

The year in pictures

2009 August Twitter channel takes off

The University launched a channel on the web-based group messaging service, Twitter, which it uses to disseminate information about news, events and general announcements. In April 2010 it also launched its official YouTube channel.

September Sir David packs the Great Hall

Sir David Attenborough received a standing ovation after his lecture about the British scientist Alfred Russel Wallace, one of the early proponents of the theory of natural selection. The legendary broadcaster's talk in the Great Hall of the Wills Memorial Building was part of the University's centenary lecture series.

October Royal opening for new Medical Centre

The Princess Royal officially opened the new Bristol Heart Institute Medical Centre, a £61-million, state-of-the-art regional cardiothoracic centre funded by the Department of Health. The Centre is a partnership between the University and University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust.

November War, patriotism and conscience

A new book, *Telling Tales About Men*, by Lois Bibbings, Senior Lecturer in Law, explores how conscientious objectors to compulsory military service were viewed and treated in England during the First World War.

December Brains + beauty = art

'Sunrise' by Eva Polk, a postgraduate in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, one of the winners of the annual Art of Science competition held by the Faculty of Medical and Veterinary Sciences. The works were exhibited at the city's At-Bristol science centre.

2010 January Light gets knotted

A team of physicists at the universities of Bristol, Glasgow and Southampton achieved the remarkable feat of tying light in knots. The team designed holograms using a branch of abstract mathematics called knot theory and created 'optical vortices' which can be tied into knots. The research could lead to a new generation of laser devices.

February RAG fund opens coffers

The Students' Union invited local voluntary and community groups to apply for grants of up to £1,000 from its Raising and Giving (RAG) fund. The fund is open to local groups supporting people who are disadvantaged or isolated – in particular children, older people and those with long-term illnesses.

March Brains ahead

A giant brain appeared in Bristol's Millennium Square to mark International Brain Awareness Week, which aims to increase public awareness about brain research. Bristol Neuroscience, which brings together all neuroscience research at the University, worked with At-Bristol to run activities throughout the week.

April Probing phantom jams

Dr Eddie Wilson in the Department of Engineering Maths published his research into the causes of 'phantom' traffic jams (ie jams with no apparent cause). Mathematical modelling revealed that changes in vehicle speed and road position sometimes combine in a 'perfect storm' to create these jams. The EPSRC-funded research will lead to better traffic-flow forecasting and help prevent congestion.

May Bristol promotes interactive learning in India

Dr Sri Subramanian from the Department of Computer Science led a project examining the use of interactive technology in schools in India, in collaboration with several Indian non-profit organisations. Multi-touch tables were installed in two Delhi schools, and students' experiences were assessed. Initial results suggested that this activity-based approach encourages greater co-operation and communication between students.

June Bristol celebrates Penguin's birthday

The art and design of Penguin Books come under the spotlight at the University as part of an international event celebrating its 75th anniversary. The University Library's Special Collections are home to the Penguin Archive, a wealth of materials relating to Penguin Books Ltd from its foundation in 1935 to the mid-1980s.

July Chinese Herb Garden opens

A traditional dragon dance featured at the official opening of Europe's first dedicated Chinese Herb Garden at the University's Botanic Garden. There are 200 species of Chinese herbs in the garden, including a mature female ginkgo tree and a sacred lotus, whose essential oil is, weight for weight, more expensive than gold.

