

Sheffield  
Hallam  
University

# Review

Spring 2015



**Who will get the keys  
to power on 7 May?**

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# Welcome to Review

## **Welcome to the Spring 2015 edition of Review, the Sheffield Hallam University magazine.**

As the General Election looms, we got some of our politics academics and students together to debate the key issues that might have an impact on the outcome of the vote. It's widely acknowledged to be the most open General Election in living memory, with no one Party leading the polls. Read more about their thoughts on pages 4–6.

We also talk to University experts about the current housing crisis, and what needs to be done by those in power after May to address the big issues facing first-time buyers, the expensive rental sector, and the shortage of new homes. You can read more on this on pages 8–9.

Engineers from the Centre for Sports Engineering Research have again been working with daredevil speed fanatic Guy Martin for his Channel 4 television series SPEED with Guy Martin. This time they built him a soapbox-style gravity racer in an attempt to smash another world speed record. Find out how they got on, on pages 10–11.

We also have more news on our programme of World War I lectures on pages 22–23, and the academics involved shed some light on the impact the Great War has had on current political hotspots across the world, in particular the Middle East.

After an amazing 2014 which saw us sponsor the Tour de France Grand Départ, 2015 will be the year in which much of our recent investment into our estate and facilities is realised.

The award-winning new £27million Heart of the Campus building is now open, providing a new home for law, psychology, politics and sociology students. It's also home to our new Helena Kennedy Centre for International Justice, which opened in January – more on that on pages 18–19.

The Sheffield Institute of Arts will move into a refurbished Grade II listed building in the city centre at the end of the year, providing inspiration for our art and design students. And the new Charles Street development will also open, becoming a stunning new home for the Sheffield Institute of Education. It's all happening in 2015!

There's much more in this edition, including details of our new honorary doctors who took to the City Hall stage to collect their awards alongside our 2014 graduates.

Enjoy the read and as always, feedback is very welcome – drop us a line at [review@shu.ac.uk](mailto:review@shu.ac.uk) with any questions or comments.

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*The General Election is looming and opinions are divided on who is likely to win. With the help of politics lecturers and students, we look at some of the key issues affecting the region.*

# X marks the spot

*By Nicole Kelly*

Political power is up for grabs after five years of a Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition. Inspired by a recent European Union field trip to Brussels, politics lecturers Alan McGauley, Andy Price and Jon Dean, plus students Cat Cutmore, Tom Harpham and Ross Claydon-Mullins shine some light on what we might expect from the 2015 general election.

**Some students feel let down by the Liberal Democrats' 'broken promise' on tuition fees. Do you think students have become disillusioned by politics?**

**Jon Dean:** There seems to be a greater awareness amongst students of political issues, and a better understanding of the deep-lying structural inequalities which exist in the UK, but students seem vaguely turned off by the idea that the traditional parties are best placed to sort these out. Nick Clegg's broken pledge will have the disastrous consequence of reducing trust in politicians and elected officials. This allows parties like UKIP, who are not offering anything of value to UK students, to gain traction for the mere reason they offer something 'different'.

**Tom Harpham:** Students have always been, and will continue to be, engaged with politics. You only have to look to the hype around Russell Brand and his campaigns for social change and drug legalisation to see that young people are still interested in politics. Social media has been revolutionary for young people's engagement in politics. It has given this generation the platform to debate politics, campaign and enact social change on a scale that has never been seen before.

**Has Labour squandered its opportunity to be a true party of opposition?**

**Andy Price:** No, I don't think they have. The irony is that despite being fronted by one of the most unpopular leaders the Labour Party has ever had, they are still in the running in the upcoming election. The general distaste for politics in general, the complete fall from grace of the Lib Dems post-tuition fees, and the fact that the Tory party is being assailed from all sides has meant that Labour are looking relatively sane.

**Cat Cutmore:** Labour has been widely perceived as weak, doing little to counter policies and propose their own. This is in no small part down to the leadership of Ed Miliband, who from the start has failed to establish himself as a force in politics. Labour has squandered its opportunity to be the true party of opposition by repeatedly taking weak stances against coalition policies such as the bedroom tax, the creeping privatisation of the National Health Service, free schools and the tightening of immigration rules. They have not hammered home policies of importance to the public such as the cost of living and increasing energy prices, but instead presented vague economic plans which have had little impact on voters.

*Continued...*



*Andy Price, Tom Harpham, Ross Claydon Mullins, Alan McGauley and Cat Cutmore.*

**Would Labour stand a better chance in the 2015 election if they got rid of Ed Miliband now?**

**Andy Price:** If he can be brave and choose policies that will counter the austerity drive of the Coalition, I think there is a real opportunity for him to position Labour to the left of the mainstream, and make a genuine appeal to the large section of the population that is tired of five years of austerity – a golden opportunity. However there are very few who dare to take risks, especially on economic policy.

**Ross Claydon Mullins:** I believe Miliband speaks a lot of sense, and the policies he proposes would improve the UK for the majority. However, Ed is always going to be hindered by the fact that people think he looks and sounds weird. This doesn't mean to say that they should remove him from his post. I think he deserves a shot, because he has done a lot for the Labour Party, and who knows, people don't like Cameron, so they might hate Miliband a little less?

**What impact could the rise of UKIP have on Sheffield and the region?**

**Alan McGauley:** The rise of UKIP in South Yorkshire has been concentrated in key seats such as Rotherham. Its impact in Sheffield has been limited to three council seats around Stockbridge and Ecclesfield. The first-past-the-post system in British politics is a significant barrier to UKIP making progress in South Yorkshire. Also, general elections tend to focus on economic issues on which UKIP appears to have little coherent to say.

**Ross Claydon Mullins:** Personally, I find the rise of UKIP around the country a very scary prospect. They are a party formed on outdated ideologies, and some of their gaffes have revealed this. As well as immigration, their ideas on schooling, women, homosexuality, tax, the EU and breastfeeding seem to come from the dark ages.

**What will be the legacy of the Coalition Government?**

**Alan McGauley:** The Coalition came into power with a pledge – to reduce the deficit within one term. The deficit in real terms is larger today than in May 2010. Policies of austerity combined with tax cuts for the better off have widened the gap between rich and poor. Policies such as the bedroom tax and the freeze in welfare payments have contributed to changing the political and social landscape of our country and making food banks a feature of all our towns and cities.

**Cat Cutmore:** For the wealthiest in society, the government will undoubtedly leave a positive legacy. The truth is, the current government has not positively affected the lives and prosperity of the majority of people in Britain. Indeed for the poorest in society, their lives are harder. The policy of austerity has not created jobs and wealth for all, as promised, but has instead led to a widespread decline in living standards.

**Do you think devolved powers to England's regions will happen soon? And how could this affect Sheffield?**

**Cat Cutmore:** It is very likely that the issue of greater devolution in Wales will be on the cards for the next government. Recently, a deal was signed with Whitehall that will give local authorities increased power over economic development, transport, skills and housing in Sheffield. This deal is similar to one already signed with Manchester, though for Sheffield it excludes the creation of a Mayoral position. Among the powers introduced will be an Oyster Card system based on London's model to serve public transport in the region, and power over the disposal of public land. It is unclear just how far the devolution debate will go, so Sheffield could see the introduction of even more powers, encompassing greater control over fiscal spending and more say for local government.

**Andy Price:** I think devolution is going to be one of the major political issues throughout the next several parliaments. It really is that big a deal now, and primarily this stems from the general disaffection that we now have across the UK for the Westminster model.

# Vice-Chancellor Announces Retirement

**The University's Vice-Chancellor Professor Philip Jones, has announced his intention to retire in Spring 2016.**

He made the announcement to University staff in January and said: "When I joined Sheffield Hallam in 2007, I set out my ambition us to become a 'top 50 university.' We are well on the way.

"At that point we were 86th in the Sunday Times league table. We are now 62nd and should climb higher in the coming year. Teaching satisfaction was at 76 per cent, it is now 86 per cent. Research quality has improved from 88th to 63rd, whilst we have maintained research power.

"Sheffield Hallam remains one of the biggest universities in the UK and in high demand, with the fourth largest student population – and student satisfaction has risen from 83 per cent to 86 per cent in the National Student Survey this year – a 10 percentage point rise in just five years.

"This is a big decision, and it's been hard. I have loved my time at Sheffield Hallam but in November I shall be 65, and so from a



personal point of view, this feels like a good time to step down.

"I will not be leaving the University until Spring 2016, and there will plenty of time for farewells nearer the time. Until then it is very much 'business as usual' as we work together to secure an exciting and

successful future for our University.

Geoff Dawson, Chair of the Board of Governors paid tribute to Professor Jones' achievements in the role: "Phil's decision to retire comes at a time when Sheffield Hallam is celebrating strong performances in student recruitment, student satisfaction and research performance, and as we are realising an ambitious estates development plan.

"His vision and dedication to the University over the past seven years has secured these achievements across each of the institution's areas of activity. It has been a great journey, and one that he can be rightly proud of.

"He has ensured that our next Vice Chancellor will be able, on the basis of our robust financial and academic foundations, to further realise Sheffield Hallam's ambitions for the future."

## In the heart of the campus

**In October last year, Sheffield Hallam officially opened the doors of its new £27million development at the Collegiate Crescent campus.**

The new Heart of the Campus building features informal meeting spaces, lecture theatres and even a roof-top garden, set on three floors around a main atrium – creating an open and interactive environment for students and academics.

Innovative learning spaces including sensory labs, a courtroom for mock trials and a Faraday cage are being used by students from law, politics, sociology and psychology courses.

The building, which was awarded the 2014 Yorkshire Region Award for Structural Excellence, utilises ground source heat pumps, solar panels and rainwater harvesting to ensure energy efficiency.

In keeping with the theme of 'bringing-the-outdoors-in', designs by local artist, Chris Tipping, decorate the building, drawing inspiration from Collegiate Crescent's heritage as a conservation area when it was once home to a deer park.

Mark Swales, director of estates and facilities said: "Our new Heart of the Campus building gives our students high-quality, innovative teaching and learning facilities. But it also creates a true heart, where students can come together – for informal social gatherings or for more structured learning."





# *Put your house in order*

*Researchers at the University say we need a radical re-think to fix the current housing crisis, and they want to be a part of making it happen.*

*By Laurie Harvey*

The first thing you see when you enter the headquarters of the University's Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research (CRESR) is a framed poster which could have come from an exhibition about brutalist architecture.

'Sky In The Streets: Public space, social housing and city culture' harks back to a research project from the early 1990s that looked at the future of high rise living in developments such as Hyde Park and Park Hill in Sheffield, built to tackle the post-war housing crisis.

Twenty years on, the nation is gripped by a new housing crisis and Professor David Robinson, head of CRESR, is determined to put it centre stage.

He says: "CRESR has always been involved in housing research, but the need to understand what's wrong with the UK housing system and how to fix it is now more pressing than ever".

CRESR has one of the largest teams of specialist housing researchers in the country.

Robinson, a professor in housing, believes they have a key role to play in tackling the

current crisis and points to recent work that has had a tangible impact on housing policy.

Researchers at the centre have worked with the Department for Work and Pensions to understand the effect of changes to housing benefit on tenants and landlords in social and private rented housing.

Professor Ian Cole and PhD student Tom Archer have revealed why major housebuilders are failing to build the number of homes the UK needs. Another project has exposed the consequences of cuts in social housing funding.

Robinson says: "These examples reflect our commitment to understanding and promoting positive change through research. This also includes new and innovative solutions, such as work focusing on low energy housing."

The number of new houses being built is not enough to meet soaring demand, levels of home ownership are falling, and schemes such as Help To Buy have inflated the property market but done little to address the shortfall in supply. Meanwhile, the social rented sector continues to shrink and more and more people are living in

private rented housing. Homelessness is also on the rise.

"Owner-occupation is out-of-reach to many people and first-time buyers are getting older," explains Robinson.

"Many owner-occupiers are hanging on by their fingernails only because interest rates are historically low.

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**"Private renting always used to be a stepping stone, but as more and more people struggle to move into owner-occupation it is becoming a destination tenure. The private rented sector is now larger than social housing for the first time in decades.**

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"The problem with this is that private tenants are usually on six-month tenancies. Families in this situation can't plan for their futures and are vulnerable to the whims of their landlords. Yet the Government don't want to regulate the sector in case they scare off private investors. The insecurities and precariousness of housing need are simply not being addressed by policy."



Robinson has a wish-list for how the crisis can be addressed. He says: "Nobody has yet come up with an efficient and effective alternative to council housing, but it doesn't sit with current ideology. The notion that you invest in good quality housing, which is paid for by tenants through their rent over the long-term is a relatively cheap and viable financial model.

"Currently 90 per cent of public investment in housing goes into housing benefit and only 10 per cent goes into new housing, but you could reverse that.

"Instead, spending 90 per cent on building good quality new housing would see the subsidy for consumption drop away as more and more people live in good quality, low rent housing. But politicians aren't comfortable with the idea of a return to the past."

Devolution could also play a part, Robinson says, with cities or regions getting more say about how money is spent.

"Sheffield or Leeds might make the decision to reverse the spending profile, investing more in building new housing at low rents and less on housing benefit. It'll take

time and will be difficult, but it would be possible if the political will was there.

"Places like Sheffield or Doncaster might also decide to spend more on regenerating or renewing housing. This is more of an issue in the north and tends to be neglected by national policy.

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**"You need to give people in private rented housing the feeling of being at home. Security and the ability to put down roots are incredibly difficult if you're on a six-month tenancy contract. If 10-year tenancies can work in Germany, where they provide security for the landlord and the tenant, why can't they work here?"**

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The centre, first established in 1992, is gearing up for a busy year. Much of the work the team will do will look at the impact of the coalition Government's welfare reforms on housing.

Professor Christina Beatty and Dr Kesia Reeve are commencing a major national study on the links between benefit

sanctions and increasing homelessness, whilst a project with Crisis is exploring innovative solutions for people affected by the cap on housing benefit.

Robinson himself is leading research into the impact of Universal Credit on social tenants and landlords. Results from a survey of 172 social landlords suggest that many landlords are unprepared for the changes and expect them to have a major impact on operations and even threaten their financial stability.

Recognising these challenges, the DWP has invited a member of the centre to serve on an expert panel providing independent advice on the introduction of Universal Credit.

There is work on housing supply, including efforts to bring empty homes back into use, and a project that focuses on housing conditions and, in particular, energy inefficiency.

Robinson himself is in no doubt – whichever Government is in power after the May General Election – tackling Britain's housing crisis will have to be near the top of their to-do list.

*A team of engineering experts from the University have once again helped daredevil speed fanatic and TV star Guy Martin break a world speed record.*

# Terminal velocity

By Ally Mogg

The Centre for Sports Engineering Research has for many years led the way in creating new technology to help elite athletes improve their performance, but recently they've been devoting their expertise to help a speed-obsessed lorry mechanic from Grimsby become a record breaker.

Guy Martin, motorcycle racer and part-time mechanic, has risen to fame in the last few years as the star of two Channel 4 TV series in which he enlists the expertise of UK engineers and scientists to help him break speed records.

A daredevil attitude to going as fast as possible, coupled with his down-to-earth-northern personality has captured the attention of millions of UK viewers who have tuned in to watch him break records in cars, sleds, and on bikes and boats.

Last year a team from CSER helped him break Rolf Allerdissen's world speed record by more than 30kph on a gravity-powered sled that they designed.

This year, North One Television, the production company that make the Speed with Guy Martin series, asked the University to bring together a team of predominantly female engineering experts to work with Guy to design and build another gravity racer.

The brief was to create a vehicle that could be raced on a downhill road, with the intention of going faster than 84.4mph to set a new world record for the fastest speed achieved by this kind of vehicle.

The Sheffield Hallam team was made up of Dr Heather Driscoll, Christina King, Alice



Bullas, Terry Senior (who was also part of the first CSER team that helped Guy break Allerdissen's record) and Dr John Hart.

Dr Heather Driscoll says: "A gravity racer is an un-powered vehicle capable of holding a driver without any form of on-board propulsion, also known as a soapbox or downhill go-kart. While this conjures up images of planks of wood attached to pram wheels, having spent the last four months designing and building one, it's a little more sophisticated!

"There was no official gravity racer world record, so for the Guinness World Records organisation to acknowledge our attempt they set a threshold of 84.4mph, the speed unofficially recorded by the Bodrodz Atomic Splinter in September 2012 in the US.

"We began by looking into the theory and how to use it to optimise our designs.

Starting with a simple model we could see that rolling resistance and aerodynamic drag would slow the racer down, and only gravity would propel it forwards."

Using the engineering facilities at the University, the team came up with a range of different designs before settling on a final format, which took inspiration from the designs of vehicles raced at soapbox derbies.

The design used an optimised aerodynamic shape to reduce drag, with low rolling resistant wheels, superior braking and steering systems.

"Rolling resistance is a measure of energy lost due to the friction between the surface of the wheels and the ground," Heather explains. "It's influenced by a number of factors such as wheel size and tyre pressure, as well as the quality of the road surface.



*The team from Sheffield Hallam with Guy Martin (centre).*

"In testing we used a coast-down experiment where a basic kart was released at a set speed and we measured the distance travelled before it came to rest in order to compare the effects of different wheel sizes. Tyre pressure was then optimised on the day of the record attempt to match the surface conditions at the venue.

"Minimising aerodynamic drag was a key part of the design. At high speeds, aerodynamic drag contributes more than 80 per cent of the total resistance acting against the racer, so it was really important to keep this as low as possible.

"The steel tube frame of the racer was designed specifically to fit closely around Guy, and we used computational aerodynamic models to design a glass fibre outer shell that offered the least frontal area, minimising any wake turbulence that would also add drag."

Hope Technology supplied four hydraulic disc brakes that allowed the racer to come to a controlled stop in a short distance, which meant when piloting the racer Guy could get the most speed out of each run.

With all elements of the racer sourced and the final design agreed, the shell was manufactured by an external contractor. The team then assembled the racer at the University before heading to France with Guy and the programme's production team.

Choosing a venue had caused a bit of a headache for the team, they needed a steep road, with a long strait that meant sufficient speed could be achieved.

Finally, they set their sights on the infamous road up (or rather down) Mont Ventoux in southern France, which has often played host to mountain stages of the Tour de France.

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**Christina King, who was involved in the testing sessions says: "In France we were able to make some incremental adjustments and improvements to both the steering and brakes as we pushed to try and help Guy break the world record.**

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"On the day of the record attempt Guy was able to give us feedback after each practice run on how the racer was handling so that we could make adjustments to help him go faster."

On the second day the team managed to find the perfect balance and Guy piloted the racer to a new world record speed of 85.612 mph.

But despite setting a new record, Guy wasn't quite happy to call it a day. He wanted to push the racer even faster. Reluctantly the team made a number of changes, and he set off in an attempt to go even faster.

Somewhat inevitably during the run Guy lost control of the racer and had a spectacular crash, hitting the barriers at the side of the road before spinning around and coming to rest upside down.

Within seconds, Guy got out of the racer and walked away completely unharmed. The relief from the team was palpable. They had done one of the most important other parts of their job – not only had they designed a racer that could break the world record, but it was safe too.

Christina says: "It has been fantastic fun to work with Guy Martin and his team on this. We have a unique range of technical engineering expertise at the University, so who knows, maybe we'll get asked back for a third time."



# *Designing the city*

Design students from Sheffield Institute of Arts (SIA) took over the city centre in January, organising two innovative and engaging exhibitions.

The MADE NORTH gallery, at Persistence Works, hosted This is Sheffield: an exhibition which celebrated Sheffield, interpreting what the city means to people in different ways.

30 students from a range of different design disciplines exhibited their work which included fashion, interior design, product design and furniture design.

The students all used the city and its industrial heritage as inspiration for their work.

Richard Evans, senior lecturer in design, said: "The students have worked independently, with Patrick Murphy at MADE NORTH gallery, and have even designed the show's visual identity.

It's really important that they get used to working in this way, because that's what they'll have to do when they become professional artists, designers and makers in their own right."

The Prism exhibition at Bank Street Arts was organised by 36 interior design students, who worked with a range of organisations, including Stoney Middleton Heritage Centre Community Group, the Royal Society for the Blind and Silence Breaker Media.

The students used interior design techniques to develop solutions to a range of different issues, posed by the professionals.

They spent three months working with professionals, from social media and technology, charitable organisations, the heritage and cultural industries and literature. The students created 12 three-dimensional installations, and exhibited them at Bank Street Arts throughout January.

Interior design course leader Sally Billau said: "Working alongside industry professionals like this, we've challenged our students to apply their design knowledge in a creative yet practical way, and using a range of design and fabrication techniques."





*After the tragic death of Baby P, Haringey Council bore the brunt of the blame, but a recent documentary highlighted multiple agency failings in a case that gripped the nation.*

# *The blame game*

*By Sarah Duce*

**When 17-month old Peter Connelly was killed in 2007 at the hands of his mother, her boyfriend and his brother in London, the reputations of a team of social workers at Haringey Council were left in tatters as they were blamed for the failure to protect a vulnerable child.**

But, for the first time since the tragic death, the accounts of the social workers involved were heard in a recent BBC documentary, 'Baby P: The Untold Story.'

The full extent of the multi-agency failings, by the Metropolitan Police, OFSTED, Great Ormond Street Hospital and the media, were finally highlighted.

According to new research by Dr Lee Pollard, a senior lecturer in social work at Sheffield Hallam, the personal and professional accounts of the individual social workers involved in fatal child abuse cases, as well as the emotional and psychological effects, are almost always ignored.

"There is often a media-fuelled public clamour for 'justice'; an inability or reluctance on behalf of the government to acknowledge and address issues of underfunding and understaffing; an alienating and stigmatising review process; detached and insensitive management systems. All of these combine to either deliberately or inadvertently create a process where individual social workers are blamed and scapegoated in child abuse fatalities," explains Dr Pollard.

As part of his research study, Dr Pollard spoke to four social workers from across the country who'd been involved in a child death, and found that, at all stages in each of the subsequent review processes, the voice of the practitioners remained unheard.

'B' was the social worker for a 17-year-old boy who died four years ago, as a result of hypothermia and suspected drug misuse.

The boy had been in the system for several years as a result of physical abuse and neglect by his parents, but he had been deemed a 'child in need' by the agencies – downplaying the potential risk to his safety and his need for protection.

Thanks to B's good relationship with the boy, she was able to notice his deteriorating mental health, and persistently but unsuccessfully argued for higher levels of support and protection for him.

On the day he died, the boy had visited his local social work office and was interviewed by the Duty Officer, who gave him £20 to buy food. Instead, he bought a small amount of drugs, and it was concluded that this may have been a contributing factor in his death. B believes that the boy's "visibility" and regular contact with different agencies appeared to reduce, rather than exacerbate, the level of concern for the boy from others involved in his care.

Recalling the review process, B said: "They were more interested in the blame and how to not be highlighted as a failing authority that should have done something. But what about the social worker who's had to deal with this? It's all procedural, but at the end of it all we are people. You are a real person, I'm a real person and they just seemed to have forgotten that."

In another case study, Dr Pollard also found there were issues relating to both power and status that operate within child protection practice.

*Continued...*

A 6-month-old baby girl was under the care of C. On her first visit, C had noticed burn marks on the baby's feet, and referred her to a paediatrician, who concluded that the injuries were non-suspicious. C's concerns for the baby were subsequently ignored, and the baby died a month later as a result of physical abuse from the mother's partner. A post-mortem examination revealed the burn marks were from a cigarette.

In her interview, C told Dr Pollard: "If the paediatrician says it's not a non-accidental injury, we can't then say it is."

"I'm the one who thought this death was preventable and we should have done more, but everybody else was saying it wasn't preventable, and that everything that could have been done was done, but I think they were deluding themselves."

During the in-depth interviews, the social workers described their experiences of a review system that, in some instances, asked the same questions to the wrong people.

"It seems the voices of those individuals who are able to make the most telling insights and contributions are denied a voice," says Dr Pollard. "The social workers also described instances where they remained largely unprotected from professional scorn and public admonishment."

All of the social workers who were interviewed spoke of their frustrations at being unable to convince other professionals, most notably managers, of the need to take urgent and decisive action in each of the cases. However, in each of the case studies, all the participants, who are still employed in the profession, said the deaths of the children proved to be a catalyst for some positive changes in their working practice.

But what struck Dr Pollard most was the fact that none of the social workers involved in the study received any supervision or counselling following the children's deaths.

"They were expected to immediately continue in their roles, feeling blamed and vilified. They continued to practice in the full knowledge that the next tragedy may lurk just around the corner," says Dr Pollard.

"They were expected to support and protect others, despite the fact that they were offered little themselves. So I think it would be fair to assume that the positive changes to practice they talk about are not as a direct result of the supervision or counselling processes, but from the painful reflection on their tragic experiences."

*\*\*At the request of the interviewees, the names of the case studies have been omitted and are referred to as B and C.*



# Research Excellence Framework

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**The University had much to celebrate after its research programme was highly rated in the new Research Excellence Framework.**

In December, the findings of the largest assessment of research at UK universities were released, and it was good news for Sheffield Hallam.

Overall, the University was ranked in the top five of all UK modern universities which submitted more than one research area to the Research Excellence Framework (REF).

65 per cent of the research submitted received the top 4\* and 3\* rating as world-leading and internationally excellent, moving the University up 25 places in the national research league tables, from 88 to 63.

The University had specific success in several areas, with Art and Design

research ranked second among 45 modern universities, and in the top ten of all UK universities.

Architecture, Built Environment and Planning research was ranked first among 23 modern universities, and eleventh of all UK universities

Education research was ranked third among 39 modern universities, and Sport research was ranked in the top ten of 33 modern institutions.

Research which analysed social and economic deprivation in Britain's seaside towns; the positive impact of midwife-led care; and innovative maps to give blind and partially sighted people greater independence were, amongst many other studies, included in the University's submission, which was coordinated and managed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

Professor Paul Harrison, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation, said: "These fantastic results are yet further evidence that world-class research exists across the UK's universities, and not least in modern institutions like Sheffield Hallam University.

"Our research is internationally excellent, wide ranging and highly applied, touching people's lives and having a positive impact on society.

"I am delighted with these results, which underline our recent accolade in the 2015 Times and Sunday Times university guide table as the top-ranked modern university in the North of England."

A special website has been created, containing case studies of the University's research that was submitted to the REF. Read them at [shu.ac.uk/ref](http://shu.ac.uk/ref)

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# Councils get cold shoulder over community energy

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**Local authorities are often being given the cold shoulder in Government discussions about community energy policy, a team of academics has claimed.**

A team from the University's Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research say Government is often switched-off when it comes to how local authorities can support community energy policy – where communities work together to either generate energy or to collectively reduce the amount of energy they use.

Will Eadson, who has co-authored 'Critical Perspectives On Community Energy' with colleague Mike Foden, said there is a potential role for local authorities to help deliver community energy schemes.

He said: "Local authorities are being somewhat overlooked in national government policy on community energy.

"There are many examples where local authorities are already working with communities to extend decentralised energy provision and develop innovative new approaches.

"For instance, Plymouth City Council is developing its own community energy tariffs and Nottingham City Council has set up its own energy supply company with local community stakeholders.

"Many other local authorities are investing in local energy supply and distribution technologies, such as solar power and district heating, with benefits going directly to communities.

"Recognising this is important and further engagement of local authorities as drivers of community energy could act as a catalyst, particularly for projects that focus on bringing benefits to residents in deprived areas."

*Baroness Helena Kennedy's passion for human rights was forged when she represented victims of domestic abuse. After a successful career, she is now patron of the University's new Helena Kennedy Centre for International Justice.*

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# *At the heart of human rights*

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*By Laurie Harvey*

**It began a crusade for human rights and social justice which has led to her being named patron of the University's new Helena Kennedy Centre for International Justice.**

Speaking as she opened the centre on 15 January, Baroness Kennedy – who now sits in the House of Lords and has blazed a trail as a campaigner, barrister and journalist – reflects on her first experiences of Sheffield in the 1970s.

She says: "In my practice I occasionally came to Sheffield to do murder trials. They were cases with a backdrop of domestic abuse, as this was one of my areas of specialism.

"The rights of women are human rights issues and too often that is forgotten. I am thrilled that the Centre is coming into being and will bear my name. I can think of no greater honour."

The new centre is part of a series of ambitious plans to take the University's law and criminology department into the top 20 of law schools across the country.

As well as a number of high-profile new appointments, the department has launched an ambitious MA in human rights. A social justice week, set to take place at the end of March, will look at issues such as forced marriages and the recent child sex exploitation scandal in Rotherham.

Now, it counts two baronesses among its honorary alumni – Baroness Doreen Lawrence of Clarendon and Baroness Kennedy of The Shaws.

Through them, the University has developed its Freshfields training scheme for young lawyers from under-privileged backgrounds, and hopes are high for the international centre to become a stronghold for new human rights research.

Head of department Sital Dhillon's international ambitions are further evidenced by the guest list for the launch of the new centre: former New York city police commissioner Anthony Schembri; the son of Sergio Vieira do Mello, the UN Commissioner who was murdered in Baghdad; and the former chair of the Bar Association for the Supreme Court of India.

Dhillon says: "Law doesn't just belong to lawyers and criminologists. We need to pay attention to what is happening globally, and this inevitably brings you into a discussion around human rights and justice."

Baroness Kennedy is in total agreement: "Human rights issues are on every page in the papers. Whether it's about the use of torture in our world, about trafficking, or the racism that blights people's lives in our criminal justice systems, the rape of women and children in conflict zones or domestic violence on our own doorsteps – the list is long.

"We need new generations of lawyers to come through understanding that justice involves understanding our world.

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**"This is where Sheffield Hallam is being so innovative and forward thinking. The new Centre will inject legal education with a true understanding of law's role in making society stronger, more humane and just.**

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"Every kind of lawyer from the corporate lawyer to the family practitioner needs to be a human rights lawyer in the 21st Century.

"But good legal systems also need the input of criminologists, whose scholarship helps us find solutions to many of our social problems. This is again an area where Sheffield Hallam excels.

*“Sheffield Hallam is leading the world, as it is recognising that globalisation requires different responses. We have to have law that connects with law in other countries – the law needs people like me and you, and we can make a difference.”*



“Bridging the world of education and practice is the way to effect change.”

Already the ambition of the department is producing projects that could be truly ground-breaking. Dr Katherine Albertson and Dr Craig Paterson are working with organisations in Sheffield and India, as part of an international study of the effectiveness of responses to gender violence.

And Professor David Best and Dr Paterson are working on a study of deaths in police custody with the Malaysian Human Rights Commission.

An ambitious guest lecture programme is also set to be announced later in the new year.

Baroness Kennedy says: “By creating a centre of international justice, Sheffield Hallam is recognising that the world is shrinking and that we have to work together to deliver good law and justice.

“Sheffield Hallam is leading the world, as it is recognising that globalisation requires different responses. We have to have law that connects with law in other countries – the law needs people like me and you, and we can make a difference.”



*Law students with Baroness Kennedy (centre).*



# *Unveiling the world's biggest PlayStation® teaching facilities*

*Sheffield Hallam has unveiled its latest state-of-the-art teaching lab, giving games development students access to the largest PlayStation® teaching facilities in the world.*

As a partner in Sony Computer Entertainment Europe's (SCEE) academic development programme, PlayStation®First, the University now has 34 brand new PlayStation®4 development kits, complementing the University's extensive suite of PlayStation®3 and PlayStation®Vita kits.

This means that students on the University's Skillset-accredited games development courses have the opportunity to develop their own games, using the current generation of industry-standard professional kits.

Dr Jake Habgood, course leader for the University's MSc Game Software Development, said: "There are certainly plenty of opportunities for graduates going into the games industry, but they need to have the right skills and knowledge.

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**"Our students have been learning how to use SCEE's cross-platform technology to make games for the PS3™ and PSVita™ for some years now.**

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"PhyreEngine™ is a serious C++ game engine, and our students have already used it to create a PlayStation®4 version of our collaborative puzzler game Aspect, which we're planning to release on the PlayStation®Network in the New Year."

The British videogames development industry has an economic value of as much as £1.72 billion, according to innovation charity Nesta and UK Interactive

Entertainment, the trade body for the UK's games and wider interactive entertainment industry.

The new lab was opened by representatives from PlayStation®First and games development studio Sumo-Digital, who regularly take placement students from Sheffield Hallam's courses.

Dr Maria Stukoff, head of PlayStation®First, said: "We're helping Sheffield Hallam develop the next generation of videogame talent with PlayStation development. The new PS4™ teaching laboratory is another example of how the University is leading the way in videogames education."

Sean Millard, creative director at Sumo-Digital Limited, said: "It's a real pleasure to open this new PS4™ lab, as we have some excellent young talent at Sumo who cut their game development teeth using Sheffield Hallam's facilities. Students at Sheffield Hallam now have more console dev-kits at their disposal than many game studios!"

Sheffield Hallam students can release games to market through the University's in-house development studio, Steel Minions. One student-made game, Bounceback, has already been released to market, on SCEE's PlayStation Network.

The University's Steel Minions studio is releasing a number of student-made games in 2015, including shoot-em-up Retro Fusion and collaborative puzzle game Aspect.



# *£10m boost for STEM subjects*

The University has successfully secured funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to create new engineering provision, additional laboratory space to accommodate increased numbers of students, and a new environment to nurture enterprising, work-ready students.

The proposal is a collaboration between the departments of Engineering and Mathematics, and Biosciences and Chemistry, in response to a growing demand for STEM subjects at the University.

Funds will be used to build a new atrium, linking the Eric Mensforth and Sheaf buildings, which will provide space for galleries, collaborative work areas and social spaces.

A cutting edge chemistry laboratory will be created to meet the needs of increased student numbers in this subject area, while more general improvements to facilities for engineering students will also be made.

Pro Vice-Chancellor for the faculty of Arts, Computing, Engineering and Sciences, Professor Roger Eccleston, said: "This funding will enable us to provide fantastic new opportunities for students to study STEM subjects. Chemistry has seen student numbers increase by 300 per cent in the past three years since its re-introduction and engineering and mathematics have seen enrolments increase by 50 per cent between 2009 and 2013.

"Our engineering courses are a national exemplar for industry partnerships with our MEng Food Engineering, for example, directly addressing the shortage of engineers in the sector."

In total, 73 universities and colleges will receive a share of £200million HEFCE funding for science, technology, engineering and mathematics during 2015-16.

Vince Cable, Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, said: "Inspiring young people to take up STEM courses is vital to the success of the UK economy. This investment will mean world-class teaching facilities to build tomorrow's skilled workforce."

The work will take place in stages, starting in summer 2015 with a view to being completed by 2017.



# *Shedding light on the darkness*

*History experts at the University are showing the public how pivotal moments during the First World War have shaped the world we live in today.*

*By Joe Field*

**“World War I was without question the single most impactful event of the 20th Century, and its aftermath has shaped the world around us today,” says Professor Chris Hopkins, head of the Humanities Research Centre at the University and the man behind a free public lecture series taking place throughout 2015.**

“From the division and colonisation of the Middle East, the bloodbaths of the Somme, Verdun and Gallipoli, to the industrialisation of arms production here in Yorkshire, this conflict affected us all. Our history experts are giving engaging and insightful talks to bring those events to life.

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**“Our World War I lectures will provide people with a unique opportunity to discuss the relevance of those terrible events 100 years ago that changed the world forever.”**

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Professor Bruce Collins, an expert in modern history, is focusing on how the war changed the Middle East. His talk on Britain and the remaking of Iraq explores an aspect of Britain's Great War which is seldom discussed in this country.

“World War I pulled Britain deeper into the Middle East than the British expected, and completely remade the region's politics,” says Professor Collins.

“To win the war in the Middle East, British governments made many deals with allies and collaborators, and in the end they struggled to guarantee stability. In particular, British powers reshaped three Ottoman Empire provinces in the aftermath of the war to create Iraq, and British Imperial rule of the new country did not go well.

“If we wish to be reminded of the legacies of the First World War and its aftermath, we don't need to look far today.”

Professor Matthew Stibbe's lecture in January examined the apparent lack of interest in the First World War in today's Germany, compared to the intense interest it generated in previous decades and on previous anniversaries.

And he worked with fellow historian Chris Corker to unearth some interesting local connections to the Great War.

They discovered a postcard addressed to ‘the Lord Mayor and Citizens of Sheffield’ by 24 men from Sheffield, interned at a camp in Ruhleben, Germany, in December 1914.

“When war broke out, the belligerent countries of Europe immediately closed their borders, leaving hundreds of thousands of foreigners stranded and unable to return home,” says Professor Stibbe.

“Those who were nationals of hostile states were recast as ‘enemy aliens’, and many of them – especially men of military age – were interned for the duration of the conflict.”

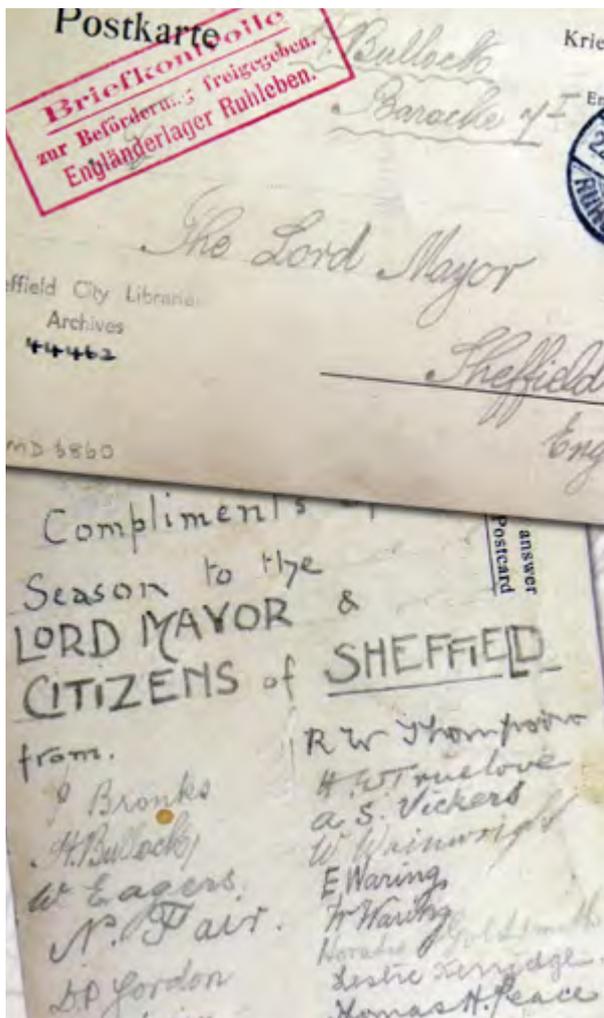
And this is what happened to 4,000 British nationals, including the 24 men from Sheffield.

“About a third of them were merchant seamen, another third were permanent residents of Germany, and the remaining third were short-term visitors to the country,” says Professor Stibbe.

Most British nationals trapped in Germany remained free to go about their business, and had only to report to their local police station once a week, and observe a curfew. But a few of them were suspected of spying and were subsequently arrested. Among them was Sheffield man Arthur Stanley Vickers, born in 1890, whose name appears on the 1914 postcard.

“Vickers was in Germany studying language at the outbreak of conflict, and was quickly arrested as a suspect alien,” says Professor Stibbe.

“Records show that on 14 August 1914 he was sent to the Stadtvoigtei, one of the main criminal prisons in Berlin, where he remained for over three weeks. The German authorities probably believed he was connected to the Sheffield-based Vickers armaments and steel company.”



In fact, in 1914, Sheffield was home to five of the leading armaments manufacturers not just in Britain, but the world. Armour plate, shell and armour piercing projectiles, gun forgings and finished guns were all produced in armament factories in the city.

*Arthur Stanley Vickers (right) and a postcard from Sheffield men interned in Germany during the Great War (above).*

And they all used the most resistant type of armour plate of the time, which was invented by German company, Krupps.

“In a curiosity of history, all of the British Navy’s capital ships built from the late 1890s were protected by armour of German design,” says Chris Corker, an expert in the history of the armaments industry.

“Representatives of Sheffield’s armaments manufacturers had visited the Krupps Works in Essen to tour their vast manufacturing complex in the years prior to the War, though much care was taken to avoid showing them the company’s secrets.”

Other subjects being tackled over the series of lectures include the role of rural communities in feeding the nation during the war, Australian identity following the war, the Armenian genocide, the poetry of the Somme, popular fiction during the war, the German Revolution of 1918 and the Treaty of Versailles.

For more information, and to book a place at one of the forthcoming lectures, visit [shu.ac.uk/events](http://shu.ac.uk/events)



# *A City Divided*

*A new study shows that some local communities in Sheffield have been hit five times harder than others due to sweeping welfare reform, with working households bearing the brunt in many cases.*

**University researchers have found that almost half the financial losses experienced due to the loss of child tax credits and other scrapped benefits actually fall on working households.**

Couples with children lose an average of nearly £1,700 a year, lone parents lose more than £2,000 a year and men and women with health problems or disabilities are also significantly disadvantaged, the study finds.

The research, commissioned by Sheffield City Council and carried out by Professors Christina Beatty and Steve Fothergill from the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research, looks in detail at the impact of the welfare reforms on Sheffield.

Overall they estimate the city will lose nearly £170m a year in benefit income when the reforms have come to full fruition. This is equivalent to £460 a year for every adult of working age in the city.

The report shows that within Sheffield, some local communities are hit far harder than others.

The worst-hit ward is Firth Park – one of the most deprived areas of the city – where the average resident of working age can expect to lose five times as much as residents in affluent Broomhill, the least affected area of the city.

Households with dependent children, and especially lone parents, face some of the largest financial losses.

They often lose out from reductions in tax credits, lower entitlement to housing benefit, changes to council tax benefit and below-inflation benefit increases, including child benefit.

Many men and women with health problems or disabilities lose out badly from more restrictive eligibility for Employment and Support Allowance (the new incapacity benefit) and Personal Independence Payments (the replacement for Disability Living Allowance).

Professor Beatty said: “In a report published last year, we were the first to expose the uneven impact of the welfare reforms on different local authority areas up and down the country. The new report, which drills down to a previously undisclosed level of detail, shows just how much the differences also apply at the local level, between local communities.”

Professor Fothergill added: “The impact of the welfare reforms within Sheffield is probably a good guide to what is happening in lots of other cities and towns. Although the loss of benefit income in Sheffield is frighteningly large, on a per capita basis it is actually not far off the national average.”

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**Sheffield City Council Leader, Councillor Julie Dore, said: “We’ve known for a long time that the welfare reforms are fuelling inequality across the city, with the poorest places, poorest households and the sick and disabled being hardest hit. This research is truly shocking but reaffirms this and shows the stark reality of how the reforms are affecting people.”**

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# *Stuck on repeat*

*A psychology expert from Sheffield Hallam has reported what could be the first case of a person experiencing persistent déjà vu stemming from anxiety.*

**Dr Christine Wells described the extraordinary case in a report published by the Journal of Medical Case Reports.**

Nobody knows for certain exactly how or why déjà vu happens, but some experts believe it to be a phenomenon that arises from activity within the temporal lobe. One theory is that the mistimed firing of neurons can cause a temporary glitch in the way the brain processes information.

The subject of the report by Dr Wells is a 23-year-old British man, who explained how he suffered from “frightening episodes” of constant déjà vu which made him feel as though he was “trapped in a time loop”.

These episodes became so pronounced that he had to stop watching television, listening to radio or reading newspapers, as he felt that he had already encountered the content before.

Over a period of three years the episodes gradually grew in intensity until they became debilitating.

Dr Wells said: “Rather than simply the unsettling feelings of familiarity which are normally associated with déjà vu, our subject complained that it felt like he was actually retrieving previous experiences from memory, not just finding them familiar.

“Most cases like this occur as a side effect associated with epileptic seizures or dementia. However, in this instance it appears as though the episodes of déjà vu could be linked to anxiety causing a misfiring in the brain, which causes more déjà vu and in turn brings about more anxiety.

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**“If proved this could be the first-ever recorded instance of psychogenic déjà vu, which is déjà vu triggered by anxiety rather than a neurological condition such as dementia or epilepsy.”**

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Academics from the UK, France and Canada contributed to the report which was brought together and published by Dr Wells.

Dr Wells is now looking to undertake more research to discover a possible link between clinical anxiety and episodes of déjà vu. She added: “The case on its own cannot prove that there’s a link between anxiety and déjà vu, but our findings raise the question and it should be studied further.”



# *Treasures of the special collection*

*Sheffield Hallam has long been on the frontline of innovative teaching and world-leading research, so why do we need pictures of art students from the 1970s posing on cars and a pair of 64-year-old knickers?*

*By Nicole Kelly*

The Special Collection archive is a reminder of the University's colourful and illustrious history, from its birth in 1843 as the Government School of Design to the fourth largest university in the UK in 2015.

Unlike a museum collection, the items that make up the collection are rarely locked away in glass cases. Instead, students and staff can visit, pick up the items and use them – for reference, research and inspiration – even the knickers.

Lorna Raynes worked at the University's library for more than 30 years. Her diligence in meticulously labelling each artefact, carefully wrapping them in tissue paper and rebinding the most fragile books is an effort to preserve the collection as a valuable resource.

Before Lorna retired at the end of December, she unearthed some of the items which make the Special Collection archive unique and revealed the stories behind them.

## Silver mallet

Building a University of 35,000 students begins with the first brick. In 1843 the Government School of Design was founded and soon expanded into temporary space on Arundel Street to accommodate its growing number of students. Shortly after, in 1855, this mallet, made of wood and silver, laid the very first foundation stone of the purpose-built Sheffield School of Art, also on Arundel Street.

In 1940, The School of Art was set ablaze after being struck by a bomb during the blitz. Much of the building was damaged but many articles were saved, including a number of valuable rare books and paintings which provided the basis of the Special Collection which can be seen today.

The mallet is currently being carefully cleaned and treated by experts in the Jewellery and Metalwork department to bring out the engraved detail.



## Dictionarium latinae lingust. Vol.3

The oldest book at the University is a Latin dictionary bound in 1547. It was written by Ambrogio Calepino, an Italian Augustinian monk who was a lexicographer. Calepino's dictionary is one of the very first polyglot dictionaries to be written. And his name – Calepino – became a word itself: calepin is an old word for dictionary, still used in French to mean notebook.

How this ancient volume ended up in an archive in Sheffield remains a puzzle. "It drives you mad," Lorna says. "Why have we got this? It would be nice to know the story and that's why, when we receive things now, we put a note with it."



## Terracotta heads

Lorna and her team are trying to solve the mystery of the whereabouts of five terracotta heads, which originally adorned the School of Art Building.

An article in the Sheffield Star from 1960 explains that the terracotta heads, which dated back to around 1855, were taken down from the building before it was demolished. In the article, a council spokesman is quoted as saying the heads would be stored until a suitable building was found on which to erect them.

Five decades on, Lorna launched an appeal, calling for information on the whereabouts of the terracotta heads which depicted Michelangelo, Holbein, Leonardo da Vinci, Albrecht Durer and Raphael.

And apart from a rather vague anonymous letter, nothing has yet come from the appeal.

It is thought that the heads are the work of Godfrey Sykes, a Victorian-era Yorkshire artist who trained at the school and designed decorations for the South Kensington Museum, now the V&A, and also the gates at Weston Park.

"I just hope they aren't propped up in some palatial garden somewhere, spouting water out of their mouths," says Lorna.



## Unfinished painting

This is a photograph of a painting which remained unfinished because, tragically, three of the young men pictured never returned from the First World War. The original painting was then lost during the blitz.

The Special Collection team have been investigating the identities of the five men in the painting. They believe that the young man at the back of the painting is the artist William Ramsden Breatly and the man on the left could be the landscape artist Stanley Royle, who was renowned for wearing gaiters whilst painting, which the young man is wearing in the picture.

Local resident Gladys Chellingworth kindly donated the photograph to the University many years ago, so it is thought that one of the young men could be her brother, John Philip Chellingworth, who died in 1916.

After trawling through many photographs of students enrolled at the time, Lorna believes the gentleman sat in the centre of the painting bears a resemblance to Harold Roddis, a student at the Sheffield School of Art who enlisted in 1915 and died in 1918.



## Psalter Lane photographs

Perhaps one of the most amusing additions to the Special Collection is an album of photographs of art students outside the former Psalter Lane campus. Originally the old Bluecoat School, Psalter Lane was home to the art and design department from 1960 until it closed in 2008. It produced many notable alumni (an early film by Wallace & Gromit creator Nick Park is one of the treasures in the archives) and even hosted the first ever gig by The Human League.

Psalter Lane has become stuff of legend, famous for its fancy dress parties and sensational final degree shows. Installations including nudists, men dressed as fairies and a girl in a bath of Henderson's Relish are remembered with fondness.

The students' long hair and bell-bottom trousers are telling signs that these photographs were taken during the 1970s. Curiously, in all the photos the students are posing proudly next to, or on top of, their cars.



## Festival of Britain memorabilia knickers

Pink frilly knickers may seem an unlikely addition to any historical resource; however, these ones mark a significant period in post-war British history.

To raise the nation's spirits after the austerity of the war, The 1951 Festival of Britain was held on London's South Bank

Britain's contributions to art, design and industry were showcased and celebrated. Gerald Barry, the Festival Director, described it as "a tonic to the nation".

These memorabilia knickers form part of the Festival of Britain collection which was originally donated to the University by the Daily Mirror in 1970. Since then the collection has grown to include some 2000 items.

The flamboyant frills and proud emblem act as an antidote to the years of rationing and restraint Britain endured.

Such a varied and eclectic mix of objects raises the question of what it takes for something to be considered 'special' enough for the Special Collection. Which of the hundreds of thousands of books lining the shelves of Adsetts Learning Centre will make it into the archives of tomorrow, if any?

"You have to have a historical perspective. Things may not be extraordinary to us now, but they could well be 50 years from now" says Lorna.





# *Big Wednesday*

**A partnership with Sheffield City Trust and British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) will bring one of the UK's biggest student sporting events to Sheffield Hallam in 2016.**

The University will host BUCS' annual celebration of sport, Big Wednesday, in March 2016, showcasing the University's outstanding sporting facilities.

The day-long festival of sport will see the BUCS Championship finals for rugby league, netball, basketball, squash, football, hockey, indoor cricket, tennis, lacrosse, volleyball, fencing, badminton and table-tennis.

Students will help to make the day a success, by volunteering in key roles, including facilities management, event management and media.

The University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Liz Barnes, said: "We are really excited to be hosting this day of events, as Sheffield Hallam is committed to and promotes sport and physical activity at all levels. Our athletes compete in a range of sports, including some at national and

international levels. Last summer, 10 of our high-performance athletes competed at the Commonwealth Games.

"This initiative is enabled through our partnership with Sheffield City Trust and the enhancement of our sport facilities, with our recent £6m investment into Sheffield Hallam University Sports Park and the Sheffield Hallam University City Athletics Stadium."

Dom Stokes, general manager of Sheffield City Trust events, said: "It is fantastic news that Sheffield has once again secured a major BUCS event.

"We are extremely proud to be facility partner with Sheffield Hallam University for BUCS Big Wednesday, and it promises to be a great event."

Events will take place at venues across the city, including Graves Tennis and Leisure Centre, Ponds Forge International Sports Centre, English Institute of Sport Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam University Sports Park, and Abbeydale Sports Club.



# A measure of success

*A spirited student has produced the first gin to be distilled in Sheffield in over one hundred years, thanks to a bursary scheme operated by the University.*

Student Robert Jones is studying human geography at Sheffield Hallam, but it was his experience as a barman with a passion for gin which sparked an idea to create a product native to the city.

To turn his dream into reality, Robert decided to apply for funding through the Heller bursary scheme, set up by philanthropists Sir Michael and Lady Morven Heller. The scheme gives second year undergraduates the chance to learn something new and unrelated to their course of study.

After a successful application, Robert used the £1,000 he was awarded to purchase a hand-made Portuguese copper still and a secret mixture of botanicals native to the Peak District.

Robert said: "I was delighted that the panel decided to award me £1,000, which was enough to buy the still and equipment for my first batch of gin. I also had some money left over which I spent on a trip to London to visit the 'Ginstitute' – a gin museum run by the people who make Portobello Road Gin."

With help from his employer, Robert has secured premises at the Stancill Brewery at Kelham Island in the city, and after a lot of practice-runs, his True North Gin is now available.

It is, in Robert's own words, "a proper Sheffield gin" and can be purchased at The Old House bar on Division Street in the city centre.



## Fuelling the food economy

**The University has welcomed entrants onto the country's first ever Food Engineering degree programme, which aims to help the industry be fit for the future.**

The four-year master's level course has been developed for the industry, by the industry, and will create a pool of specialist engineers equipped to meet the needs of the sector.

The 15 students on the course will get the chance to gain the skills they need to become the engineers and leaders of tomorrow, to position the UK as a global leader in food engineering.

The course is the first degree dedicated entirely to the needs of the food and drink manufacturing sector. Many of the country's leading companies have already signed up to take students on work placements, run guest lectures and to offer other support.

Industry leaders and managers from companies such as United Biscuits, PepsiCo and KP Snacks, Mondelēz International and Nestlé UK will also be mentoring students on the course.

Student Blyth Mkonya, 33, from Bradford, said: "This course is unique and the involvement from food companies makes it a really good opportunity. I'm so excited and looking forward to it. I've always wanted to be in the food industry."

Ian Rigby, Site Engineering Manager at PepsiCo UK and Ireland and one of the mentors on the programme, said: "This course comes after a three-year journey for PepsiCo. Back then, we were really struggling to recruit engineering talent to fill some of our roles.

**"Our industry needs high-end talent to lead our engineering into the future. Enrolling on this course puts students in the shop window and this degree programme gives them the best chance of success in a competitive industry."**

Richard Martin, Technical Director at Nestlé UK and Chair of the Graduate Excellence Project, said: "I am delighted that following fantastic collaboration across many food and drink companies, we have welcomed our first students onto the MEng in Food Engineering. I would like to thank all those in the industry who have given their time to set up this unique degree course."

## New packaging has green credentials

A revolutionary food packaging material developed through a collaboration between Sheffield Hallam and Karlstad University in Sweden is soon to be introduced to the market.

CaiLar uses a natural combination of starch and clay to create a moisture-resistant film coating for paper and cardboard. This approach could reduce the food packaging sector's reliance on petroleum-based plastics.

UK households currently generate more than 1.7 million tonnes of packaging waste each year, but only 50 per cent of the plastic bottles used and 12–15 per cent of the mixed plastic waste is recycled.

Professor Chris Breen, from Sheffield Hallam's Polymers, Nanocomposites and Modelling Research Centre, has worked with Karlstad University on the project.

He said: "The pilot trials have shown that we can recreate the properties we found in the lab on a much larger scale. We're really excited that CaiLar could soon be out on the market."



## Chairs at Chatsworth

Chatsworth House, home to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, has commissioned three students from the University's MA Design to create a selection of ornate chairs for its Make Yourself Comfortable Exhibition.

Along with creations by Sheffield Hallam alumni Daniel Schofield and Psalt Design, and honorary doctor Thomas Heatherwick, the chairs will form an exhibition which offers visitors the opportunity to experience the house in new and interesting ways.

Visitors will be encouraged to sit on the chairs that are on display. The exhibition opens at Chatsworth on 28 March and is open until 23 October.

## Award for technician

A materials and engineering student has overcome dyslexia to win a national award.

Jon Forster, 25, was awarded the prize of technician of the year by the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining, who judged his contribution to the sector as exceptional.

Having graduated with a first class foundation degree in materials engineering, Jon is now studying for a bachelor's award in the subject, which he fits in part-time around his job at AMEC Foster Wheeler.

Jon said: "I was ecstatic to find out I'd won the award. This is a phenomenal achievement for me. I have always struggled with education because I have dyslexia, so I never thought I could aspire to this level. I intend to use this award to inspire future technicians and engineers."

Dr Paul Bingham, course leader for materials engineering at Sheffield Hallam, nominated Jon for the award. He said: "Jon has consistently applied himself and has worked diligently throughout his studies and was a natural choice for a nomination."

## Primary PE qualification

Graduates and sports coaches who want to give their careers a kick-start have been signing up to a landmark postgraduate teaching qualification which allows them to specialise in physical education in primary schools.

Sheffield Hallam is the first university in the region to offer a PGCE Primary PE Specialist with qualified teacher status (QTS) course – with 50 places available starting in early 2015, and a new intake set for September 2015.

It comes after the government pledged funding of £150m to improve PE lessons for Key Stage one and two pupils, with schools getting £9,000 each to develop better quality PE provision.

The new course has been commissioned directly by the National College for Teaching and Leadership.

Course leader Sarah Williams said: "This programme is designed to develop specialist primary PE teachers with skills to support colleagues to develop their practice and impact on wider school agendas. This will make a significant contribution to the education of children and the skills of teachers now and in the future."



# *Anniversary of design*

*Celebrating 40 years of product design at Sheffield Hallam.*

**Back in 1974, the first cohort of students embarked on a brand new course at Sheffield City Polytechnic, which 40 years later has been celebrated with an exhibition at the University's Cantor gallery.**

The Process40 exhibition featured the work of six Sheffield Institute of Arts graduates from the product design course: either student work from their time on the course, or commercial work as professional designers.

The work represents some of the varied sectors designers work in, such as consumer goods, sports equipment, power tools and industrial products.

Nigel Ball, course leader, said: "Product or industrial designers imagine, and define for mass-production, the products that surround us: everything from watches to automobiles.

"The process of creating them requires a demanding mix of practical and creative skills, and involves an appreciation of many factors including style, functionality and manufacturing.

"Our exhibition gave an insight into the product design process: research, sketching, detailing and computer-aided design – the visuals and the making and testing of models and prototypes. Everything we exhibited was either production-ready, or already in production and available for sale."





# *First-class home for art*

*The University recently announced that it will take over a long-term lease on the old Head Post Office building in Fitzalan Square in Sheffield city centre.*

The Grade II listed building will become an impressive new home for the University's Sheffield Institute of Arts (SIA) by the end of 2015, after it is restored and sympathetically refurbished by its owners.

Fitzalan Square was home to the city's main market area until the 1930s. The building itself opened in the early 20th Century, operating as Sheffield's head post office until 1999 when the Post Office moved into more modern premises nearby.

Since then the building has fallen into disrepair, but once sympathetically refurbished it will become a fitting home for SIA, which can trace its own history back to 1843, as The School of Art and Design.

Plans for the interior of the redeveloped building will provide teaching and studio space as well as a new

gallery for exhibitions. It will become home to all disciplines within SIA, including fashion, metalwork and jewellery, plus art and design.

Over coming months, Sheffield City Council plans to regenerate the area around Fitzalan Square.

Mark Swales, director of estates and facilities, said: "This new development is key to maintaining our excellent recruitment record as well as creating an enhanced student experience and exciting research opportunities.

"Enhancing our existing buildings, whilst also participating in new opportunities in the city are both crucial to delivering our estates strategy which aims to create a flexible, innovative and sustainable campus."

# In Pictures: Graduation 2014



*Matt Walker surprised his nurse girlfriend Sarah Louise Roebtham with a marriage proposal on the day of her graduation... and she said 'yes.'*



**Gary Verity**  
*Chief Executive, Welcome to Yorkshire*

For his contribution to the region



**Baroness Helena Kennedy QC**  
*Human rights lawyer and equality campaigner*

For her contribution to the legal profession and human rights



**Dianne Jeffrey CBE**  
*Chair, Age UK*

For services to public health, welfare and education



*Our 2014 graduation ceremonies saw more than 7,200 students collect their degree certificates in the amazing Sheffield City Hall. We also awarded seven people with honorary doctorates, for their excellent contributions to arts and culture, business, education, the region and more.*

Instagram graduation photos courtesy of Georga McIlroy, Abigail Ashworth, Matthew Sharratt and Shuhan Liu.



**Professor John Brooks**  
*Vice-Chancellor, Manchester Metropolitan University*

For services to education



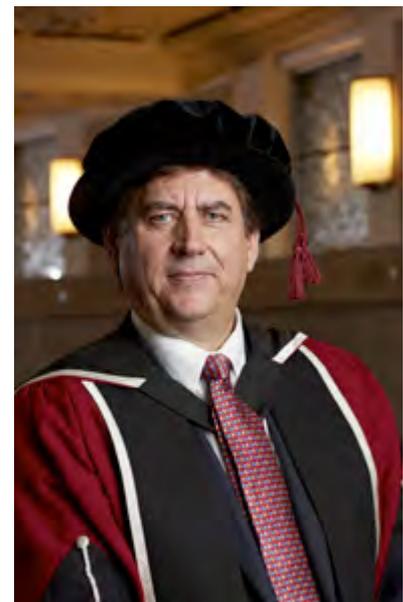
**Heather Croall**  
*Former Chief Executive, Sheffield Doc/Fest*

For services to film and culture



**David Threlfall**  
*Actor*

For services to the arts



**Martin Temple**  
*Chair, Design Council*

For services to business, manufacturing and design

