

# THE YEAR IN PICTURES

## August Milk: a potted history

A paper published in *Nature* by Professor Richard Evershed in the School of Chemistry describes how his analysis of early Neolithic pottery vessels from south-eastern Europe, Anatolia and the Levant suggests that humans were processing and using milk in the seventh millennium BC – over 2,000 years earlier than previously thought.

## September Bristol scientists in tiny collisions

The largest scientific experiment in the world – the Large Hadron Collider at CERN in Switzerland – was launched, with scientists from the Department of Physics playing key roles in its construction and the interpretation of the data resulting from the measurement of tiny particles as they collide. It is hoped that the findings will fill in some major gaps in our understanding of the laws of nature.

## October Dating in caves

A team from the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology returned from an expedition to the Cantabria and Asturias regions of Spain where they took samples from over 20 prehistoric painted caves. This three-year, Natural Environment Research Council-funded project uses a new method, based on the radioactive decay of uranium, to determine the age of the paintings.

## November Students rough it for charity

Around 20 Bristol undergraduates swapped their warm beds for sleeping bags, cardboard boxes and freezing temperatures for one night. The students spent the night in the Students' Union car park to raise money for the Bristol homeless charity, the Julian Trust.

## December Bristol makes *TIME's* Top 10

The stem-cell research carried out by Professors Anthony Hollander and Martin Birchall (see p9) appeared in *TIME* magazine's Top 10 medical breakthroughs and scientific discoveries of 2008. Three other research projects with Bristol involvement also made the list: the Large Hadron Collider (see September); NASA's Phoenix probe mission to Mars (Professor David Catling in the Department of Earth Sciences); and the discovery by Dr Alastair Pike and colleagues of the earliest evidence of a nuclear family (see p9).

## January 100 treasures unveiled online

The Cobden Book of Hours was among 100 treasures from the University Library's Special Collections to feature in an online exhibition of some of the rarest and most interesting items held at the University, organised as part of the celebrations of the centenary of the granting of the University's Royal Charter.

## February Bristol's brains go to work

Local pupils took part in a series of interactive workshops, hosted by Bristol University neuroscientists to help the children discover more about the science of the brain by creating brain-based works of art. The children's work was displayed at At-Bristol during Brain Awareness Week in March (see p22).

## March ChemLabS sets new record

Bristol ChemLabS, one of the University's two Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETLs; the other is AIMS – Applied and Integrated Medical Sciences), had a record month for chemistry outreach activities, clocking up almost 1,000 face-to-face engagements as far apart as South Africa, France, Spain and Italy.

## April Naturalist/broadcaster visits Langford

Sir David Attenborough visited the Department of Clinical Veterinary Science at Langford to open the new, £3.9 million Animal Welfare and Behaviour Building (see p24).

## May Centenary garden unveiled

Historian Sir Roy Strong opened the University's new centenary garden, situated in the grounds of the Wills Memorial Building and designed by Bristol alumna Anne de Verteuil.

## June Nature on display

Biodiversity Jenga was one of the many attractions presented by University staff and students as part of the 2009 Festival of Nature, organised by the Bristol Natural History Consortium, on Bristol's Harbourside.

## July Debut for whiskered robot

Researchers from the Bristol Robotics Lab (a partnership between the University of Bristol and the University of the West of England) and the University of Sheffield unveiled the SCRATCHbot, a robot with sensory whiskers that marks a milestone in a pan-European project to develop biologically inspired artificial intelligence systems.

