



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

# bulletin\*



SPRING 2009

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH STAFF MAGAZINE



## Going for gold

Meet the staff winner of the inaugural Principal's Medal award – page 6

### The origin of genius

John Scally and Stana Nenadic explore Darwin's Edinburgh – page 8

### Deals on wheels

Why University staff and students are getting on their bikes – page 11

### There's no place like home

Professors Tom Devine and David McCrone debate Homecoming – page 14

### Competitions and noticeboard

Your chance to win a prize and find a flat or holiday let – pages 22 and 23

# bulletin\*

## PUBLICATION DETAILS

**Editor:** Chris Small  
**Design:** Hamlin Daniels  
**Artwork:** Susan Halcro  
**Print:** J Thomson Colour Printers  
**Published by:** Communications and Marketing, the University of Edinburgh

## CONTACT US

**bulletin**  
 Communications and Marketing  
 The University of Edinburgh  
 48 Pleasance  
 Edinburgh EH8 9TJ  
 E: [bulletin@ed.ac.uk](mailto:bulletin@ed.ac.uk)  
 T: 0131 651 4325

The University of Edinburgh is mindful of the environmental impact of producing this magazine and seeks to minimise resources wherever possible. This magazine has been printed on Revive Uncoated stock, which contains 80 per cent post-consumer waste and 20 per cent mill broke and has been sourced from a mill that is certified to the environmental management system ISO14001.

## SUBMISSION DETAILS

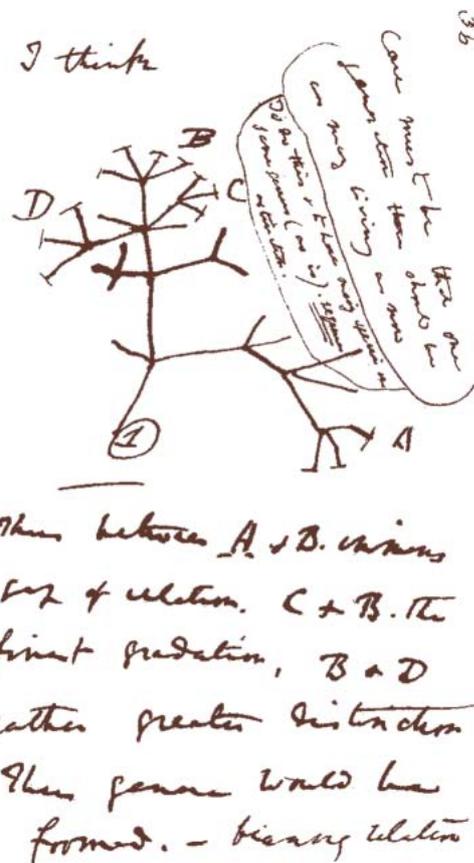
If you would like to submit an idea for an article, or tell us about some news or an event you wish to promote, please contact us at the editor's email address above in advance of the next deadline. The summer edition of *bulletin* will be published in June, and the deadline for submissions is 30 April. *ebulletin* is available online each month. Please email [bulletin@ed.ac.uk](mailto:bulletin@ed.ac.uk) to request deadlines.

Cover photograph by Laurence Winram

# editorial

Welcome to the spring edition of *bulletin*. In this issue we hear from the joint winner of the first Principal's Medal award, staff member Lesley Forrest. Following dialysis and a kidney transplant operation a decade ago, Lesley has dedicated herself to supporting organ donors and recipients, while winning medals on the sports field as a competitor in the Transplant Games. Read about how she balances work, family life and sporting prowess on page 6. Dr John Scally guides us through the University's Darwin collection as we celebrate the link between Edinburgh and our most famous student on page 8. Also this issue, we launch our new opinion section, with Professors Tom Devine and David McCrone debating the merits of Homecoming 2009, the events project celebrating Scotland's contribution to the world (pages 14–16). *bulletin's* competitions page generated a huge response last issue; this time there's a chance to win two prizes with Spot the Difference and the Word Search on page 22.

If you'd like to respond to our opinion pages or have any feedback about the magazine, we'd like to hear from you. Send an email to [bulletin@ed.ac.uk](mailto:bulletin@ed.ac.uk)



Above: Darwin's first sketch of an evolutionary tree, drawn underneath the statement 'I think'. From his Notebook B, 1837. See feature, page 8.

## RAE results place Edinburgh in top five of UK's 'world leading' research universities

The University's position as one of the world's leading research universities has been reaffirmed following publication of the 2008 UK Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) results.

The RAE is an exercise conducted on behalf of the four UK higher education funding councils to evaluate the quality of research undertaken by British higher education institutions.

Overall, the results, released on 18 December, ranked the University in the top five in the UK and number one in Scotland by volume of 4\* 'world-leading' and 3\* 'internationally excellent' research.

The results showed that 63 per cent of our research activity is in the highest categories (4\* and 3\*), of which one third is recognised as world-leading.

This reinforces the University's ranking as 23rd in the world in the Times Higher Education's international league table of universities, published last year.

A total of 1,684 individuals, more than 90 per cent of the academic staff, saw their research assessed across 39 subject areas.

The Principal of the University, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, said: "This is an exceptionally strong performance. Research at the University of Edinburgh is constantly expanding the depth of human knowledge and making an impact on the wider world.

"It is our outstanding staff that attract the most talented students from around the globe and underpin our substantial economic contributions in terms of licensing, patents and spin-out companies, as well as tangible social and healthcare improvements."

Research at the University of Edinburgh is constantly expanding the depth of human knowledge and making an impact on the wider world

## Iain Macwhirter elected Rector

Journalist Iain Macwhirter has been elected as the University of Edinburgh's 50th Rector. He took 4,822 votes in the Rectorial Election, held on 12 February, winning 69 per cent of the total vote.

Macwhirter said: "I am delighted that the students and staff of the University of Edinburgh have chosen me to be their Rector.

"I am extremely excited to have this opportunity to take an active involvement in the University and look to ensure the interests of both staff and students are maintained."

Macwhirter beat off a challenge from MSP George Foulkes.

The Rector chairs the University Court, the governing body of the University, and represents the interests of students and staff.

The election marked 150 years since William Gladstone first took up the post of Rector at the University, after the role was established by an 1858 Act of Parliament. The Rectorial Election takes place every three years.

Macwhirter was formally installed as the new Rector at a ceremony held in the University's Old College on 10 March (see picture, above).



Picture: Paul Edwards

Dr Alexis Cornish, Deputy Returning Officer for the Rectorial Elections, said: "We are delighted to welcome Iain Macwhirter as the University of Edinburgh's next Rector. We look forward to working with him."

Macwhirter studied politics as a postgraduate student at the University of Edinburgh in the 1970s.

"I am really excited about the result. A lot of people think student apathy is a problem, but the turnout in this election shows that there are clearly many students who care about these issues."

Ruth Cape,  
1st Year Linguistics Student



Courtesy of Ken Currie

## Portrait of physicist Peter Higgs unveiled

A portrait of University of Edinburgh physicist Professor Peter Higgs has been unveiled in the School of Informatics.

The portrait (above), painted by artist Ken Currie, was unveiled on 2 March at a launch event attended by Professor Higgs, Ken Currie, and the Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea.

Professor Higgs predicted the existence of a new particle that became known as the Higgs boson. The Large Hadron Collider (LHC), based at the French / Swiss border near Geneva, was built to search for the particle.

The portrait will hang in the Informatics Forum until it moves to its permanent home in the James Clerk Maxwell Building in the summer.

"It has been a great honour and privilege to be given the opportunity to paint Professor Peter Higgs"

Ken Currie

## Staff recognised in New Year Honours List

University staff were once again recognised in the Queen's New Year's Honours List, published at the end of December.

The following awards to current or former members of staff were announced and will be conferred later this year:

**Professor Sir Neil Douglas**, School of Clinical Sciences and Community Health – Knighthood for services to Medicine

**Professor Ian Halliday**, School of Physics – CBE for services to Science

**Professor Carole Hillenbrand**, formerly Head of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies – OBE for services to Higher Education (pictured right).



**Professor Isobel Sharp**, Visiting Professor, Business School – CBE for services to the Accountancy Profession.

**Senior Honorary Professor Geoffrey Boulton**, formerly a Vice-Principal and Regius Professor of Geology, was also honoured in the French New Year's Honours List as "Commandeur dans l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques" for services to Science and French Culture.

Professor Boulton said: "It was a quite unexpected delight to receive a decoration from France, bringing memories of animated debates and creative adventures with many French colleagues."

Read about other staff honours and awards in People News – page 17

## University prepares to Discover Science

**D**iscover Science, the University's popular contribution to the Edinburgh International Science Festival, will take place from 6 to 14 April. More than 200 staff and students will provide a range of unique, hands-on and family-friendly science activities for the public, many of which are free.

Drop-in activities, workshops and shows will take place at the National Museum of Scotland and Adam House (both on Chambers Street), with some shows at George Square Theatre. The College of Science & Engineering and College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine are involved in this significant contribution to the University's public engagement activities.

The full programme and events booking information is available through the Edinburgh International Science Festival website, [www.sciencefestival.co.uk](http://www.sciencefestival.co.uk) / tel 0131 533 0322. Tickets can be purchased



at the University Visitor Centre and at Adam House during the Festival.

Discover Science with the University of Edinburgh @ the Museum, 6–14 April 2009, 10am to 5pm daily. National Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, and Adam House, 3 Chambers Street, with some shows at George Square Theatre. The Discover science event manager is Dr Janet Paterson (email [janet.paterson@ed.ac.uk](mailto:janet.paterson@ed.ac.uk)).



## research news in brief...

### TESTING WORLD'S TEMPERATURE

University scientists will seek ways to curb global warming with the help of satellites that measure CO<sub>2</sub> in the Earth's atmosphere. University researchers are to study data from the instruments, which are being launched by NASA and the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency. The satellites will for the first time give region-by-region accounts of Earth's carbon emissions and highlight areas of the planet that are absorbing the most CO<sub>2</sub>. Paul Palmer, Lecturer in Remote Sensing & Modelling at the University's School of GeoSciences, said: "We expect to learn where and how much CO<sub>2</sub> is released to the atmosphere and how much is absorbed by forests and oceans. This will help us look for ways of combating climate change on Earth."

### CROHN'S DISEASE DRUG HOPE

Patients with Crohn's disease are being invited to take part in pioneering research that may find the first preventative medicine for their condition. The University is conducting a new study into the prevention of Crohn's – a condition that causes ulceration of the gut wall. Within 10 years of diagnosis, 65 per cent of patients require surgery to remove affected tissue. The study will test whether a drug, 6-Mercaptopurine (6-MP), currently given to ease symptoms of an attack, could also be used to prevent the disease recurring after surgery. Patients who have recently undergone surgery for the disease are invited to take part. Anyone interested in the study should visit [www.clinicaltrials.ed.ac.uk](http://www.clinicaltrials.ed.ac.uk)

### RED DEER RISK REVEALED

Scotland's mainland wild red deer population could be lost from the landscape because of breeding with a foreign species. Research in Kintyre by University scientists has shown that Japanese sika deer, brought to the country in the 19th century, have bred extensively with native deer. The scientists believe cross-breeding could alter the deer's appearance and behaviour over generations. The research, funded by the Natural Environment Research Council and the Macaulay Institute, was published in the journal *Molecular Ecology* in February. Helen Senn, a postgraduate student at the School of Biological Sciences, said: "This cross-breeding represents a serious threat to wild red deer on mainland Scotland."

## Annual internal services event launched

**T**he University has launched a new initiative aimed at showcasing its key services. Services Day, held at Playfair Library Hall, Old College, on 20 November, was an opportunity to promote the 200-plus internal services available to staff.

There were a wide variety of services on offer, ranging from academic publishing to

procurement to video production. A second Services Day is planned to take place in the autumn.

An A–Z Services Directory is available on [www.ed.ac.uk/staff-students/staff/support-services](http://www.ed.ac.uk/staff-students/staff/support-services). For more information about Services Day contact Deepthi de Silva-Williams. Email [deepthi.dsw@ed.ac.uk](mailto:deepthi.dsw@ed.ac.uk) / Tel 0131 650 2247

## Bus service connects city centre with Easter Bush



**A** new public transport service has been launched to connect the city centre with the University's central area, King's Buildings and Easter Bush. The 67 bus, which runs from Monday to Friday between Edinburgh city centre and Bush Estate, is provided by Lothian Buses and financially supported by the University.

During the morning and evening peak times it provides a 20-minute service linking Edinburgh city centre with the main University sites in the central area at George Square, Summerhall Royal (Dick) Vet School, King's Buildings and Easter Bush Royal (Dick) Vet School, and also calls at the new Straiton Park & Ride. An hourly service is provided through the day.

More information: [www.transport.ed.ac.uk](http://www.transport.ed.ac.uk)



# feature **Going for gold**

**Staff member Lesley Forrest is joint winner of the inaugural Principal's Medal award. *bulletin* heard how her experience of organ donation led to winning ways in the pool and on the sports field.**

Photograph: Laurence Winram. Location: Centre for Sport and Exercise

**W**hen Lesley Forrest had to have a kidney transplant 12 years ago her response to her illness and operation took friends, family – and herself – by surprise.

"My outlook on life was completely changed; it was like a second chance," she says. Shortly after her operation Lesley competed in the Transplant Games, national and international tournaments open to competitors who have had, or are due to have, organ transplants. Since then she has gone on to win 14 medals in the Games (see panel, right), and worked to support families affected by transplant operations.

Lesley, a Senior Administrative Assistant in Financial Accounting (Endowments) at the University, recently added another prize to her haul. Last December, alongside student Grant Guthrie, she was awarded the University's inaugural Principal's Medal. Mary Bownes, Vice-Principal (Research Training and Community Relations), told *bulletin* about the thinking behind the new award.

"The University of Edinburgh has a worldwide reputation for the quality of our research and teaching staff and we recognise our stars," she said. "We also have a key role to play in the wider community and many of our staff

give huge amounts of time and expertise to a vast array of projects and activities.

"We decided to recognise this contribution by awarding a new medal, The Principal's Medal, to honour an individual or team who had benefited the wider community. This first year of the award the nominations were exceptional and we therefore decided to launch the medal

#### **British Transplant Games, Sheffield, 2008**

3K Racing Walk (Bronze)  
50m Breaststroke (Bronze)  
100m Breaststroke (Bronze)

by giving two awards. Both Lesley, a member of staff, and Grant, a former student, have, in very different ways, done huge amounts to support quite different parts of the community. I am extremely impressed that, besides working or studying, they have given so much of their expertise and time to help others."

Lesley was surprised and moved when she found out about the award. "I was quite emotional," she says. "I take part in the sports because I enjoy it and I just help people

If you were suddenly told that you need a transplant, you're going to accept a donated organ – so I always feel that you should be willing to reciprocate

because when you've been through something like that yourself you're quite anxious to relate what you know."

The Transplant Games are an important corrective to the idea that a full, happy life is somehow not an option after an organ transplant.

#### World Transplant Games, Bangkok, 2007

3K Racing Walk (Silver)  
50m Breaststroke (Bronze)  
100m Breaststroke (Gold)

"The Games were set up 25 years ago specifically for transplant recipients to show that they could get back to a full life and to demonstrate the benefits of transplantation," she says. "My cousin had had a transplant and he suggested that I should come along to the Games. After the operation I got back to health quite quickly. I went down to Liverpool for my first Games and just thoroughly enjoyed it."

The experience of competing allowed Lesley a different perspective on how she and other families coped with transplant operations.

"The first Games were quite humbling," she recalls. "I'd said to my husband 'I don't think I can do all this' – and then I saw wee four and five year olds competing and I thought, 'well I'll just enjoy it'. I got the bug and thought I'd quite like to do it again. Due to raising a young family it was not until 2006 – the 10-year anniversary of my transplant – that I decided to return to the British Transplant Games in Bath and I made a real effort to train. I won a gold that year."

Lesley found that the competitors are a mutually supportive group who could be a source of advice, laughter and solidarity. "It's like a big family, everyone's in the same boat and there's amazing stories about what people have actually gone through."

Heightening awareness of the complex and personal issues around organ donation is more important than putting pressure on anyone to add their name to the donor register, Lesley feels.

"With Transplant Sports UK you're going out and raising awareness and communicating how it changes so many people's lives," she says. "I go and hand out leaflets and a lot of people say, 'well I'm not really interested in donating'. And I keep wanting to say, 'it could happen to you'. The statistics are that you're more likely to need a transplant than ever actually give an organ."

"In terms of signing up, everyone has to make up their own minds. I don't believe in forcing people. But if you were suddenly told that you needed a transplant, you're going to accept a donated organ – so I always feel that you should be willing to reciprocate. However, if you really deeply feel that you should not donate your organs, I respect that."

#### British Transplant Games, Edinburgh, 2007

3K Racing Walk (Gold)  
100m Breaststroke (Silver)

"You don't and can't think in terms of needing an organ donation until you've been there. I had the phone call to say 'we've got a kidney for you', then suddenly you realise that somebody has actually lost their life. But you hope, through the organ donation, that the family might somehow find comfort knowing someone's life has continued because of that decision."

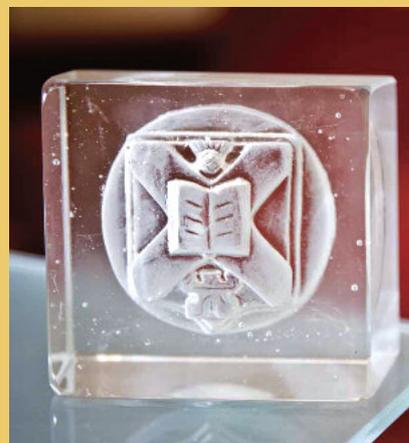
Despite the medal glory, Lesley remains steadfastly modest about her achievements – even as she prepares to compete in this year's British Transplant Games in Coventry, and helps people in Edinburgh affected by organ donation.

"The network, which meets regularly at the Royal Infirmary, supports people who've been affected by transplants or are heading towards one. I think it's good that they can have the option to come along and see people who've had transplants. They can see that we're fine."

For more information about the Transplant Games visit [www.transplantsport.org.uk](http://www.transplantsport.org.uk)

If you would like to know more about organ donation visit [www.uktransplant.org.uk](http://www.uktransplant.org.uk) 

## A guide to the University's Awards



### THE PRINCIPAL'S MEDAL

Nominees may put themselves forward or be nominated by a third party. A team nominated for the medal (above) should include no more than four members. The deadline for nominations is Friday 4 September. To submit a nomination, contact Jenny Buchanan (email [jenny.buchanan@ed.ac.uk](mailto:jenny.buchanan@ed.ac.uk)). If you'd like to have an informal chat about a nomination, contact Vice-Principals Mary Bownes or Simon van Heyningen. Email [mary.bownes@ed.ac.uk](mailto:mary.bownes@ed.ac.uk) / [simon.vanheyningen@ed.ac.uk](mailto:simon.vanheyningen@ed.ac.uk)

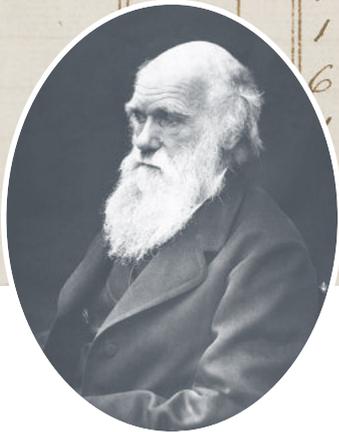
### THE CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS

Presented in recognition of innovation, creativity and dedication. 2008's winners were Professor Joanna Wardlaw, Head of the University's Centre for Clinical Brain Sciences; the School of Education's Dr Siân Bayne; and Dr Polly Arnold, of the School of Chemistry. The nominations deadline is Friday 3 April. For more information, contact Deepthi de-Silva Williams. Email [deepthi.dsw@ed.ac.uk](mailto:deepthi.dsw@ed.ac.uk)

### THE TAM DALYELL PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN ENGAGING THE PUBLIC WITH SCIENCE

Open to all staff, this annual prize recognises an individual or group for work with a focus on science communication. Work could include hosting school visits, talks and other public events, or projects in publishing or broadcasting. The winner receives a medal and a grant of £500 for their science activity. The deadline for nominations is Friday 4 September. For more information, contact Deepthi de-Silva Williams. Email [deepthi.dsw@ed.ac.uk](mailto:deepthi.dsw@ed.ac.uk)

78	Edward Angel	Claypole	Bristol	10	1	Lit.
79	Isaac Scott	Hodgson	Wem	10	1	Med.
80	Thomas	Groser	Maidsstone	10	1	Lit.
81	George	Brooks	Willington	10	1	Med.
82	Henry	Anderson	Edinburgh	10	1	Lit.
83	William	Moffat	Dumfries	10	3	Lit.
84	Erasmus	Darwin	Shropshire	10	1	Med.
85	Charles	Darwin	Shropshire		1	Med.
86	Robert	Dickson	Dumfries		6	Med.
87	John	Murray	Edinburgh			Lit.
88	Edward	Lees	Lancashire			Med.
89	Mr David	Blair	Dublin			Med.
90	Alexander	...	...			...



# The origin of genius

**The author of *On the Origin of Species* is one of the University's most famous students – and 2009 marks the bicentenary of his birth. Dr John Scally, Director of University Collections, talks to *bulletin* about how Darwin's time here helped shape the natural philosopher's thinking.**

John Scally is surveying a vast table in the Centre for Research Collection's new Viewing Gallery, on the fifth floor of the Main Library at George Square, home of the University's Collections. On it lie carefully positioned manuscripts, registration cards and delicate drawings of monkeys. In the centre is a University of Edinburgh matriculation album dated October 1825 – and on the page that's open the signatures of Erasmus and Charles Darwin appear in neat, faded ink (see above).

This year marks the bicentenary of the birth of Charles Darwin (1809–1882) and the 150th anniversary of the publication of *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*, a profound achievement in western intellectual history. The University is marking the anniversaries with a series of talks and exhibitions that celebrate the link between Darwin and Edinburgh.

For Scally, the collection of Darwin material that the University has gathered since 1825 is the perfect starting point in understanding how Darwin's time in Edinburgh informed his later work.

"Our connection with Darwin starts with that matriculation album," Scally says. "He and his brother Erasmus, both studying medicine, were assiduous students. They took out more books from the library in their first term than any other student."

Despite this, Darwin quickly backtracked from his initial focus on medicine. "Darwin came

here to study Medicine and he ended up dropping in to the Scottish Enlightenment and natural philosophy," says Scally. "He rejected medicine, despite coming from a great medical dynasty. Over 500 students enrolled for Medicine at Edinburgh that year. But from a very early age Darwin showed interest in lots of different things; he was an embryonic Victorian gentleman investigator and scholar, working on all sorts of interests around natural philosophy, medicine, collecting and comparison."

Darwin's two years in Edinburgh need to be understood in a wider cultural and historical context, Scally argues. "He had a generalist perspective from the start. But when Darwin came here it altered the way he thought. It was at a point when lots of great ideas were flowing through from the European Enlightenment; ideas about rational thinking and secular investigation of the natural world. There was an attempt to pull back religion and the Biblical version of events to look at evidence and let the natural world tell you how it actually came about."

Edinburgh itself was a city that seemed primed to accept Darwin's questing, idiosyncratic approach: "The city at that point was a hotbed of lots of different ideas. John James Audubon (author of *The American Woodsman*) was there, Sir Walter Scott was still alive – Darwin met Scott at the Royal Society. Darwin instantly fitted in to a Whiggish or non-conformist grouping within Edinburgh and was welcomed in to that."



Images courtesy Edinburgh University Collections

Scally says the intention of the University's exhibition, *Darwin's Edinburgh*, being held from October to December this year, is to provide a fresh take on how his time in Edinburgh influenced his later life and thinking.

"We want to paint a much richer picture of Darwin's experience in Edinburgh, rather than the hitherto sterile view that's been taken by

## Darwin came here to study medicine and ended up dropping in to the Scottish Enlightenment

people who haven't actually investigated it," he says. "Writers such as Janet Browne (author of a series of acclaimed biographies of Darwin) are coming to a much more rounded understanding of how Edinburgh shaped Darwin to become the great genius he was."

"We want the exhibitions to send the message that at the time Darwin was here it was the post-Enlightenment city, and a very dynamic and vibrant environment to be in. It's good for us in 2009 to be investigating that."

Darwin's Edinburgh will run concurrently with the exhibition *An Entangled Bank*, which features five contemporary artists' responses to Darwin's ideas. The exhibitions will take place from October to December 2009 at the Talbot Rice Gallery. For more information visit <http://ace.caad.ed.ac.uk/Darwin/>

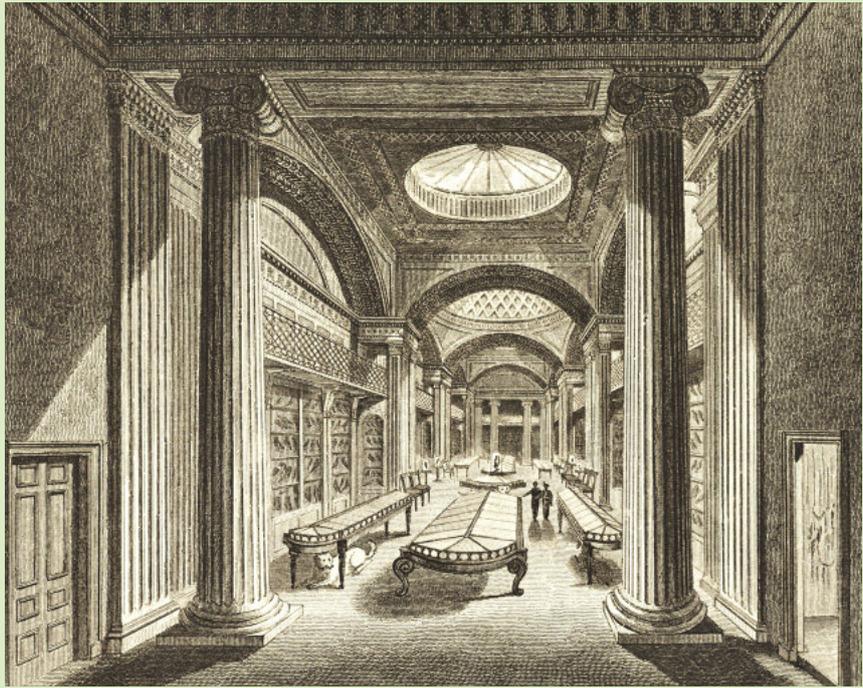


### JOHN SCALLY CV

1987: Graduated from the University of Strathclyde with First Class Degree, BA (Joint Hons) English and Modern History

1992: Graduated from the University of Cambridge. PhD in The Political Career of James, Third Marquis and First Duke of Hamilton (1606-1649) to 1643.

2004: Joined the University as Director of University Collections, working within Information Services. Role includes responsibility for Special Collections, Lothian Health Services Archive, Museums Support, Digital Projects, Collections Management, the Talbot Rice Gallery and the University's Collections of Historical Musical Instruments. He was previously Deputy Head of Rare Books at the National Library of Scotland.



Picture: National Library of Scotland

## Knives, monkeys and manuscripts

John Scally on the highlights of the University's Darwin collection.

"Amongst the items in the collection are the books Darwin borrowed from the library, and his signed class cards (see back page), which you had to have to get entrance to a class.

There's also an amputation knife used by James Syme, who was a professor of clinical surgery here shortly after Darwin left. What we imagine to be an operation now was nothing like it was then. James Young Simpson had not yet invented chloroform to anaesthetise the patient. There was lots of blood, lots of screaming and lots of discomfort. That's the kind of thing Darwin saw, rejected and moved away from, towards natural philosophy.

We'll also be showing an engraving, owned by the National Library of Scotland, of the Old College Museum (pictured above). This was at the time perhaps the second biggest museum in the UK next to the British Museum. That's quite hard to comprehend now. It occupied three floors in Old College, which had just been finished when Darwin arrived. You can see on the engraving a lot of the cases containing geological specimens. When Darwin dropped out of medicine this is where he went.

Ally that to his many visits to the Firth of Forth and to Salisbury Crags to look at the strata and you start seeing a picture emerging of great minds, great writing, and

of research that begins to draw various strands of study together.

Darwin was a member of The Plinian Society and we have a book showing minutes from one of their meetings, on 27 March 1827. This is very important; it's Darwin's first public demonstration to a learned society of the research he had done. The Society were so impressed by this that they voted Darwin on to the committee. He was 17.

We also have a book by James Wilson, produced at the time Darwin was here, showing illustrations of some of the Old College Museum's specimens (see page 10) – drawings of monkeys and other animals. In the exhibition we'll try to convey the magnitude of this museum.

The most important piece in the collection is a single leaf that came to us in the 19th century. It's the final draft of *Origin of Species* that Darwin wrote down. Darwin, unlike modern archivists and librarians, didn't have the same respect for his manuscript collection. The pencil arithmetic trials on the back of the manuscript are the homework of his grandchildren! He actually gave the final draft of this famous book to his grandchildren to do their homework on... So there's a nice personal story there that can be brought out in the exhibition."

# Edinburgh – inspiring capital?



**Dr Stana Nenadic,  
Senior Lecturer  
in Economic  
and Social History, on  
how the city influenced a  
young Charles Darwin.**



An image from James Wilson's *Illustrations of Zoology*, published in 1831, featuring drawings of specimen orangutans that Darwin would have studied at the Old College Museum in the 1820s.

Darwin celebrations have ranged from major museum exhibitions to a reinterpretation of Down House in Kent, the Darwin family home, now owned by English Heritage, along with popular media coverage. The University of Edinburgh is also celebrating the author of *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*, in recognition not only of his great intellectual achievement, but also of the fact that the young Charles Darwin was a student of medicine here.

Darwin's academic career at Edinburgh University was not impressive. Though raised in a distinguished medical family, the son of a wealthy Shrewsbury GP and grandson of Erasmus Darwin, physician, botanist and poet, he was soon repulsed by his studies in these pre-chloroform days and thought his teachers at the Medical School – which was arguably the finest in Europe – dull and boring. He left without a degree and moved to Cambridge with a family hope, soon dashed, that he might try for another profession, that of Church of England clergyman.

The shape of his later thinking was effected by the cultural milieu he encountered here

Though Darwin's sojourn in Edinburgh was short, at such a formative age it is reasonable to argue that the shape of his later thinking was influenced by the cultural and intellectual milieu he encountered in the city. Yes, he went to the theatre and assemblies and enjoyed a privileged social life, unlike that of most of his fellow students but consistent with his background and family connections in elite Edinburgh society – a society that was dominated by the great professors, lawyers, medical men and literary men of the late Enlightenment city. But he also formed strong personal connections with others. One of Darwin's neighbours in Lothian Street (now the site of the National Museum of Scotland lecture theatre) was John Edmonstone, a freed slave and taxidermist who taught Darwin that skill.

He also had close friendships with such younger scientists as Robert Grant, a marine

zoologist, who took Darwin with him on collecting forays to tidal pools at Newhaven. In his 1876 *Recollections of the Development of my Mind and Character*, Darwin reflected on Grant's impassioned espousal of Lamarckian evolutionary theory during the course of one of their companionable walks – "it is probable that the hearing rather early in life such views maintained and praised may have favoured my upholding them under a different form in my *Origin of Species*". (C Darwin, *Autobiographies*, Penguin Classics, 2002: 24)

Darwin was a member of various student societies in Edinburgh and he observed the intellectual life of the Royal Institution on Princes Street (now known as the Royal Scottish Academy) opened in the mid-1820s for art exhibitions and also for housing such learned bodies as the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He probably attended Royal Institution public lectures on phrenology, a popular pseudo-science and almost certainly also saw the "large and highly interesting Collection of Drawings of Birds, Plants and other Subjects of Natural History of North America, by Mr Audubon, of Louisiana, collected during the last 20 years, and upwards, in some of the most unfrequented parts of that Continent..." (*The Scotsman*, 18 November 1826).

In Edinburgh, Darwin would have been exposed to a variety of influences that, while not unique to the city, were certainly in evidence there. The 1820s was a time of great religious debate and pluralism as the authority of the established churches was diluted by new Christian sects, and by deism, romantic pantheism, atheism and apathy. Young men on their own for education or employment engaged in a 'pick and mix' approach to religious observation and religious ideas, and this may have influenced the genesis of Darwin's thinking.

Darwin's Edinburgh years also witnessed the first great international financial crisis of the modern age, which began as a London banking crisis with similarities to what we see today – monetary expansion, risky speculation and poor regulation – and had a domino effect on the rest of the economy, bringing bankruptcy to many. The Edinburgh publishing industry was particularly affected. The firm of Constable & Co collapsed and Sir Walter Scott, a giant of the age, was financially ruined. In the evolution of the economy, in the processes of economic selection and survival of the fittest, Charles Darwin may well have seen parallels with the natural world. 



# Deals on wheels



**Cycling to work is now more popular than ever. *bulletin* reports on the University initiatives that are persuading staff to get pedalling.**



"The scheme is great – it allows you to spread the cost of a major purchase, without going into debt. I hardly notice the money coming off my salary. It costs less than a bus pass per month."

Tessa Rundall

Staff and students are increasingly choosing to commute by bike to the University. According to the most recent travel survey, just under 12 per cent of staff and students – equivalent to approximately 4,000 people – cycle to work or classes. That's compared to 4.5 per cent of Edinburgh residents who bike to work. So what has triggered the boom in cycling?

Emma Crowther, the University's Transport and Parking Manager, says: "Concern for personal health and fitness and reducing your individual impact on the environment receives far greater priority for many people now than it has ever done.

"During peak travel times cycling is the quickest way to travel about the city. Most importantly, the University has taken a proactive approach towards travel planning over the past decade, introducing various initiatives to support cyclists."

## TAX-FREE BENEFITS

To promote healthier journeys to work and reduce pollution, the Government's 1999 Finance Act introduced an annual tax exemption, which allows employers to loan cycles and cyclists' safety equipment to employees as a tax-free benefit. Employees pay a rental fee through a salary sacrifice scheme, free of tax and national insurance. They then enter into a hire agreement with their employer, usually for 12–18 months, at the end of which the employer can opt to sell the bike for a fair market value, typically 2.5–10 per cent of the original purchase value.

## BICYCLES+

Introduced in April 2008, Bicycles+ is the University of Edinburgh's Cycle to Work scheme. Open to join for a period of two months, the scheme attracted 171 staff



## further information

For more information on cycling, Bicycles+ and Get Active Getting There!, including details of secure cycle parking, free cycle training and maintenance courses, and the Dr Bike timetable, go to [www.transport.ed.ac.uk](http://www.transport.ed.ac.uk). It's anticipated that Bicycles+ will re-open for staff to join during spring/summer 2009. Staff will be notified of the re-opening. Further activities are planned for Get Active Getting There! this spring, including Commuter Cycle Training.

members, each able to select up to £1,000 worth of bicycle and safety equipment to use for their daily commute. Feedback from members has been extremely positive.

Tessa Rundall, MSc Programme Administrator (pictured below), said: "The scheme is great – it allows you to spread the cost of a major purchase, without going into debt. I hardly notice the money coming off my salary. It costs less than a bus pass per month. Hopefully more people will use the scheme as it makes great sense economically – cheap transport, quicker commuting, exercise and fresh air."

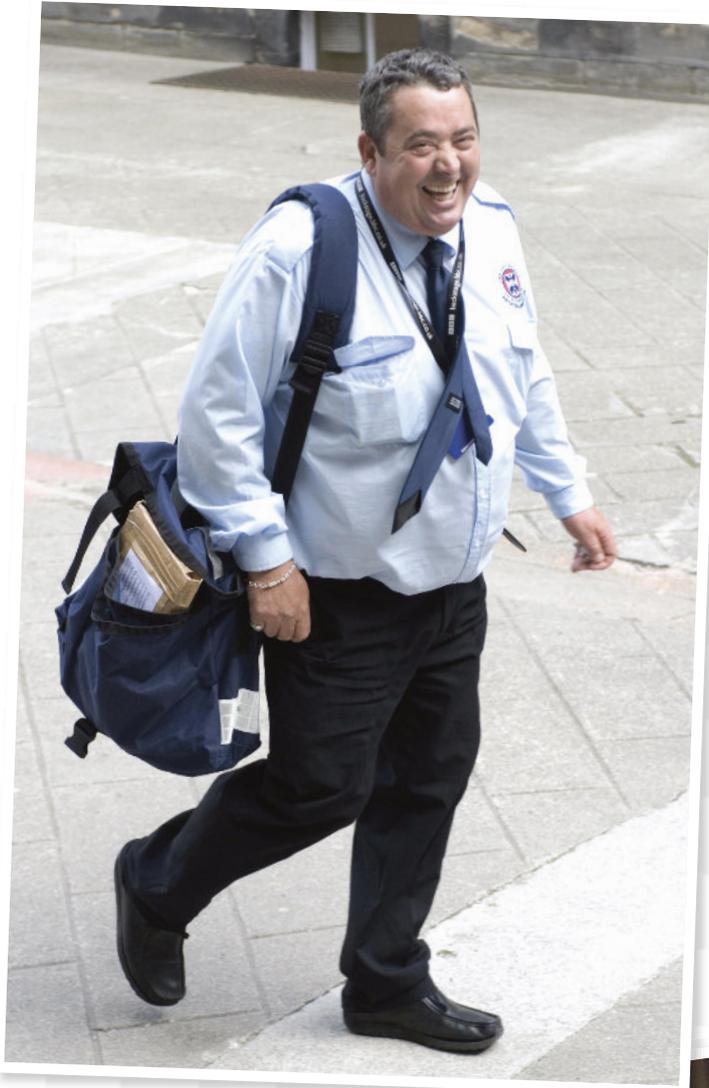
Emma Crowther added: "Bicycles+ is also an opportunity for staff who already cycle to upgrade to a better bike which improves the whole cycling experience and encourages them to cycle more frequently."

## GET ACTIVE GETTING THERE!

The University has also been working in partnership with the sustainable travel charity Sustrans, Cycling Scotland and Paths to Health on a new initiative called Get Active Getting There! This aims to provide walking and cycling maps showing local paths, on-street links, and new signs to dedicated facilities, shops, parks and other key destinations to help people navigate the areas by foot and cycle. The goal is to encourage everyone who travels to University sites to take on board the social, economic and health benefits of active travel.

During the summer of 2008 Get Active Getting There! launched with the offer of the Cycling Scotland Commuter Cycle Training Course. This free one-day course provides practical training on choosing suitable routes to work, advises on clothing, equipment and bike choice and includes a practical session on riding in traffic.

# At your service...



Servitors have been working at the University for more than 100 years, with the oldest record in the servitorial department outlining the duties of the staff in 1893. Currently there are 80 employed full time, with the majority working shift patterns. Their duties include opening, closing and securing University buildings, moving equipment and furniture between properties, and carrying out daily mail collections and pick-ups. Three quarters of a million items of external University mail are processed by servitors every year along with a similar number of incoming items from the Royal Mail. An estimated one million items of internal mail are distributed every year.

Servitors also play an important part in graduations. A member of the servitorial staff performs the role of Bedellus, carrying the University Mace ahead of the Principal in the academic procession, while another leads the academic procession. A further 18 servitors are involved in taking tickets for guests, assisting graduands and generally supporting the ceremonies in McEwan Hall to make the day memorable for all.



Pictures: Douglas Robertson



Opposite page, clockwise from top: Mike Mushet delivers the mail; Brian Hamilton and Jim Watson greet a baby at last June's graduation ceremonies; Brian escorts a toddler; Brian and Jim pose for the camera. This page, clockwise from above: University servitors pictured circa 1930 (the top hats were phased out in the 1960s); James Burnett enjoys a joke with Stuart Adams; James snaps students celebrating their graduation; University Staffbearer John Gillan with the hat used to confer degrees.



# There's no place like home



**Homecoming aims to celebrate Scotland's contribution to the world. But is it a reflection of our lives now, a chance to champion heritage – or simply a marketing exercise? *bulletin* interviewed Professors Tom Devine and David McCrone (right) to hear what they think the events say about our national identity in 2009.**

**W**hat's positive about Homecoming?

That it is happening at all. It couldn't have occurred 30 years ago. It reflects a greater awareness of the Scottish people's outreach over the centuries and a growing historical sophistication and understanding.



There are aspects of Homecoming that would gain anyone's unqualified approval. The grass-roots dimension and the music programme are extremely interesting. There are also a series of academic events, including the Scottish Diaspora debate in the Parliament, that will be important and engaging.

But the central problem is that Homecoming has only made a connection with one part of Scotland's historic diaspora: North America.

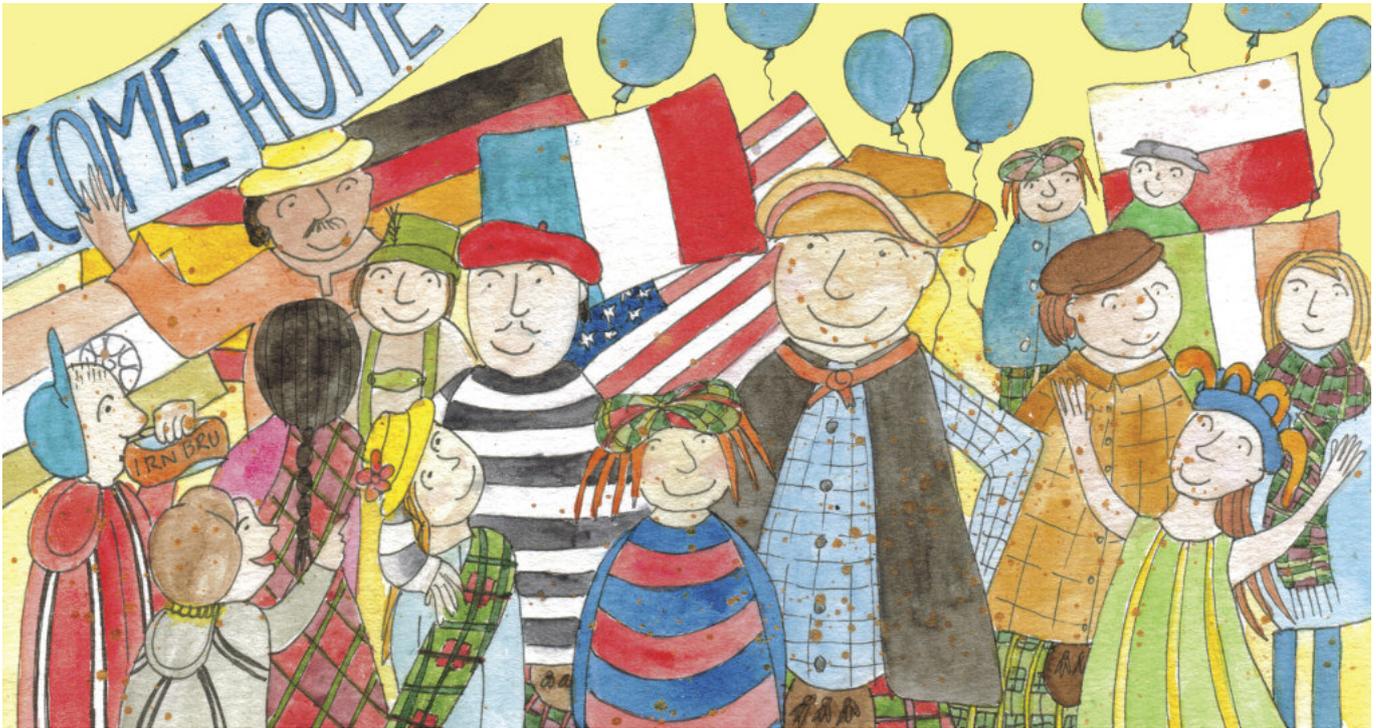
We've been sending people abroad for seven centuries. Only in the last 10 years has there been net in-migration to Scotland. The kind of Homecoming event I'm envisaging would allow the Scottish people to be instructed that this is one of the very few diasporic nations in the world. But there is no meaningful campaign as part of Homecoming to appeal to Ulster, England, Europe or South Africa.

If you extend this vision of the Scottish external connection to some of these other diasporas, you begin to see the huge impact the Scots have had on education, politics, philosophy and medicine across the world. I'm not suggesting Homecoming should be marketed throughout the globe, but it at least should incorporate an awareness of that dimension.

Most of those who will be coming from abroad for Homecoming will be North Americans. This highlights one of the biggest tensions in the project: the clash between indigenous Scottish identity in 2009 and Scottish-American identity, an identity that has been forged through the invention of tradition, built around tartanry and Highlandism. In order to facilitate the process of seducing the American audience, the organisers of Homecoming have had to adopt those markers of Scottishness, which many Scots of today would think of as kitsch.

This American audience is mainly indifferent to modern Scotland. Their interest is in a historic Scotland: a vision of a romantic past. As part of Homecoming there will be a 7,000-person march, the Gathering of the Clans, led by the 'clan chiefs'. Given that the great removals from the Highlands in the 18th and 19th centuries were orchestrated by their ancestors – as commercial landlords – most Scots would find this idea deeply ironic.

*Continued page 16, column 1.*



The Homecoming celebrations tell us that there are many different ways of being a Scot: being born here, having parents or grandparents born here, or simply living here. Indeed, if you want to be a Scot, you have a number of 'identity markers' at your disposal.



Research on national identity that I have conducted with my colleague Frank Bechhofer indicates that people make their claims to be Scottish on all sorts of grounds, and most of these are accepted, including being born here – not something we can do anything about! There is no one way of being Scottish, any more than there is a single Scottish culture. We are a mongrel nation; indeed, that itself is a characteristic way of being Scottish.

Homecoming does not necessarily define Scottishness simply as a 'cultural export' in the way that some of its critics have implied. Instead, it recognises the diverse ways of being Scottish. If we start saying that you are a Scot only by ancestry or birth, you infer that some people are excluded. Anyway, none of us can do a thing about where our parents decided we would be born, or what our ancestors got up to.

It's also important to say that there's nothing wrong with marketing Scotland. We have a long and interesting history; it's amazingly diverse. We have a tourist industry going back at least to the days of Walter Scott.

We've been sending people around the world for a long time, such that many people living abroad have Scottish ancestors. We can get carried away celebrating the 'blood line' – and if we do we then ignore lots of other ways of being Scottish. Homecoming is good if it encourages people to come here. It's not good if it implies that you can only be Scottish if your granny is a MacTavish, to coin a phrase. After all, many Scots went abroad over the centuries, and made contributions to their new home, just as many people have settled in Scotland and make a huge contribution here. They're just as Scottish as people who left. I was born and brought up in Scotland, and have been here all my life. Those who have chosen to live here are just as Scottish as I am.

It's been claimed the Homecoming celebrations have too strong a focus on appealing to a North American audience. If that's the case, it wouldn't make very good business sense. We have many people around the world who feel some attachment to Scotland. Our oldest allies, after all, are the French. Why shouldn't

we interest them in coming to a country that has some affinity with them? And the 'auld enemy', England, is the country most like ours, and the one we've lived with since the island existed. We've just completed some survey work in England. Guess who they see as the people they have most in common with? The Scots. England is our biggest neighbour and our biggest market.

Concerns have also been expressed about the way Homecoming relates to Scottish nationalism. There is, in my mind, very little link between a lack of understanding in Scotland of our own history and a rise in the popularity of political nationalism. I know that some say that we have neglected our history, but there's also the view that we became obsessed by it. Nationalism has developed for 'political' reasons. Over the last 30 years, we've needed more self-government, reflected in our growing sense of being first Scottish, but also British. Ours is not an 'ethnic' nationalism in which some people don't have the correct culture or skin colour, and so are not 'one of us'. It's 'civic', in that you can be a Scot by aspiration, by residence, and, of course, voting for our Scottish Parliament. There has been a growing 'cultural' sense of being Scottish – music, literature, the arts – but people's sense of being Scottish is not directly linked to their political or constitutional preferences.

*Continued page 16, column 3.*

Continued from page 14

## We've become more sophisticated in our national identity over the last 30 years ... The modern Scot is now pretty sniffy about traditional Highlandism

We have become more sophisticated and confident in our national identity over the last 20 or 30 years. The White Heather Club, Andy Stewart and Moira Anderson sit uncomfortably with the modern Scot. But what's being marketed by Homecoming now is very much an incarnation of that. The modern Scot is pretty sniffy about this traditional Highlandism in a way that was not the case in the 1950s.

While I understand that Homecoming should be celebratory, there is also danger of becoming triumphalist. We've long suffered from what I call the Burns Supper School of Scottish History, which tends to be based on a form of ethnic conceit – here's tae us, wha's like us? There's a risk of that being perpetuated by Homecoming.

A significant gesture would be to remember some of the darker elements of Scottish history by extending an invitation to Homecoming to Caribbean populations, many of whom bear Scottish names. The role of Scots in the slave plantations in the Caribbean at the height of Empire needs to be aired and discussed. But again, that's missing. We don't need to carry out a public act of contrition for what our ancestors did but we could demonstrate that a mature nation is prepared to look at its past, warts and all.

Indeed, one of the bizarre aspects of Scotland since the mid-20th century has been the amnesia about Empire until recent years. In

the 1960s and 1970s the Scot preferred the role of victim. It was in this period that John Prebble's books were the most popular form of historical literature in Scotland – Culloden, the Highland Clearances, the Darien Disaster – all concentrating on Scottish disasters, the chip on the shoulder and victimhood. But even the most superficial understanding of our role in Empire would conclude that we were the colonisers, not the colonised!

How could we inform Scots about the realities, and help forge a more balanced view of our diasporic role? The teaching of Scottish history in our schools needs to better capture the tension between our national history and the wider European and world history.

Ironically this comes back to Homecoming, because the Scottish Diaspora is a way of linking Scotland to the rest of the globe. Our worldwide impact could be used as a route from the national story into the international story. One of my recent books, *Scotland's Empire: 1600 – 1815* (2003) was about the global reach of the Scots during the early two centuries of imperialism. But in order to write it I had to read widely in the historiography of the USA, Canada, Australasia and India during that period, before I could even start to locate the Scottish factor in the story.

It would be impossible to write a general study of modern Scotland today without stressing the interconnection with Empire and diaspora. The effect of Empire was so profound in the making of this country; every part of Scottish life was penetrated by it. That tells us that it's false to end our national story where the land ends."

*Professor Tom Devine is the Sir William Fraser Professor of Scottish History and Palaeography, Director of the Scottish Centre of Diaspora Studies and Head of the School of History, Classics and Archaeology. The Scottish Centre for Diaspora Studies was established in Spring 2008 to advance historical enquiry into the subject. For more information visit [www.shc.ed.ac.uk/centres/scdt/about.htm](http://www.shc.ed.ac.uk/centres/scdt/about.htm)*

Continued from page 15

There is also an accusation that Homecoming celebrates 'Scottishness' by employing artificial symbols and paraphernalia. But lots of our favourite cultural institutions – kilts, haggis, tartan, even golf – we borrowed from other people and made our own. Borrowing is fine, as long as we don't think we have sole rights over things, or more dangerously, that only certain kinds of people have the right to use them. Back in the 1990s I wrote a book about Scottish heritage. It convinced me that Scottish was a matter of doing, rather than being; in other words, most folk don't get terribly precious about heritage. I remember talking to an old man who had set up the Tartan Society. "Wear what you like," he said. "The great thing about tartan is that it's very flexible; it can be re-invented."

Homecoming represents an opportunity to raise awareness of Scots' cultural history and impact on the world. We have a huge advantage that globally people know of us and our culture. 'The brand' works. We shouldn't exaggerate it any more than we should deplore it. It's out there whether we like it or not. At times, though, I think we suffer from the 'dearie me' factor: the belief that somehow we're not doing it right, or no good will come of it, or we'll pay for it in the long run. Of course, we should do our best, and not inadvertently damage our culture. But cultures are amazingly robust. They'll be here long after we're gone.

A celebration of Scotland's heritage, culture and national identity can truly engage Scots about their own history if it's undertaken with good humour. We don't take kindly to being preached at, least of all by academics. Don't turn it into a battleground about what is the right and wrong way to do it. Looking back over the last 50 years, I'm cheered with how far we've come in terms of our culture and national identity. We are a people of many opinions, a lot of them contrary and self-contradictory. That's the Scottish way. If it's your way, then you're one of us."

*David McCrone is Professor of Sociology, and co-director of the University of Edinburgh's Institute of Governance, which he co-founded in 1997. Along with Frank Bechofer, he has been working on issues of national identity in Scotland and England since the early 1990s, most notably in the context of constitutional change.*

*Interviews by Chris Small.*

*Illustrations by Lucy McCrick. Lucy is a final-year student at Edinburgh College of Art ([www.illustrating-lucy.com](http://www.illustrating-lucy.com)).*

*If you would like to respond to this article, email [bulletin@ed.ac.uk](mailto:bulletin@ed.ac.uk)*



### About Homecoming

Homecoming Scotland 2009 is a project that aims to celebrate Scotland's contributions to the world. Events throughout the year will mark the 250th anniversary of Robert Burns' birth, honour famous Scots, innovations and achievements, and explore our culture and heritage overall. Homecoming is an initiative of the Scottish Government managed by Event Scotland in partnership with Visit Scotland. The University will be hosting a special event on St Andrew's Day (30 November) to mark the year of Homecoming. For more information, visit [www.homecomingscotland.com](http://www.homecomingscotland.com)



# people news

## New Vice-Principal appointed

A new Vice-Principal has been appointed to focus on improving the quality of the student experience at the University.

Professor Dai Hounsell is the new Vice-Principal for Academic Enhancement. He will oversee learning and teaching, and support and coordinate initiatives by staff across the University's three Colleges and 21 Schools. An initial priority will be enhancing student assessment and feedback, which has been highlighted in recent surveys as an area of concern.

Professor Hounsell holds a Personal Chair in Higher Education and was the founding Director of the University's Centre for Teaching, Learning and Assessment. He is a Fellow of the Society for Research in Higher Education and an acknowledged expert on the influence of assessment and feedback on the quality of students' learning.

"This is an exciting challenge," said Professor Hounsell. "The quality of our students' experiences at Edinburgh are of the utmost importance, and I and my colleagues across the University look forward to ensuring that those experiences meet the highest standards."



- Professor Hounsell will work closely with Dr Susan Rigby, a Senior Lecturer in the School of GeoSciences, who has a strong track record in developing undergraduate and postgraduate teaching.

Dr Rigby is to be designated Assistant Principal – Taught Postgraduate Courses.

## Lecturer in Rabbit Medicine appointed

The popularity of rabbits as pets has led to a post for a lecturer dedicated to rabbit medicine being established.

Brigitte Reusch has taken up the role as lecturer in Rabbit Medicine and Surgery at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.

Reusch, who has several years' experience in treating rabbits, will also run a dedicated rabbit clinic at the School's Hospital for Small Animals as part of its Exotic Animal and Wildlife Service.

Reusch (pictured below with Franz, her pet Belgian hare) said there was a lot of misinformation about how to keep rabbits in optimum health. Illnesses that often affect



rabbits include dental and digestive diseases, which can potentially be fatal.

"Many people are deciding to have rabbits as house pets as this fits in better with their busy working lives than having other pets," Reusch said.



### FEDERATION ROLE FOR NEUROSCIENTIST

Professor Sergio Della Sala (Human Cognitive Neuroscience, Psychology) has been elected President of the Federation of the European Societies of Neuropsychology (ESN). The Federation has more than 7,000 members belonging to national societies of cognitive neuroscience, neuropsychology, or behavioural neurology from 15 European countries.

### DOUBLE HONOURS IN FINE ART

Richard Thomson, Watson Gordon Professor of Fine Art at the University, was appointed Slade Professor of Fine Art at the University of Oxford for 2008 – 2009. Professor Thomson's Slade Lectures at Oxford were given between January and March 2009, following Robert Hillenbrand's Slade Lectures at Cambridge, delivered last autumn. Professor Hillenbrand retired from teaching Fine Art at the University of Edinburgh in December 2007 after a distinguished career.

### VOLTAIRE FELLOWSHIP FOR PROFESSOR OF FRENCH

Emeritus Professor John Renwick, Honorary Fellow in French at the University of Edinburgh, was elected a Research Fellow of the Voltaire Foundation in the University of Oxford in November. The appointment follows the election in spring 2008 of Professor Renwick to the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

news in brief...news in brief...news in brief...news in brief...news in brief...

## Role play



**Name:** Janet Craig

**Role:** Occupational Health Manager

**Department:** Occupational Health Unit, Health and Safety Department

### What is your role at the University?

To manage the unit and ensure we can offer good advice on matters relating to health and employment while keeping up to date with legislation and good practice, thereby enabling all staff to look after their health and wellbeing.

### Why does the University need someone to do your job?

People make an organisation and people who are cared for and healthy in general terms tend to do a better job and stay with an employer for longer. Where we make a difference I would hope that the employee has a better job and is able to work for the organisation longer, so occupational good health makes good business sense for the employee and employer.

### What essential qualities and skills does a person need to do your job?

Life experience and people skills mainly but you need to be an experienced, qualified nurse with specialist qualifications in occupational health and empathy with the organisation and its people.

### What are the best elements of your job?

Influencing change, and contact with people who are in genuine need – knowing that you can make a difference. This also gives a huge insight into what is really happening in the organisation.

### And the worst . . . ?

Not being utilised when there is a definite need to be, or not being heard in instances where the offered advice would appear to make a positive influence if implemented.

### In another life, what job would you do?

Something in the sunshine, perhaps teaching adolescents and influencing the employees of tomorrow!

If you would like to nominate yourself or a colleague for this slot, please email [bulletin@ed.ac.uk](mailto:bulletin@ed.ac.uk)

## Theologian scoops Templeton Award

University of Edinburgh lecturer Dr Paul Nimmo has been recognised as one of the most promising young theologians in the world. In January he was awarded a 2009 John Templeton Award for Theological Promise for his work on the ethics of the Swiss theologian Karl Barth.



Dr Nimmo, who was appointed lecturer in theology last June, will receive a prize of \$10,000 plus additional funds of up to \$10,000 to pay for public lectures at universities and other educational institutions around the world.

He will be presented with the prize at an awards ceremony at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, in May.

Established in 2005, the John Templeton Award for Theological Promise is given annually for the best doctoral thesis or best first book related to the topic God and Spirituality.

Dr Nimmo's award was in recognition of his recent book *Being in Action: The Theological Shape of Barth's Ethical Vision*, which arose out of his doctoral research carried out at Edinburgh.

## Physiotherapist to head team at Delhi Games

Lindsay Thomson, FASIC staff member at the University's Centre for Sport and Exercise, has been selected as Head Physiotherapist for Scotland's Commonwealth Games Team in Delhi in 2010.



Lindsay has built up extensive experience of working with elite athletes across a range of major sports events. Delhi will be her third Commonwealth Games, having previously served with the Scotland medical team in Melbourne 2006 and Manchester 2002.

Lindsay's appointment came as FASIC celebrated its 20th anniversary, in February. For more information about the CSE visit [www.sport.ed.ac.uk](http://www.sport.ed.ac.uk)

## Book on cinema impact wins international prize

Professor Laura Marcus, of the University of Edinburgh's School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures, has won an international award for her book, which looks at the impact of early cinema on literature and culture.



The 2008 James Russell Lowell Prize was awarded to Professor Marcus for *The Tenth Muse: Writing about Cinema in the Modernist Period*, published by Oxford University Press.

The prize selection committee described Professor Marcus's book as an "eye-opening interdisciplinary work of extraordinary depth, range, scholarship, and imagination".

Professor Marcus, the first British-based recipient of the prestigious accolade, is Regius Professor of Rhetoric and English Literature at the University. The prize adds to her previous awards, from Yale University, the British Academy, the Arts and Humanities Research Council, and the Leverhulme Trust.

The Lowell Prize was presented to Professor Marcus on 28 December in San Francisco during the Modern Language Association's annual convention, the world's largest meeting of language and literature scholars.

## Manager recognised for procurement excellence

Andy Kordiak, Equipment Procurement Manager at the College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine, won the Individual Award for procurement excellence in the 2008 Scottish Government Opportunities Awards.



The Individual Award recognises the contribution one person can make towards delivering savings, increasing efficiency or pioneering innovation.

The awards were made at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Glasgow, on 29 October last year. The University had a total of four finalists competing in the awards.

For more information visit [govopps.co.uk/awardscotland/winners.htm](http://govopps.co.uk/awardscotland/winners.htm)



## Appointment bolsters motor neurone disease research

Motor neurone disease research at the University of Edinburgh has been boosted with the appointment of a director to lead the centre investigating the illness. Dr Siddharthan Chandran, currently a consultant neurologist at Cambridge University, will head the Euan MacDonal Centre for Motor Neurone Disease Research, leading work to understand why motor neurones – cells that control voluntary muscle activity such as walking and breathing – break down.

The centre, set up following a generous donation from Euan MacDonal, who has motor neurone disease, and his father Donald (pictured above right, with Euan middle and Chandran left), incorporates expertise in regenerative medicine and stem cell research, neuroscience and genetics.

Chandran said: "I am delighted to be coming to the University of Edinburgh, which has a long tradition of world-class stem cell biology and has made a strategic commitment to regenerative medicine.

"Motor neurone disease is a debilitating and presently untreatable disorder. The Centre's mission is to undertake laboratory and clinical research that leads to new therapies. Our research includes looking at stem cells, which represent a terrific opportunity to both study and learn about the disease as well as potentially develop new drugs and treatments."

Chandran will also establish a specialist multidisciplinary motor neurone disease clinic in Edinburgh. He is due to take up his new post in the summer.

## Leverhulme accolades for University research staff

Three young researchers from the University of Edinburgh have been recognised as among the most promising of their generation. Dr Jared Tanner of the School of Mathematics, Dr Paul Palmer of the School of GeoSciences and Dr Jill Burke of the School of Arts, Culture and Environment, have each been awarded a Philip Leverhulme Prize, which grants each winner £70,000 to further their studies.

Dr Tanner's work helps to improve the accuracy of techniques such as MRI scanning, data processing and statistical modelling. He intends to use his award to improve the accuracy of such technologies.

Dr Palmer studies chemical changes in gases in the atmosphere that are linked to climate

change. He uses data from satellites, a new approach that produces more accurate results than conventional methods. He will use his Leverhulme award to strengthen links between his research group and its global collaborators.

Dr Burke is an expert in Italian renaissance art. She plans to write a book, with the working title *The Renaissance Nude: Nakedness in Italy from Donatello to Michelangelo*, which will examine the changing concept of the nude in Italian art from 1400 to 1550.

Recipients of Philip Leverhulme prizes are usually individuals under the age of 36 who have made an exceptional contribution to their area of study, and are expected to continue to do so.

## research updates

### NEW RESEARCH FUNDING SERVICE

A new research funding service for all members of the University has been launched. ResearchProfessional is a website that enables users to search for suitable research funding opportunities. The new service comes from ResearchResearch, providers of the University's previous research funding service, ResearchResearch.com. Through its improved search function, Research Professional aims to save time, making it invaluable for researchers.

Hamish Macandrew, Head of Research Support and Development at Edinburgh Research and Innovation (ERI), said: "One of the criticisms often levelled against customisable databases is that they are only capable of simple searches which generate large quantities of irrelevant material. ResearchProfessional offers a step-change here with a much more intelligent selection tool. It beautifully complements the new and complex world of multidisciplinary research."

For further information, contact: Dr Sarah Anderson, ERI, Tel: 0131 650 9034, Email: sarah.anderson@ed.ac.uk

### ERI COURSES LAUNCHED

Edinburgh Research and Innovation, Transkills and the Corporate Human Resource's Researcher Development Programme have combined to deliver a new programme of courses that aims to give all researchers here the best possible knowledge of research funding sources and how to make successful applications. The Integrated University of Edinburgh Research Funding Event Programme was launched at the beginning of January.

There are three separate courses. Course 1, **An introduction to research funding**, is aimed at second- and third-year PhDs, new post-docs, and administrators with little or no experience of funding landscape; Course 2, **External research funding for early to mid-career researchers**, is geared towards research staff with some knowledge of the grant application process; and Course 3, **Funding opportunities for established researchers**, is aimed at senior academic staff who would like to sustain and refresh their knowledge of the current funding landscape.

Details of the programme can be found at [www.eri.ed.ac.uk/events/researchfunding.html](http://www.eri.ed.ac.uk/events/researchfunding.html)

# appointments

**A selection of honorary professorships and other appointments made in the past six months.**



## Honorary Professors

Individuals conferred Honorary Professorships or Fellowships are non-staff members who are of sufficiently high academic distinction that, were they employees of the University of Edinburgh, they would be credible candidates for the award of a Personal Chair.

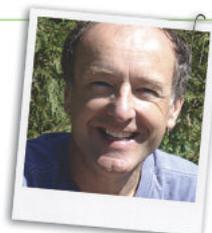
## Personal Chairs

Academics appointed as Personal Chairs are members of University staff who have been awarded the title through promotion.



**Professor Gary Entrican, Honorary Professor**  
Professor Gary Entrican, Immunology Leader at Moredun Research Institute, has been appointed

Honorary Professor at the University. He graduated with BSc Honours in Immunology at the University of Glasgow. He also conducted his PhD in Immunology at University of Glasgow, investigating immune responses to parasite infections. He then moved to Edinburgh to take up a three-year post-doctoral position at the Moredun Research Institute, studying immune responses to viral infection in sheep. At the end of the project he took up a Core Research position at Moredun, focussing on immune regulation and cytokine biology in sheep with specific reference to chlamydial abortion, a disease that causes major losses in sheep flocks across the UK. His work has led to several commercial products, diagnostic tests for diseases of sheep and cattle, and is being expanded through competitive grant acquisition, most of which are with colleagues at University of Edinburgh.



**Peter Lansdorp, Honorary Professor**  
Peter Lansdorp received an MD from the Erasmus University in Rotterdam and a PhD from the University of

Amsterdam. He moved to Vancouver, Canada, in 1985, where he has worked on monoclonal antibodies and developmental aspects of the hematopoietic system as well as the purification of hematopoietic stem cells. He developed monoclonal antibodies and quantitative fluorescence in situ hybridisation techniques for these studies that continue to be in widespread use. He is a Professor at the University of British Columbia and a staff scientist at the Terry Fox Laboratory of the BC Cancer Research Institute. His research interests include the role of telomeres/ telomerase in stem cell biology and cancer;

and the differentiation of sister chromatids in relation to cell fate. He is currently a visiting Professor at the MRC Centre for Regenerative Medicine, Institute for Stem Cell Research (ISCR) at the University of Edinburgh.



**Professor Marilyn Booth, Iraq Chair of Arabic and Islamic Studies**

Dr Booth is a graduate of Harvard-Radcliffe College at Harvard University

(BA, Summa Cum Laude, 1978) and St Antony's College at Oxford University (DPhil, Modern Arabic Literature and Modern Middle East History, 1985), where she also held the Joanna Randall McIver Junior Research Fellowship (St Hugh's College). She is the author of *Bayram al-Tunisi's Egypt: Social Criticism and Narrative Strategies* and *May Her Likes Be Multiplied: Biography and Gender Politics in Egypt*, as well as numerous published essays on Arabic literature and gender. She has translated more than a dozen novels, memoirs from the Arabic, and works from Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Dr Booth has received two translation prizes and many fellowships, including the Fulbright Senior Scholar Fellowship. She taught at the University of Illinois from 2003 to 2008. She has also taught at Brown University and American University in Cairo.



**Professor Hugh Goddard, Director of the HRH Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World**

Professor Goddard studied Islamic History in the Faculty of Oriental Studies in Oxford, under Albert Hourani, and then, after two years in the Middle East, took his PhD in Christian-Muslim Relations in the Department of Theology in the University of Birmingham. He taught Islamic Studies for three years at the College of

# obituary

## Alex Doig (1922-2008)

St Paul and St Mary in Cheltenham, and then in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies in the University of Nottingham, where he became Professor of Christian-Muslim Relations in 2005. As well as time spent in the Middle East and a number of western countries, he visited South Asia (Pakistan and India), West Africa (Nigeria), South-East Asia (Malaysia and Indonesia) and Central Asia (Uzbekistan and Kirghistan), in order to investigate the dynamics of Christian-Muslim relations. His books include *A History of Christian-Muslim Relations* (2000), and he has written many articles on different aspects of Christian-Muslim Relations globally.



**Ronald Pethig,**  
Professor of  
Bio-electronics,  
the School of  
Engineering and  
Electronics

Before his appointment at

Edinburgh Professor Ronald Pethig held a Research Chair at the School of Electronic Engineering, Bangor University. From 2000 to 2003 he was seconded as Vice-President (Technology) to Aura BioSystems Inc, located in San Jose, California. Prior to this he was Director of the Institute of Molecular and Biomolecular Electronics at Bangor. He holds a PhD and DSc in Electrical Engineering, awarded by Southampton University, as well as a PhD in Chemistry from Nottingham University. In 1982 he was elected a Corporation Member of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, and since 2006 has held an appointment as Senior Adjunct Scientist there. His research objectives are directed towards developing generic tools, based on dielectrophoresis and related electrokinetic effects, for applications in drug discovery, toxicology and cell therapy.

**William (Bill) Rees, Chair in Financial Analysis, University of Edinburgh Business School**

Professor Bill Rees's previous appointment was as Director of the University of Amsterdam Business School, where he guided



the school through its initial European Quality Improvement System (EQUIS) accreditation. Apart from working at various British universities, including

the universities of Strathclyde and Glasgow, Bill has held visiting appointments at Universities in Australia, Argentina, the Netherlands, Spain and the United States. He has published research papers dealing with investment analysis, corporate finance and international accounting and is author of *Financial Analysis*, now in its second edition. His current research includes the impact of dividends on company valuation, measuring strategic advantage, identifying stock market bubbles and estimating the cost of capital. He holds a PhD from the University of Glasgow.



**Professor Pauline Weetman, Chair in Accounting, University of Edinburgh Business School**

Professor Pauline Weetman has

pursued an academic career in accounting for over 30 years. Following a chemistry degree from the University of Oxford, she qualified as a chartered accountant in Edinburgh, gaining the gold medal of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland. She has held professorial appointments at the Universities of Stirling, Heriot-Watt, Strathclyde and Glasgow. She received the distinguished academic award of the British Accounting Association in 2005 and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Professor Weetman's introductory textbook in financial and management accounting, published by Pearson, is now in its fourth edition and she is joint author of a further Pearson book on comparative corporate reporting. She has long-established connections with the accountancy profession, including convening the examining board of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland and continuing as a member of its Accounting Standards Committee.



Alex Doig, who worked as a Projectionist and Audio Visual Technician in Audio Visual Services from 1968 until his retirement in 1987, died in December, aged 86.

Alex was well known

during his 19 years at the University and worked as a projectionist at many high profile presentations over that time. He was a perfectionist and took great care to ensure that the events went without a hitch.

Alex also worked as a projectionist for the Edinburgh International Film Festival and the great American director John Huston insisted that Alex was the projectionist when his films were being screened. Alex must have made quite an impression on Huston as he even got a mention in his autobiography. He had a great knowledge of cinema, which may have inspired his choice of career and perhaps explains why he enjoyed his work so much.

He was initially part of a small group of technicians whose work was eventually brought into the wider Audio Visual department of the University. There he gained the support and friendship of a larger group of colleagues.

On his retirement, Alex maintained contact with his many friends at the University and it did not surprise any of us to discover that soon after 'retiring' he was back working as a part-time projectionist for the Lister Postgraduate Institute, a position he maintained for several years.

Alex had a strong sense of duty that showed in his work as well as his personal life, but he also had a great sense of humour. He often found time for practical jokes, which he could take as readily as he could give out. I recall one time he collected the contents of as many paper punches as he could find to fill a colleague's umbrella. The delayed joke was a speciality.

Alex will be remembered as someone who could always be relied upon, who endeared himself to one and all by his courtesy, his good humour and his professionalism. Although, sadly, he had mobility problems towards the end of his life, he was as alert as ever, and I, for one, can still see the twinkle in his eye. It is good to know it never left him.

Tom Fairnie

# Spot the difference

**W**ould you like the chance to win a small but undeniably exciting prize from the University gift shop? If you would, take five minutes to complete our spot the difference puzzle. Compare the two pictures here of the new Informatics Forum. The image on the right differs to the one on the left. Circle the differences and send in your answer. You're looking for five differences. A prize draw will take place on Thursday 30 April and the winner will be notified by email.

Send your answers and email address to:

**Competitions, Bulletin, Communications & Marketing, 48 Pleasance, Edinburgh EH8 4TJ**



# Word search

**T**ry our new word search challenge and you could win another coveted item of University merchandise. There are 25 words or phrases (not including apostrophes) relating to the University of Edinburgh hidden in the grid. See right for clues. Mark the words on the grid and return it to us, including your email address, at the address above. A prize draw will be held on Thursday 30 April.

S I N F O R M A T I C S F O R U M  
 V L E A D U N J A M E S V I E R O  
 I O A L O S A B L E T K G Y C I J  
 S G L I L S T A B M A R O H T Y A  
 I E N P L E R T O C H E C T O R M  
 T N G O Y L A S T E N A K H R J E  
 O E O T T L T E R W E H S T I O S  
 R R L T H G I G I A N I W R A D T  
 C A D E E R O E C N R G E U L A A  
 E L E R S O W L E H O G R T E E I  
 N C N R H U T L C A T S C H L U T  
 T O B O E P H O H L E B S U E C B  
 R U O W E S Q C A L V O T E C L L  
 E N Y N P Y U D B E K S R O T I A  
 N C S E N C D L E K C O F F I D C  
 T I L M E B I O T K I N T G O R K  
 I L M A X W E L L S D E M O N N E

### CLUES

- Award-winning new building in Crichton Street
- The recent vote for senior university official
- The University's literary awards
- Supercomputer based at Edinburgh
- Its foundation stone was laid in 1789
- Alumnus and Olympic cyclist
- Group of research-intensive universities
- First adult animal to be cloned
- Gallery in Old College
- He granted the University's Royal Charter
- The Large Hadron Collider was built to find this particle
- Buy your University merchandise here
- Edinburgh's position as a world-leading research university was confirmed by these recently
- University graduates are members of this council
- He's perched atop the Old College dome
- Edinburgh's biggest student nightclub
- Author of *On the Origin of Species*
- Acronym for the University's sports centre
- Traditional venue for graduations
- Affectionate name for School of Veterinary Medicine
- University Principal and Vice Chancellor
- A thought experiment conducted in 1867
- Learn a foreign language here
- Launched in 2008, in red, blue and white
- Edinburgh University Complete Lifecycle Integrated Development

# noticeboard

It costs £5 to advertise in *bulletin*, which is published three times a year. You can also advertise in the monthly *ebulletin*, for a cost of £2.50.

Please email your ad, maximum of 30 words, to [small.ads@ed.ac.uk](mailto:small.ads@ed.ac.uk) and send a cheque payable to the University of Edinburgh to Small Ads, Communications and Marketing, 48 Pleasance, Edinburgh EH8 9TJ.

Only current members of staff and students are eligible to place an ad.

Ads are accepted in good faith and *bulletin* can not be held responsible for inaccuracies in, or problems caused by any ad.

## To let (holiday/short term)

One-bedroom, central, self-catering apartments in Edinburgh city centre. Ideal for business or short stays. Please contact [www.edinburghcentrallets.co.uk](http://www.edinburghcentrallets.co.uk) for availability and prices. Deals available.

## To let

Sunny two-bedroom traditional Marchmont flat, sleeps 1-6 people for short lets, 3 days to 5 months. Perfect for Edinburgh University. Close to Meadows, amenities, visitor attractions & festival venues. [www.marchmontselfcatering.co.uk](http://www.marchmontselfcatering.co.uk)  
Contact Sue, 01875 830282 or 07738 290384,  
[info@marchmontselfcatering.co.uk](mailto:info@marchmontselfcatering.co.uk)

## Holiday let – Scotland

**Luxurious** holiday cottage in Milovaig, west coast of Skye. Take the opportunity to enjoy this renovated croft house completed in November 2008 to very high specifications. Currently applying for tourist board five star rating. £400 per week. See [www.cottageskye.co.uk](http://www.cottageskye.co.uk), tel 0780 301 3890 or email [daniela.mccafferty@ed.ac.uk](mailto:daniela.mccafferty@ed.ac.uk)

**Ben View Cottage** is situated in the picturesque village of Grantown-on-Spey in the Scottish Highlands. A charming traditional granite two-bedroom cottage located 12 miles north of Aviemore in village of Grantown-on-Spey with accommodation for four, ideally located in the centre with easy access the local shops and restaurants. Discounted rates available for UoE staff. See [www.ben-view.co.uk/index.htm](http://www.ben-view.co.uk/index.htm) for details/photos or email: [info@ben-view.co.uk](mailto:info@ben-view.co.uk)

**Charming** traditional granite 2-bedroom cottage located 14 miles north of Aviemore in village of Grantown-on-Spey. Cottage lies within easy reach of all local amenities, forest walks, golf courses and River Spey. Discounted rates available for University staff. See [www.ben-view.co.uk/index.htm](http://www.ben-view.co.uk/index.htm) for details/photos or email [info@ben-view.co.uk](mailto:info@ben-view.co.uk)

**Boat of Garten (near Aviemore).** Woodland Lodge, 4 star. Sleeps 10-12, wood-burning stove. Plasma TV cinema system. Free leisure club. Golf, skiing, woodland walks, steam railway. [www.scotlandcottages.uk.com](http://www.scotlandcottages.uk.com) or 0141 776 6052.

## Holiday let

**Austria:** family-owned traditional chalet, 75min drive SE of Salzburg (or 150min drive from Edinburgh's budget flight to Munich). Well equipped for all seasons, in a south-facing rural setting with beautiful views at 1000m in the Dachstein mountains. Sleeps 10+, CH and DG. Pay in pounds for good value in Europe! See [www.mirlhofchalet.co.uk](http://www.mirlhofchalet.co.uk)  
Tel 0131 447 2231/0165187 2889 or email [Robwrate@googlemail.com](mailto:Robwrate@googlemail.com)

**Cyprus:** apartment for rent. Brand-new, fully furnished 2-bedroom flat sleeping 4 in Peyia (Paphos region of Cyprus). Apartment on small complex with shared pool. Stunning views of coastline. Prices from £250 per week. For further information contact [n.a.philp@btinternet.com](mailto:n.a.philp@btinternet.com) or telephone 07866 783352.

## Wanted – short let

Small flat required for visiting academic from 1 July – 14 September 2009. City centre / Western General Hospital area preferred, but anything considered.  
Contact Terri Lindsay:  
[t.lindsay@ed.ac.uk](mailto:t.lindsay@ed.ac.uk)  
tel 0131 537 1991.



Signed University of Edinburgh class cards belonging to Charles Darwin. The natural philosopher was a medical student at the University between 1825 and 1827. See feature, page 8.  
© The University of Edinburgh Collections Division