

# Steps

The Lancaster Magazine 2017

---

## ANDY SERKIS

MY LANCASTER  
THE DUKES  
AND BEYOND

---

## ISOLAB

A QUIET  
REVOLUTION  
FOR LANCASTER

---

[WWW.LANCASTER.AC.UK/ALUMNI](http://WWW.LANCASTER.AC.UK/ALUMNI)

Lancaster  
University



# Welcome

Welcome to Steps 2017. You might be forgiven for thinking it's more than a year since I last introduced your alumni magazine, as so much has happened in the last twelve months. The world is a different place, or so it seems; and circumstances have emerged that provide some challenges, but also many opportunities for Lancaster.



Against this rapidly changing global backdrop, Lancaster continues to go from strength to strength. Still firmly fixed in the UK's top ten universities, we will be celebrating the first graduation at our Ghana campus in September; and things are moving forward rapidly for us in China following the successful launch last autumn of the Lancaster University College - Beijing Jiaotong University in Weihai.

While a magazine should entertain, it should also inform. So alongside news of alumni weddings and new alumni publications – including the launch of Barry Lucas and Paul Tomlinson's history of Lancaster as a powerhouse of North West pop and rock concerts in the 70s and 80s – you will find articles about alumni working in the public sector, the University's research on flooding and its psychological impact on children, and news of the opening of our Physics IsoLab.

I will finish my introduction by reaffirming Lancaster's commitment to both its international vision and its increasingly diverse and widespread alumni community. Each one of you matters to us: wherever you are in the world now and wherever you came from. You will always be welcome back at Bailrigg. We will continue to celebrate your achievements and we hope you will always be proud of your University's successes. Regardless of the political backdrop we will continue with our mission to pioneer and our efforts to make our world a better place. I hope you will always be with us for the journey.

**Professor Mark E. Smith**  
Vice-Chancellor

# Contents

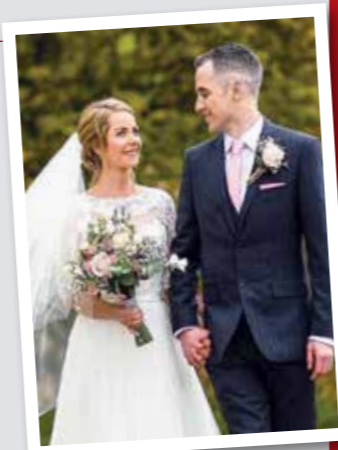


## 03 IsoLab: a Quiet Revolution for Lancaster

The £2 million IsoLab facility is providing a unique, world-beating environment for quantum science.

## 05 Alumni in Print

A round up of books published by Lancaster alumni.



## 06 Alumni Weddings

Graduates who met at Lancaster and have married in the past 12 months.



## 07 'My Lancaster' Andy Serkis

Actor and Director, Andy Serkis shares his thoughts on his time at Lancaster and his subsequent rewarding and successful career.

## 09 Life in the Public Eye

Interviews with three graduates who work in very differing roles in the public sector.

## 11 Events Round Up

A global tour of events in the last year hosted by the alumni office and our volunteers.



## 13 Flood Recovery and Resilience

The Sociology and Health Department's research into children's experiences of flooding and the impact on their lives.



## 15 University News

Updates from around the University and the alumni office.



## 17 'My Lancaster' Donna Munday

Theatre Studies graduate, Donna Munday, talks about her time at Lancaster and successful career in theatre as an executive producer and arts management consultant.



## 19 How Do I ?

Frequently asked questions to the alumni office.

## 21 Honorary Degrees and Alumni Awards

Awards presented during the 2016 Graduation Ceremonies.



Published by:  
Development & Alumni Relations Office  
E: [alumni@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@lancaster.ac.uk)

Additional Contributors: Rachel Pugh and Louise Bryning

Produced by: Fusiondesign.co.uk

The articles printed here, to the best of our knowledge, were correct at the time of going to press. We cannot guarantee that all articles submitted have been printed and we reserve the right to edit material where necessary. Furthermore, the views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of Lancaster University or the Editor.

Steps is available to view online at [www.lancaster.ac.uk/steps](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/steps) as a PDF and a Word document. If you require this magazine in another format, please contact the Alumni & Development Office.

TUCKED AWAY ON THE EDGE OF LANCASTER UNIVERSITY'S BUZZING CAMPUS LIES ONE OF THE QUIETEST PLACES IN THE WORLD - WITH SOUND, VIBRATION AND ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION REDUCED TO A MINIMUM.

# IsoLab: a Quiet Revolution for Lancaster



PROFESSOR  
GEORGE PICKETT



PROFESSOR  
RICHARD HALEY

**The three experimental pods of the £2m IsoLab - made from 500 tons of concrete and situated next to the Department of Physics - have opened up unique and extraordinary facilities for physicists studying some of the 21st century's most fundamental questions on quantum science and the behaviour of new materials and devices.**

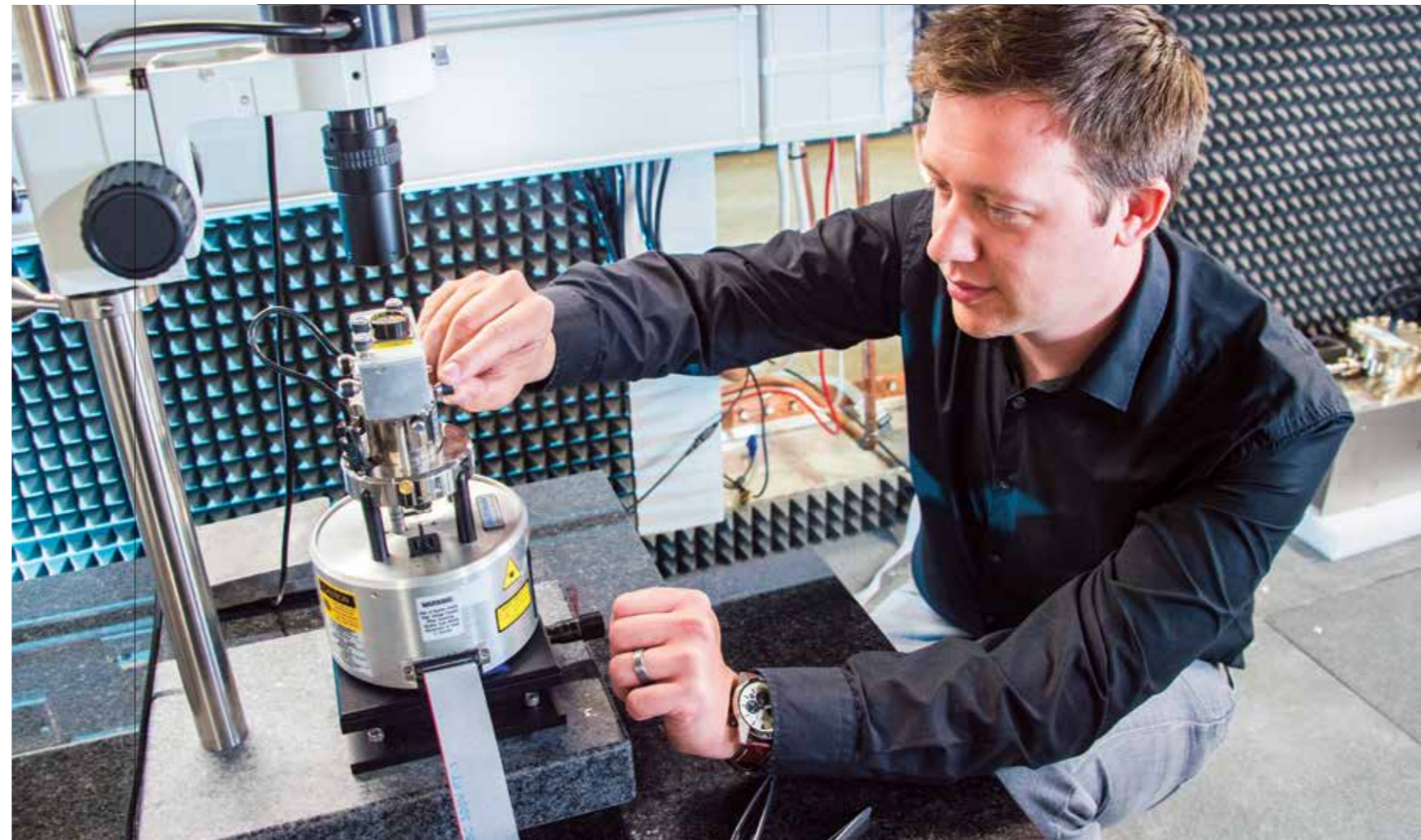
By providing an 'ultra-quiet' experimental environment, IsoLab has already granted Lancaster scientists an atomic view several times more powerful than was possible before the facilities became available. Even greater detail is expected once the equipment in the IsoLab has been 'tuned'.

The knowledge from looking at quantum systems under controlled conditions will also be applied to a host of cutting-edge technologies ranging from the building of microscopic machines (nanotechnology) and the development of quantum encryption for the Internet of Things (predicted to link 30 billion electronic devices by 2020) to the improvement of MRI scanners for health care.

Head of Low Temperature Physics, Professor Richard Haley, who led the IsoLab project, said: "This is a unique building, which takes controlled environments to a completely new standard and opens up a vast range of exciting possibilities from blue sky thinking to testing products that are on the edge of being in the market place."

The centre, which was built by Eric Wright Construction Ltd, consists of three above-ground laboratory pods, each contained in a separate silo sunk five metres underground inside a concrete tank with a base 0.75m thick.

In the basement of each pod sits a 45-ton C-shaped concrete block raised on seven air springs to absorb further vibration before it reaches the experimental equipment. There is also shielding inside each pod to keep out residual vibration and electromagnetic waves - which means that it's a place guaranteed to provide no signal for anyone avoiding mobile phone contact.



Dr Sam Jarvis operating an atomic-resolution microscope in the acoustically shielded pod

One pod is currently dedicated to low temperature physics, a second to quantum optics whilst the third is assigned to microscopy and sub-molecular resolution.

Funding for IsoLab came from the Wolfson Foundation, the J.P. Moulton Charitable Foundation and the Garfield Weston Foundation with a substantial contribution from Lancaster University. Since it has been built completely to order by Lancaster University it therefore has a combination of isolation features which make it completely unique - including its construction directly onto the cushioning glacial clay under the University campus.

Nearly £1m has also been awarded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) for the first tranche of equipment and instrumentation.

The decision to build the isolation laboratory was taken because of the strengths of the Ultra-Low Temperature Physics team at Lancaster University, built up under the leadership of Distinguished Professor George Pickett.

"We can make nanotechnology but we need to be able to test it," explained Richard Haley as an example. "These tiny machines are extremely fragile and delicate. We can reduce vibration and noise, but even then at room temperature some effects are completely drowned by thermal agitation jostling the atoms. So we cool them down to isolate the machines from this 'noise'."

The project has taken around two years to deliver - and within budget. Although it was handed over to the University in November 2016, the official opening took place on June 7, involving representatives from the funders, the EPSRC and hosted by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mark E. Smith.

Lancaster scientists involved in the IsoLab project are also working with other organisations, small businesses and larger commercial enterprises who want access to the facilities.

The Vice-Chancellor said: "This unique facility is a world-beating environment for modern quantum science and technology. It provides support for this field not only for researchers in the University, but also for partners and businesses in the North West region and beyond."

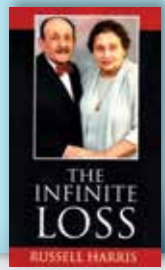


Using the new high resolution vibrometer



Studying graphene devices at millikelvin temperatures

# Alumni in Print



**RUSSELL HARRIS**  
MBA, 1993  
'The Infinite Loss'



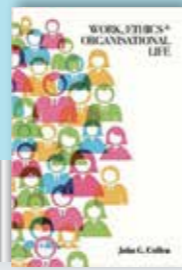
**GUY SHAHAR**  
MA Values and the Environment, 1999  
'Transforming Autism'



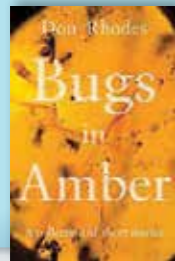
**ANDREW MCCLOY**  
History, 1989, Lonsdale  
'The Pennine Way'



**JUDY KENDALL**  
MA Creative Writing  
'Insatiable Carrot'



**DR JOHN CULLEN**  
PhD Management Learning & Leadership, 2009  
'Work, Ethics & Organisational Life'



**DON RHODES**  
English, 1970, County  
'Bugs in Amber'



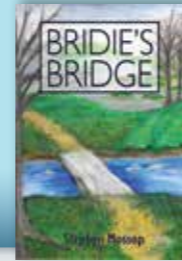
**NEIL COLEY**  
History & Politics, 1973, Furness  
'Lichfield Pubs'



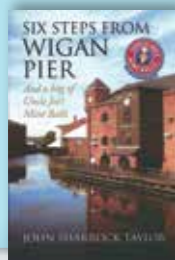
**MALCOLM POVEY**  
MA Literature & Society, 1969, English & Philosophy, 1968, Cartmel  
'Missing'



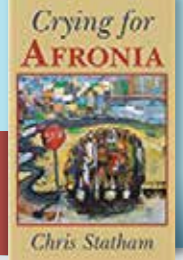
**DAVID JOHNSON**  
PhD Geography, 2010  
'An Improving Prospect'



**STEPHEN MOSSOP**  
English, 1997, Grizedale  
'Bridie's Bridge'



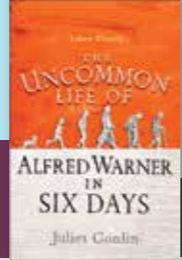
**JOHN S TAYLOR**  
English, 1967, Bowland  
'Six Steps from Wigan Pier'



**CHRIS STATHAM**  
Marketing Management, 2001, Pendle  
'Crying for Afronia'



**DAVID HEWITT**  
MPhil Law, 1997, Bowland  
'Joseph, 1917'



**JULIET CONLIN**  
MA Creative Writing, 2010  
'The Uncommon Life of Alfred Warner in Six Days'



**DALE WALTERS**  
DSc Biological Sciences, 1999, PhD Biological Sciences, 1981  
'Fortress Plant: how to survive when everything wants to eat you'



**HANNA LINDBERG**  
MSc Management, 2007  
'STHLM Grotesque'



**ROBERT CROMPTON**  
Philosophy, 1977, County  
'Solomon's Magpie'



**VICKY GARLICK**  
English Language, 2008, Bowland  
'Creation'



**MARK RAINSLY**  
History, 1991, Cartmel  
'Paddle the Thames'

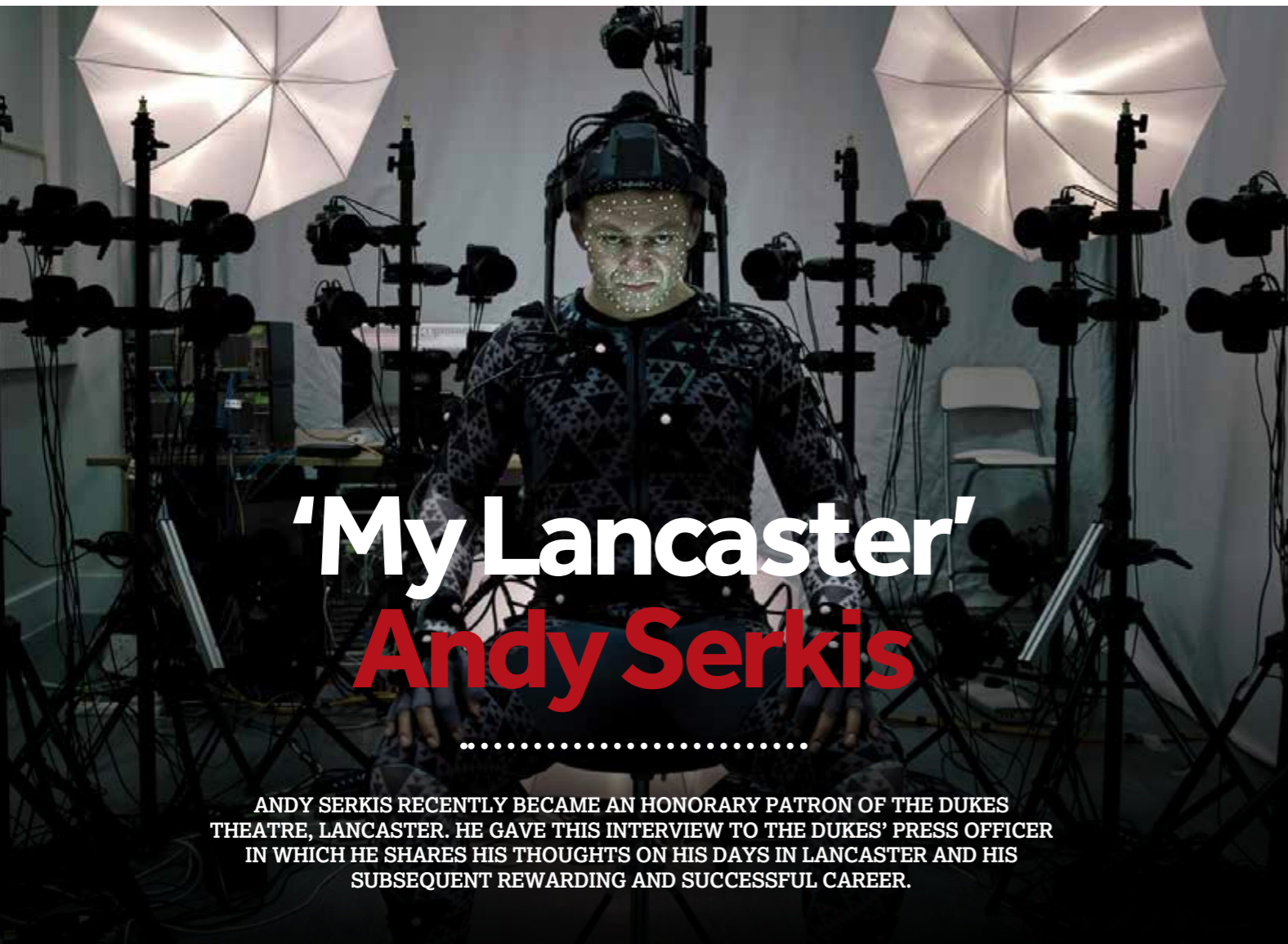


**PHILIP LEECH**  
Philosophy & Politics, 2006, Lonsdale  
'The State of Palestine'

# Alumni Weddings



- 1** RALI STOYKOV CHILIKOV, Business Studies, 2016, Grizedale married TATIANA SMOLINA, Management & Organisation, 2016, Pendle
- 2** DUNCAN NICHOLLS, MSc Sustainable Water Management, 2015 & Environmental Science, 2014, Pendle married ROBYN POPE, MSc Volcanology and Geological Hazards, 2015 & Earth Science 2014, Cartmel
- 3** STEVE FEEKINS, English Literature, 2011, County married HANNAH CLARK, History, 2011, County
- 4** VISHWANTH THANDU RAVIKRISHNAN, MSc ITMOC 2010 married NANDINI PRIYA BHASKAR, MSc ITMOC 2010
- 5** MICHAEL PEEVER, English Literature, 2013, Bowland married KATIE BROWN, Visiting Student, 2013, Bowland
- 6** DAVID SWAYSLAND, Economics, 2011, Pendle married KATIE PHILPOTT, Criminology, 2012, Pendle
- 7** LUKE HAMILTON, Psychology, 2012, Pendle married ERIN BENTLEY, Fine Art, 2012, County
- 8** BEN MAYFIELD, PhD Law 2012 married AMY GIBBONS, PhD Organisation, Work & Technology, 2012, MRes Information Technology, Management & Organisation, 2007
- 9** MATTHIAS DAVIS, Law, 2003, Cartmel married ZOE STEAD, English Literature, 2004, Pendle
- 10** WILL BERRY, Business Studies, 2006, Bowland married TARRYN ROBSON, English Literature & Theatre Studies, 2006, Bowland
- 11** KARL MULCAHY, Management & Information Technology, 2011, Fylde, married HELEN MARTIN, Law, 2011, Fylde
- 12** SAM BERRY, BBA Management, 2011, Pendle married AMY DONOGHUE, BBA Management, 2011, Pendle
- 13** DANIEL SHEPHERD, MSc Environmental Science, 2007 married HANNAH STEELE European Studies & German, 2010, County
- 14** SCOTT MASON, Politics, 2009, Furness married LAURA WILKINSON, French & Spanish Studies, 2010, Furness
- 15** PETER MACMILLAN, Politics, 2010, County married KATHARINE RAWSON, Management Mathematics, 2011, County
- 16** DAVID FOWLER, Philosophy & Politics, 2006, County married KATY ELLISON, Psychology, 2006, County
- 17** OWEN ROBERTS, English Language, 2011, Bowland married HELEN COMERFORD, English Literature & History, 2011, Cartmel
- 18** JOE ASHCROFT, English Literature, 2006, Pendle married CATHERINE BRECKWOLDT, Media & Communications, 2006, Pendle
- 19** GEORGE LAZAROU, Accounting & Finance, 2011, Bowland married EVDOKIA PITSILLOU, Accounting & Finance, 2011, County
- 20** BEN SOFFA, MA Genetics, Culture & Society, 2004 married CAT SMITH, Gender & Sociology, 2006, Cartmel



# 'My Lancaster'

## Andy Serkis

ANDY SERKIS RECENTLY BECAME AN HONORARY PATRON OF THE DUKES THEATRE, LANCASTER. HE GAVE THIS INTERVIEW TO THE DUKES' PRESS OFFICER IN WHICH HE SHARES HIS THOUGHTS ON HIS DAYS IN LANCASTER AND HIS SUBSEQUENT REWARDING AND SUCCESSFUL CAREER.

### What brought you to Lancaster?

I came to Lancaster University to study Visual Arts in 1982.

### Why did you decide to become an actor?

I'd done a little acting while I was at school and as a third option in my first year at Lancaster, I did Theatre Studies which led to an Independent Studies degree in Theatre Design and Movement.

Part of that involved me going to The Dukes, working with production designers and painting sets, and eventually we staged some of our student productions there including a play called 'Class Enemy' around 1983. I then did a play called 'Gotcha' by Barrie Keeffe – it was a total epiphany. The level of immersion in the character was an extraordinary thing. The desire to investigate and embody other peoples' lives became very strong because of the release of emotion and the psychological journeys that you go on when you start to uncover a role.

### When did you join The Dukes and which production did you first appear in?

When I was leaving Lancaster I applied to drama schools and I also applied to The Dukes.

At that time regional theatres were giving away two Equity cards a year and I was fortunate enough to be offered a place in the company as I was graduating.

My first professional night at The Dukes in 'Privates on Parade' was on the same day that I graduated.

### What did you learn from your time at The Dukes that has helped you during your career?

When I became a professional actor I was fortunate to be given my first job there by a director called Jonathan Petherbridge. My desire to become an actor became more refined by learning from him as a director and as a person, in that the way he treated theatre was very much as a service to the community, and the way he directed plays and operated the company meant that we were very connected to Lancaster and its people.

He instilled in me a way of thinking about acting, which was about as far away from it being a vain occupation as possible, in that drama has significant possibilities for change in society, however small. That is a very powerful healing force in a community and is also a powerful force in my attitude to what acting can possibly do, and remains so to this day.

### What do you remember of appearing in The Dukes first outdoor show in Williamson Park in 1987?

It was a total adventure and Jonathan Petherbridge was incredibly inspiring.

He'd done site-specific theatre, outdoor promenade shows before, but for me it was my first time, and I just found it intoxicating.

Williamson Park is the most extraordinary wonderland for putting on a piece of theatre. I learnt a lot about acting for film, actually in that experience – relating with a real environment rather than being behind a fourth wall on a stage.

It was the most incredible first night, which really affected the audience; it was a truly magical experience.

### Where did you live during the time you were appearing in Lancaster?

I first lived in a farmhouse near the University called Bailrigg Farm, and then I lived in various places including renting a room in Hornby Castle and by the river in Lune Street in a flat in which someone had been murdered...there was a ghost!

### Do you still stay in contact with anyone from your Lancaster days and, if so, who?

Yes very much so: Jonathan Petherbridge, Bev Willis, Jane Nash, Nicholas Murchie, Tony Bell, among many others.

### What do you think is special and important about regional producing theatres?

Regional theatres are cathedrals for a community – they breathe life into a community. They are centres of inspiration across the arts and extremely valuable as with theatre the community gets to share in the storytelling.

### What advice would you give today's aspiring student actors?

Enjoy being part of a theatre company. Although it's important to have a business head on you as an actor, when you're starting out in your careers, follow your heart as to the best stories to tell and the characters to play. Don't be driven by a business head too early on, there's plenty of time for that.

### When did you leave The Dukes and where did you go next?

I think I left The Dukes in 1987. I started working for other regional theatres and did a production of 'Bouncers' at Hull Truck Theatre Company which went up to the Edinburgh Festival and did a tour of Ireland. Then I went to the Bolton Octagon, the Sheffield Crucible followed by the Royal Exchange in Manchester where I worked on Macbeth among others.

### When did you last visit Lancaster?

It must have been about seven years ago. My wife Lorraine was filming on the Isle of Man and on the drive to visit her, my children and I stopped off in Lancaster. I took them to see the University, went to see the Nuffield Theatre there and then we went on to The Dukes. It was extraordinary – we walked onto the stages: it was a very emotional experience, especially being there with my kids.

### What has been the highlight of your career so far?

The highlight of my career is really whatever I'm excited about or working on at any given moment.

I suppose if I were to make a list there isn't just one, there's a few key moments in my career. One of which is definitely my time at The Dukes – being part of a company of actors for that length of time was truly inspiring.

The second one on stage was in Mojo at the Royal Court Theatre in 1995.

I have also enjoyed playing Ian Dury in Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll, playing Gollum and all the films I've worked on with Peter Jackson, and then founding The Imaginarium with my co-founder Jonathan Cavendish, and seeing it come together and come to life.

### What are you currently working on?

I am currently in post-production on two movies that I've directed, one of which is 'Breathe', a triumph of the human spirit and a love story (due out October 2017) and Warner Brothers' 'The Jungle Book' by Rudyard Kipling. In addition, the third instalment in the Planet of the Apes franchise, 'War for the Planet of the Apes', where I play Caesar, is released in July.

### What are your plans for the future?

The Imaginarium has a number of projects in development and production.

We're driven by creating stories in various mediums, concentrating on the future of next-generation storytelling – be that VR/AR, live events, immersive films, games and television and many more arenas. Drama and stories that will change the world.

DON'T BE DRIVEN BY A BUSINESS HEAD TOO EARLY ON, THERE'S PLENTY OF TIME FOR THAT



CAREERS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR ARE DIVERSE. WE TALK TO THREE GRADUATES WHO CHOSE TO PERFORM VERY DIFFERING ROLES IN ORGANISATIONS OPERATED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND DISCOVER HOW THEY ARRIVED IN THEIR RESPECTIVE ROLES.

# Life in the Public Eye



## LAURA SKAIFE-KNIGHT AMERICAN STUDIES, 2002, GRIZEDALE

Director of Communications,  
Nottingham University Hospitals  
NHS Trust

As the Director of Communications for one of the biggest and busiest acute and teaching hospitals in Europe, Laura Skaife-Knight is under incredible pressure.

She is directly responsible to the trust board of Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, communicates to a workforce of 14,500, plus satisfying the demands of a thirsty national and international media, regulators and politicians.

"I never switch off and I never go anywhere without my phone," she says: "It's incredibly stressful, but I really feel that I am privileged to do what I do. I live and breathe my work."

Laura - who is one of the youngest Directors of Communications in the country - attributes her ability to handle her high-level job to the grounding she received during her three years studying American Studies as an undergraduate at Lancaster.

"The degree I chose was so wide-ranging that it gave me a fantastic grounding to do anything, and the year I spent as part of it in the USA, on my own in another country, was the making of me."

During her final year back in Lancaster, she decided on a career in print journalism and after graduation went to study for a Master's in Journalism at the University of Sheffield backed by a bursary. She landed a job as a news reporter at the Northampton Chronicle and Echo, where she found herself tackling a large number of health-related stories. This prompted a change of direction. After less than two years she decided to leave journalism and work in the NHS, as a Communications Officer at University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust.

With the help of hard work and top quality mentoring and life coaching, Laura speeded through the ranks to gain a Communications Manager job at Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust within three years of joining the NHS. She has also acquired an Advanced Certificate from the Chartered Institute of Public Relations.

"I'm working with some of the most caring, loyal and dedicated people in the country," she says. "At the end of every day, I go home knowing that what I do makes a difference to people's lives, and I am not even working on the front line."

Working at Laura's level requires personal sacrifices, but she accepts the stress because of her conviction that her Trust's work really matters. As she explains: "We are dealing with life and death here at Nottingham University Hospitals - so the stakes are high."



## JOHN DREW HISTORY & POLITICS, 1974, FURNESS

Leading Social Campaigner

John Drew is an adviser and campaigner on social justice who specialises in children's issues.

As an 18 year old in Freshers' Week in 1970 he was hanging around campus with little ambition other than to get himself out of bed before midday, when a passing student, Chris Downes, approached him with the promise that if John joined him for a Wednesday afternoon, the experience would change his life. He did and it did.

John - who headed the Drew Review into South Yorkshire Police's handling of child sexual exploitation - was taken to a community arts and sports project called New Planet City (NPC), aimed at 14-18 year olds not attending school and run by a group of community activists convinced that a new approach could save these disengaged teenagers from falling into criminality. "Lancaster allowed me to begin to link together the things that are not right" says John. By the end of his days at Lancaster, with degree in hand, John was clear about his desire to improve the world, starting off in Preston as a Social Worker.

He moved from this into child protection and fostering and was soon an area officer with responsibility for a third of Preston's social services. Further social work jobs, and postgraduate qualifications in social work took him to Essex and Tower Hamlets, before his appointment as Social Services and Housing Director at the East London Borough of Redbridge in 2000.

From this he moved back into youth justice, becoming Chief Executive of the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales. He was awarded a CBE for services to youth justice in 2013. With his wealth of experience, he was asked to head the independent review into South Yorkshire Police's response to child sexual exploitation, working with Sir Alan Billings, which he relished. The Drew Review was published on the 23rd March 2016.

Currently he is a member of the Standing Committee for Youth Justice, and works for the Prison Reform Trust, as a Visiting Professor at the University of Buckingham, as Chair of Medway Safeguarding Children's Board and Chair of the Criminal Justice Alliance. Professor Drew provides national and international consultancy on a wide range of social welfare issues. He was an advisor to the Parliamentary's Inquiry into the Youth Court (Carlile Inquiry) and is currently Secretary to the Laming Inquiry into children in care and the criminal justice system. Since his retirement from the Youth Justice Board in 2013, he has also been able to resume his involvement in Labour politics which he was forced to limit as he rose in the local authority ranks.

John still relishes his Lancaster experience. He says: "Lancaster was really inspiring. It developed in me a thirst for new ideas and learning. It was a passport to my current fulfilling and satisfying life."



## GRAHAM BECK PSYCHOLOGY & EDUCATION STUDIES, 1989, CARTMEL

Governor of HMP Kirkham

Graham Beck sees his career as divided into three clear sections - practising psychologist, prison programmes manager and now as Governor of HMP Kirkham. However, all of them are united in his mind by Lancaster and the passion for understanding the mind which his studies there ignited in him.

Working for the first time in his career in an open prison, he is dealing with men preparing for release, sometimes after long sentences in higher-security institutions and he does not want to see them back inside. So Graham has introduced a unique three-stage process called 'Bridge to Change' to prepare them to leave. Each prisoner has to complete each stage before they are considered ready for life outside Kirkham. His role of Governor is a very exposed role, with a huge responsibility to shape the institution to provide the best futures for the 657 men in his charge.

Psychology is a critical part of everything he does, but Graham freely admits: "If you had told me whilst I was at Lancaster that as a result of my Psychology Studies would end up as a Prison Governor, I would just have laughed."

As a mature student of 22, Graham had no difficulty in fitting in with the younger undergraduates. He thrived in an atmosphere where a joy of study was the norm and was stimulated by the balance of lectures and seminars, particularly the teaching of Professor Leslie Smith on Piaget, Vygotsky and Noam Chomsky.

The classroom was still a pull for Graham after he graduated and he gained a teaching certificate from Roehampton University. He thought his career lay in Further Education teaching, when he saw an advert to attract people to the prison service, with fully-funded study for a Master's degree in Forensic Psychology. The degree opportunity alone was enough to make him apply.

His first jobs were as a Forensic Psychologist at HMP Maidstone and then HMP Garth, before moving on to managerial roles including Head of Reducing Reoffending for the North West Area Office. After completing the Senior Prison Manager Programme in 2007, he took a post at Lancaster Farms Young Offenders Institution, before becoming Deputy Governor at HMP Haverigg. He has been Governor at HMP Kirkham since 2013.

The invaluable lesson he learned from his Lancaster studies is confidence. He says. "Part of my leadership function is to encourage, support and model confidence. One thing you cannot have in prison is staff without confidence."

For full Steps features visit [www.lancaster.ac.uk/steps](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/steps)

# EVENTS ROUND UP

## WE ARE LANCASTER



Following a launch on campus at the beginning of the summer term, Tower Bridge in London provided an excellent venue to share the programme's vision with a wider alumni audience. With over 138,000 alumni worldwide and a strong network of groups run by volunteers, the alumni community really embodies the spirit underpinning #WeAreLancaster.

**What does it mean to be part of a community which combines a global outlook with national and international significance and a strong regional focus?**

The #WeAreLancaster project has been established to explore and promote this concept. It seeks to foster a strong sense of identification with Lancaster across the broadest spectrum of stakeholders, including alumni, friends, students, staff and the local community.

Co-hosting the event with the Vice-Chancellor, the Chancellor, the Rt. Hon. Alan Milburn, emphasised the importance of this community and the astonishing support that alumni provide to the University. In his view Lancaster University provided a great support regardless of background; "Lancaster means the best foundation for life."



Find out more and take part at [www.lancaster.ac.uk/wearelanaster](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/wearelanaster)

## OUR LANCASTER

We have held a wide variety of events since the last issue, some hosted by the Lancaster University alumni office and others in conjunction with our volunteer groups and representatives across the world.



## WHY VOLUNTEER?

**Sally Jastrzebski Lloyd (English Literature & Religious Studies, 2000, County)** is one of our newest volunteers who has helped to form a group in Manchester, together with **Laura Barrowclough (Geography, 2012, Cartmel)** and **Chloe Themistocleous (Law, 2010, County)**. Here's why they volunteered to do it:

**Sally:** After years of grumbling that there wasn't a northern/Manchester group I decided that I'd better do something about that. The experience of meeting alumni of all ages has been so enriching and interesting.

**Laura:** To meet like-minded people who have shared similar experiences to me at Lancaster - it's always great getting to know new people and making new connections.

**Chloe:** In Manchester, through work or socialising, I regularly meet Lancaster alumni. The first question I ask or get asked is which college was I in? And the debate commences! People from Lancaster have common ground like no other and I think it is great to keep in touch and share opportunities and know-how across various industries.



If you would like to get involved with a group, visit [www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni/alumni-groups](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni/alumni-groups)

RESEARCH INTO CHILDREN'S EXPERIENCES OF SEVERE FLOODING, THE IMPACT ON THEIR LIVES AND LONGER-TERM RECOVERY HAS WON A PROJECT EXCELLENCE AWARD FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY.

# Flood-Affected Children are Citizen Advisors, not Victims



In collaboration with Save the Children, Lancaster researchers based in Sociology and Health Research (Maggie Mort, Marion Walker, Amanda Bingley and Alison Lloyd Williams – all Lancaster alumnae) secured funds from the Economic & Social Research Council's Urgency scheme.

They worked with groups of flood-affected children in a rural primary and young people in an urban secondary school, many who had been forced to leave their homes. South Ferriby on Humberside suffered a storm sea surge which flooded the village and surrounding areas at night on 5th December 2013; Staines-upon-Thames was a major disaster of 'co-incident' nature: fluvial, pluvial, groundwater flooding around 9th February 2014.

The team used sensory-based approaches: walking, talking and photography; sandplay and model-making; theatre-based activities and performance. Workshops started with individual stories, moving towards group/community stories, from which ways of recovering and building resilience could be developed. Four all-day workshops built towards public sharing of children's own recommendations.

It is believed this in-depth work with flood-affected children is the only research of its kind in the UK (acknowledging in-depth US work with children following Hurricane Katrina). The Environment Agency has described this project as creating a 'step-change' in its awareness of the impacts of flooding on children and young people and the role they can play in building resilience in their homes and across their communities.

In a six-minute Project Film children can be seen interacting with key agencies. The Children's and Young People's Flood Manifestos lay out in their own words their aspirations for change at all levels of flood risk management. Ten Tips for the Insurance Industry call upon insurers, loss adjusters and damage management actors to address unfairness and inconsistency. An adapted version of Flood Snakes and Ladders is being used with professionals to help bring the message about how floods affect lives to wider audiences. The Flood Suitcase Project is a recent 'spin-off' initiative, piloted in a Kendal school to respond to children's needs after the 2015/6 storms.

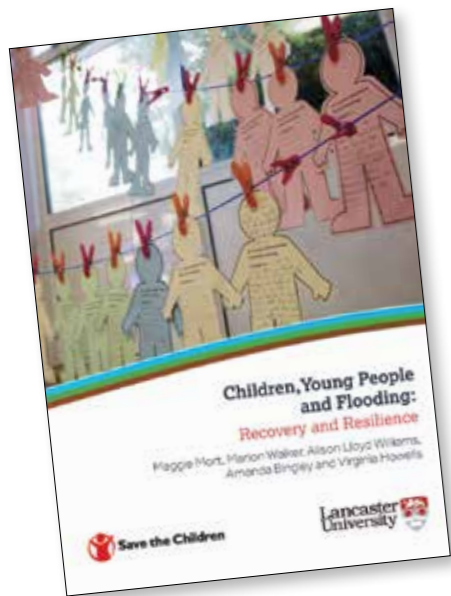
The value of children's involvement in flood risk management has become understood in local government and is testament to their effectiveness as 'flood expert advisors'. The Cumbria Flood Action Plan now contains an action on working with children and young people. Regionally and nationally, work is underway with the Fire and Rescue Service and the Environment Agency to act on one of the children's manifesto points in developing an education programme on flooding and water safety for schools. Save the Children, Barnardo's, Two Ridings Community Flood Foundation and Red Cross are all using the project findings, methods and tools. Following Storm Desmond, Barnardo's worked alongside the team at Kendal Stramongate School and later at St Michael's on Wyre Primary School, learning the workshop approach for use in other schools.

The project was featured on BBC R4 Woman's Hour and there have been many broadcasts with the children, including a daily feature one year on from the floods in which the young people told their flood stories.

The research team and the young people from The Magna Carta School presented to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Insurance session on flooding. This committee had never heard directly from children before.

Through the project children could begin to see themselves as policy actors rather than victims. This shift is relevant for public policy because it is one that the UK as a whole needs to take on, given the placement of floods top on the National Risk Register.

'Working closely with the children has itself been inspiring for us as researchers, in particular seeing them grow in confidence over the year's engagement and gradually take on a community and public role', said Maggie Mort. 'We know that our findings have inspired others to use our tools and methods: the feedback we're receiving is unequivocal on the matter of turning a distressing and negative experience into one where that experience is valued and acted upon at the highest levels.'



For further information please visit [www.lancaster.ac.uk/floodrecovery](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/floodrecovery)



# University News

## TOP MARKS FOR THE LIBRARY



Who would have thought that the library could be one of the 'coolest' places on campus? The Student Experience Survey 2017 has ranked it joint first for its library provision and opening hours after it underwent a multi-million pound refurbishment.

With modern furniture, increased space and even a living tree, the transformation has caused quite a stir.

Director of Library Services Peter Maggs said there had been a 150 per increase in footfall since the work was completed early last year.

He said: "A good library, that is effective and supports teaching, learning and research, and offers a really innovative learning space, is something people see as central to the University."

## LANCASTER STRIKES GOLD!

Lancaster University has been given the TEF Gold award for outstanding teaching, an outstanding learning environment and delivering excellent employment outcomes for its students.

This is the highest possible rating a university can achieve and puts Lancaster in a small group of newly emerging universities who can claim to be genuinely elite – ranked highly for both research and for excellent teaching.

In addition, Lancaster is ranked 9th in the Guardian University League Table 2018, confirming its place among the UK's top institutions. The league table focuses on the quality of teaching, student satisfaction and employability. This successful result follows a high score in the Complete University Guide 2018 where Lancaster is also ranked 9th. The University is also placed 9th in The Times/Sunday Times University Guide 2017.



## ALUMNI OPEN NEW HORIZONS FOR STUDENTS

In March, a group of 17 Lancaster students travelled to London for a two-day programme that connects current students to alumni who are living and working in London.

The Capital Connections programme aims to support students from widening participation backgrounds by giving them the opportunity to develop career insights, improve their communication skills and grow their professional networks.

During the two days, the students met Lancaster alumni who hosted visits to the Fast Track Civil Service, the BBC and EY.

The students also attended an alumni networking event in Covent Garden, which was attended by the University's Chancellor, the Rt. Hon. Alan Milburn and 24 early career alumni. While the students were nervous about networking, this event was the highlight of their two day trip.

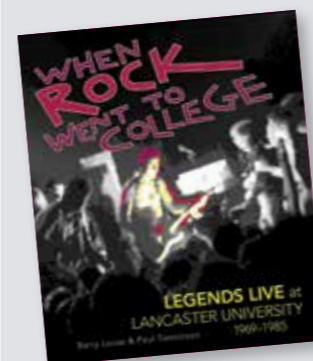


Students described how Capital Connections had made a positive impact on their confidence, career insight, networking skills and career decision making:

"After this event I have learnt so much more about myself and my abilities, it has really opened up a whole new horizon of opportunities."

## WHEN ROCK WENT TO COLLEGE: LEGENDS LIVE AT LANCASTER UNIVERSITY 1969-1985

This is the story of how and why the world's greatest rock artists (including The Who, Pink Floyd, U2, Eric Clapton, Van Morrison and Tina Turner) clamoured to play on a small stage, in a small hall at a small university in a small northern city.



Barry Lucas and Paul Tomlinson have documented this piece of LU history in a new book. It contains tales of the halcyon days when Paul McCartney was playing football on campus waiting to hear if the Uni would allow him to play a gig that evening and when Harvey Goldsmith asked if finals could be moved to accommodate The Rolling Stones! If you were a student at Lancaster during this time, you may (or may not) remember some of these anecdotes or images. To order your copy at £5 off the cover price (normally £30) plus £1.99 towards postage visit [www.carnegiepublishing.com](http://www.carnegiepublishing.com) Tel. 01524 840111 or email: [marilyn@carnegiepublishing.com](mailto:marilyn@carnegiepublishing.com)

"Barry and Paul have put together not just a fascinating account of a rock and roll phenomenon, but a truly important and entertaining cultural and social history." Andy Kershaw



## CELEBRATIONS AND INSPIRATION AT BLACK EXCELLENCE EVENT



Alumni speakers provided students with inspirational talks at the Black Excellence networking event on campus in May. The event was founded in 2016 by social enterprise One Love Radio, a student-led organisation that provides a platform for students in Lancaster to celebrate pan-Africanism through education and music.

All students, regardless of their background, had the chance to build invaluable networks, meet global businesses, hear from high profile guest speakers and take part in employability enhancement workshops. Alumni speakers were Ronke Lawal (Director and Founder, Ariatu Public Relations), and Faith Adebola Adebayo (Management Consulting Analyst,

Accenture), whilst Tendayi Wilson Mazaiwana showcased his business SMSJuice Ltd (Director and Founder).

Event founder and co-project manager, Sofia Akel, commented, "Endorsement from the University and alumni support is so important for an event like this to work. We all really benefited from hearing about the experiences and achievements of the alumni and went away feeling inspired."

Ronke Lawal also stated she was "very proud to be a Lancaster alumna" after attending and speaking at the event.

To be involved in the future please email: [alumni@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@lancaster.ac.uk) or visit [www.facebook.com/oneloveradioballrigg](http://www.facebook.com/oneloveradioballrigg)

## A LEGACY FOR LANCASTER



A passion for local and family history has led to legacies to Lancaster of more than £140,000 from Dr Margaret Bainbridge (Dip Local History, 1993, Fylde) which will be used to foster and promote the region's heritage through the Bainbridge North West Regional Heritage Fund.

The legacies were borne out of Dr Bainbridge's passion for local and family history and her commitment to Lancaster University's Regional Heritage Centre which inspired much of her more recent research. Her research for her Diploma centered on connections between her personal family history and Lancaster's maritime legacy leading to her book collaboration with Rob David and Michael Winstanley.

Nick Fragel, Director of Development and Alumni Relations commented, "Dr Bainbridge's remarkable passion for local history will live on as a result of her wonderful generosity. Her legacies will support projects dear to her heart and important to the heritage of our region."



**DONNA MUNDAY,  
THEATRE STUDIES,  
1992, PENDLE,  
ANSWERS OUR  
QUESTIONS  
ABOUT LIFE AFTER  
LANCASTER  
AND HER VERY  
SUCCESSFUL  
CAREER IN THE  
WORLD OF THEATRE  
MANAGEMENT.**

# 'My Lancaster' Donna Munday



## **What made you choose Lancaster University for your degree?**

My sister went to Lancaster; I went up to visit her, and was smitten. I hadn't planned to go to university, but visiting Jo (who was also in Pendle) changed my mind. The course looked brilliant and they accepted me as a "mature" student – I was 22.

## **What is your fondest memory of your time here?**

So many things, I can't name one single thing. Firstly, the incredibly close friends I made, many of whom are still my closet friends today. My course was brilliant. The engagement with student life – I was very active in Pendle and in the Student Union, I held several positions – Social Secretary of Pendle and Consti-Com Chair (can't even remember what that was!). Being near the Lake District and just being able to jump in the car and get into the countryside. The theatre productions I was involved with. The nights out and working at the Sugarhouse. The political engagement. Everything!

## **What was the most valuable part of your student experience?**

Two things. Firstly the fact that the course was modular and I could piece together the nine units according to my interests. So, as well as some of the standard theatre studies modules, I also did two units in contemporary feminist studies and three units which were "enterprise" units – all of which were essential training for the career I ended up having.

They included managing a large theatre production company in Edinburgh for the summer, doing five shows in three venues which we ran ourselves and directing a large musical on campus.

Secondly, attending the National Student Drama Festival in my second and third years. NSDF showed me that I could have a career in producing and managing theatre. I stayed involved with the organisation after I left university and have been Chair of the Board since 2012.

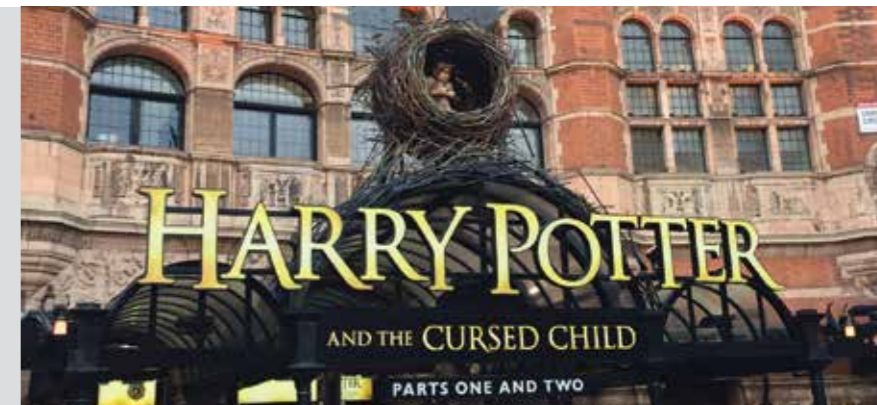
## **Who or what particularly inspired you when you were here and why?**

My lecturers in the Theatre Studies Department; Margaret Eddershaw, Keith Sturgess, Gerry Harris, Andrew Quick, Baz Kershaw, Pete Brooks. They were all brilliant and inspiring.

Also my fellow students (most of whom were Labour Students with a sprinkling of Greens) who I campaigned with on many issues – the infamous rent strike of 1991/2, the Gulf War, the Nestlé and Texaco boycotts, Reclaim The Night protests and many other issues we all felt strongly about.

## **Do you keep in touch with other alumni since you graduated? If so, have you been back to visit at all?**

Yes, I am still very close friends with the group of us that bonded over politics and were involved in the Student Union.



We were all doing different courses, in different colleges and were in different years, but we campaigned together and felt the same about the key political issues of the day. That group of us still see each other all the time, we go on holiday together; we are great friends.

I am also still in touch with a few people from my course, a few people from Theatre Society and a handful from my college. I have been back a couple of times, but not in the past 10 years. When I last went back we sat on the steps in Alex Square and reminisced about the occupation of Senate House during the rent strike.

## **Is there anything you particularly miss about student life?**

I wouldn't say that I miss things, but I think back on those years with enormous joy and fondness. It was such enormous fun. The course was great, the people were fantastic, the social life was brilliant, the political activity was exciting, we were in beautiful countryside. It was a magical three years.

## **How did your career progress?**

I got a job in theatre production straight after graduating and have been working in the theatre industry ever since. I started out working for small scale touring theatre companies, then became Finance Director of the Royal Court Theatre. I was CEO of two large regional theatre complexes (in Northampton and Sheffield) and I've worked extensively in the West End - I was General Manager at Really Useful Theatres, Director of Theatre Production at Working Title Films and most recently Executive Producer at Sonia Friedman Productions.

Shows I have worked closely on in recent years include Billy Elliot The Musical, Hamlet (starring Benedict Cumberbatch), Funny Girl (starring Sheridan Smith) and Harry Potter and the Cursed Child.

## **What do you enjoy the most in your work?**

I've enjoyed my career enormously. I am privileged to work in an industry I really love, with fabulous and talented people who are really committed to what they do, on shows that are amazing. I love producing shows, both musicals and plays, and feeling that I have been a part of what is up there on a stage entertaining people every night. I love seeing the audience's reaction to productions I have been a part of. I've enjoyed all of my jobs immensely, but my favourites were probably the five years I spent at the Royal Court, when Stephen Daldry was Artistic Director and the five years I spent at Working Title Films working on Billy Elliot. They were very special times.

## **What has been your greatest achievement so far in any aspect of your life?**

Gosh that's a hard one. On the work front, I have enjoyed my career to date immensely. Even when I was doing my enterprise units as a student I said that I wanted to work really hard, but also have fun at work, otherwise what's the point and I have a LOT of fun. My motto has always been 'work hard, play harder' and I think I've achieved that. But more than that and I don't know if I'd call this an achievement as such, but it's something that makes me very happy, are the friendships and relationships I've made and kept along the way, from school, through university, and then through my working life. My friends are incredibly important to me, and I love the fact that I am still really good friends with so many fabulous people that I have met and worked or played with throughout my life.

## **What advice would you give to today's students?**

Grab every single opportunity that is available to you while you are there – join clubs, meet new people, party as hard as you can, get a good degree, get involved in issues and people outside your course that interest you... don't waste a second of those three years.

# How Do I?



## HOW DO I OBTAIN ANOTHER COPY OF MY DEGREE CERTIFICATE?

Lost your degree certificate or transcript? Assuming it's not filed away in a safe place, you can obtain a copy through the student registry, though please note that there is a charge for this service – so it may be worth a quick check round the house first!

[www.lancaster.ac.uk/student-based-services/the-base/alumni-document-ordering](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/student-based-services/the-base/alumni-document-ordering)



## CAN I COME BACK TO VISIT?

We love to see alumni back on campus. If you want to hold your own reunion, we can tell you how to find accommodation, give you information about what is open on campus during your stay and maybe even give you a quick tour round if you haven't been back for a while. You can even party for another night at the Sugarhouse - if you dare! Email [alumni@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@lancaster.ac.uk) if you need some help arranging your trip.



## LEARN FOR FREE

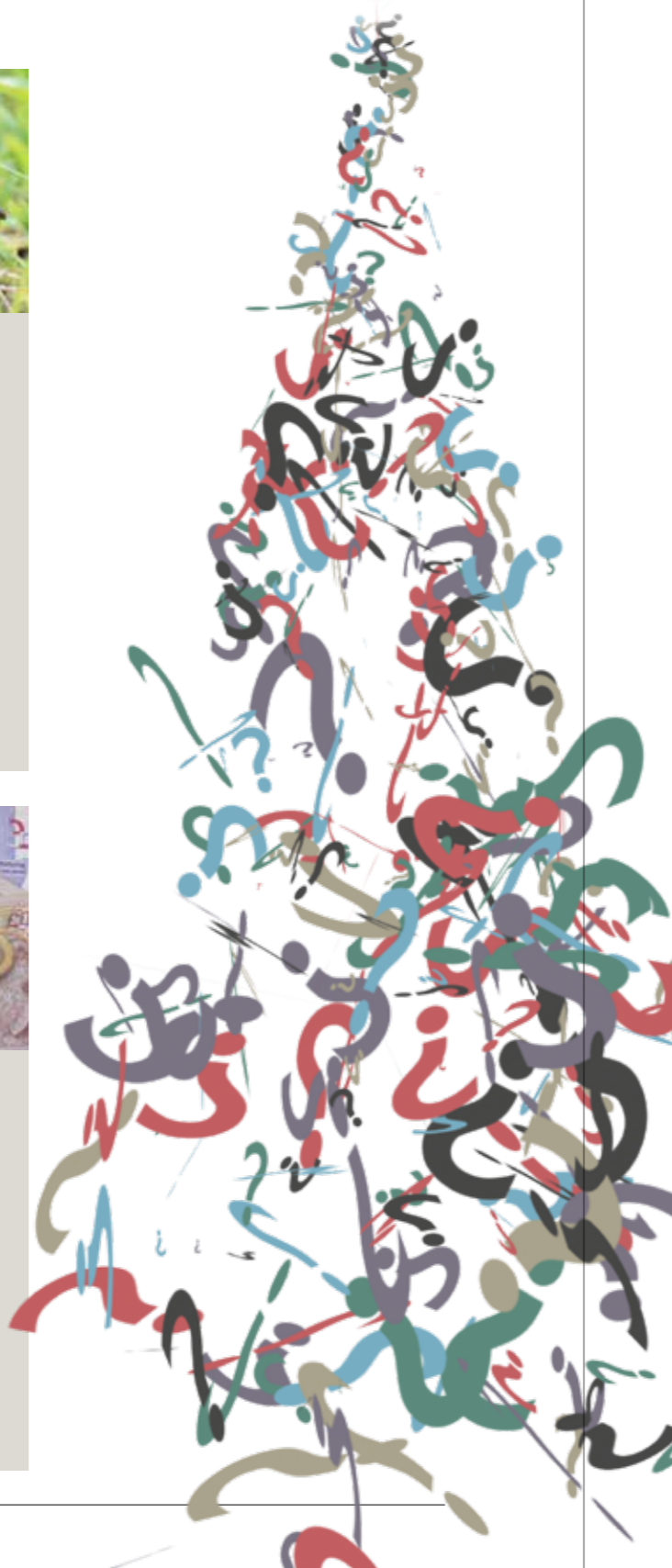
Lancaster offers free online courses in partnership with FutureLearn, often referred to as 'MOOCs' or massive open online courses. You can register online – you just need access to a computer, tablet or mobile phone to take part. Visit [www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/free-courses](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/free-courses) to check what courses are currently available.



## HOW CAN I DONATE TO LANCASTER UNIVERSITY?

If you would like to donate to the Friends programme and help us play our part in transforming the world for the benefit of everyone, visit our giving page. Any contribution, at any level, is much appreciated.

[www.lancaster.ac.uk/giving/donate](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/giving/donate)



YOU MAY BE FAMILIAR WITH THE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS SECTION ON THE ALUMNI WEBSITE, BUT IF NOT, HERE ARE SOME OF THE WAYS IN WHICH WE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP:



## CAN I RECEIVE ONGOING CAREERS SUPPORT?

Lancaster is committed to providing alumni with help to progress and develop at any time in their career, not just when you are graduating. If you are thinking of changing direction or want a new opportunity, please contact the careers service for advice [www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni/alumni-careers](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni/alumni-careers)



## HOW CAN I HELP?

We rely on many alumni volunteers to give back to the University in various ways. We have over 2500 graduates who have helped in areas such as student recruitment support, careers advice or mentoring, guest speaking, sitting on University advisory boards and committees and co-ordinating volunteer groups. If you would like to get more involved in the work at Lancaster, please email us [alumni@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@lancaster.ac.uk)



## HOW DO I UPDATE MY DETAILS?

Whilst we try and encourage graduates to let us know when they move or change email address, it's hard keeping track on our database of over 138,000 alumni. If you do wish to continue hearing from us by post, phone or email, please make contact and tell us where you are in the world. Email [alumni@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@lancaster.ac.uk)



## HOW DO I FIND AN ALUMNI GROUP NEAR ME?

We have more than 138,000 alumni in over 180 countries, so wherever you are based in the world, there may be a local group or contact to help you stay in touch with the University or welcome you to the area. If you can't find one, why not learn how to become a volunteer and set up a group of your own with our help.

[www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni/groups](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni/groups)



## LOVE THE LIBRARY

Anyone is welcome to visit the new award-winning library to consult items in the building or use photocopiers and scanners. You may join as an alumni library member to use the lending services. You can also have access to The Scholarly Journal Archive (JSTOR) and Sage e-journals.

[www.lancaster.ac.uk/library/information-for/alumni](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/library/information-for/alumni)



## HOW CAN I BUY MEMORABILIA?

There is a range of LU merchandise available online which includes clothing, stationery, glassware, and graduate bears. You can also order a custom made T-shirt for your graduation year, jewellery or, brand new for 2017, a Lancaster University Monopoly set. Some colleges also have their own range of goodies. Check out the web page

[www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni/memorabilia](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni/memorabilia)

# Honorary Graduates

Each year Lancaster awards honorary degrees to people with an outstanding international or leading national reputation in their field. The following awards were made in 2016:



**DR MOHAMED IBRAHIM** is a philanthropist and entrepreneur widely seen as 'transforming' the African continent by placing government at the heart of African development.



**DAME FIONA REYNOLDS** was Director-General of the National Trust from 2001-2012. She was previously Director of the Women's Unit in the Cabinet Office.



**TESSA ROSS CBE** was Controller of Film and Drama at Channel 4. Previously she was Head of Drama for the BBC's Independent Commissioning Group and was awarded the CBE in 2010.



**PROFESSOR BERNARD SILVERMAN FRS** is one of the world's leading statisticians. He is currently Chief Scientific Advisor to the Home Office.



**GIAN FULGONI** has revolutionised market research by pioneering the use of new technologies which have fundamentally improved the sales and marketing practices of companies worldwide.



**STEWART WALLIS OBE** stepped down as Executive Director of the New Economics Foundation (NEF) as of January 2016. Previously he was International Director of Oxfam GB.

**Honorary Degrees in July 2017 will be awarded to:**

The Rt Hon Lord Justice Ryder, Professor Maureen Raymo, Professor Miles Carroll, Sarah Waters, Dame Louise Casey CB and Professor Jacky Hayden CBE

# Alumni Awards

The University's Alumni Awards recognise Lancaster graduates who have made a substantial contribution in their field and have developed an outstanding national or international reputation amongst their peers. The following awards were made in 2016:



**SAM HODGES** (English Language, 1999, Pendle) Head of Communications, Twitter



**JANE LINGHAM** (Advertising & Marketing, 1998, Pendle) Director of BBC Brand



**MIKE DORMER** (Economics, 1972, Bowland) Former Worldwide Chairman of Medical Devices & Diagnostics



**VICTORIA PETERKIN** (English Literature, 2006, Pendle) Founder & Managing Director of Daisy Nursery Ltd



**DAVE SHACKLETON** (History & Politics, 1988, Fylde) Managing Director of Phantom Music Management



**MARK BRANSON** (MSc Operational Research, 1990, Fylde) CEO of the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA)



**ANDREW COWELL** (BEng Hons Mechanical Engineering, 1991, Grizedale) Managing Director of Mercedes AMG High Performance Powertrains

**Alumni Awards in July 2017 will be awarded to:** Carol Atkinson, Damian Barr and Tim Pemberton



# In Memoriam

**Gordon Humphreys**, long standing friend and supporter to the Engineering Department died on 12 May 2017. On moving to Lancaster he was appointed as a Visiting Professor and an external advisor to the Vice-Chancellor's senior management group.

**Dr Steve Dempster** passed away on 29 March 2017 aged 46. Steve was a Lecturer in the Department of Educational Research and Vice-Principal of County College. From 2002 Steve was a teaching associate and a research associate in the department until he took up his lectureship in September 2014. He served on University Court from 2009-2013 and on Senate from 2011-2013.

**John Graddon** former staff member died on Sunday 12 March 2017. John joined the University Careers Department in 1978 until 1998, latterly becoming Deputy Director of the Careers Service.

**Dan Lucas** (German Studies, 2009, Cartmel) passed away suddenly on 11 March 2017 aged 31. He was an enthusiastic, knowledgeable and engaging author of The Guardian's popular cricket and rugby union live online reports since 2013. A full tribute can be read on The Guardian website.

**Dr Gareth Hughes** passed away on 1 March 2017. He joined the Lancaster High Energy Physics Group in 1970, although his main strength was in the understanding of computers and computing. In the 1990s as well as being a member of the CERN Central Computing Committee, he was chairman of the committee that produced the review's guiding policy on computing for the UK Particle Physics. He eventually became the Director of Undergraduate Courses in the Department of Physics. He retired in 2007, but continued his involvement with the ATLAS experiment as an Emeritus staff member.

**Mario Soares**, Honorary Graduate Mario Soares LLD (Honoris Causa) 1986, former Prime Minister of Portugal, died on Saturday 7 January aged 92. His full obituary appears on The Guardian website.

**Tony Evans**, former Head of Security from 1995 to March 2009 passed away on 28 December 2016 aged 72. He was a retired superintendent of the Lancashire Police prior to coming to Lancaster and was a valued member of Furness College having served as both Vice-Principal and Senior Tutor.

**Nom Habu**, former LU Regional Officer for Nigeria from May 2011 until August 2013 died on 15 December 2017. He came to Lancaster after his regional role to start his MSc in Quantitative Finance. On successful completion he returned to Nigeria to take up the post as Office Manager for LU Ghana heading up a small team.

**Donald Kershaw**, Reader Emeritus in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics died on 21 December 2016 at the age of 88. His mathematical speciality was numerical analysis. In 1964 Donald joined the Computer Unit at Edinburgh University and, after establishing a strong publication record, he moved to a readership at Lancaster.

**Dr Ken Oates** passed away on Friday 25 November 2016 aged 90. Ken was a former member of staff in the Department of Biological Sciences and worked at Lancaster from 1969 until he retired in 1993. He worked in the field of Transmission Electron Microscopy and Scanning Electron Microscopy. In 1984 he was awarded his PhD from Lancaster and he received the 'President's Award', a gold medal from the Royal Microscopical Society. In 1993, the same organisation awarded him the 'Geoffrey Meek Award for Technical Advances in Microscopy'.

**The Right Honourable Lord Thomas Taylor of Blackburn CBE JP DL** died on 25 November 2016 following an accident. A founder member of the University, Lord Taylor of Blackburn became one of the original members of the Court and was the first of its members to be elected to the Council in December 1964. Mr Taylor, then a Labour member of Blackburn Borough Council, was an active member of the Executive Council for the Establishment of a University at Lancaster from 1963 to 1965. He received an honorary doctorate (LLD - Doctor of Laws) in 1996. An obituary appeared in The Telegraph.

**Professor E. Roland Dobbs**, a founder Professor of Physics at Lancaster passed away on 24 October 2016. His vision and energy gave the department a flying start. He oversaw the design and construction of the physics building and the appointment of a range of physicists.

His own interests were in low temperature physics and ultrasonic studies of solids. He was at Lancaster from 1964 and left to return to London in 1973. A full obituary is published in The Royal Holloway University Magazine.

**Norman Sherry**, Emeritus Professor died on October 19 2016. Norman joined in 1970 as Head of the English Department until 1982. He then worked as the official biographer of novelist Graham Greene. Full details are published on The Telegraph website.

**William Smethurst** (History, 1967, Bowland), founder of the Lancaster University magazine, Carlyonne, who went on to be Editor and Producer of *The Archers* in the 1970s and 80s died on 22 July 2016 aged 71. He joined the programme in 1974 as a writer having started his career as a journalist and writer of radio plays at the BBC. He was Script Editor on *Play for Today* working with writers such as Malcolm Bradbury and David Edgar at the time he was appointed as Editor of *The Archers* in 1978. Full details on the BBC Website.

**Dr Alan Waters** passed away on 22 July 2016. Alan worked for many years in the University's Institute for English Language Education (IELE) and then joined the department in 2001. His specialism was Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL). He held positions in several countries (Sierra Leone, Kuwait and Thailand) before coming to Lancaster, ran courses in many other parts of the world and acted as a consultant to several major ELT development projects. He retired in 2012 and continued to maintain an interest in TEFL.

**Alan Betjemann**, who died on 24 June 2016, came to Lancaster as a research associate in Physics in September 1964 to 1968 and then became Director of Productions in the Media Services Unit between 1974-75. He then moved to France for many years, but kept in regular touch with the University.

**Dee Amy-Chinn** (Politics 1981, Fylde) died on 3 December 2015, after four years of living with cancer. She was much loved as a teacher, writer and researcher. Dee and husband Steve met and married at Lancaster in 1980 and Steve welcomes all who knew Dee to contact him at [stevechinn@btinternet.com](mailto:stevechinn@btinternet.com)

For full obituaries please visit [www.lancaster.ac.uk/steps/obituaries](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/steps/obituaries)

# YOUR ALUMNI NETWORK

ALUMNUS (PL. ALUMNI, FEM. ALUMNA) N. A FORMER STUDENT



## KEEP IN TOUCH

Register on our website, like our Facebook page and join the alumni LinkedIn group. Keep your details up to date to receive newsletters, Steps magazines and invitations.

[www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni)

## GET INVOLVED

Come back to campus, give a talk, mentor students or help to organise alumni events – there are plenty of ways to keep your links with Lancaster.

[www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni/help](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni/help)

## JOIN OUR ALUMNI NETWORK

We have over 138,000 graduates in over 180 countries. Join your local group and come to events or contact us about starting your own!

[www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni/groups](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni/groups)

## BENEFITS AND SERVICES

Lancaster continues to offer ongoing careers support, discount at the sports centre, use of library services, scholarships and competitive accommodation rates (on campus and at Lancaster House Hotel).

[www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni/benefits](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni/benefits)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### 27 JULY 2017 OXFORD

Alumni group event, Slug & Lettuce

### 1 SEPTEMBER 2017 CHILE

First Chilean Alumni group Event

### SEPTEMBER 2017 LONDON

Welcome to the capital for new grads and networking

### 20 SEPTEMBER 2017 GHANA

Alumni reception at Lancaster University-Ghana, Accra

### 22 SEPTEMBER 2017 LANCASTER

Educational Research 50th Anniversary Celebration

### 23 SEPTEMBER 2017 LONDON

1967 Graduation Reunion at the Royal Geographical Society

### 4 OCTOBER 2017 LONDON

Professor Sir Roland Smith Lecture

### 18 NOVEMBER 2017 LANCASTER

ULMS Brass Band Alumni Concert

### 2 MARCH 2018 LONDON

Grand Alumni Reunion Dinner, Churchill War Rooms (start getting your group together!)

### 4-6 MAY 2018 LANCASTER

Cartmel College 50th Anniversary Reunion

### 5 MAY 2018 LANCASTER

Alumni reception at Roses Weekend

Our events programme is continually updated. Make sure we have your email address and location so we can send you notifications of events in your area.

You can also check online at [www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni/events](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni/events)

