in staff and student numbers. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and member of the British Computer Society, his main research interest is in the field of programming language design and implementation. He has a special interest in database and graphics programming languages. Ron will maintain his University association by continuing to oversee his remaining research projects.

Alison Malcolm retired at the end of January after over 30 years' service to the University.

Alison joined the University in 1977 as part-time secretary in the Music Department, later becoming Departmental Secretary. When the Music Department merged with Edinburgh University's Music Department in 1990, she chose to stay in St Andrews and played a key role in the development of the Music Centre, becoming the full-time Office Manager in 1994.

She served under a number of Directors and oversaw many changes, including the relocation from Kennedy Hall to the Younger Hall, the instigation of distance learning courses in music, and the expansion of the facilities and services offered to musicians in St Andrews. Alison was a well-known face around the University, as her role brought her into contact with many staff and students over the years.



Alison with her husband Pete



Cilla Jackson retired at the end of December 2007, after spending 28 years in the Special Collections Department of the Library. Although trained as a Maths teacher, Cilla was at first a part-time assistant to both Bob Smart (Manuscripts and Muniments) and Christine Gascoigne (Rare Books) in the Library, later taking on full-time work. Since her early days in the department, when there was a total staff of three, Cilla has seen enormous change; by the time she left she was one of a team of 15 people, and was leading the team responsible for the Library's outstanding photographic collections. Cilla has played key roles in the development of the online photographic database and the manuscripts database, and in many of the other activities of the department and the wider Library. A much-loved member of staff, she'll be a very hard act to follow!

StAnza brings world-class poetry to St Andrews

The cream of Scottish and international poets is guaranteed to surprise and entertain at Scotland's Poetry Festival. By Annie Kelly, StAnza Press Officer

StAnza, Scotland's poetry festival, celebrated its tenth birthday last year with a host of events, including a mammoth reading by more than 100 poets.

"It was a marathon session," recalls Festival Director Brian Johnstone, "It held the audience enthralled, and hanging on every word, every voice, every performance for nigh on five and a half hours."

To top it all, poet Alastair Reid read his famous poem *Scotland* aloud for the very last time and set fire to his typescript, proclaiming his freedom, not just from the poem but from the pessimistic world view it represented.

"It was a very public gesture that left the audience applauding wildly, many on their feet and cheering," Johnstone remembers. And it hit the headlines the next day.

StAnza 2008 enters its next decade as one of the top poetry festivals in the UK, a magnet for performers and audiences alike. "This year, the commitment to live poetry has been expanded to include Poetry Theatre and a new Poetry Jazz session," says Artistic Director Eleanor

Livingstone. "StAnza is also fostering its second programme of poetry films – a rapidly rising new art form in Europe."

The support of the University of St Andrews, particularly through the provision of a proportion of the funding and use of facilities, is an integral part of the festival and has always been greatly appreciated. StAnza also relies on the enthusiasm and talent of a large team of volunteers, many of whom are staff and students at the University.

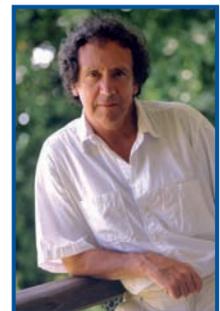
Top talents from the USA and the UK

StAnza's roster of major poets includes two from the USA: Tess Gallagher is a poet, essayist and fiction writer. She has published eight collections of poetry, including her latest *Dear Ghosts* (Bloodaxe 2007) and *Soul Barnacles*, a literary memoir of life with her late husband, the writer Raymond Carver. As well as reading at the Byre Theatre, she will be taking part in StAnza's series of readings, *Past & Present*, where she will be reading Carver's poetry.

August Kleinzahler has said of the characters that populate his poems: "I've always felt that there's a very thin membrane between madness, alcoholism, and/or destitution, and being an OK American guy in a comfortable, heated apartment with meatballs and a decent Sauvignon Blanc in the fridge." (*The Paris Review*, Autumn 2007). Born in New Jersey (he is poet laureate of his hometown Fort Lee), Kleinzahler now lives in San Francisco and has produced ten collections, of which *The Strange Hours Travellers Keep* (Faber) won the International Griffin Prize in 2004.



Tess Gallagher



Kenneth White



August Kleinzahler

A Scottish poet with an international outlook, Kenneth White will be coming from his home in Brittany to read at StAnza. Born in Ayrshire, the poet has long been settled in France, but it is the countryside of his childhood that helped inspire him to develop his concept of geopoetics, which addresses concerns about the relationship between humanity and the natural world. He has published many poetry collections and books of essays, most recently, *At the Atlantic Edge* (Sandstone Press).



John Burnside

And a poet with St Andrews connections, John Burnside, who lives in Fife and teaches Creative Writing at the University, gives a major reading at this year's StAnza. He recently produced both a new collection *Gift Songs* (Jonathan Cape) and a volume of *Selected Poems*. Last year, his memoir of childhood, *A Lie About my Father* won the Sundial/Saltire Prize for Biography and it has already been hailed as a Scottish modern classic. He will be reading with Penelope Shuttle, whose recent collection, *Redgrove's Wife*, was short listed for both the Forward and T S Eliot Prizes in 2007. Among the plethora of talents also appearing at the festival are Annie Freud, Jane Duran, Alison Brackenbury and Matthew Hollis.



Annie Freud

Festival themes tackle topical issues

Poetry & Conflict, the first of StAnza's themes for 2008, raises the ghosts of wars past and present in a wide-ranging series of readings and discussions. The political and pacifist passions of Adrian Mitchell, StAnza's Poet in Residence, stretch back to the Sixties when he was a prominent protester against the Vietnam War. James Fenton, recipient of the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry 2007, was a reporter in South-East Asia and his early work reflects his experiences (*The Memory of War and Children in Exile: Poems 1968 -1983*).

American soldier-poet Brian Turner's highly praised collection, *Here Bullet*, includes poetic dispatches from present-day Iraq – as sharp and compassionate as Sassoon or Owen. Both Turner and Mitchell will join August Kleinzahler and Tom Jones, from the School of English, in a panel discussion on *Poetry & Conflict*, in partnership with the University of St Andrews Poetry Forum.

Likewise, Sarah Maguire, has made conflict her preoccupation. The title poem of her most recent collection, *The Pomegranates of Kandahar*, laments the devastation suffered by Afghanistan after years of war. She will be giving this year's StAnza Lecture, and promises to be both thought-provoking and challenging.

Sea of Tongues highlights the festival's record of introducing the best international poets to the UK. The 2008 festival sees the largest line-up yet of poets writing in languages other than English. Belfast born Gearóid Mac Lochlainn is one of the best poets currently writing in Irish. Also on the guest list are the Norwegians Odveig Klyve and Finn Øglænd, and two poets from the Netherlands, Tsead Bruinja and Elmar Kuiper, who write in the Friesian language. From Germany come Helmut Haberkamm and Fitzgerald Kusz who write in the Franconian dialect. Kusz's poetry is complemented by his plays in Franconian which have been wildly popular in Germany and translated into other German dialects. Heather Dohollau is Welsh born but has spent her life in Brittany and writes in French;



Sarah Maguire



James Fenton

Algerian poet, Soleïman Adel Guémar fits into both of the festival themes. Based in Wales, he first arrived in the UK as an asylum seeker. He writes in French and his work is highly political, driven by a belief in human rights and dignity in the face of oppression.

The rich variety of Scottish voices are represented by the Gaelic poet and novelist Kevin MacNeil, who comes from the Isle of Lewis, the Shetland Scots of Robert Alan Jamieson and poet/translators, Sally Evans and Ken Cockburn.

Spotlight on Glasgow poets

The Glasgow Scene, a new strand of events showcasing Scotland's largest city, boasts new and established names with Glasgow connections. Liz Lochhead – Glasgow's Poet Laureate and one of Scotland's finest writers - will be giving a reading and will be 'In Conversation' with *The Sunday Herald's* Alan Taylor. The novelist Janice Galloway will reveal her thoughts about writing to poetry publisher and reviewer Helena Nelson. Among many other vibrant Glasgow talents at the festival are Cheryl Follon, Magi Gibson, AB Jackson and Alexander Hutchison.



Janice Galloway



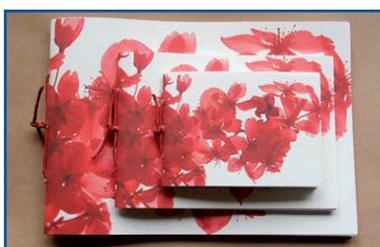
Liz Lochhead

Poetry, performance and visual art

The festival this year kicks off with a major staged performance, *Caligula on Ice*, a highly original combination of poetry and theatricality. Award-winning poet Tim Turnbull has created a show that combines comedy, satire and outrageous music hall which has to be seen to be believed. At StAnza's lunchtime Poetry Cabaret, listen to top performers Raman Mundair, Robin Cairns and Andre Mangeot and Ann Drysdale over a drink and a buttery rowie. Late night events include the regular Open Mic and Poetry Slam competition and two late sessions at the Byre Theatre: the new Poetry Jazz session and, in a special concert, the poetry of Spanish poet, Federico Garcia Lorca, set to music by guitarist Keith James and double bassist Rick Foot.

Last year, StAnza launched its first Poetry Film programme with great success. This year, there will be the chance to see two famous poetry films: back for another year *Wholly Communion* is a film of the 1965 poetry 'happening' at London's Royal Albert Hall, with Allen Ginsberg, Laurence Ferlinghetti – and StAnza's own Poet-in-Residence, Adrian Mitchell – among the line-up. Equally ground-breaking is Tony Harrison's film *V*, which outraged critics when it was first shown in 1987. While these classic films help redefine poetry for wider audiences, the growth of the poetry 'short' is a 21st century phenomenon. Eric Englebracht de Priel, of Berlin based Zebra/Literaturwerkstatt, has curated a lyrical and varied selection of films that will be on continuous show during the festival's run.

Words and visual images harmonise in StAnza's art exhibitions – entry to these (as with a substantial amount of StAnza's events) is free. Artist/ Photographer Madeleine Waller's Poet Portraits juxtapose photographs of 50



A selection of notebooks by Pumpkinsputnik

contemporary poets with manuscripts of their work. Jen Hadfield, one of the UK's brightest new poets will exhibit her miniature, boxed 'landscapes' in a series of artworks inspired by Mexican folk art. All this, plus Rachel Gretton's elegant cast glass shapes that incorporate playful poetic proverbs, and exquisite notebooks by Pumpkinsputnik, with designs connected to the natural world.

StAnza 2008 will be launched on 12 March at 5.30pm at the Byre Theatre, with special guest speaker, BBC Scotland's Political Editor, Brian Taylor, who is a graduate of St Andrews.



Tim Turnbull in costume for his show *Caligula on Ice*

Get ready to be entertained, surprised and inspired. StAnza runs from 12 to 16 March at venues around St Andrews.

For more about the festival events, participants and full programme listings, visit www.stanzapoetry.org Copies of the programme are available from Fife Contemporary Art & Craft, telephone 01334 474610 or email mail@fcac.co.uk Tickets are available from the Byre Theatre, telephone 01334 475000, or book online at www.byretheatre.com

StAnza is supported by The Scottish Arts Council, The National Lottery, University of St Andrews, Fife Council and others.



Glasswork by Rachel Gretton

***The Bourne Ultimatum* (2007)**

The third and probably final film in the *Bourne* series sees director Paul Greengrass, fresh from the success of his 11/9/2001 reconstruction film, *United 93* (2006), on top action thriller form.

Jason Bourne (Matt Damon) is once again the target of CIA assassination attempts as he is brought out of hiding by *Guardian* journalist Simon Ross (Paddy Considine). Ross is about to uncover the meaning of the mysterious

Operation Blackbriar, the follow-up to Project Treadstone, involvement in which caused Bourne to lose his memory and forced him into hiding in the first place (see both Doug Liman's 2002 original, *The Bourne Identity* and Greengrass' *Bourne Supremacy* from 2004).

Fending off assassination attempts from a number of would-be Euro-assassins (including an interesting set-piece in Waterloo), Bourne decides to expose Operation Blackbriar and uncover his true identity-taking in Moscow, London, Madrid, Tangiers, Berlin, New York and

other notable locations along the way. Albeit that *Casino Royale* (2006) revitalised the James Bond franchise for many, the Bourne films have bettered 007 by some margin in recent years, with *Ultimatum* proving the crowning achievement of the trilogy: taut, action-packed, globetrotting, and with notable and unselfconscious cameos, it proves Damon to be an A-list star (contrary to the teasing that he gets from George Clooney and Brad Pitt in the *Ocean* films), and Greengrass to be a talent worth following.

William Brown

Cinema and Cultural Engagement: Bringing Art House Films to St Andrews

By Dr Leshu Torchin

In October 2007, the Centre for Film Studies (CFS) launched its new series, 'Cinema and Cultural Engagement'. With the aid of a Russell Trust Development Award and the cooperation of the NPH Cinema, the CFS has been bringing arthouse films to St Andrews—a community contribution that caught the attention of the BBC last autumn.

Film is a major art world wide, and its significance in cultural and political affairs grows by the minute. In Film Studies, we are committed to presenting our students with as wide a range of cinema as possible; this means choices beyond Hollywood fare. Although Hollywood films are certainly enjoyable and deserving of study, they should not be the only option available - in cinemas or in schools. There is more in the world of cinema, and this programme offers this diverse and exciting world to St Andrews.

In Autumn 2007, the programme included *The Yes Men*, a documentary about political pranksters who pose as representatives of the World Trade Organisation; and *Daratt*, a meditation on revenge and reconciliation in post-civil war Chad. The season concluded with Jean-Pierre Melville's *Army of Shadows*, a 38-year old film whose

recent theatrical re-release placed it on many a 10 Best list in 2006. Still in the process of programming our Spring series, our current hopefuls include *12:08 East of Bucharest*, a black comedy from Romania; *Bamako*, Abderrahmane Sissako's extraordinary film that unites scenes from everyday life with civil actions taken against the

World Bank and IMF; and *Miss Gulag*, a new documentary about a beauty pageant held in a Siberian prison.

Dr Leshu Torchin is Lecturer in Film Studies. For information on events and screenings hosted by the Department, visit www.st-andrews.ac.uk/filmstudies/events.php



Guess where?

In a superstitious twist, this issue zooms in on 'unlucky' 13s around the town - can you guess where they are? Answers on page 49

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



Double Dutch

Eagle-eyed reader Tom Corner from the School of Geography's Centre for Housing Research spotted last issue's deliberate mistake – your female editor accidentally captioned Ruud Gullit (page 17), when it was of course Frank Rijkaard, the Barcelona manager. She blames Thierry Henry for the temporary memory lapse.

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 the fields of Philosophy and Geophysics.

NAME: Sarah Broadie

POSITION: Wardlaw Professor

AREA/S OF RESEARCH: Philosophy, especially Ancient Greek Philosophy; but I am interested in most areas of Ethics, Metaphysics, and Philosophy of Religion.

WHAT MADE YOU CHOOSE THIS FIELD OF RESEARCH?

I came to it through studying Classics as an undergraduate at Oxford (a long time ago, needless to say): we had to read a lot of Plato and Aristotle.

WHY IS YOUR RESEARCH IMPORTANT?

Ancient Greek Philosophy laid the foundations of precise thinking in areas outside mathematics (which for some thinkers also included astronomy). Western natural science, law, political science, economic theory, and, of course, rational and systematic ethics, all have their roots in Ancient Greek philosophy. So does our understanding of the meaning, purpose, and value of education. That's why the area of my research is important. Whether being about an important area makes the research itself important is a question one could discuss for a long time, perhaps. However, the short answer is that the importance of the research also depends on how well it's done. In my case, it's for others to judge that!

WHAT DO YOU MOST ENJOY ABOUT YOUR WORK?

I most enjoy writing (what I hope are) philosophical sentences, and crafting them into an extended argument. However, I would not make the best use of a life devoted only to this. I also enjoy teaching very much, at all levels.

WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING FINDING YOU HAVE MADE?

In my opinion, it is (again in my opinion) a knock-down argument against the theory of determinism (i.e. the theory that whatever takes place, including



Sarah enjoying her view

each of our actions, is necessitated by the prior state of the universe). However, not much notice has been taken of this argument, probably because I am better known as a scholar of Ancient Philosophy than as a serious contributor to contemporary metaphysics. Over the years I have had a very interesting time making many, even if small, discoveries (often comparative) about ancient and modern ethics, science, and theology.

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

I hope soon to finish a book on Plato's cosmology (presented in his dialogue *Timaeus*). I believe this book has some new ideas about what Plato was trying to do. Not many people are going to be interested in this book; but among those who will be, are some of the most demanding critics in the world!

On a wider and less personal front: I worry about the future of philosophy as our discipline becomes ever more technical and fragmented at the cutting edges. It is a concern in every discipline, presumably. And perhaps it is simply a change: hugely important and bringing with it huge intellectual adjustments and needs for new adjustments – but not necessarily a change for the worse.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO ST ANDREWS?

Previously I worked for many years in the US; the moment came when I wanted to return to the UK, and St Andrews gave me a wonderful opportunity.

AND WHAT MAKES YOU STAY HERE?

My office window faces directly on to the Firth of Tay.



And reading Aristotle

NAME: Richard Bates

POSITION: Senior Lecturer
School of Geography & Geosciences

AREA/S OF RESEARCH: I am an applied geophysicist - think the "geophys" boys of Time Team. For me geophysics is really all about applying geophysical methods to studying geoscientific issues - from investigations for raw Earth resources, archaeology, relationships of geology to biology, palaeo-landscape reconstructions to problems of environmental contamination.

WHAT MADE YOU CHOOSE THIS FIELD OF RESEARCH?

Initially, I wanted a field of work related to geology that would allow me to use physics and maths skills. I was also looking for a subject where I would be able to work out in the field and it's been a bonus that this has also led to interesting travel.

WHY IS YOUR RESEARCH IMPORTANT?

My research is very diverse so, in each field, I work in multidisciplinary teams. For each of these, there are different reasons for importance. For example, using geophysical acoustic techniques, I have been mapping the health of coral reefs in both warm waters and our cold, deep waters off the coast of Scotland. Assessing the health of these is incredibly important to long-term protection from climate change. Over the last three years, I have also been using geophysical techniques to remotely map archaeological sites for English Heritage that are vulnerable to both nature and to developmental pressures.

WHAT DO YOU MOST ENJOY ABOUT YOUR WORK?

What I most enjoy has got to be solving problems out in the field. When out in the middle of nowhere, which is usually where the projects are, I have to make the geophysics work, as often there is not a second chance to get the data. Although most geophysics is computer controlled, as everyone knows, it is often not a 'plug and play' world!

WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING FINDING YOU HAVE MADE?

It is probably one of the projects I am currently working on, such as the investigations we are doing at the source of the Blue Nile in Ethiopia. There, on Lake Tana, I am working as part of a multidisciplinary project. As well as shooting seismic (using acoustic echos to determine what the sub-surface beneath the lake bottom looks like) on the lake, we have built a large raft and drilled 100m into the lake sediments. With colleagues in St Andrews, we are mapping the geological sequences that will allow us to unravel the climate history of this fascinating part of Africa. Late last year, we discovered that the lake contains a climate record that may extend over ten times as long into the past as we originally thought. This should allow us to perhaps understand events during some of the most significant periods in Man's history at a place in the world that has been called the Cradle of Mankind. However, the luckiest might have been finding Yagan's (an Aboriginal Sharman) head, but that is another story...

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

Technology is at the centre of geophysics. From Galileo inventing the technology that enabled him to investigate a ball rolling down a slope and thus measure the influence of gravity, to the technologies that we use today for the investigation of the Earth's interior in order to exploit vital resources, society continually needs technological developments. The challenge for us today is to keep enthusing young people to want careers in science and technology. If we don't, the future looks pretty grim for us all.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO ST ANDREWS?

Scotland, the outdoors, specifically the hills and the sea.

AND WHAT MAKES YOU STAY HERE?

Scotland, the outdoors, specifically the hills and the sea, and now the friends I have made here.



Richard on Loch Spelve surveying the loch



Trying out a papyrus tankwa (local fishing boat)

Nominations or volunteers for this feature are welcome.
Email your suggestions to magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk

Very Superstitious

by Peter Maxwell-Stuart

On the eve of the thirteenth edition of *The Standard*, we asked historian Dr Peter Maxwell-Stuart, to provide us with an insight into superstition and the history behind the phrase 'unlucky for some'. Is it really rational behaviour or just a trick of the mind? From the traditional to the bizarre, read on for the ancient tales behind some familiar and not so familiar superstitions. . .

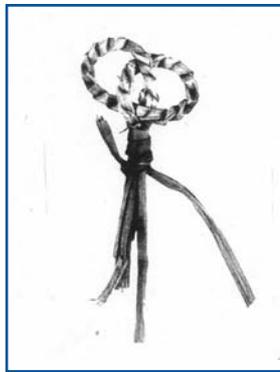
The origins of the belief that 13 is an unlucky number have been traced back to Norse mythology, witches' covens, the Knights Templar, and the Last Supper - all nonsense, as the unluckiness of 13 goes back to the seventeenth century when it was considered that if 13 persons sat down at a dinner table, one would die soon after, a belief recorded in the memoirs of the second Earl of Rochester who experienced the truth of it second-hand by the death of a chaplain who had the misfortune to be just such a one of 13 and was found dead in his bed the next morning.

Why 13? The answer is likely to be that the Earl of Rochester, a well-known wag, was having a joke, or that 13 is an inconvenient number to accommodate at table. The hey-day of this superstition, however, came in the nineteenth century when dozens of Thirteen Clubs were formed in the USA, so called because their membership consisted of thirteen who met regularly to dine in defiance of triskaidekaphobia (fear of the number 13) and managed to continue until the 1950s without significant loss of any diners.

Farcical thumbing of noses is one thing, of course, but can superstition be taken seriously? It all depends on what one means by 'superstition'. Is the person who wears a copper bracelet to counteract the effects of arthritis superstitious, or are there explanations for his or her behaviour which will be sufficient to remove that slur? Nowadays, the noun and its adjective are used loosely, indeed carelessly, to refer to beliefs or actions inconsistent with and ridiculed by the prevailing dominant scientific discourse which regards its own notions as rational and dismisses any others as irrational.

It is common, for example, to hear the ancient world described as 'superstitious' rather than 'scrupulously religious' or 'over-careful in religious observation', which is what the word actually means according to its etymology. So when Petronius Arbiter has one of his characters say one should enter a room right foot first, or Pliny the Elder notes that after eating eggs or snails, one should break their shells to avoid bad luck, or Theophrastus records that someone he calls a 'god-fearer', (regularly mistranslated as 'superstitious man'), spits on his chest whenever he sees a mad person or an epileptic, are they recording superstitions or the niceties of a deeply religious culture acutely aware of its close relationship with its divinities?

In a world alive with non-human entities which are more powerful than human beings, and are capable of acting benevolently or malevolently according to their passing whim or prevailing temperament, it surely makes sense for humans to act and speak in such ways as will please those entities and avoid antagonising them. This is entirely rational. It may not be our notion of what constitutes rational behaviour, but we live in a universe we view from a quite different angle, and it is therefore cultural snobbery for us to protest that the ancients were irrational because they did not live in our modern world.



A magic knot from Ireland

That older universe was one in which magic was neither a series of conjuring-tricks nor a set of bizarre, ineffectual techniques for achieving one's desired ends. Behind the charms, the rituals, the words, and the gestures of magic lay a universe in which everything was connected to everything else in a web of correspondences and sympathies which meant that one thing could and probably would affect another, and it is this network of inter-relationships which often accounts for apparent superstitions.

Hence, for example, whistling, especially at sea, is ill-omened because it is reminiscent of the sound made by winds during a storm; and red hair causes a frisson because Set, the Egyptian god of the desert, was portrayed as red, and the red desert was the place of death as opposed to the black land of the living. Bad luck is associated with walking under a ladder because ladders were frequently used to support those about to be hanged, and so passing beneath them meant one was walking in the shadow of a violent death; walking in the shadow of a violent death - a juxtaposition of ideas which may lie behind the local notion that it is bad luck to step on the PH in the pavement outwith the entrance to St Salvator's quad, although this may be an urban myth rather than a genuine superstition; and knots were problematical in as much as they prevented sexual intercourse, as James VI remarked in his *Daemonologie*, listing among the kind of charms commonly employed by those he calls the simple-minded one in which knots were tied in the points - cords or laces used where we would have buttons - the effect being to 'stay married folks to have naturally ado with other'. Indeed, so common was this piece of magic that there was a French saying, 'to have a knot in one's point', meaning to be unable to achieve an erection.



Old sketch of a bell with magical inscriptions

Mirrors, too, are fraught with correspondences. Their brightly polished surfaces are unsettling, for while it is true that we discover our own images therein, those images are reversed - left becomes right, intelligible script turns into unintelligible symbols - and we have the sensation not so much of seeing a reflection as of looking through a surface into another parallel and different world, as Lewis Carroll amusingly illustrated. This is why Jean-Baptiste Thiers applauded the judgement of the French Faculty of Theology that 'it is idolatry to invoke demons and lock them up in mirrors', and why mirrors were frequently used in divination. Before the advent of modern techniques of glass-making and silvering, mirrors were made from metal, their surfaces either convex or concave and rather small. So the figures in them were not at all easy to make out and were usually distorted - hence St Paul's phrase 'through a glass darkly' where 'darkly' means 'in the form of a saying which is difficult to understand'. Breaking a mirror, then, implies that one has destroyed the means of glimpsing a different world in which one's doppelganger has its existence, and thus a way of seeing both present and future. One may also have released any enclosed demons from their prison. Either way, the action is unlucky. It was a long-standing practice, too, to cover a mirror in the presence of death. This means that the living will not be able to see the spirit of the dead person who will have left this world for another which may be glimpsed in the mirror's surface, and the dead person will not be able to look through the mirror into the world he or she has just left, and feel

such regret or fear as will cause him or her to try to return. The dead must be helped to accommodate themselves to their new existence, not carelessly allowed to infest and scare both the living and themselves.

These practicalities in relation to magic can also be seen in the custom of carrying a bride over the threshold of her new home, a custom as old as the Romans. It means she will not take her first step over the place under which instruments of hostile magic are regularly buried, and so blight her marriage from the start; and throwing coins into a well or fountain - another Roman observance - propitiates the spirits who live there, Naiads, like all nymphs and similar creatures, having uncertain tempers and the inclination to turn hostile in a moment unless treated with respect.

Ringling church bells, too, has nothing to do with summoning the faithful to divine service (although it certainly fulfils such a function as well). The sound is intended to drive away demons, as Caxton pointed out in his *Golden Legend*: 'The evil spirits that be in the region of the air hesitate much when they hear the trumps of God, which be the bells ringing'. Demons may also be driven away by spitting. That is why Theophrastus's god-fearer spat when he saw a madman or an epileptic, because both were afflicted by an evil spirit and the spitting kept possible contagion at bay. Some such notion lies behind Jesus's use of spittle to cure a man who was deaf and dumb, and when people spit on their hand before concluding a bargain, they are preventing an evil spirit from ruining the new relationship by its presence.

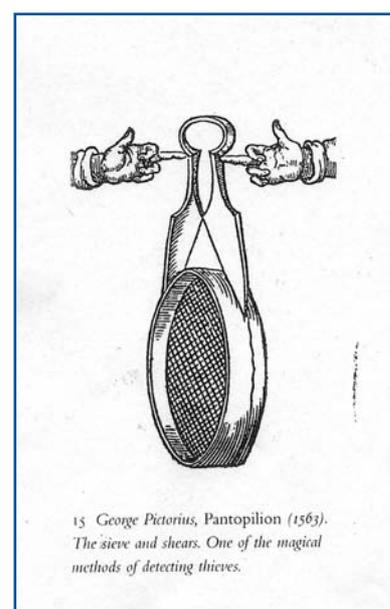
Superstitions, then, far from being nervous psychological tics or examples of irrational behaviour are, on the contrary, entirely rational reactions to particular situations in a world conceived to work by rules and principles other than those we acknowledge at present, although how long it may be before our certainties turn into intellectual redundancies is difficult to say. We are undoubtedly too attached to the idea that what we think we know is the only possible knowledge there is to know, and the only one worth having. A word or two from Cardinal Newman may therefore not come altogether amiss. 'I do not shrink', he wrote in his *Apologia*, 'from



Ladders were often associated with a violent death

uttering my firm conviction that it would be a gain to the country were it vastly more superstitious, more bigoted, more gloomy, more fierce in its religion than at present it shows itself to be.... rationalism is the great evil of the day'.

Dr Peter Maxwell-Stuart is honorary lecturer with the School of History whose research interests include the occult sciences, specialising in magic and witchcraft. Peter is currently engaged in a major study of witchcraft in seventeenth century Scotland.



Finding the identity of a thief with a sieve and scissors is still in use in some parts of Europe

ELT's Open Door

ELT (English Language Teaching) welcomes students from all over the world, delivering essential English language training and practical survival skills for international students. Here, Jane Magee demonstrates that life in Kinnessburn is a truly cosmopolitan experience.

Since 1990, ELT has provided high quality English language training for overseas students by offering a wide range of courses. These incorporate credit bearing university modules, full time courses for students wishing to pursue degree programmes in English speaking countries as well as short-term courses for students with specific language goals. Students who have completed pre-sessionals, access and foundation courses are able to achieve a smooth transition into the University.

ELT also plays an active role in promoting the University in Asia, fielding enquiries, recruiting students and attending educational events. ELT staff represent the University and answer questions about studying at St Andrews in places as far afield as Malaysia, Vietnam and Kazakhstan.

Jane Magee, Director of ELT, said, "I think we are quite unlike anything else in the University in that we have many of the characteristics of a School as well as the characteristics of a Unit. Our main business is teaching and learning, but we are also providing a service in a business-like and customer-focused way, so I've taken to referring to us as 'Schoonit!'"

ELT currently employs around twenty teachers, supported by a strong administrative team. Other teachers and lecturers also come in to the centre to teach their specialist subjects.

Many of the staff members have experience in teaching English abroad and are therefore highly sympathetic to the requirements of overseas students trying to cope in another country.



Jane with some visiting students

Staff speak around a dozen languages between them, although English must be spoken at all times within the classroom.

Jane explained, "We are trying to teach culture as well as language, and whether it's academic or everyday life, it's often not what you say, it's the way that you say it.

"We want to prepare our students for tutorials but also for Tesco, and not confuse the two! And we want everyone to use and hear English as much of the time as possible.

"Language learners give us some funny moments though. I remember one student remarking in an essay that, 'international business is a doggy dog world'.

"Another breezed into Reception at the end of his first day, saying to our (long-

suffering) administrator, "Hey babe, call me a cab!" And then there was the student who told me the morning after the night before, "I am hanging over."

A variety of undergraduate and postgraduate preparation courses for international students is provided. These Foundation programmes have proved to be a popular route for overseas students who hope to attend an English speaking University.

The courses embrace English Language related study skills with an emphasis on writing technique, reading and effective note-taking skills, citing properly, avoiding plagiarism as well as oral presentations and seminar skills. The programmes also comprise a significant element of academic study, with students participating in relevant modules at other Schools, or by subject specialists coming in to ELT.

Jane continued, "A lot of the students we work with have left High School in their own countries with qualifications which are not deemed equivalent to Highers or A-Levels by British universities, and which require supplementary academic and linguistic input. We can provide an alternative route for these overseas students who are keen to study in the UK.

"Writing is a very important focus of these programmes as students may be able to speak but have difficulty structuring and writing academic essays, and they may know nothing about our conventions for citing and referencing.

"If they pass satisfactorily they can proceed on to a degree programme. We also help students to go to other universities as the ELT programmes are recognised by other universities as satisfying their entrance requirements.

"Our students have been accepted by almost every other University in the country so we have a very good success rate and a good reputation too - ELT is one of only a few English Language teaching units in universities throughout the UK which provides its foundation programmes in-house - many now contract out this activity to the private sector or FE colleges, which is not the same thing at all!"

The centre also runs first and second year modules in English as a Foreign Language, Foundations of Language and Academic English, not to mention an MLitt programme. These modules are continuing to increase in popularity and last semester there were over eighty students enrolled on the first year linguistics module.

The Introductory Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) Course takes place two or three times a year and involves one week of full time study. It is especially valuable for students who take an integrated year abroad as part of their studies, working as language assistants. It is also beneficial for anyone considering teaching abroad,



The ELT team at Kinnessburn

providing an understanding of the way that language operates, as well as the fundamentals of language training and teaching methodology, giving them a basis upon which to build professional teaching skills.

ELT also offers English and Study Skills Courses for students who are about to embark upon degree programmes at the University of St Andrews.

Jane said, "Our four week pre-sessional course is offered to any student who isn't a native speaker of English. This is a useful orientation which allows the student to boost their language skills, especially writing conventions, and get to know St Andrews, other students and learn ceilidh dancing before term begins!"

Initially, the Centre ran nationality-specific courses but for the past four years students from Asia and Eurasia, Russia, Kazakhstan and Armenia have been taught alongside those from Taiwan, Japan, Vietnam and China.

"It seemed logical to mix the students together. We all benefit from learning about each other's societies and

cultures – staff and students alike. And of course, it means there are more potential students.

"In fact, as we offer a growing number of specialised foundation programmes – for Science, for Medicine, for postgraduates planning to study on Business Masters programmes – we see increasing interest from around the world," she explained.

"I think the way ELT has evolved here is a very St Androean phenomenon. We are a small team, but we give our students high quality teaching and a lot of personal attention. Our students clearly have a good experience here and long after they've left and embarked on successful careers, they still keep in touch and come back to visit us because we were the beginning of their studies abroad – the place where it all began!"

ELT is always happy to help with any aspect of English language provision and anyone interested in the service provided should visit their website on www.st-andrews.ac.uk/elt, phone 2255 or email elt@st-andrews.ac.uk

Fiona Armstrong

Educating the elite

The remarkable story of the famous mathematical tutor William Hopkins together with the educational journeys and achievements of many of his so-called “wranglers” has been compiled by Professor Alex DD Craik (Emeritus Professor in the School of Mathematics & Statistics).

A graduate of St Andrews and Cambridge Universities, Professor Craik relates the tale of the renowned Hopkins in a newly published book, *Mr Hopkins’ Men: Cambridge Reform and British Mathematics in the nineteenth century*.

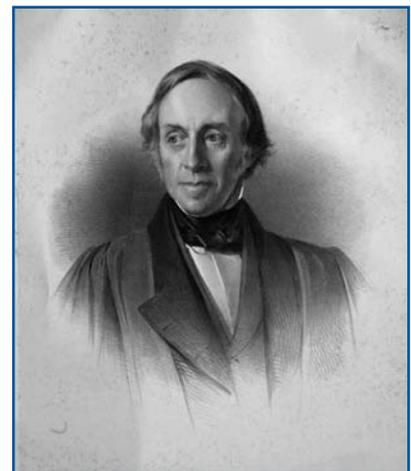
The comprehensive study details the lives of Hopkins and his top pupils, many of whom went on to have illustrious careers as bishops, judges, politicians, scientists or educators.

As well as surveying Cambridge reform and British mathematics during the Victorian era, the author provides a special highlight by including Hopkins’ own collection of portraits of his students, which are published for the first time.

Professor Craik, who taught applied mathematics at the University of St Andrews for many years, explained, “A few years ago, in the Wren Library of Trinity College, Cambridge, I came across a remarkable but then little-known album of pencil and watercolour portraits.

“The artist of most (perhaps all) was Thomas Charles Wageman. Created during 1835-1849, these portraits are of pupils of the famous mathematical tutor William Hopkins.

“Though I knew much about several of the subjects, the names of others were then unknown to me. I was prompted to discover more about them all, and the project expanded naturally to describe the Cambridge milieu of the time, the work of William Hopkins, and the later achievements of his pupils and their contemporaries.”



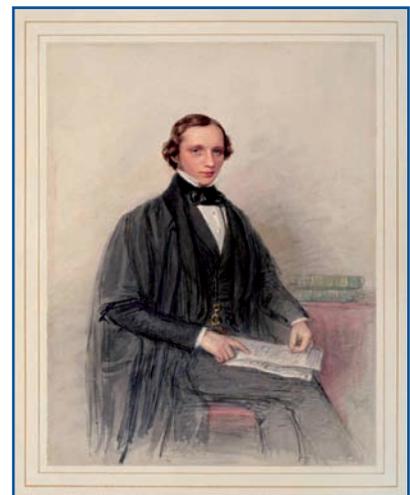
**Engraved portrait of William Hopkins
circa 1850.
Courtesy of the Master and Fellows
of Peterhouse, Cambridge.**



GG Stokes



PG Tait

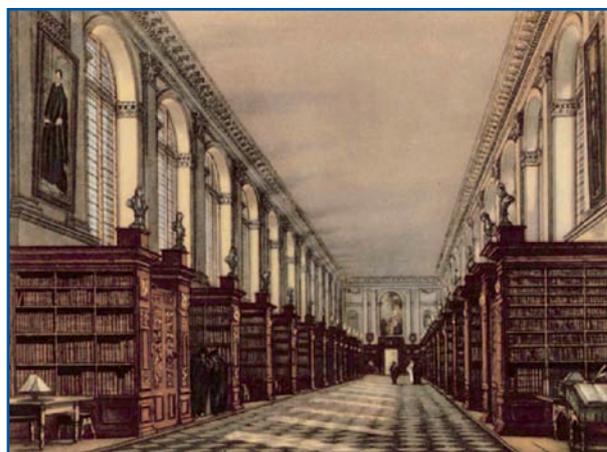


W Thomson (Lord Kelvin)

**Three of the forty-two Wren Library pencil and watercolour portraits of Hopkins’ top wranglers.
All colour images printed courtesy of the Master and Fellows, Trinity College, Cambridge.**



Trinity College Great Court From Ackermann, 1815



Trinity College Wren Library From Ackermann, 1815

The book draws on first-hand accounts of life at Cambridge to allow the reader a glimpse inside its colleges, and in particular, Hopkins' tutoring rooms. It surveys the scientific achievements of the time, considering the disproportionate contributions made by Scottish and Irish alumni in establishing a research community.

Professor Craik continued, "My own experiences, as a graduate of a Scottish university who proceeded to Cambridge for postgraduate work, gave me a particular interest in those Scots and

Irish students who did much the same more than a hundred years earlier."

The nineteenth century was a key period in the development of the mathematical sciences in Britain. Subjects such as rigid-body dynamics, hydrodynamics, elasticity, optics, heat, electricity and magnetism were extended and given firmer foundations; new areas of pure mathematics were explored; and major advances took place in statistics, astronomy, geology and glaciology.

Consequently, many famous scientists and mathematicians are profiled, among them G Green, GG Stokes, Lord Kelvin, PG Tait and A Cayley as well as many lesser-known figures, including the first professors in Australia and the tutor to an Indian maharajah.

The paperback edition was released last month.

ISBN - 10: 184 800 1320



Arthur Cayley receiving his degree as senior wrangler in 1842. The figure to the right of the chair bearing the mace is thought to be Hopkins. (Coloured engraving of drawing by RW Buss, from Huber (1843))

Scotland through a lens

A St Andrews academic has published the first book to present a survey of Scotland's role in the history of photography.

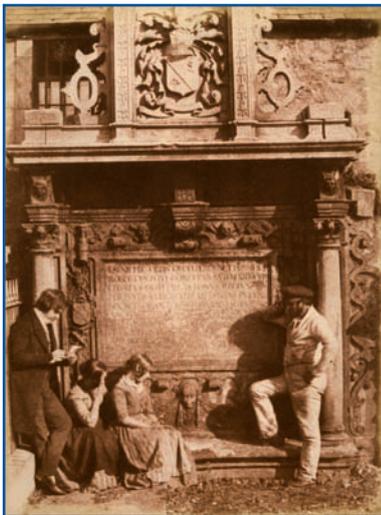
Dr Tom Normand highlights the many eminent Scots engaged in the invention, development and triumph of the art form in his work *Scottish Photography: a History*.

The book explores the spread of Scotland's photography from the major cities to the towns and villages of the countryside and throughout the Highlands and Islands. It also casts an eye outwards to explore those Scottish photographers who went to work in Canada and America, India and Kashmir, China and New Zealand, and throughout the globe.

Special recognition, however, is afforded to the town of St Andrews for it was here, during the early history of photography in the 1840s, that townsfolk and University professors advanced the development of the medium and created some of the most important images in the history of photography.



Hill and Adamson, North Street, Fishergate, St Andrews; *Baiting the Lines*, 1843-46.



Hill and Adamson, Dennistoun Monument, Greyfriars Churchyard; *The Artist and the Gravedigger*, 1940s.



Robert Moyes Adam, *Cross at Loch Aline*, 1919

Dr Normand, from the School of Art History, said, "The glorious work of these renowned St Andrews photographers, along with examples from other major Scottish photographers, is now held in the University Library, a principal resource for photographic historians throughout the world. Many of the works held there furnished the illustrations for this book.

"It was Sir David Brewster, Principal of St Salvator and St Leonard's Colleges, who would correspond with William Henry Fox Talbot, the inventor of the paper-negative and calotype, and set a fashion for photographic experiment in the town. His immediate circle, Hugh Lyon Playfair, Dr John Adamson and Thomas Rodger, would become distinguished photographers of the town and its people.

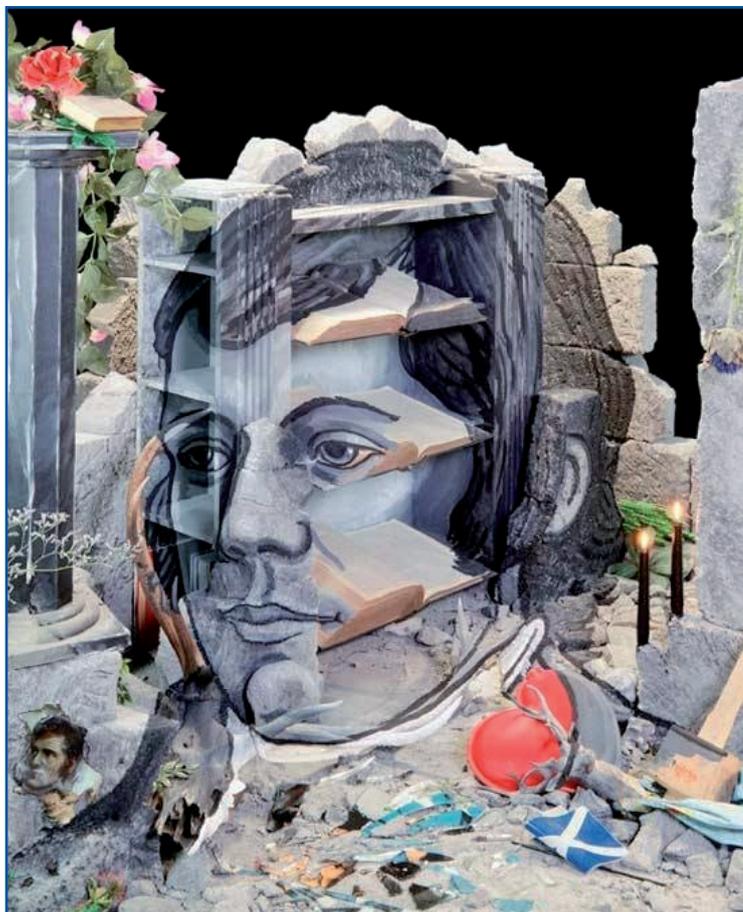
"Moreover, it was David Brewster who introduced Robert Adamson to David Octavius Hill and so initiated the most significant partnership in the history of photography; that of Hill and Adamson who remain to this day pre-eminent figures in the canon of photographic history."



David Williams: Portrait of Aly Bain, Musician, 1995



John Adamson, Tableaux, circa 1850



Calum Colvin, Portrait of Robert Burns, 2002

The book provides a thematic study of all aspects of photography from Scotland. Exploring the nature of portraiture, landscape, documentary and fine art photography, it examines the rich visual world of Scotland's photography from the invention of the medium until the present day.

Dr Normand continued, "Early and experimental images are set alongside contemporary works in order to open out the ways in which the photographic image has engaged issues of history, culture, identity and character.

"In this respect the book presents the history of the photograph as a history of the nation in all its complexity, diversity and awe-inspiring wonder."

Scottish Photography: a History is out now ISBN - 10: 190 630 7075

Dr Normand will be talking about this project at the National Gallery of Scotland, The Mound, Edinburgh, on 1st April at 12:45pm

I think, therefore I am... online

Does God exist? What am I? Do animals have moral status?

The answers to such fundamental questions at the heart of philosophical debates in religion, morality and ethics are now available at the click of a mouse – thanks to a new online initiative at the University of St Andrews.

Philosophers at the University have created the unique distance-learning course specifically for school teachers. The development is the latest in a series of initiatives aimed at supporting the study of Philosophy at secondary school level, for both teachers and pupils of the subject.

While Philosophy is an integral part of the secondary curriculum in Europe, it remains a relatively new addition to the Higher syllabus in this country. More and more schools in the UK are introducing the subject and there

are currently around 100 secondary schools in Scotland which offer the Higher. Despite this there remains a gap in teacher training provision, with no secondary teaching certificate for Philosophy as a specialist subject.

As a direct result, the new online distance-learning Philosophy course was developed by Teaching Fellow Dr Lisa Jones, who is also Director of Outreach for the Department of Philosophy at St Andrews.

The new programme launched last month with a one-day course for teachers, who are given the opportunity to study four modules involving elements of philosophy such as ethical issues, reasoning and knowledge, mind and reality. Learning entirely from internet-based resources, including

online lectures and live events, they will examine a variety of brilliant thinkers who devoted themselves to the 'new science', from Descartes in the middle of the seventeenth century to Kant at the end of the eighteenth century.

"Interest in the subject in this country is certainly growing," Dr Jones said. "Philosophy teaches a range of transferable skills in critical and analytical thinking and how to compose a solid argument, and we are finding a great deal of enthusiasm in both teachers and students who take part in our programmes here. Our latest course has been designed not just to meet the necessary GTCS requirements, but to provide support and inspiration to teachers across the country."

For further information visit www.st-andrews.ac.uk/philosophy/pops/index.html

Easy as A, B, C

A ground-breaking study testing an innovative method of teaching primary children to read and spell has shown that Scots children are the top of the class.

Professor Rhona Johnston and Dr Joyce Watson (both honorary members of the School of Psychology) have demonstrated that the method known as "synthetic phonics", studied in schools in Clackmannanshire, greatly improves word reading, spelling and reading comprehension.

The study compared the Clackmannanshire children, who were taught via a synthetic phonics programme, with children taught in England via the National Literacy

Strategy Scheme Progression in Phonics. The children following the synthetic phonics method learnt very early on to blend letter sounds throughout words.

The comparison showed that the ten year-olds from Clackmannanshire were reading words about two years ahead of what would be expected for their age. Their spelling was six months ahead and their reading comprehension was about right for age.

However, although the pupils in England from similar socio-economic backgrounds were reading words about right for their chronological age, their spelling was 4.5 months below what is expected, and reading comprehension was about 7 months behind.

This study has been very influential in guiding advice given to primary school teachers in England on how to teach reading. The House of Commons Education and Skills Select Committee in 2005 recommended that a similar study be carried out in England, and in 2006 the Rose Review recommended that all children should learn to read by a systematic synthetic phonics approach.

The Primary National Strategy has now introduced a new programme called Letters and Sounds, which uses the Clackmannanshire approach.

Research highlights

Drifting off to sleep

St Andrews' researchers studying the resting behaviour of wild sperm whales have found evidence that whales literally 'drift' off to sleep.

The new study, by Dr Patrick Miller of the Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU), reveals a novel drifting behaviour that sperm whales perform and is backed up by rare video footage captured on the ocean.

The research demonstrates that sperm whales in the wild switch off completely for short periods of time, having 'cat naps' while performing slow rhythmic dives. The St Andrews team believe their study shows that sperm whales may sleep less than any other mammal in the wild.

The related video was co-identally captured by a team led by fellow St Andrews' researcher Dr Luke Rendell off the coast of Northern Chile. The footage shows half a dozen sperm whales eerily floating vertically in a motionless manner, with their heads either at or just below the surface of the sea.

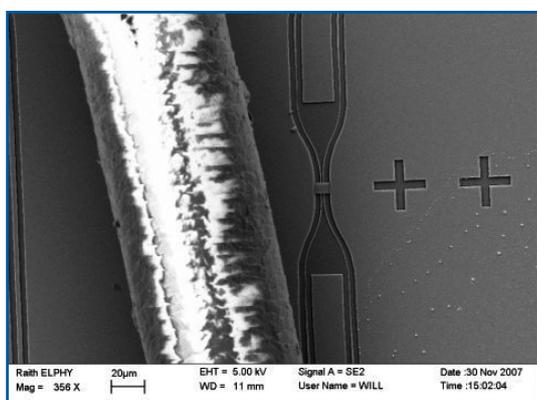


Dr Patrick Miller recorded 59 whales around the world



Tiny Technology

A team of researchers in the School of Physics & Astronomy has developed one of the smallest optical switches ever made.



The switch is about one tenth of the size of a human hair (left)

The technology may eventually be used in small consumer devices that connect every home or office to an optical fibre and supply high data rates, including television on demand.

The researchers, led by Professor Thomas Krauss, have used photonic crystal technology to reduce the size of the switch to only a few wavelengths of light. Consequently, the entire switch is only about one tenth of the size of a human hair.

By focusing on silicon as the material platform, the photonic devices developed by the group can be mass-produced in a similar way as computer chips for the microelectronics industry, and integrated with electronic circuitry on the same chip.

The group aims to address the increasing need for optical components at all levels of the communications network that carries the ever-increasing flow of data over the internet.

Early Cervical Cancer Detection

A new technology developed by St Andrews' researchers could enhance early detection of cancer and potentially save lives.

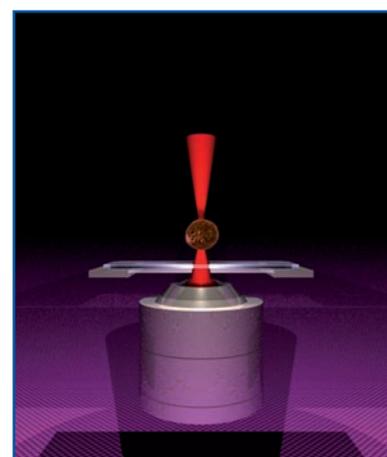
Professors Simon Herrington and Andrew Riches of the Bute Medical School and Professor Kishan Dholakia of the School of Physics & Astronomy have demonstrated that cancerous cervical cells can be detected at an early stage by using the new device.

The collaboration utilises the expertise from members of the Bute alongside the novel advanced optical laser apparatus developed by Professor Dholakia.

The research, published in the *International Journal of Cancer*, involves a technique called Raman spectroscopy to detect precancerous

cells, which could eliminate much of the labour-intensive work required for a conventional smear test.

The approach should be fully compatible with current cervical screening programmes and would therefore only require procedural changes in the laboratory. Professor Dholakia said, "The Schools plan to develop this technique together so that it can eventually be used for tissue. We are aiming to get this into hospitals in the next five to ten years which would be a major development for the University of St Andrews."



How do elephants keep in touch?

Scientists at St Andrews have found that elephants use their excellent memories and sense of smell to keep contact in the jungle - by recognising each other by their urine.

Psychologists Dr Lucy Bates and Professor Richard Byrne discovered that elephants in Kenya were able to recognise fellow group members by the scent of their urine deposits. They not only used this information to identify individuals but were able to 'remember' where particular elephants were, or should have been, at a specific time.

The researchers studied how elephants keep track of up to 30 members of the same group when they travel. Elephants face a particular challenge because groups regularly change composition and individuals don't walk in a fixed order.



While several animal species have been shown to identify individuals from the scent of urine, this is the first time such an ability has been discovered in elephants.

The research is published online by the Royal Society Journal.



Lucy collecting samples

Unlocking the mysteries of cross-gender writing

Research into the phenomenon of transvestism in literature at St Andrews is attempting to unlock the mysteries of cross-gender writing.

Dr Rossella Riccobono (School of Modern Languages) and co-editor Dr Federica Pedriali from the University of Edinburgh launched *Vested Voices II*, a volume of essays exploring writers who attempt to take on the persona of the opposite sex.

The book, *Vested Voices II. Creating with Transvestism: from Bertolucci to Boccaccio*, further investigates the technique where a male author writes from a female point of view and vice versa by studying individual test cases throughout the history of Italian literature from the contemporary to the mediaeval.

Famous British writers who wrote in the character of the opposite sex include Virginia Woolf (*Orlando*) and Daniel Defoe (*Moll Flanders*). George Eliot is best known for assuming a man's name in order to have her work published. The technique is still utilised in contemporary novels such as Arthur Golden's *Memoirs of a Geisha*. Even Lewis Carroll's classic novel *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* placed him at the centre of the world of a young girl.

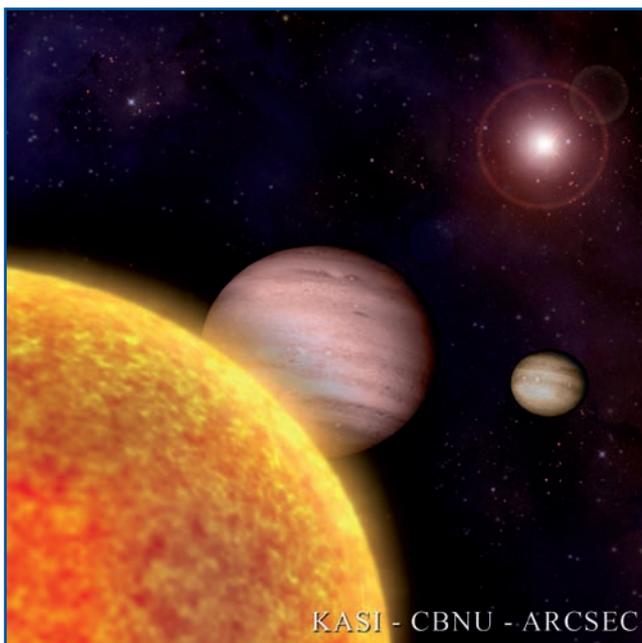
Dr Riccobono explained, "The aim of this study is to broaden the scope of the first volume by checking and double-checking the theories, and analysing whether or not the authors can successfully penetrate the psychology of the opposite sex."



St Andrews researchers find two new planets

Astronomers from the University of St Andrews have discovered a new system of planets with 'striking similarities' to our own Solar system.

Part of an international team, the researchers have found two new planets, similar to Jupiter and Saturn and 5,000 light years away. Orbiting a star half the mass of the Sun, the planets were discovered using a world-wide net of telescopes - including the UK's Liverpool Telescope on the Canary Islands. The latest finding brings the search for new planets 'closer and closer to home'.



The St Andrews planet hunters, Dr Martin Dominik and Professor Keith Horne, made essential contributions to the discovery of an Earth-like planet in early 2006 using the same technique.



Martin Dominik



Keith Horne

Artist's impression of the two newly detected planets orbiting their host star (KASI/CBNU/ARCSEC)

New lecture series gets off to flying start



A new lecture series organised by two St Andrews professors successfully launched late last year to a 'sell out' audience.

The *James Gregory Public Lectures on Science and Religion* are jointly organised by Professors Eric Priest (School of Mathematics & Statistics) and Alan Torrance (School of Divinity) and Fiona Bond. The series of 12 lectures will be held in St Andrews over a four-year period and are sponsored by the John Templeton Foundation and *The Scotsman* newspaper.

The inaugural lecture of the series, delivered by the Bishop of Durham, NT Wright, was entitled *Can a Scientist Believe in the Resurrection?* It was attended by the BBC's Sally Magnusson and attracted a whopping 550 guests – the lecture theatre was so full that the organisers had to relay a video link to over 150 listeners in an adjoining lecture theatre! As a result they decided, as an experiment, to hold the following lecture in the Younger Hall.

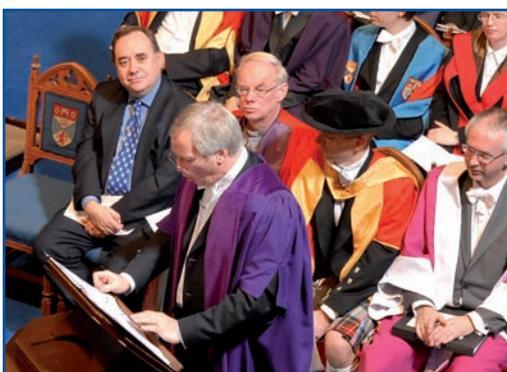
The second lecture in the series, *Has Science Made Religion Redundant?* was given by Professor Denis Alexander, on 28 February. The third lecture, on *Islam and Science* will be delivered on Thursday 17 April (Younger Hall, 5.15pm) by Bruno Guideroni. Bruno, director of both the Lyons Observatory and the Islamic Institute for Advanced Studies, was for six years in charge of a weekly half-hour television series in France called *Knowing Islam*.



Alan Torrance and Eric Priest in front of a clock used by James Gregory in the seventeenth century in St Andrews. James Gregory was the first regius professor of mathematics in St Andrews.

For further information and updates visit www.jamesgregory.org

Graduation highlights - St Andrews Day 2007



Principal and Vice-Chancellor Dr Brian Lang delivers the graduation address, while First Minister Alex Salmond looks on.



Mr Salmond talks about his student days to the *St Andrews Citizen* after the event.

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's image from the June graduation met with a record number of entries. The best are:

"Oh dear, what happened to Harry Potter!"

"Wow, is this your new Nimbus 3000?"

"We think THIS nasty one was used on particularly delinquent students."

"Well you're the doctor.. you should know if it will fit!"



This issue's image was taken during a visit to the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Suggested captions (anonymous or otherwise) can be sent to 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.



82 year old chemist Professor Douglas Lloyd finally graduated with his PhD after a sixty year association with the University.



Local head teacher Kathleen McConnochie was presented with the University Medal. She is pictured with some of her former pupils after the ceremony.

The skeleton of St Mary's

I have heard that there is the ghost of a postman in the King James Library. What lies behind the tale?

Norman Reid (pictured), Keeper of Manuscripts and Muniments and Head of Special Collections steps back in time to investigate...

Well, perhaps not a ghost – but there does seem to have been a University postman who remained there long after his death!

The tale begins in January 1707, when the University messenger, we are told, committed suicide. One, much later, source tells us that he did this by hanging himself from the bannister of the staircase that leads to the gallery of the King James Library – but this cannot be verified. The record shows that one David Murray had been appointed to the position in 1704, and we may assume that it was this man who died in 1707. In those days suicide was regarded as an outrageous sin, and the University's professors are said to have decreed angrily that since he was fond of hanging, he should continue to hang, and should remain nameless for all time to come. They handed over the body for public dissection, and commissioned a Dundee surgeon, Patrick Blair, to articulate the skeleton and return it to

St Andrews (Blair later found fame as the first man in the British Isles to dissect an elephant).

The first part of the story is not recorded in official record. The tale does pick up in the minutes of the University Senatus, however, when on 30 January 1707 the Senatus agreed payment to a Mr Arnot, surgeon, "for his assisting at the dissection". On 17 February there are payments for transporting "the bones for the skelet" to Dundee, and again on May 22 the significant sum of 100 merks Scots (about £5.50 in today's terms) was paid to Patrick Blair for "his pains and expences for making the said skeleton & bringing it over". Small payments were also made to Blair's servant for "drink money" and for incidental expenses. In July, workmen were commissioned to make a case for the skeleton, and the final entry in this period comes a few years later, when in 1714 an inscription was presented to the University by Patrick Blair explaining



the circumstances (but still omitting the name of the offender), which was attached to the case.

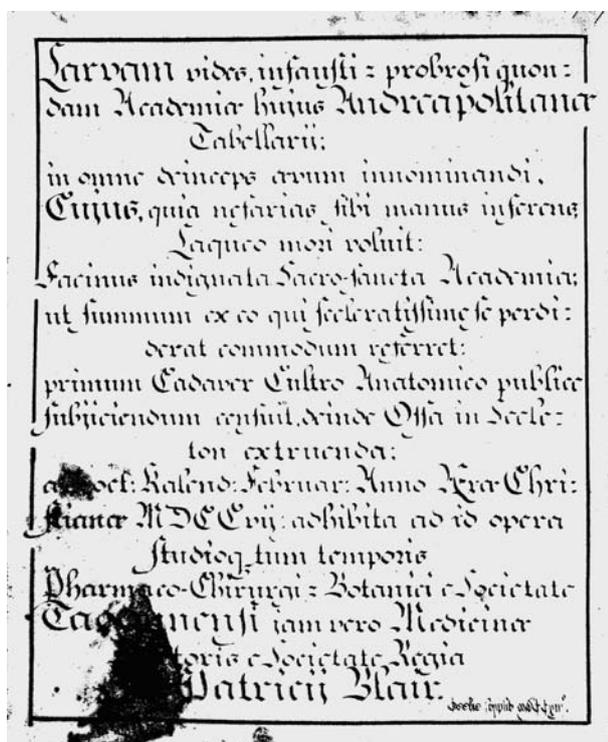
For many years, the poor postie hung in his box in the Library. He was still there in 1889 when an article about the incident was published in *The University News Sheet*, (although by then he had been placed in a cupboard, rather than in full view). It is said that one professor had, some years earlier, been rebuffed by the Senatus in an attempt to have the remains decently interred, but there is no record of any such discussion in the minutes.

By 1941, the box and skeleton were in the loft above the top of the staircase on which the poor man reportedly had ended his days. It was removed on the instruction of the University Librarian and Mr JB Salmond, a member of the University Court. The skeleton was passed to the Professor of Anatomy, who (having first studied the method of articulation used in the early eighteenth century) arranged for the proper disposal of the bones. The box (which at that time was reckoned to be of nineteenth century date – presumably having been replaced at some point) was destroyed. The inscription was said to have been handed over to the University Museum; what happened to it is not known, however, since it no longer appears to exist within the collections, and all that remains is a poor photographic copy (pictured right) which was made at an unknown date.



The traditional tale suggests an element of retribution on the part of the University's professors in their attitude to the unfortunate postman. It is possible, however, that the tale has grown in the telling. In the eighteenth century, religious and social attitudes to suicide were harsh. In some parts of Europe, the bodies of suicides were even mutilated, and it was normal for them to be refused burial in consecrated ground. In post-reformation Scotland, it was the responsibility of the heritors (the principal landowners of the parish) to provide burial facilities, and the University itself being the primary landowner of St Andrews parish, it is likely that the Senatus was indeed responsible for the satisfactory disposal of this body. At the same time, the issue of medical education at St Andrews was under discussion. Although the first Professor of Medicine was not appointed until early 1722, it had been a subject of debate within the University for some years, and from the beginning of the century negotiations had been taking place with the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh regarding the regulations for the awarding of medical degrees. The difficulty of obtaining bodies for anatomical study is well known, having been later immortalised through the nefarious careers of Edinburgh's Burke, Hare and Dr Knox. In a letter of 1720, it was noted that in St Andrews "an anatomist may be ten years in looking for a body to dissect". Was the University being pragmatic in solving two problems at once: the disposal of a suicide body, and the provision of a rare teaching aid?

Whether the rage of the professors lay at the heart of the issue, or their desire to solve an awkward problem (or two) will probably never be known. There is a footnote, however, which shows that the issue of misbehaving postmen did not disappear. Clearly, in the early weeks of 1707, the University needed to find a new postman. On 17 February (at the same meeting at which the payment was made to Mr Arnot for assisting at the dissection), "the University agreed and enacted that in all times coming the University post should be chosen every year at Martinmas & to continue in his post for a year". One John Balmanno had been appointed for the ensuing year. It was perhaps an appointment made in desperation, since he had previously held the post, but had been removed from it in 1698 because of serious misconduct, and when Murray was appointed in 1704, it was in face of a rejected petition from Balmanno for reinstatement. Sadly, only one day after his appointment, the Senatus heard a complaint from several of the professors that Balmanno was going about his duties while drunk, and agreed that should it happen again he was to be "deposed from his office". It seems to have been a position fraught with difficulty: over the next few decades one office-holder was dismissed because of "bodily infirmity", another for embezzlement, and a third for stealing!



You behold the remains of an unfortunate and
 infamous man, once the Messenger of this
 University of St Andrews and thereafter
 never to be named for all time to come:
 incensed at his monstrous action, in that he
 laid wicked hands upon himself and sought
 death by hanging, the sacred University,
 desiring to obtain the greatest advantage
 from one who had so criminally destroyed
 himself, resolved, first that his corpse should
 be publicly submitted to the dissecting knife,
 then that his bones should be articulated into
 a skeleton, on the 25 January in the year
 1707 of the Christian Era; employing for that
 purpose the zealous services of one who at
 that time was Pharmacological-Surgeon and
 Botanist of the Dundee Society but now is
 a Doctor of Medicine of the Royal Society,
 Patrick Blair.

All that remains - the photographic copy of the inscription which was attached to the skeleton's box (translation right).

Do you have a historical question or challenge for the Special Collections team?
 Email us at magazine@st-andrews.ac.uk

Academic Appointments

School of Art History

Dr Richard Fawcett joined the School of Art History in September as an Honorary Professor, after a distinguished career as an Inspector and Principal Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic Scotland, where he still works part time. Richard has been very active in his first few months, teaching an Honours module on the architecture of the Scottish medieval church and, with Dr Julian Luxford and Professor Richard Oram of Stirling University, putting together a grant application to the AHRC. They have been successful and will shortly carry out a pilot study of Scottish medieval parish churches with a view to creating a complete corpus of such buildings.



School of Biology

Wenchang Li joins the School of Biology this month as Royal Society University Research Fellow. Wenchang, who completed his PhD on bird vision at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, joins us from the University of Bristol.

Wenchang's current research involves discovering more about the neuronal mechanisms of animal behaviour by studying African frog tadpoles. Tadpoles are ideal because their simple and highly accessible spinal cord is ideal for investigating basic rules common in movements of different animal species. He is also interested in how these mechanisms mature during neural development.

Bute Medical School

Dr Paul Reynolds moved from the University of California, San Francisco, to join the Bute as Lecturer in Medical Science last year. Paul's research is focused on the role of epigenetics and polycomb proteins in breast cancer progression and continues some of his previous studies on cell culture models that recapitulate early neoplastic events in breast cancer.



School of Management

Martin Kornberger joined the School in October to take up the post of Lecturer in Marketing. He has published papers on business ethics and management learning and currently teaches on the Marketing and Organisations module. Martin came to St Andrews from the University of Technology, Sydney.

New University Events Calendar

Did you know there is now a one-stop shop for advertising and promoting University events?

From lectures and academic seminars to social gatherings, exhibitions and concerts, the new online Events Calendar gives easily accessible and detailed information about hundreds of different events taking place in and around the University.

The new calendar was launched late last year and can be found at www.st-andrews.ac.uk/events

It was introduced to help staff and student societies promote and plan events more efficiently and for the first time offers visitors to the website a handy "What's on" reference and the chance to browse a detailed calendar of activities.

Events are categorised according to the target audience so that users can view events solely of interest to them.

The calendar is simple and easy to use - the right hand side of the page clearly displays the dates on which events are taking place and users can choose to view events on any given day.

The new system replaces all previous methods of advertising events centrally (i.e. through the Friday and Wednesday memo systems).

It is now possible to freely subscribe to an RSS feed so that the latest Events are delivered directly to your computer. RSS (Really Simple Syndication) is a format

for delivering regularly changing web content and is used on the University of St Andrews website to share the latest news and events that are frequently updated on the site.

You will need special software called a Feed Reader or News Aggregator which can check RSS-enabled webpages and display any updated articles that it finds. A variety of RSS Readers are available for different platforms and online.

For further details please visit:

<http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/rss/>

The screenshot shows the University of St Andrews website's Events Calendar for March 2008. The page layout includes a top navigation bar with links like 'Home', 'Current Staff', and 'Current Students'. Below this is a search bar and a secondary navigation menu. The main content area is divided into sections: 'News and Events' on the left, 'Events' in the center, and a calendar grid on the right. The 'Events' section lists activities for each day of the month, such as 'St Andrews Charity Oktoberfest' on Saturday, 1 March, and 'SAUCU Lunchbar' on Tuesday, 4 March. The right sidebar provides filters for 'Select audience' (e.g., 'All staff and students', 'General public') and 'Select type' (e.g., 'View all', 'Concert', 'Lecture').

Events can now be listed online via www.st-andrews.ac.uk/events/submit/ - all listings are subject to an approval process before appearing online.

St Andrews develops Pakistan partnership

St Andrews develops Pakistan partnership

Leading figures from Pakistan's top universities visited St Andrews recently to explore a major new academic collaboration.

A top-level delegation spent six days at the University finalising proposals for a new postgraduate PhD partnership designed to build academic capacity in Pakistan and strengthen Scottish links with that country.

The initiative is a joint venture between St Andrews and its partner universities in Pakistan – the University of the Punjab, Government College University and Quaid-i-Azam University.

PhD programmes will be based on joint research projects arising from the universities' shared expertise in a wide range of subjects in the Arts and Social Sciences.

The collaboration was initiated by the University's Advisor to the Principal, Dr David Corner, who suggested the possibility of partnership to the Executive Director of the Pakistan's Higher Education Commission during a visit in early 2007.

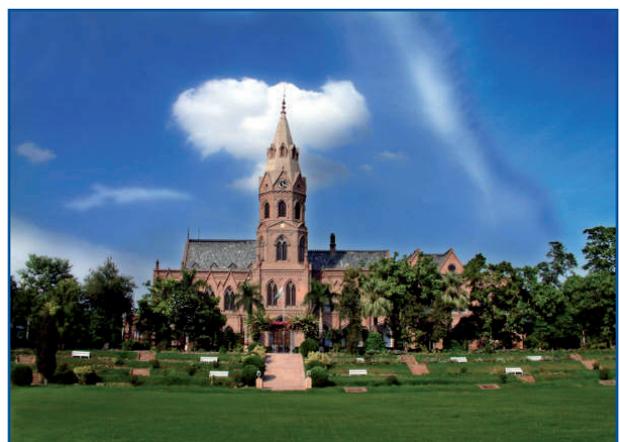
It is envisaged that the partnership will not only create the first joint St Andrews-Pakistan PhDs, but will enable fruitful academic exchanges, joint research projects and post-doctoral appointments.

The visit to St Andrews involved a series of workshops, talks and visits aimed at introducing the partner universities to the research environment at St Andrews.

The Higher Education Commission of Pakistan have, since the visit, provisionally approved a funding package to establish what will be that country's most significant international collaborative venture in the disciplines involved.



Dr David Corner (left) with the visitors from Pakistan



The joint venture will lead to the first St Andrews-Pakistan PhDs

St Andrews and Malawi – a virtual reality

Medical students in one of the poorest countries in Africa will soon be in touch with their counterparts in Scotland, thanks to a new initiative launched jointly by the University of St Andrews and the University of Malawi.

The University has set up a 'buddy-friendship' system between students in both countries – utilising a blog and email contacts between students at the College of Medicine in Blantyre, Malawi and the Bute Medical School at St Andrews.

The scheme was launched last month while a delegation of senior staff from Malawi visited St Andrews on a fact-finding mission. The visitors from the College of Medicine in Blantyre - Malawi's only medical school - are particularly interested in the way the Bute Medical School has developed its curriculum in recent years, especially its use of IT in delivering material to students.

The visitors - Undergraduate Dean, Dr Johnstone Kumwenda, Postgraduate Dean, Professor Eric Borstein and the Head of IT, Mr Anthony Muyepa – met with both staff and students in a packed schedule which explored research, curriculum design, assessment policy and procedures, and included a tour of Library and IT facilities.

Due to the expense and difficulty in obtaining teaching material within Malawi, students at St Andrews will be able to use the new system to send medical texts and learning materials which might not be available to students in Malawi. The buddy system will allow St Andrews and Malawian medical students to help each other with their respective studies bringing their own perspectives to the interaction. It is hoped that the initiative will benefit both sets of students facing very different medical realities, eventually leading to more permanent links in teaching and research.



Professor MacDougall with Professor Kumwenda, Undergraduate Dean for Blantyre's College of Medicine



Malawi's Professor Johnstone Kumwenda, Mr Anthony Muyepa and Professor Eric Borgstein in St Andrews with (far left) Professor R Hugh MacDougall and Professor Simon Guild

The development stems from almost a year ago when St Andrews officials traveled to Malawi to visit the medical school and Ministry of Health officials to discuss scope for working together.

Professor Simon Guild, Director of Teaching at the Bute, said, "At the time of our initial visit, we had just introduced our own new curriculum, with an emphasis on self-directed online learning, which the Malawians were interested in. But while we take internet access and hi-speed communications for granted, Malawians have much more limited access because of the expense of providing adequate bandwidth and speed through commercial satellite access.

"Obviously both groups of students have a lot to learn from each other. We have many students keen to go over to Malawi to learn more about diseases such as HIV, malaria and TB, while we can teach Malawian students more about cancer, diabetes and even stress. The idea of the online buddy system is so that students can make friends through both academic and social interests, so that they can get to know each other before perhaps meeting in person."

The connection between St Andrews and Malawi goes back decades. Before the establishment of the College of Medicine in Malawi medical students came to Scotland to study. As a result many of Malawi's doctors are St Andrews' graduates, many of them holding senior positions at Blantyre and retaining fond memories of Scotland.

The University hopes to visit Malawi again this month to finalise the way forward, but the launch of the buddy system is the first step in cementing relationships between students in St Andrews and Malawi.

University museum – update

By Emma Jane McAdam, Project Curator

Work is well underway to convert the old coach-house on The Scores, beside the School of Art History, into a new museum, MUSA (Museum of the University of St Andrews).

Building work began in May 2007 to renovate and extend the nineteenth century coach-house into a museum, comprising four galleries on the ground floor with an education area - the Learning Loft - and a new Viewing Terrace on the first floor. The museum aims to tell the history of the University and its collecting practices, using objects amassed over almost 600 years.

Much of the envelope and structure work of the building has been completed, with external works including landscaping of the surrounding area due to begin shortly. Internally, the installation of the main services is currently underway. The building contractor, Torith, is confident that the project will be completed on time, allowing for a three month display fit-out period and a summer 2008 opening.

The internal design work for the four galleries is progressing well. Most of the objects to be displayed in MUSA have been chosen and planning for the large range of display cases and in-gallery interactives is well underway. MUSA will also contain a retail area and an active programme of school and community events is planned, based in the Learning Loft.

Fundraising for the project has been continuing, with recent successful appeals to both University alumni and grant-giving Trusts and Foundations. A range of sponsorship options has 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.

Recent acquisition – *The Death of Archbishop Sharpe* by John Opie

The University's Museum Collections Unit actively collects objects to extend the scope and enhance the quality of the existing collection.

Very recently the Unit, on behalf of the University, acquired an oil painting by John Opie (1761-1807). Opie was a prolific and successful Cornish artist, elected to the Royal Academy in 1788, becoming its Professor of Painting in 1805. This is the first historical painting by Opie to be held by a Scottish gallery and it will be displayed in MUSA to enhance the range of historical and modern art works on exhibition in Gallery 4, the MUSA Gallery.

The central figure in the painting, James Sharp, was made Archbishop of St Andrews and Chancellor of the University in 1661. The painting depicts his assassination by a group of Presbyterian Fife Lairds in 1679. This was an event of key importance in the turbulent history of conflict between church and government in Scotland in the seventeenth century.

Financial assistance to purchase the painting has come from the National Fund for Acquisitions (Scotland), The Art Fund, generous private donations and a contribution from the University. It was purchased from a private owner in America, and therefore its acquisition has enabled this item of local heritage to be brought back to Scotland, where it can be enjoyed and appreciated by the public.



John Opie's Death of Archbishop Sharpe arrives in St Andrews, where it will be securely stored until its display in MUSA in the summer of 2008

For information on the MUSA project, please contact Emma Jane McAdam, Project Curator, Tel: (46)3946, email: 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

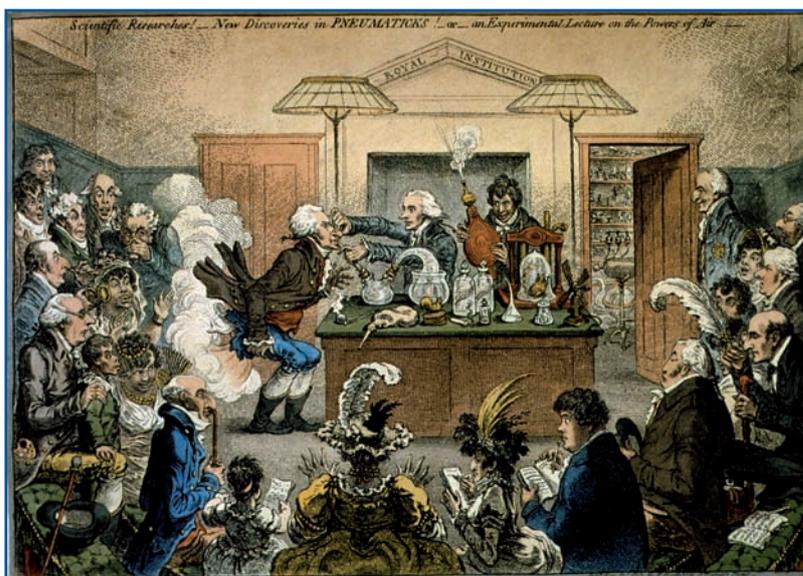
Artefacts of 'national significance'

Historical artefacts and scientific instruments and specimens belonging to the University of St Andrews have been recognised as 'nationally significant' by the Scottish Museums Council.

The three collections are among ten across Scotland named as Recognised Collections of National Significance.

Items from the St Andrews collections will be on display together for the first time when the new University museum, MUSA, opens this summer. Highlights from the collections now 'Recognised' include the University's three mediaeval maces and College silver, its unique collection of seventeenth and eighteenth century archery medals, the great astrolabe and Universal Instrument (1582) by Humfrey Cole (1575) and rare pieces of eighteenth century chemical glassware.

The three collections that have received Recognition status are the Chemistry Collection, the Heritage Collections and the Historic Scientific Instruments Collection.



An experimental lecture on the powers of air (James Gillray)

Professor Ian Carradice, Head of Museum Collections at the University, said, "This is great news, and very timely, since many of the highlights from these collections will be accessible to the general public when our new Museum opens.



Parliament Hall Chair



The Universal Instrument by Humfrey Cole, 1582



St Salvator's College Mace

Green Week By Susan Horsman, Environment Officer

Interested in the environment? Concerned about your carbon footprint? Or simply want to save money on your energy bills? Then roll on 10 - 16 March, as the University's Environment Team and Sustainability Institute have teamed up with a group of students to organise the University's first ever Green Week.

Global Warming is receiving a lot of press coverage these days, but people sometimes feel a bit overwhelmed when it comes to reducing their own carbon footprint. Green Week aims to demystify all this talk about going green, by highlighting easy, practical steps that everyone can take to reduce their (and the University's) carbon footprint.

Sustainable Living Fair

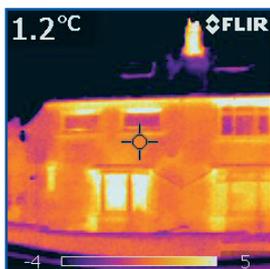
The highlight of the week will be the Sustainable Living Fair on Thursday 13 March, 11am-5pm. This event, held in Venue 1 of the Students' Association, will showcase numerous different elements of sustainability, ranging from information on where to buy Fairtrade products locally, to advice on energy efficiency.

Want more details on your local recycling facilities? Fancy pitting your leg muscle against a light bulb to see how long you can power it for? Looking for someone to share your commute with? Or simply interested in buying some lovely ethical goods? Then come along and find out more.

And don't be put off by the venue. Staff **are** welcome in the Students' Association, and as the Fair is also open to members of the public, you can guarantee that you won't be the only non-student there.

Find out how to reduce your rising fuel bill with advice from the experts

For anyone who is interested in improving the energy efficiency of their home, IRT Surveys will be on hand, promoting their thermal imaging service. This service will take thermal photos of your house, highlighting any areas from which heat is escaping, and thereby helping you to focus your efforts on the key areas of your house where energy efficient measures would help the most. A discount for this service will be offered to anyone who signs up on the day.



A thermal image of a house, showing where the heat is escaping from

Touch and feel the latest fuel-efficient cars

The car park of the Union will become your local garage forecourt for the day, with a display of the super-efficient cars on the market, with the opportunity to line up test drives for a later date.



The environment team with a Honda Civic hybrid

See what a wind turbine looks like up close

Renewable energy will be demonstrated through a selection of goods, ranging from a solar-powered toy car through to a wind-powered computer.

Treat yourself to some eco-friendly toiletries

The lovely smells coming through the door may well be emanating from the stall of Caurie Soaperie, who will be selling their fantastic range of soaps, shampoos and washing-up liquid, which just happen to be vegan and organic.

Find out what the University is doing

For those more interested in what the University is doing on environmental issues, this event offers an opportunity to meet your friendly Environment Team. Residential Business Services will also be on hand to explain what measures the residences are taking to reduce their environmental impact, from energy efficiency through to enhanced biodiversity.

And that's just a taste of what will be on offer that day.

The rest of the week

In addition to the Fair, a number of other events and schemes will be running during Green Week.

Discover how your subject relates to the environment

The St Andrews Sustainability Institute will be working with staff from a wide variety of academic Schools to encourage the inclusion of elements of sustainability into lectures and seminars during the week. Green Week provides

an ideal opportunity to remind students that almost every academic topic can impact upon sustainability in some form or another.

Be inspired by student films

Rogue Productions (the student film society) are running a competition for students to make their own short films related to energy efficiency. The winning film will be unveiled during Green Week.

Greening the Union

The Students' Association will be going green for the whole week. As well as the Sustainable Living Fair, other events there will include a Green Bop on the Friday, a Green Gig on the Saturday, and a Pub Quiz with a green slant on the Sunday.

Fun, interactive activities for you and your children

Green Week is also linking up with National Science Week to demonstrate to local school children the links between Science and the Environment.

Take the Green Week Challenge

Those of you following environmental issues in the news will be aware of political discussions surrounding the use of plastic bags. So why not do your bit and take part in the Green Week Challenge: can you go for a week without taking any plastic bags from shops? Try reusing your old plastic bags or, even better, use reusable cloth bags instead.

Green Week is about demonstrating how sustainability can be easily incorporated into your everyday life, from how you teach to whether or not you switch your lights off when you leave the room. It might seem like nothing to you, but if everyone does it, it will make a real difference.

At the time of writing, not all of the events for Green Week have been finalised. For more up-to-date information, visit

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/greenweek

University recognised for 'green agenda'

An innovative travel plan established by the University of St Andrews has been recognised in a new report outlining universities' contributions to the climate change debate.

St Andrews was one of only two Scottish universities singled out in a Universities UK report out in January, with special mention made to the St Andrews Green Travel Plan.

Implemented in 2005, the Travel Plan involves staff, students and residents of St Andrews joining forces to tackle travel and parking around the University of St Andrews. The initiative was devised with the help of the local Transport Forum which involves representatives from both town and gown.



The environment team take the Travel Plan seriously!

On the road with Staff Development

By Sandy Wilkie, Staff Development Manager

Although many of you will be familiar with the in-house courses and team 'away day' events facilitated by Staff Development within St Andrews, not many people are aware that we sometimes go on the road! St Andrews is an active member of both the Universities Scotland training group and the 1994 Group organisational development network. This gives us the opportunity to send staff from St Andrews on to selected residential events, where you can learn in the company of peers from other HEIs.

One such example is the two-day *Introduction to Higher Education* programme that Staff Development currently runs on behalf of Universities Scotland at the Stirling Management Centre once a year. This year's event is being held on 9-10 April 2008 and is aimed at any staff within the Scottish HE sector who have recently been appointed to management, professional, specialist or administrative roles. The team from Staff Development will work with speakers from Glasgow, RGU, Stirling and St Andrews to provide input around a group case study that runs across the two days. At the event, our staff also work alongside group facilitators from Glasgow,

Loughborough and the Scottish Agricultural College, so it's a truly collaborative effort all round!

As well as providing an enhanced development experience, arranging collaborative programmes on behalf of external networks also has a spin-off benefit for St Andrews. Such programmes generate a small amount of income that Staff Development can then re-invest in replacement laptops, data projectors, printer cartridges and other equipment for the unit. Earning income in this way helps subsidise our services, enabling us to devote the whole of our core budget to running events for individuals and teams within St Andrews. Participating actively in both the Universities Scotland and the 1994 Group networks also promotes the St Andrews brand around the UK, demonstrating to others that we are pro-active about training and value collaborative learning opportunities for our own staff.



Delegates learning at the Stirling Management Centre

Normally we have between 40 and 60 delegates on the *Introduction to Higher Education* programme, learning in an interactive and fun way - with the added benefit of networking with other people like them who are new to the sector. So far we have five staff from St Andrews registered for the event, but at the time of going to press we may still be able to offer one or two places to readers of this feature if you are quick!

If you're interested please get in touch with Katie Davidson on extension 2591 or email staff.development@st-andrews.ac.uk

Other forthcoming courses:

Assertiveness Skills - a two-hour key skills session, designed to help introduce you to some simple techniques, running at DRA on Wednesday 12 March, 10.00-12.00.

Understanding Thinking Styles - an interactive two-hour workshop, based on the Myers Briggs model, designed to help you explore how you make sense of information and therefore might be perceived by others. Friday 4 April, 2.00-4.00, DRA. As this session includes pre-work, all delegates must register by 19 March 2008.

Recruitment & Selection - three modules across a one-day programme, designed for anyone involved in recruiting new staff. Covers the legislative background, designing adverts and further particulars and interviewing skills. Takes place at DRA, 9.00-4.45, Wednesday 28 May.

Minute Taking Workshop - in-depth one-day workshop covering all aspects of taking meeting minutes efficiently, Friday 6 June, 9.00-4.30, DRA.

Supervising Your Staff - a half-day interactive session covering the basic skills and practices of being a line manager, including aspects of objective-setting, feedback and communication. Runs 9.15-2.00 at DRA on Monday 9 June.

For further information visit: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/staff/ppd/courses

Guess Where? Answers



1. The Couch, Bell Street



2. North Street



3. Albany Park



4. Woolworths dvd chart



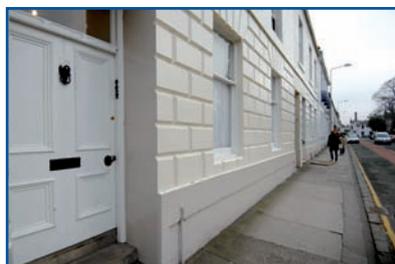
5. Library 'signpost'



6. The Royal George, Shorehead



7. Bell Pettigrew Museum display

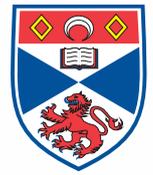


8. Greyfriars Gardens



9. South Street

Back cover: Student Ambassador Michael Hendrix avoids the 'unlucky' PH
Credit: Alan Richardson, Pix-AR



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