Welcome to this GREEN special edition of the HUMS Newsletter

Welcome to this special edition of the School of Humanities Newsletter. We are thrilled for this edition to be focusing on the School's commitment to sustaining our environment!

School of Humanities awarded Green Impact Bronze Plus Award

The award ceremony was held in the Wills Memorial reception room. Attending on behalf of the School of Humanities were, Anna Wallace, Undergraduate Student Administrator, Lauren Rawlins-Maclean, Modern Apprentice and Sarah Buttery, School Administrative Assistant.

We were greeted on arrival with a small welcome pack each, strawberries and cream and a glass of wine. The ceremony awarded the work of 70 teams across the University of Bristol, North Bristol NHS trust and University Hospitals Bristol Trust.

Martin Wiles, Head of Sustainability, hosted the event, with contributions from Prof. Judith Squires, Pro-Vice Chancellor (UoB), Simon Wood, Estates and Facilities Manager (NBT) and Paula Clarke, Director of Strategy and Transformation (UBHT).

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Volunteers needed: let’s go for Silver!

Working towards Green Impact Silver Award: 2016/17

Following the School's success with the latest round of Green Impact Awards, we are now aiming to work towards the Silver Award in May 2017. For this, we will need your help to form a “Greening Team”. If you are interested, please contact Anna Wallace (anna.wallace@bristol.ac.uk).
Re-planting Humanities—call for action!

As part of making the School more environmentally friendly, and also in an effort to provide some pleasant green spaces around the School, this autumn, we will be re-planting the area behind the Humanities Student Common Room.

As this is a public space for all to use, we would like your input please. Below is an idea of plants that will be planted, so please feel free to contact Anna Wallace with any feedback (anna.wallace@bristol.ac.uk).

In fact, the idea is for this to be a HUMS community project, so we are looking for volunteers to form a “greening team”

In a bid to bring colour and wildlife into the gardens around the villas, we are beginning by replanting the border in the garden outside the student common room in 11 Woodland Rd.

The planting scheme will look to attract insects and wildlife as well as involve students and staff with a range of edible herbs.

If you are green fingered or just enthusiastic about plants and wildlife and would like to be involved, get in touch with anna.wallace@bristol.ac.uk
It is an exciting time to be an environmental historian at Bristol. Many of us, me included, came to Bristol because of its reputation for environmental history research in the UK thanks to the leadership of Prof. Peter Coates. Recent staff appointments have further confirmed environmental history, and the environmental humanities more broadly, as a core research interest of the School of Humanities.

The ‘environmental humanities’ recognizes that, as scholars engage with environmental issues we increasingly look beyond disciplinary boundaries to connect with people, ideas and methodologies that work for our research. So, as an environmental humanities scholar based in History, I work with colleagues from Geography, Art History, Politics and English departments at Bristol, and beyond. With this comes the usual interdisciplinary challenges, but the environmental humanities as a vibrant and emergent field asserts interdisciplinary collaboration and intellectual exploration as the most appropriate way forward for our wide field of interests.

Bristol has stayed at the forefront of this emergent field. For some years we have had a lively Environmental History reading group which brings together postgrads and staff from across the humanities, and occasionally beyond, to discuss key literature. The group continues to grow, drawing in colleagues new to environmental history to broaden our discussions — though we still manage to fit into Peter’s office (and enjoy his supply of green tea and biscuits). Dr Andy Flack established the Beastly Histories network with Dr Merle Patchett (Geography) to promote animal history research at Bristol (https://beastlyhistories.wordpress.com), and Dr Dan Haines and I have recently launched the Environmental Humanities research cluster to bring together those of us at Bristol with research interests in common. We look forward to growing these groups and seeing what research comes of it – as well as what kind of new partnerships we can establish beyond the university to add to previous work with environmental managers, and artists such as Tana West, whose work inspired a recent exhibit and related set of activities on the subject of mud at the Institute for Advanced Studies.

Also key to the Environmental Humanities at Bristol is research-led teaching. For the first time, next year we will offer environmental history-based units to the full UG cohort, from Year 1 – 3. For the first time we will also offer an environmental humanities School unit, open to second year students from across the School. ‘The Age of the Anthropocene’ will introduce, and debate, the idea that we are living in a new geological age in which humans have permanently left our mark on the Earth. With human-induced climate change, rising sea levels, and radioactive particles released into our atmosphere, key proponents argue that in this age, all history is environmental history. It is timely, then, that we have a strong environmental humanities presence established, and growing, at Bristol!

- Marianna Dudley

Participants in the ‘Into the Mud’ workshop (funded by AHRHC Connected Communities Summer Festival) established a temporary ceramics manufacturing base at Severn Beach (June 2015). Image: M. Dudley

2015 saw the first UoB Humanities presence at Bristol’s Festival of Nature. Image: M. Prokic

1) Members of ‘The Power and the Water’ project, an AHRHC-funded large grant project exploring the environmental history of energy and water in Britain based at Bristol, Nottingham and Cambridge, explore a water treat-
Alongside 3 other teams, the School of Humanities was awarded the Bronze Plus Award, which you will find displayed in the School soon. In addition to this, and very much as a surprise, we were also awarded the Green Impact ‘Best Newcomer’ award.

It was a delight to receive these awards on behalf of the School and we sincerely hope that this is just the start of the journey. As we work towards our silver award in 2016/17 we are hopeful that the ‘Green Team’ will expand and the remit of our work with it bringing sustainability issues to the fore in the School of Humanities.
The University has been engaged in sustainability for over ten years, in that time energy use has been reduced by 27% per metre squared; 85% of all waste is recycled or composted; sustainability is considered in procurement, construction and increasingly curriculum and over 100 University staff teams have participated in Green Impact (including Humanities). All these actions have helped reduce costs for the University by £1.5million annually. Specific projects include the installation of a reed bed at Langford to help dispose of animal bedding and manure in a sustainable way, breaking down this material and creating a fresh water ecosystem that supports new flora and fauna. Another project involves the upgrading of lights across the University with LED’s saving up to 90% of the energy used in traditional fluorescent lighting and improving lighting levels. Finally a student engagement project, involving the end of term collection of unwanted but useable household goods from students called the ‘Big Give’, this has diverted 80 tonnes of materials from landfill and generated up to £200,000 for local and national charities.

There is still more to do though, the sustainability department will be spending £10million on carbon reduction projects ultimately leading to a net zero carbon estate, we aim to turn our waste and recycling into resources and we want to encourage more sustainable travel. In recognition of these sustainability challenges the University has placed Sustainability at the heart of the new University Vision and Strategy as one of its six key themes, aiming to mainstream sustainability for students, boosting sustainability research and addressing our organisational environmental footprint. Sustainability is also central to the education stream of the strategy with the Bristol Futures initiative, offering wider learning opportunities to all students.

The Bristol Futures project team are keen to have input from all departments so if you have ideas do get in touch with the team. Likewise, any sustainability ideas or projects you would like investigated please contact Martin Wiles, Head of Sustainability.

For more information, see: http://www.bris.ac.uk/environment/ m.r.wiles@bristol.ac.uk
We are very happy to welcome to HUMS several new colleagues starting with us in September:

**Classics and Ancient History**
Amy Coker, Teaching Associate in Greek and Roman Literature
William Guast, Leventis Fellow
Ersin Hussein, Teaching Associate in Ancient History
Edwin Shaw, Teaching Associate in Ancient History

**English**
Rebecca Lyons, Teaching Associate in English

**History**
Fanny Bessard, Lecturer in the History of the Middle East and/or the Islamic World
Amy Edwards, Lecturer in Modern British History
Sumita Mukherjee, Lecturer in the History of Migration

**Religion and Theology**
Benedetta Lomi, Lecturer in East Asian Religions

… and starting with us in January:
Yasmin Haskell, Chair in Latin

*More information in the autumn issue of the HUMS Newsletter!*
Literature and the Environment—course details

**Literature and the Environment with Sue Edney—Day Course Saturday 4th March 2017**

In this course we will discuss and explore some examples of what concerned 19th- and 20th-century novelists and poets in their localities and in the contexts of their social and artistic periods. We will ask how poetry relates itself to populations, technologies, transport systems, economies, natural surroundings. We’ll also come right up to date with some examples of ‘New Nature Writing’ to see whether this popular genre can support any practical behavioral influence for the better.

Texts will be provided and will include short sections from *Frankenstein, The Mill on the Floss, Bleak House, Don DeLillo’s White Noise; Keats’s ‘Ode to Autumn’, poetry by John Clare, Alice Oswald and Kathleen Jamie; and prose from Richard Kerridge, Paul Farley and Michael Symmons Roberts.*

If you are interested in signing up to this course, then please visit:

[http://www.bristol.ac.uk/english/study/part-time/shorts.html](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/english/study/part-time/shorts.html)

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Useful Mailing Lists

- **hums-academicsupport@bristol.ac.uk**  
  See above
- **hums-hos@bristol.ac.uk**  
  To contact the HoS for official/policy matters and requests requiring HoS approval
- **hums-senioradmin@bristol.ac.uk**  
  To contact the Senior Student Administrators (Education Team)
- **hums-schooloffice@bristol.ac.uk**  
  First point of contact for students. Staff can use for general student enquiries
- **hums-webrequest@bristol.ac.uk**  
  For posting items on the School websites
- **hums-seniortutors@bristol.ac.uk**  
  Please use this address if you have a query for either of the Senior Tutors

Please note that all of these mailing lists and more are listed on Blackboard, under the heading “HUMS Directory”

**PIMS-ARTF mailing list:** If you wish to circulate a message to all faculty staff, please do not send it directly to the pims-artf-staff@bristol.ac.uk. Instead, please send it to Shelley Marsden the Dean’s Senior Executive Assistant, who will then send the message out for you.

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A note from the editor

This has been a really interesting issue to work on, and it is heartening to see the work being carried out in the School to promote the Green Impact Award. I hope that, having read the inspiring pieces from fellow colleagues and students in this newsletter, you have a wider understanding of the important work going on, and that you are in a better position to contribute.

Laura Maclean