

## Edited by

Kathryn Barlow, Florian Breit, Matt Jackson, Roseanne Orr

## Contributors

Lizzie Blowey, Ian Butcher, Allys Clipsham, Alun Derwydd-Jones, Harry Jansen, Callum Robson, Jenny Smith, Stuart Smith, Emma Wilson

## Contents

<b>Issue 1 — November 2011</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Issue 3 — March 2012</b>	<b>13</b>
Editor's Welcome	1	Editor's Note	13
The Mystery of the Vernon Manuscript	1	David Crystal Day	13
A Note from the President	2	Lost in Translation	14
A Look at Freshers's Week	2	An Ode to the Slips of the Tongue	14
The BLS' academic plans	2	The Debate: Waterstones v Waterstone's	15
Upcoming Events for November	3	Man's Best Friend...	16
Crossword	3	RAG Fashion Show	16
A Review of Stephen Fry's Planet Word	4	BLS Update	16
Department Hoodies	5	Linguistics Word Search	17
Keep in touch with the BLS	5	Upcoming Events for March & April	18
Contributors	5	Keep in touch with the BLS	18
		Contributors	18
<b>Issue 2 — January 2012</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Issue 4 — June 2012</b>	<b>19</b>
Editor's Note	7	Editor's Note	19
Review of "The Linguists"	7	Roseanne's First Year	19
Halloween with the BLS	8	An ode to linguistic diversity: Ex- periences of a Monolingual	20
Lexical Lunacy	8	Jenny's First Year	20
BLS Christmas Meal 2011	9	Self-limitation	20
New module is bendigedig*! (*fantastic)	9	BLS Members Recognised at SU Societies' Awards	21
Linguistic Crossword	10	Rejected Dissertation Ideas	21
David Crystal	10	Linguistics Chat-up Lines	22
Departmental Hoodies	10	English Language as a Joint Honours Student	22
Upcoming Events for February/March	11	Course Rep and Student Led Teaching Awards	22
Keep in touch with the BLS	11	Ready, set, graduate!	23
Contributors	11	Keep in touch with the BLS	23
		Contributors	23



## Editor's Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of *The Bangor Linguist*, our brand new monthly magazine. Within each issue, we will aim to explore the many aspects of linguistics and the English language. discuss and reflect some of the variety of research going on around us and also keep you up to date with what is happening in the department. There will also be a healthy dose of "popular linguistics" included, such as reviews of media coverage, puzzles and crosswords. We will also be talking to the Linguistics and English Language staff and students here at Bangor about what they think of Bangor, why they have chosen study or teach here and what they (hope to) do.

In this issue you will find a message from Stuart Smith, this years BLS president (p. 2), a review of Stephen Fry's "Planet Word" (p. 4), some reflections on Welcome Week (p. 2), a linguistics crossword (p. 3), an article on the Vernon Manuscript (front page) and a helpful overview of this month's events around the department (p. 3).

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all who have helped with the production of this newsletter. Without you, this would have never happened.

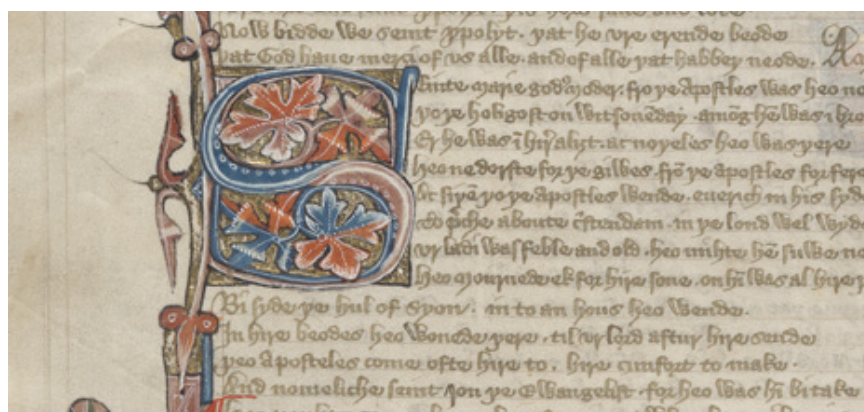
We all hope that you will enjoy this issue and find what we have included usefull. Any comments, requests, critique or offers of help are greatly appreciated and can be directed at Kathryn Barlow, the editor, via [linguistics@undeb.bangor.ac.uk](mailto:linguistics@undeb.bangor.ac.uk).

Kathryn Barlow

## The Mystery of the Vernon Manuscript

Upon its discovery, the Vernon Manuscript has become one of the most important finds in the quest for the mapping of the History of English; however, its true significance has only come to light now.

For years the Manuscript, which consisted of religious text in English, French and Latin, was the most complete and detailed account of how the English language had developed during the Medieval Period. Its primary aim was to help give religious access to those who were not familiar with Latin. However, certain aspects of the pronunciation and



The Vernon Manuscript, Image: University of Birmingham

spelling did not appear to match with other smaller, less significant documents of that period. Many theorists simply hypothesised that this difference was due to the inclusion of both French and Latin may have formed a very weak mix of all three languages to form a Pigeon-like alternative.

This theory was the strongest argument for this difference, until now. Students at the University of Birmingham stumbled upon their theory when one of their students began to read out some of the English aspects of one of the Manuscripts 700 pages. It was not the fact that the Latin or French had influenced the Manuscript's creation but merely the accent in which the authors of the script that had the clearest influence.

The accent in question is surprisingly that of the West Midlands, once thought to only have stronger prevalence during the Industrial Revolution, where the influence of thousands of traders living in and around Birmingham had shaped the language to what it is today. That was until the Vernon Manuscript revealed, that whoever had produced the works did so with a strong influence of both the accent and dialects of the West Midlands area.

Once this discovery had become much more publicised, many volunteers flocked to Birmingham to read out extracts in order to form a chart, mapping out the accent's influence in the area and begin to try and pinpoint certain area in (cont'd on page 2).

### A Note from the President

I hope you have all settled back into life at Bangor. The BLS is very pleased with the progress and achievements we have made since the end of last term. We have an entirely new committee for the upcoming academic year and we are all enthusiastic to continue making the society the best it can possibly be. In order to achieve this, we are currently organising a wide array of exciting activities, both of social and academic character and we look forward to seeing you at the events. We kicked off the year with a very successful and busy Welcome Week. It was enjoyed by everyone involved and with a variety of different activities and events it was certainly a week to remember. New friendships were formed between freshers and returning students. Big thanks must go to all Peer Guides within the department who made the week the success it was! You will be pleased to know, we have already started planning next year's Welcome Week and if you weren't a peer guide I would strongly advise you to embrace the opportunity next year.

Stuart Smith

### A Look at Freshers' Week

Freshers' week was great, I think that the activities and group events that the Peer Guides and the BLS had arranged were all really good and very useful in terms of getting to know everyone. Even the notorious toilet paper game was actually quite helpful! However, I especially think that the Fun Centre trip worked really well to mix up with different people and just have a good time, certainly something that must be done every year!

The peer guides were also very useful in helping to find my way

around the many uni buildings and halls sites, and they really helped you settle in. I even think of becoming one myself now! I also loved the trip to Llandudno, it was really nice to get to know the wider area a bit and see what other opportunities there are just a stone's throw away. My favourite thing in Freshers' Week was going



An impression of the BLS Student-Staff barbeque at the end of Freshers' Week

to the beach and getting chips that we ate with the seagulls, it was just perfect! A great week, thumbs up!

Alun Derwydd-Jones

### The Vernon Manuscript

(Cont'd from page 1) which the Manuscript could have been produced. There is still a large amount of work still to be done, Birmingham University are teaming up with the Bodleian Library in Oxford to produce a digital version of the Manuscript. Understandably with over 700 pages of fragile work to sort through it can be understood that this may take some time. You can see their progress online at <http://bit.ly/uWdgJ1>.

Harry Jansen

### The BLS' academic plans

As you all will know the BLS has until now mostly made itself prominent through keeping the office and library and organising social activities, but hasn't really been involved in the academic sphere around the department. This year we have for the first time begun to also embrace this side of things,

seeing as we are primarily an academic society. We are now running an exciting new seminar series entitled "Approaches to Language", which complements the Linguistics Circle. The aim of this new series is to present students and staff from any department with an interest in linguistics with an overview of the multitude and breadth of research the field has to offer and as such will host variety of speakers from different backgrounds, who will give an introduction to their approach to studying language, showcase some of their research and provide a workshop on aspects of their methodology. More information is available on our website: <http://bls.phpws.org/home/>.

Stuart Smith



## Upcoming Events for November

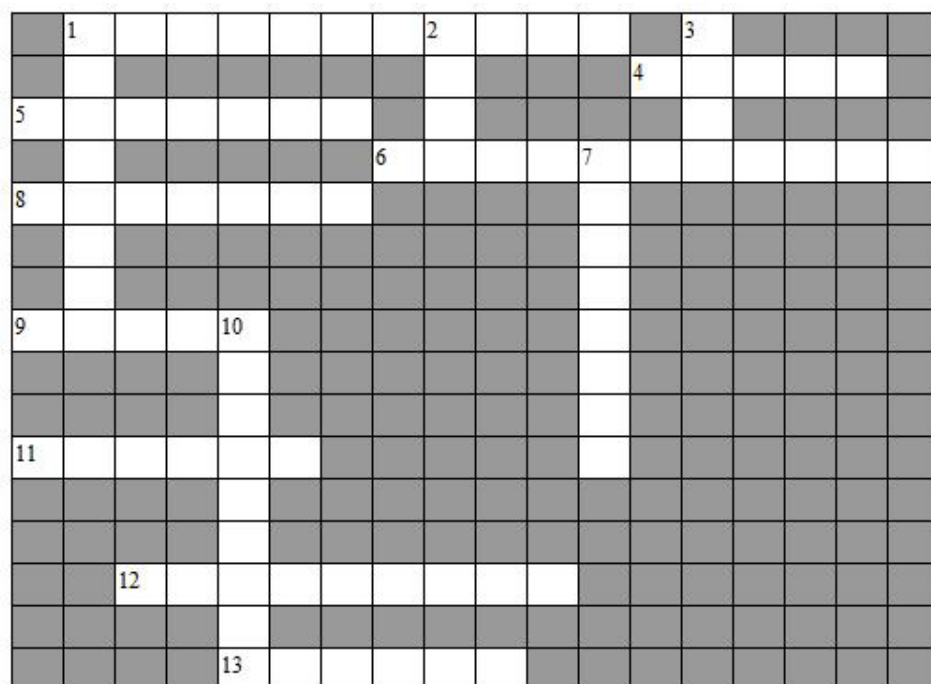
7. Nov Bilingualism Centre Seminar Series, 4pm, Multi-Resource Room (Bilingualism Centre)  
Patrick Rebuschat (Bangor): Implicit and Explicit Artificial Language Learning.
10. Nov BLS Lecture Series: “Approaches to Language”, 4:30pm in OSCRB  
Dr. Paul Carter (Leeds): Sameness and difference in phonetics.
14. Nov Bilingualism Centre Seminar Series, 4pm, Multi-Resource Room (Bilingualism Centre)  
Rhonda McClain (PSU): Using translation as a means to test models of bilingual production.
16. Nov Linguistics Circle, 2pm in the Linguistics Seminar Room  
Prof. Mike Hammond: Welsh poetry and phonology.
21. Nov Bilingualism Centre Seminar Series, 4pm, Multi-Resource Room (Bilingualism Centre)  
Aritz Irurtzun (IKER-CNRS): Contact-induced change in the Wh-parameter in N. Basque.
23. Nov Linguistics Circle, 2pm in the Linguistics Seminar Room  
Dr. Helen Fraser: Forensic phonetics — Cognitive theory.
23. Nov Linguistics Circle, 4pm in the Linguistics Seminar Room  
Dr. John Williams (Cambridge): Implicit adult language learning: Prospects and limitations.
24. Nov BLS Lecture Series: “Approaches to Language”, 4:30pm in OSCRB  
Delyth Prys (Canolfan Bedwyr): Standardizing terminology: A concept-based approach.
28. Nov Bilingualism Centre Seminar Series, 4pm, Multi-Resource Room (Bilingualism Centre)  
David Willis (Cambridge): The Syntactic Atlas of Welsh Dialects and the linguistic effects of language contact and revitalisation in South Wales.

## Crossword

Here is a little linguisticsy crossword. Prepared for you by Matt Jackson.

### Down

1. What is the smallest unit of meaning? (8)
2. Content words are \_\_\_\_ Class. (4)
3. A word naming a “thing, person or place” is a \_\_\_\_ (4)
7. “Closed class” can refer to what kind of words? (8)
10. What do we call the study of meaning? (8)



### Across

1. What is the study of word structure? (10)
4. If a morpheme cannot be used on its own it is a \_\_\_\_ Morpheme (5)
5. What do we call rules and patterns of language? (7)
6. ‘A’ is a what article? (10)
8. What is the smallest unit of sound? (7)
9. The bank of words in a language is called its \_\_\_\_ (5)
11. How do we describe a word order? (6)
12. The shared rules of language are called \_\_\_\_ Grammar. (9)
13. The items the IPA is made up of, are not letters, but \_\_\_\_? (6)

Answers will be in the next issue!

## A Review of Stephen Fry's Planet Word

Apart from the random 5 minutes on some peculiar new slang term, the worrying state of the English Language or the way teenagers text and e-mail, it is not all that usual for us linguists to actually be able to switch on the telly and zap into an hour-long, dedicated program about languages. After all, what we don't have in linguistics is someone like David Attenborough, who seem to have the ability to produce one documentary after another with never-subsiding interest among the viewership. Is that

to do with the topic? Are the big questions of linguistics just not as exciting as the way bats prey through the night and vegetation spreads over our continents? I hardly think so – I've never managed to fill a boring two hours on the train talking about natural history to a random stranger, and even if the topic strikes up, they hardly seem to have any controversial personal opinions on the matter. Linguistics however, after passing the initial so-how-many-languages-do-you-speak barrier, linguistics has filled many an hour I spent on the train, on the bus or even in the queue for theatre tickets, and everybody seems to get engaged really quickly, people really seem to be genuinely inter-

ested and want to know more. That's of course no surprise to me, having chosen to study linguistics at university and seeing how every one of us is affected by language every day. It really must be, then, that it is just the lack of the right media personality that's responsible for the lack of linguistics documentaries on the air. But hold on, doesn't Stephen Fry regularly show a vivid and amorous interest in language? Well, it's no secret to anybody who hasn't totally avoided both radio and television for the last twenty-or-so years that he does, and he might not be a linguist but maybe this love and passion for the subject matter is all that it takes.

Fry's Planet Word (aired Sundays on BBC2) is a series of five one-hour episodes in which Stephen Fry tries to cover the basics of what language is, how we use it and why it is, or should be, important to us. In this program we not only see him ramble on about the beautiful facility that language provides for our personality and culture we are used to hear these things from him, but he takes the role of an active investigator, approaching the topic much like most of those people I happen to strike up a conversation with on a train. He asks the basic questions that people might be interested in. He might not go into much detail when he whizzes from language acquisition in Africa and the UK to constructed languages and the learning of Klingon, then takes the express train to reconstruction and minority languages with a stop at historical linguistics and pale-

ography only to visit Shakespear-ean English's cousin British Sign Language for a cup of tea and biscuits to then get drunk on swear-words together with Brian Blessed in illustrating how language may be hard-wired and connected to other systems in our brains, but



Photo: Marco Raaphorst

hell, this is pretty much the same sort of random bits and bobs that I remembered after my first semester at uni. No matter what the Telegraph's James Walton, who in his review complains about the apparent lack of depth, might think, I believe the level of detail is just right for what I make out to be the purpose of this program. There is no reason to scare people off on their first friendly encounter with "popular linguistics" by starting them off with a basic course on the workings of linguistic theory and the latest issues in neurolinguistics. I have to agree with the Guardian's Sam Wollaston when he writes that "Linguistics isn't natural television" and

that “you need someone like [Fry] for a show like this” – and that his is exactly the right way to bring to the public the basic questions of linguistics. Oh sure, I would have wished for more than two minutes here and there with Steven Pinker and to know some more about this or that, but we have to think realistically here: the general public don’t have much of a background with languages. It’s not like physics or biology, where once upon a time we all had to learn some basics – so if you haven’t taken English Language A-levels and in doing so paid a lot of attention to the background stuff, you are very unlikely to know any of these basics. Also, as I already said above, if these roughly five hours are enough to present in a interesting and concise manner pretty much what someone might remember from their first semester as a linguistics undergrad at university, I’d tip my hat to that. I’m also sure that all my fellow linguists will agree that if someone who has seen this program doesn’t after ask us how many languages we speak when we tell them that we do “linguistics” that would be something!

On another note there is also an accompanying book “Planet Word” available, which is primarily authored by Dr J.P. Davidson, who is a BBC producer and director and otherwise known as the BBC’s resident anthropologist. The book aims to give some more coverage to the areas touched upon in the show, however I have not yet had a chance to browse a copy of it. While the program will have completed its airing schedule and likely not be available on BBC iPlayer anymore by the time this is published, there was a DVD version announced, which should be

released on the 6th of February next year. So if you feel anything like me you should surely consider watching out for either a repeat or the DVD, as this will make a great watch for the family, friends and any other non-linguist acquaintances you might feel could benefit from a bit of light linguistics awareness presented in a species-appropriate, Fry-typical format. And knowing you could follow up with the accompanying book and your own insights on the next occasion comes as an added bonus. For once I would say this demonstrates well that language is a topic as televisable as any science, and all that with a pleasant after-taste – well done Stephen!

Florian Breit

### Department Hoodies

Orders for this year’s hoodies are now being taken. If you are interested in purchasing one, please visit the BLS Office to fill in an order form as soon as possible. We have a wide variety of colours to choose from, which means we will easily be recognised in semester two! The price for a hoodie will be £18.

Stuart Smith

### Keep in touch with the BLS

We now have a new website which can be found at <http://bls.phpws.org/home>.

We are now also on Facebook (new page!) and on Twitter: <http://on.fb.me/BangorLinguists>.

<http://bit.ly/BLStweet> (English)

<http://bit.ly/CIBtweet> (Welsh)

There are also some year groups on Facebook, named “Linguistics & English Language ‘XX’”, where “XX” is the year of graduation (e.g. ‘12 for the current third years). Make sure to join!

### Contributors

#### Chief Editor

Kathryn Barlow

#### Editorial Board

Florian Breit

Matt Jackson

Bethan Kemp

#### Contributors

Allys Clipsham

Alun Derwydd-Jones

Harry Jansen

Stuart Smith





## Editor's Note.

Welcome to the second issue of *The Bangor Linguist*, the bi-monthly newsletter for those with an interest in linguistics and the English language. Within each issue, we shall be discussing and exploring many aspects of linguistics and the English language, looking at pieces of research that occurs around us and keeping you up to date with what is happening in the department. We will also be giving you reviews on "popular linguistics", such as media reviews, puzzles and crosswords. We will also be talking to the Linguistics and English Language staff about what they think of Bangor, why they have chosen to study or teach here and what they (hope to) do. In this issue, you will find an article on Welsh Linguistics, a look at what the Bangor Linguistics Society did at Halloween and Christmas, a review on the events that you can look forward to and a crossword for you to enjoy. We hope that you enjoy this issue and have found what we have included useful. If you have any comments, requests, critiques or offers of help, then please email Kathryn Barlow (the editor) via [linguistics@undeb.bangor.ac.uk](mailto:linguistics@undeb.bangor.ac.uk).

Kathryn Barlow

## Review of "The Linguists"

"Half of the world's languages are on the verge of extinction" is the shocking statistic that the film "The Linguists" deals with. Greg Anderson and David Harrison are "The Linguists", as they travel Siberia, India, and Bolivia doing what they can to record and document the languages of these areas before their unfortunate yet inevitable death.

The languages in question are, respectfully, Chulym spoken in Siberia, Sora in India and Kallawaya in Bolivia. Their demises, as well as so many other endangered languages, are put down to global languages, such as Russian, English and Spanish, as they render these native and traditional languages defunct.

The recording and documenting of these languages did not come easy; many miles had to be travelled to reach these somewhat remote regions. Furthermore, speaker populations are understandably very low, and therefore were hard to come by. One such instance occurs as they try to track down a speaker of Kallawaya; a language associated with medicinal healing. Their search becomes frustrating and almost proves to be fruitless. After a great deal of time and effort, they encounter a man whom they are told speaks Kallawaya, unfortunately this turns out not to be true. Thankfully, a speaker of Kallawaya is found in the end, and despite arriving much later than initially agreed, they finally get to record one of the last speakers of this language performing one of the medicinal healing rituals passed down from father to son. One of the most poignant aspects of the film comes towards the end, as one of the speakers of Chulym talks about his relationship with the language. He starts to cry, as he recounts that he used to feel embarrassed when he spoke the language, as it and its speakers were looked down on, mainly by those who spoke Russian. This truly delivers the point that all languages do matter. Speakers have a relationship with their mother tongue and to be told by a(nother) community that your language is not important can be a horrible ordeal for many people. For everyone, a person's language makes up a great part of their identity and to take that away is to almost rid them of their identity. Overall, the film is a great insight into the world of these endangered languages, and shows the emotion displayed for these languages by its own people and in addition the care shown by such linguists as Greg and David. Greg and David are the ideal people to front this journey providing both a fun and interesting look at the communities to which these languages belong, all the while with the underlying message that one day these languages will likely not be spoken.



"The Linguists" poster

Callum Robson

## Halloween with the BLS

It was a cold and miserable Saturday night, but that didn't stop the Bangor Linguistic Society from spending the night out and about in Bangor to celebrate the most horrifying night of the year – Halloween. Students from all years joined us and came in fancy dress – witch-



es, devils, clowns and many other characters were just some of the many faces that appeared throughout the night. Our night first started off in Bar Uno, where we started the pub crawl. The pub crawl continued in other establishments like the Greek, Rascals and Yellow. We also ventured down to Academi, where we danced the night away. Everyone who attended had a marvellous time, one student stated that the night was a “huge success and fun was had by all” and that there was a “great turnout with an array of scary faces and outfits”. But that isn't it for the events, as we have more to offer. Keep an eye out for more great events from the Bangor Linguistics Society.

Kathryn Barlow

## Lexical Lunacy

How often is it that you open a book with the pure intention to read only a single paragraph, sentence or even just one word? The Oxford English dictionary must be one of the most commonly used books that is never truly read. Yet it portrays a fascinating journey

of our ancestors through their use of words in writing and in speech. The OED is a lexical time capsule which preserves artifacts from our language's history. It is a treasured gift but it is rarely bought as a present.

The inspiration for this article comes from the world's most enthusiastic lexiconophile (dictionary collector), Ammon Shea. The man took one year to read the 21,730 pages which form the OED. He spent 8-10 hours each day (except Saturdays of course) reading the equivalent to the King James Bible in its entirety. During this time he rediscovered many long-forgotten rare, unusual, strange, wonderful and marvellous, or should I just say selcouth, words.

In his book, *Reading the Oxford English Dictionary*, Shea high-

lights some of these intriguingly beautiful and oddly humorous words and offers his own insights that complements in manner. Not only does he express his interpretation of the words that he discovers, their meaning and the story behind them, but he documents the extraordinary process of finding them.

Clearly a whole year of persistent headaches, note taking, squinting and coffee stains paid off. In the lead up to this process Shea worked as street musician in Paris, a gondolier in San Diego and a furniture mover in New York. Now he is a successful writer. In addition to his own increasingly wacky and original works he is a writer for the *New York Times* and is hired by the Oxford University Press as a consulting editor of *American Dictionaries*. A dream Job for any lexiconophile.

Here are a few of my favourite lexical treasures discovered from the depths of the pulveratricious chest of the OED.

Impluvious (adj.) Wet with rain.

Apricity (n.) The warmth of the sun in winter.

Computation (n.) An episode of drinking or carousing together.

Pulveratricious (adj.) Covered with Dust

And last but not least...

Natiform (adj.) Buttock shaped.

The English language really does have some useful words!

Ian Butcher



### BLS Christmas Meal 2011

I hope you all had a great Christmas, and may I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year.



The BLS at Christmas, Image: Stuart Smith

The highlight of our year soon arrived; this could only mean one thing – The BLS Christmas Meal! For those that were lucky enough to attend, I am sure you will all agree that a fantastic evening was enjoyed by everyone. It was great to see first, second, third and fourth year students as well as members of staff enjoying the night and socialising over a glass of wine or two! This year we decided to try out a new venue, the Management Centre and what a great decision it was. We all enjoyed a delicious three course meal including turkey with all the trimmings which was a good start to the Christmas festivities. The evening was made even more memorable by the special guests and friendly faces we had not seen in Bangor for a while. We were delighted to be joined by Zara Erliz and Megan Milton (both past linguistic students) who had made the effort to come and spend the night with the BLS, but also two other very special guests; David

and Hilary Crystal. They both thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were very pleased to have been invited, it was a brilliant opportunity to talk to DC and he even promised us some books for the

BLS Library! During the evening we had a very profitable raffle with some great prizes, and a few speeches including entertainment from David Crystal. Afterwards, some of us continued partying in the Greek and then we went on to the student nightclub; Academi, where many linguists showed off several interesting dance moves, but we won't mention any names! Overall the night was a huge success which would not have happened without the continued support we receive from members of the BLS but most importantly Jo Sutton, our social secretary whose hard work and commitment is very much appreciated.

We also enjoyed the BLS Welcome Back Party for staff and students with Wine and Nibbles, on Monday 23rd January 2012, and we look forward to hosting similar events in the near future.

Stuart Smith

### New module is bendige-dig\*! (\*fantastic)

Welsh Linguistics is a new third year module, and it appears to have thrilled and captivated the respective class; in what can be described as increasing positive news for The School of English Language and Linguistics at Bangor. Doctor Peredur Davies, the school's Welsh medium teaching fellow, or if you prefer 'Welsh man', has been the man at the helm; and has certainly proved his worth. His teaching ability, his wide knowledge of, and passion for Wales, and the Welsh language are precisely what the module needed to succeed. The module focuses on different features of Welsh in relation to different facets and fields of linguistics, so the sounds, and syntax of Welsh; attitudes towards the Welsh language, even the mystery of those mutations! Through some positive group work leading on from the lectures, there has been much debate and discussion over the above and other issues relating to Welsh. And much has been learned from with all this considered. To demonstrate that this has been enjoyed by the class, the following were comments from students of the class, "A module which single-handedly reinvigorated my sense of Welsh identity", "Invites avenues for further personal exploration of the Welsh language, culture and people" (both from Simon Collier) and "A thoroughly inspiring choice, the Welsh Linguistics module has provided an essential component to my Linguistics degree at Bangor University. With an immediate wealth of potential research on our doorstep, it seems a shame that this module hadn't been available sooner. However, having to wait for this

will no doubt prove an excellent dangling carrot for the next wave of Welsh-hungry Linguists” (Abigail Price). All in all, credit must be paid to everyone involved to make this module a unique, enjoyable experience; it’s certainly a great thing to see students take such an interest to the Welsh language. And hopefully the module will continue to run strong for years to come!

Callum Robson

## Linguistic Crossword

This is the second instalment of the wonderful crosswords – this time one for you second years to delve into. If not all of the questions feel familiar to you have no fear, as we’ve used a selection of terms from all of the second year modules.

### ACROSS

1. What do we call multiple meanings? (9)
4. A figure of speech that usually

consists of a play on words? (5)

6. What do we call a preconceptual framework? (11)

9. Single meaning (8)

10. What does Fauconnier say can “proliferate when we think and talk”? (12)

11. What do we call the traditional meaning of a word? (10)

### DOWN

1. Consonants can also be known as...? (8)

2. If we understand one thing in terms of another we are using? (19)

3. A waveform that doesn’t repeat along the time axis Postalveolar: when pronouncing a sound that uses the tongue tip/blade? (14)

5. If we substitute part of something for a whole what device are we using? (8)

7. If a definition gives us more than just the traditional meaning it is? (13)

8. When a speaker utters a sentence and they use two languages within or between sentences? (13)

Answers from issue one:

Across 1.Morphology 4.Bound 5.Grammar 6 Indefinite 8 Phoneme 9 Lexis 11 Syntax 12. Universal 13. Symbol

Down 1.Morpheme 2.Open 3.Noun 7. Function 10.Semantics

Check next time for the answers!

Matt Jackson

## David Crystal

By now some of you will have heard that Professor David Crystal will be in Bangor on the 15th February to give a series of lectures, further details of the day will be available in the near future and these lectures were, last year, thoroughly enjoyable.

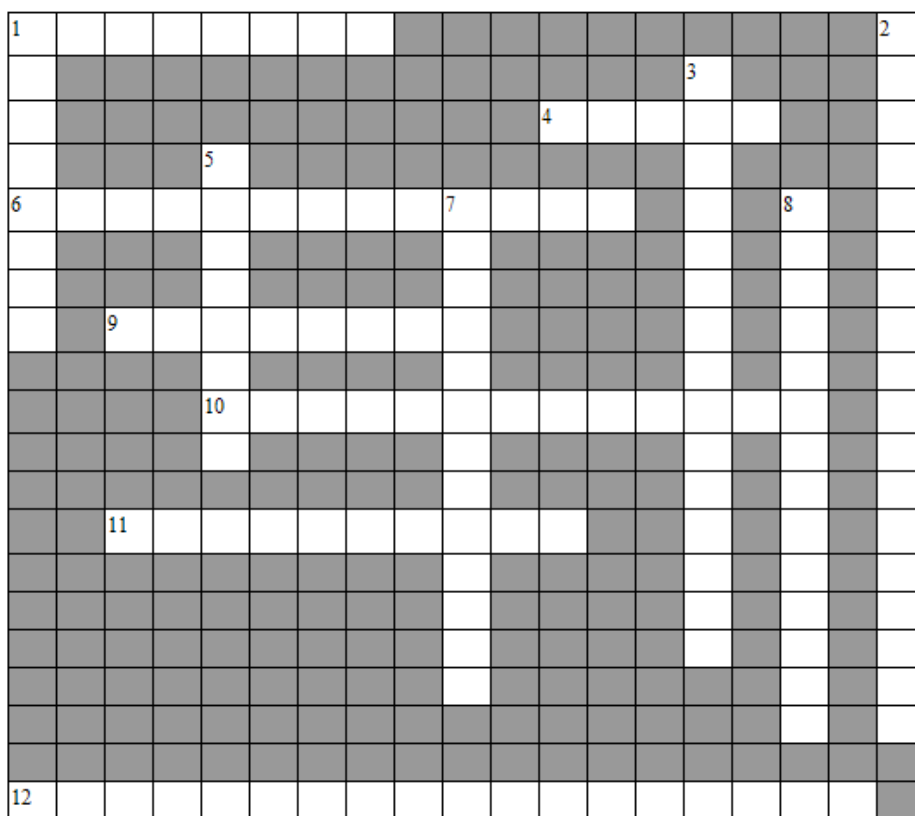
Alun Derwydd-Jones

## Departmental Hoodies

For those of you who ordered a BLS hoodie they are now available from the BLS office. We had a great response from you and have ordered over 40 hoodies this year.

The office is open Monday to Friday between 11am and 3pm so you can collect your hoodie.

Matt Jackson





## Upcoming Events for February/March

- Feb 7 Kepa Erdozia (Bilingualism)  
ELEBILAB ‘Placing heads in phrases: when bilingual parameters clash’
- Feb 7 Dr Enlli Thomas (Education, Bangor)  
“Acquiring complex structures under conditions of minimal exposure: bilingual acquisition of plural morphology in Welsh” 4pm Venue: 325
- Feb 13 Gwerfyl Roberts (Bilingualism), Bangor,  
‘Enhancing rigour in the validation of Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs)’
- Feb 15 Prof. David Crystal, Bangor University  
By hook or by crook: A journey in search of English (2:15pm)  
Exploring Shakespeare’s language (4:00pm)
- Feb 20 Bonnie Schwartz (Bilingualism), Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen
- Feb 21 Dr Marco Tamburelli (Linguistics, Bangor)  
Title: TBC, Venue: 325 4pm
- Feb 27 Alex Riemersma (Bilingualism)  
Mercator Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning
- Mar 5 Bastien Boutonnet (Bilingualism), Bangor,  
‘The Beauty and the Beast effect: Unconscious retrieval of grammatical gender during semantic decision on objects’
- Mar 6 Prof Guillaume Thierry (Psychology, Bangor)  
“An electrifying approach to language: Event-related brain potentials” Venue: 325; 4pm
- Mar 7 Dr. Eirini Sanoudaki, Bangor University  
The pronoun interpretation question(s): answers across tasks and populations
- Mar 12 Johanneke Caspers (Bilingualism), Leiden University
- Mar 19 Ros Temple (Bilingualism), University of Oxford
- Mar 21 Dr. Marija Omazic, Osijek University  
Phraseology and Cognitive Linguistics: Mechanisms and constraints on idiom creation and modification.
- Mar 20 Prof Ineke Mennen (Linguistics, Bangor)  
“Intonational Foreign Accent” Venue: 325 4pm
- Mar 26 Marilyn Martin-Jones (Bilingualism), University of Birmingham

## Keep in touch with the BLS

We now have a new website which can be found at <http://www.bangorlinguists.org>.

We are now also on Facebook (new page!) and on Twitter:

<http://on.fb.me/BangorLinguists>.

<http://bit.ly/BLStweet> (English)

<http://bit.ly/CIBtweet> (Welsh)

There are also some year groups on Facebook, named “Linguistics & English Language ‘XX’”, where “XX” is the year of graduation (e.g. ‘12 for the current third years). Make sure to join!

## Contributors

### Chief Editor

Kathryn Barlow

### Editorial Board

Florian Breit

Harry Jansen

Matt Jackson

### Contributors

Alun Derwydd-Jones

Callum Robson

Ian Butcher

Stuart Smith



## Editor's Note

Welcome to the third issue of *The Bangor Linguist*, the bi-monthly magazine for those with an interest in linguistics and the English language. Within each issue, we shall be discussing and exploring many aspects of linguistics and the English language, looking at pieces of research that occur around us and keeping you up to date with what is happening in the department. We will also be giving you reviews on "popular linguistics", such as media reviews, puzzles and crosswords.

In this issue, we will be discussing the debate on the use of apostrophes in certain brand names such as Waterstones (or Waterstone's as it was formerly known as) and there is an article on what happened on David Crystal Day. We hope that you enjoy this issue and have found what we have included useful. If you have any comments, requests, critiques or offers of help, then please email Kathryn Barlow (the editor) via [linguistics@undeb.bangor.ac.uk](mailto:linguistics@undeb.bangor.ac.uk).

Kathryn Barlow

## David Crystal Day

It was that time of year again for the much awaited and extremely popular 'David Crystal Day'. This well celebrated day which is becoming increasingly popular at Bangor University took place on Wednesday 15th February 2012 where staff, students and members of the public were given the opportunity to hear Professor David Crystal give two very interesting lectures. The crowds and fans of DC gathered in the Main Arts lecture theatre, with a large number of people at both talks.

The first lecture, entitled 'By Hook or by Crook: A journey in search of English' was a captivating talk based on his book, published in 2007 (and the BLS Library has a copy if you are interested in reading this!). The talk gave a remarkable insight to the history of the English Language in Britain and overseas. The main topics of discussion were accents and dialects of which, many were impressively imitated by DC and had the audience in tears of laughter with his humorous stories about his travels and life experiences. An impressive insight was given on many place names alongside the etymology of various villages and towns.



3rd Year Linguistics Students mingling with David Crystal

The second lecture focused on Shakespeare's language and was particularly based on Crystal's book; 'Think on my Words' published in 2008. DC gave an extraordinary account about this particular literary figure's language and the popular myths regarding Shakespeare language were discussed, with a main focus on the way in which editors have added a modern perspective to the famous pieces of literature that many of us are familiar with today. David Crystal explained the work he had done with the Globe Theatre to help the actors and actresses grasp Original Pronunciation for the overall effect of the Shakespeare plays that have been performed in recent years. DC successfully helped to reproduce Shakespearean pronunciation for the stage production of Romeo and Juliet in 2004.

After the lectures DC spent time signing many books for keen linguistic students. Staff and students joined David and his wife, Hilary in the new Terrace Bar in Main Arts; this was an ideal opportunity to socialise over a glass of wine (or two!). The intellectual and informative

conversations flowed as everyone mingled. This was a great end to a very interesting day and we are looking forward to welcoming David Crystal back next year.

Stuart Smith

## Lost in Translation

In the last edition of the BLS newsletter we took a stroll through the world of words to the selcouth corners of the English language, led by the world renowned lexicographer, Ammon Shea. In this edition we will be skimming stones across the French, Russian and Inuit lexicons (to name but a few) in an attempt to tease out some words that haven't yet had the pleasure of revealing themselves to the English language.

Personally, I adore the idea that the cultural effect on language influences the native speaker to perceive the world in different a light in comparison to speakers of other languages. I find this quite apparent when studying how other languages express emotions, feelings or thoughts through single words or phrases.

For instance, the English culture has a very different character to that of the Japanese. The literal translation of their word *yoko meshi* means “a meal eaten sideways”. What this portrays is the peculiar stress induced by speaking a foreign language. I can't imagine English native speakers feel this emotional strain to such an extent that it requires being given a word. Or should I say, I can't imagine English native speakers to feel this emotional strain.

There is a French expression that I truly feel English is lacking, *esprit d'escalier*. Do you remember that time when that bald-headed ogre insulted your long flowing curly

locks and it wasn't until half an hour later, wiping your tears from your face, you thought of that perfect come back? This is that feeling. You've now found the perfect response but there is no one around to hear it. C'est parfait, no?

I'm sure it can get really annoying waiting in the cold for your friend to turn up. I wouldn't know. For Innuits this has clearly caused some upset. The word *iktsuarpok* is used specifically for this. That feeling of anticipation that develops when you constantly have to stick your head out your igloo to see if your chum has pulled up on his ski-doo yet.

Do you have one of those people in your class that is always asking pointless questions? Are you one of those people? Are you sure about that? If you are then you are what the Russians call a *pochemuchka*. In actual fact, I think the English have a variety of names for people like this.

When listening to reminiscent echoes of the English language, the word *psithurism* danced through the leaves and nestled itself within the caverns of my idiolect. Two words have had the equal affect on me since. In both cases their simplicity and beauty captivates the imagination, the first and most powerful being a Turkish word. When the moon shimmers across the rippling waters at night it is the *gumuservi* which your eyes soak up. When you run your finger tip across the circular foot print of moisture left by a cold glass it is the Italian named *culacino* which you are patterning.

Maybe other cultures don't perceive life differently. Maybe they are no more poetic or observational than English native speakers are. What is obvious is that words ex-

ist because their speakers feel the need to create them. Some speakers may have a greater need for a specific word for than others. I like to think that everyone is unique likewise is their language and the way they chose to use it. That to me is obvious. That to me is the most inspiring characteristic of linguistics.

Ian Butcher

## An Ode to the Slips of the Tongue

By Lizzie Blowey

A larynx window  
creaking

/ə/.

Inhales breeze-breath of shards  
when speaking

/z/.

Glottalic crack in bottle  
Stop, R. P. drone

/ʔ/.

Nun o' tha'  
glass velar grit  
on sills of bone

/k/.

A verbal gush  
unlocks lallation  
in the gum

/ð/.

Geoffrey Rush,  
be kinder

to a frailer /t/-/t/-/tʌŋ/



## The Debate: Waterstones v Waterstone's

As many of you will have heard January saw book seller Waterstone's decide that in the modern era they would rebrand as "Waterstones". This switch was said to be more appropriate with their target audience who would often be confused when searching for "waterstone's.co.uk". This raised the initial debate about the naming of the store; Waterstones would imply that the name is about plural

were against it saying that it made little sense grammatically. Others were in the middle and believe that in the modern day the need for the apostrophe in this case was pointless. Saying that whilst the company did once belong to Tim Waterstone it is these days merely a brand name much like that of Coca Cola. The company itself is also said to attribute the change to a more collective and communal



Waterstones Northallerton, still with the Apostrophe

Waterstones, which would beg the question of what is a waterstone? Is it a stone in the water or something familiar to the 90s youth for evolving your beloved Eevee into a Vaporeon. The name "Waterstone's" itself would once imply that the company belong to a person named "Waterstone" – something a quick search on google can confirm, now owned by Russian billionaire Alexander Mamut the chain echoes very little of its heritage.

The idea of dropping this apostrophe caused debate amongst our lecture as well as the weekly meeting. Some were in favour of dropping the apostrophe and some

feel, suggesting that the possessive –s implies that the chain belongs to one whereas a plural –s implies togetherness.

John Richards head of the Apostrophe protection society said to the Telegraph "It's just plain wrong. It's grammatically incorrect. If Sainsbury's and McDonald's can get it right, then why can't Waterstones? You would really hope that a bookshop is the last place to be so slapdash with English."

In the modern day age the apostrophe is slipping away because computer systems often fail to comprehend it, like spaces search engines replace the apostrophe with a percentage sign. Other large compa-

nies such as McDonald's who still have their apostrophe have to cave into the digital age and have no apostrophe in their URL. Ironically though it is the influx of the digital media that allows such news to spread and seemingly become so controversial, I think, had it not been for twitter I wouldn't have found out about the "apostrophe problem" until my Grammar and the Mind lecture.

The debate of the possessive "-s" or the plural "-s" in business, so as all good writers would, I decided it would be a good idea to check how the state of the apostrophe is looking in Bangor. I started off my journey by taking a trip past "Patrick's Irish Bar" and noticed my first apostrophe. I then realised that my pint read "Foster's" and was once again delighted to realise that my Foster's lager belongs to Foster's brewery implying that there was once a Foster. I later, in my search found that Oscars bar, did not have an apostrophe, an interesting point of my journey however I was unable to find out the reasoning behind the name.

I then thought it would be appropriate to conduct a small survey on whether or not people still used the possessive '-s' in URLs, I asked 10 people to write down how they think a URL would look like for Waterstones and Foster's. From the survey, and to my surprise, all 10 wrote both URLs without the apostrophe.

Matt Jackson

## Man's Best Friend: How our relationship with animals has developed our language

During my morning ritual of stumbling through top news stories, it came to my attention that the animal right activists PETA were attempting to sue SeaWorld on behalf of the Killer Whale performers on the grounds of enslavement, claiming that the Orcas have the same basic rights as human beings.

This got me thinking, do animals have the same semantic rights and beliefs that their human counterparts?

This discussion of the Orcas led to me distinctly recalling an interesting snippet from a local news article concerning the recent riots and looting in more specifically Birmingham. One of these looters had been reportedly accused of attacking one of the Police dogs with a traffic cone. This act of violence led to this rioter to be arrested on the grounds that he had 'attacked a police officer'. So theoretically, through law, the Police dog would have the same basic right against violence in comparison to their human 'owners'.

So where does this lie then for the Orcas? Based on their training and expertise then surely these creatures would be suitably deemed 'performers' in which they are rightly so referred to. So where does one draw the line on animals performing roles of a human? Are racing Greyhounds athletes? Guide dogs carers?

In my opinion it is subject to those who find them closest to these special animals. Those who keep racing horses are very protective and caring towards their 'pets'. The same affection can be seen across the board where animals and humans collide. It can even be seen

outside the professional world where family pets will often be seen as 'part of the family' to an extent where it is undeniable that the language we use to describe our furry (and not so furry friends) proves that our respect for our noble steeds has been reflected in our chosen language.

Harry Jansen

## RAG Fashion Show

On Thursday 15th March in PJ Hall, Bangor RAG will be holding another Fashion Show to raise money for their two national and two local charities. This year their chosen charities are: Fare Share North Wales, Shine Cymru, NRAS and Papyrus UK.



This year's Fashion show aims to be even bigger and better than last year with all the latest fashions kindly supplied by many of the high street shops, the models hair will be styled by Claytons hair design and makeup will be done by non-other than the Universities own English Drama Society (BEDS). Miss Wales will also be making a guest appearance and there will be entertainment provided by the Improvisation Society and Dance Society. A buffet is included in the price and there will be a bar on site. Doors open at 7:30pm and English Language / Linguistic students will not want

to miss the grand finale.

Tickets are £5 in advance or £6 at the door (limited tickets available) and can be purchased from the SU reception, Ffridd shop or ask a committee member at [rag.comm@undeb.bangor.ac.uk](mailto:rag.comm@undeb.bangor.ac.uk), or text/phone 07901811636 to get in touch with Emma Wilson (2nd Year Linguistics Student)

Emma Wilson

## BLS Update

The Bangor Linguistics Society is in the process of updating the bookshelves in our library. We are currently researching the required text books for across the years and your input would be greatly appreciated. So, if you have any suggestions for books which you think would be good to have in the BLS Library please email us – [linguistics@undeb.bangor.ac.uk](mailto:linguistics@undeb.bangor.ac.uk)

*What do you think?*

We would like to know how many people would be interested in a trip to Cork, Ireland during the next academic year (possibly at the beginning of the November Reading Week)

The trip would include a 3 night stay in a youth hostel, coach and ferry crossing to Cork and the rest of the itinerary would be for us to choose how we want to spend our days across the water! The cost would be an estimated £160 but this is only a quotation that we have received at present. This would be a great trip and we would like to know who would be interested.

## Socials

As the Easter break is fast approaching, the BLS has decided to hold a 'Linguistic Pub Quiz' before we break up. We have decided that all proceeds will go to a charity called; 'Afasic England' which

is a charity that seeks to raise awareness and create better services and provision for children and young people with speech and language impairments. Finalised details for the Pub Quiz will be out soon.

Trip to Snowdon, this is planned for the weekend of the 28th/29th April 2012 after the Easter break (weather permitting!) and will be a great opportunity to enjoy the beautiful surroundings on our doorstep and an ideal break from revision and assignments. Dependant on numbers we're thinking of splitting into two groups: Train or Walking. If you'd like to get the train, it will cost £17 return. (We need at least 15 people in the group to have it at this price!) If you would like to come, please tell us on Facebook or email us to confirm your attendance.

The BLS Summer Meal will be a final farewell to our third year linguists who will be greatly missed. This is planned to be at The Management Centre, at some point during the week commencing 21st May. Details will follow shortly.

Keep up to date with the latest news and events on our Facebook page [facebook.com/bangorlinguists](https://www.facebook.com/bangorlinguists)

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Stuart Smith

## Linguistics Word Search

For this issue's quizzing linguists we've thought we'd provide something a little different to our usual crossword. So here is the first Linguistics Word Search!

There are 20 terms from within the subject hidden in the below box. Send us your list of words by the

15. April at [linguistics@undeb.bangor.ac.uk](mailto:linguistics@undeb.bangor.ac.uk) to win a secret prize!

The person who finds most of the 20 words we are looking for will win!

(Solutions and winners will be announced in the next issue.)

W B L A U G N I L I B N D V K Z E K  
W K L E R O H P A T E M X E E T Z K  
E B X A T N Y S M S A N X Q A H H U  
Z J W T G O G G Y C O P B I B H T P  
E Y U O M R J L Q C R P C A T U H J  
M Z X G A T L U I I L H I M D Z E N  
E S P M D A I X M N O I T I N G O C  
H A M D B S E I R M W E Z X P L R Y  
P A M L I L N Y S Y W V Q R M C Y T  
R V E T A G Y K M S N F A B I X R J  
O T I R A I Y Y E N L G B N N X H Z  
M O V P D O N G H A M P I G D Z W E  
N U O E D O M L N A P H O N E M E L  
R O Q R T E M G T X Z P W O B U W W  
W Z V E N K U I E S Z P M F R B U D  
H A M T W A C E M E X E L N A P H M  
O U F I G S G B I T J P V J I C J S  
Z J M E M U T R U D G I L L N E A G

Answers to last issue's crossword:

Across 1 Polysemy, 4 Trope, 6 Image Schemas, 9 Monosemy, 10 Mental Spaces, 11 Dictionary, 12 Passive Bilingual  
Down 1 Plosives, 2 Conceptual Metaphor, 3 Aperiodic Waves, 5 Metonymy, 7 Encyclopaedic, 8 Code Switching



## Upcoming Events for March & April

13. March BLS Lecture Series: Approaches To Language, Room 325, 4pm  
Dr. Enlli Thomas (Bangor University): Acquiring complex structures under conditions of minimal exposure: Bilingual acquisition of plural morphology in Welsh.
19. March Bilingualism Research Seminar, Multi-Resource Room, 4pm  
Dr. Ros Temple (Oxford University)
20. March BLS Lecture Series: Approaches To Language, Room 325, 4pm  
Prof. Ineke Mennen (Bangor University): Intonational Foreign Accent.
21. March Linguistics Circle, Linguistics Seminar Room, 4pm  
Dr. Marija Omazic (Osijek University): Phraseology and Cognitive Linguistics: Mechanisms and constraints on idiom creation and modification.
26. March Bilingualism Research Seminar, Multi-Resource Room, 4pm  
Prof. Marilyn Martin-Jones (University of Birmingham)
2. April Bilingualism Research Seminar, Multi-Resource Room, 4pm  
Dr. Kleanthes Grohmann (University of Cyprus)
16. April Bilingualism Research Seminar, Multi-Resource Room, 4pm  
Vicky Chondrogianni (Bangor University)
18. April Linguistics Circle, Linguistics Seminar Room, 4pm  
Dr. Patrick Rebuschat (Bangor University): Implicit and explicit learning of language.
21. April Linguistics Circle, Linguistics Seminar Room, 4pm  
Dr. Cristina Dye (Newcastle University): Clausal complexity and the production of verb inflection in bilingual vs. monolingual toddlers.
23. April Bilingualism Research Seminar, Multi-Resource Room, 4pm  
Taoli Zhang (University of Nottingham)
24. April BLS Lecture Series: Approaches To Language, Room 325, 4pm  
Dr. John Olsson (The Forensic Linguistics Institute): An Overview of Forensic Linguistics.
30. April Bilingualism Research Seminar, Multi-Resource Room, 4pm  
Prof. Viv Edwards (University of Reading)

## Keep in touch with the BLS

We now have a new website which can be found at <http://bangorlinguists.org>.

We are now also on Facebook (new page!) and on Twitter:

<http://on.fb.me/BangorLinguists>.

<http://bit.ly/BLStweet> (English)

<http://bit.ly/CIBtweet> (Welsh)

There are also some year groups on Facebook, named “Linguistics & English Language ‘XX’”, where “XX” is the year of graduation (e.g. ‘12 for the current third years). Make sure to join!

## Contributors

### Chief Editor

Kathryn Barlow

### Editorial Board

Florian Breit

Matt Jackson

Roseanne Orr

### Contributors

Lizzie Blowey

Ian Butcher

Alun Derwydd-Jones

Harry Jansen

Stuart Smith

Emma Wilson



## Editor's Note

Welcome to the fourth issue of *The Bangor Linguist*, the bi-monthly magazine for those with an interest in linguistics and the English language. Within each issue, we shall be discussing and exploring many aspects of linguistics and the English language, looking at what occurs around us in the department and keeping you up to date with other sights of interest. We will also be giving you reviews on "popular linguistics", such as media reviews, puzzles and cross-words.

In this issue, we have an article by two Freshers who have told us about their experiences in their first year here in Bangor. Further we have reports from the Student Led Teaching Awards and the Societies' Awards. We will also present to you the new committee from the coming year, give you an outline of what's going to happen if you graduate this year and some pieces from the category of satirical and humoristic linguistics.

We hope that you enjoy this issue and have found what we have included is useful. If you have any comments, requests, critiques or offers of help, then please email Kathryn Barlow (the editor) via [linguistics@undeb.bangor.ac.uk](mailto:linguistics@undeb.bangor.ac.uk).

Kathryn Barlow

## Roseanne's First Year

Before looking at Bangor I didn't really want to come to university – I felt no enthusiasm for it. Then I saw what it had to offer and chose to study English Language with English Literature.

The many social activities during welcome week gave new students a chance to meet and socialise with each other before the course started and also gave us the chance to meet staff in an informal setting. It provided us with an introduction to the BLS as many of the department's peer guides were part of the society.



At the start of the year new students were given the chance to be part of the committee and I leapt at the chance to become Library Manager (I'm a bit of a geek when it comes to books and couldn't resist a role with such a name) and though I'm involved with other societies and committees I feel a stronger connection to the BLS, perhaps because, being an academic society, it relates to my course.

When I learned more of what the linguistics department had to offer really interested me and after a week of lectures I felt strongly that I would much rather do a degree based entirely within the school. I decided to drop English Literature in favour of studying Linguistics and English language and it's a decision that I don't regret in the slightest. First year has been quite challenging at times but I've really enjoyed it and look forward to next year when I'll be peer guiding and taking on a more active role in the BLS as Co-Vice President and Library Manager.

Roseanne Orr

## An ode to linguistic diversity: Experiences of a Monolingual

It's been three years since I first stepped foot in Wales (well I had a holiday a few years prior...but we are focusing on the degree aspect of life...good holiday mind... sorry back to point) and I can say the experience has certainly been a different one to that which I am used to back in the old North East of England; a traditionally monolingual part of the world.

I believe that living in Bangor, has certainly given me more than a taste of what a bilingual community is all about. What I would say is that though I was previously aware of Welsh, I had not experienced it, I had not lived in it, and I was not anything to do with it. And as previously stated coming from a monolingual part of the world I think this can lead one to have a narrow mind set about the world in which we live, so far as the languages and the speakers of said languages go. This probably is not helped and therefore hindered by studying French\* during my time at Comprehensive and Sixth Form. French, a language which I am sure you will know is not a minority language by any stretch, and by this token it can be easy to conditioned to think that French and similar global/taught languages are the only ones that matter. Thankfully I never really had this opinion.

I move to Bangor and begin to get in contact with such fancy attractions as Welsh-English bilingual... well anything you can shake the proverbial stick at really, signs, posters, menus, I could go on. I refer to them as fancy attractions, as back in the monolingual world it would be a very rare sight. Ok, you get the odd sign which may be for the benefit of tourists, but

that doesn't have the same feel. In fact I recall my first time I returned home to Durham following my first few months at University, and how alien it had become to see monolingual signs. Clearly that first couple of months spent in Bangor had its effect!

Though I am guilty of not truly learning Welsh in any sense, living in Bangor has allowed me to appreciate not only Welsh, but much and many other minority languages. This has been somewhat promoted through modules I have studied as part of my Linguistics Undergraduate degree, but living in this bilingual community has complimented the teachings and beliefs from lecturers and staff in Bangor. And when you add in things like the Bilingualism Centre et al, well...it becomes quite hard not to embrace language.

In closing, Bangor has given me more than just a Linguistics degree. It has given me a real appreciation for the world in which we live, and that each language has a place in this world. Diolch.

#SupportingLanguages

#PromotingLinguistics

Wedi wedi!

Callum Robson

### Jenny's First Year

I was once told that a joint honours degree was like taking one and half degrees at once. After a year of studying Creative Studies and English Language, I have to say that I agree.

There is a lot of rushing around with conflicting deadlines, especially around this time of year where everything is happening at once. However, the time conflict has been happening since day one.

During fresher's week, I had activities planned by both departments that ran on the same days and at the same time. Taking the advice to stick to the compulsory meetings for one subject and going to the other department's meetings if I could, I managed to find my way around while still socialising with both halves of my course. Today, I have close friends in both English Language and Creative Studies.

One thing I noticed about the Linguistics department was how welcoming it was to the new students. The departmental peer guides were enthusiastic and there were more than enough things to do. By the end of the first week we were well aware of the BLS and what it did for the students.

Months later, I've remained part of the BLS. Compared to what I personally experienced on the other half of my course, the Linguistic department was more friendly and welcoming, making the transition from college to university a lot smoother. Now, I consider the friends I made in English Language some of the closest I've made here.

Jenny Smith

### Self-limitation

(dedicated to liquid consonants)

By Florian Breit

“

I knew a lady like a diamond,  
who knew not more than nothing.  
She saw a problem in pendant,  
not just a foible something;  
she saw words much like liquid,  
vowed herself not to sanction:  
Dear, there must be no vacuum!

”



## BLS Members Recognised at SU Societies' Awards

Former BLS President Stuart Smith and Vice President Florian Breit were both on the receiving end of Silver Awards at the 2012 Bangor Students' Union Societies' Awards. This was a big step for not only the society but the committee as well, considering the BLS has in recent years often been overlooked.

During his time with the BLS Florian has held positions as Treasurer

Jo Sutton, before taking over from Megan Milton as President of the society during the 2011/12 term. He worked tirelessly on improving the many little things important to keep the society together and proved a great resource in managing the expansion of the BLS's activities, overseeing the establishment of new communication methods such as the newsletter.

Both of them also did a great job



Florian receiving his Silver Award from SU Vice-President Rich Gorman

and Vice President. In the former he was in charge of looking after the societies finances and also lay the groundwork for our new digitalised library system. During his time as Vice President he has helped with setting up the new BLS website, trained officers in the use and administration of the new library system and started up the popular “Approaches to Language” lecture series; something we as a society wish to continue for the foreseeable future.

Stuart's BLS career started off as a first year Social Secretary, as which he helped organise the ever successful BLS Summer Meal alongside Social Secretary

at campaigning for the society and increasing it's representation in the department, so that the BLS now has a seat on the Board of Studies and regular meetings with Department Chair Vyv Evans.

Matt Jackson

## Rejected Dissertation Ideas

When it comes to forming an idea for a dissertation topic, sometimes you can go through many ideas before you hit “the one”. By this token I would like to share some ideas that I went through and were rejected for one reason or another (usually ethics based). Anyway enjoy!

- Why are linguists so god damn

handsome?

- Are bilinguals able to systematically work out rules better than monolinguals: A case study involving the card game of Mao

- A comparative neurolinguistic study between people who have had strokes, people who have been stroked, and “The Strokes”

- Does language influence the vocal tract?

- Does the vocal tract influence language?

- Do women just go on and on and on?

- What are the effects on the vocal tract when totally submerged underwater?

- What are the effects on the vocal tract + phonetics following general anaesthetic?

- Investigation into the phonetic systems of shy people.

- Study into the acquisition of pragmatics in mimes.

- Are seagulls just effing with me?

- Did cavemen sound like Victorian Gentlemen; retrospective study.

- The reintroduction of a full case system into English; overnight experiment

- Are women still going on and on?

- Why do <h> and /h/ get mistreated?

- A correlative study of beards and linguists.

- Is learning to play a sport like learning a second language?

- How long can I mess around with the Welsh language before being evicted?

- Would David Crystal go to the pub if I asked him?

Callum Robson

## Linguistics Chat-up Lines

With the long summer break and hopefully high temperatures ahead, it is just a question of time until we linguists too get into that daunting situation: The beach party in full swing you sit by the fire among a large crowd of non-linguist who now seem to really hit it off, but nobody really seems impressed by your analysis of metaphor and metonymy use in Nick Clegg's continued struggle to proliferate himself linguistically after the student fee debacle last year.

If despite being a linguist you just don't want to end the night alone, we here at the BLS lab are more than happy to help and under great strain have prepared some linguistics based, field-tested chat-up lines for your free usage.

- I'd very much like "you" and "I" to become the arguments of a two place predicate.

- How about you and me sit in a syllable tree, [k-ɪ-s-s-ɪ-ŋ-g]?

- Hey sweets, following the Attract Closest Principle (Chomsky 1995:297) you will surely join me for a drink, right?

- Would you drop your [h] for me?

- Have you ever wondered whether there was S-O agreement across gender with the verb "to mate"?

- Hey, I'm sure you've heard of Syntax before.. but what about syntax?

- Our vibrations are gonna make some sweet harmonics!

- Right then sweets, you know about the entailments of the co-operative principle and what that implicates for us two?

- Let's do the retroflex flap until you trill...

- Did she just shake her phonotactics at me?

- I think it's time we move on from A-bar movement, don't you sweetie?

- Say, wanna show me your input space?

- Well I didn't believe in the Immediacy of Experience Principle until now, but how are you?

- Have you ever wondered what case marking for absolutive feels like?

- Hey there. By the way, I'm a linguist...

We wish you the best of luck with these, though we have been legally advised to refuse all liability for any outcomes whatsoever.

Florian Breit

## English Language as a Joint Honours Student

When I started looking around for universities I simply couldn't pick a subject, a single subject, that fit for me. I thought of myself as an aspiring journalist however I knew a full journalism degree was not my cup of tea as most involve tedious days sat behind a camera filming things that I merely didn't care about, I also felt as though that would neglect an academic field I was interested in: Linguistics. I eventually settled on a joint course in ever so sunny Wales. I had heard a few horror stories before joining and at open days around the UK, I was warned off of joint degrees already by a few people but I thought my journey would be different and that a joint degree of English Language and Journalism fit exactly what I wanted to do.

My overall opinion of doing English Language as a joint degree is that if your pathway best fits a joint degree then it's most certainly the way forward, the split between the two subjects has for me been per-

fect. A sprinkling of journalistic ideals and practises from the media school and time spent exploring the history of English and various language features in Linguistics. However that is not to say that being a joint honours student has never caused any problems or issues for me. At times on a personal level I've had to try and stop the two courses from clashing, maybe avoid drawing out linguistic theory to back up a media article. I've also found that I seem to have to juggle my coursework as deadlines often clash, however a keen sense of time planning helps that (or just do each one the night before its due causing very little clashing). I've found I often sit there deliberating my modules a bit more than a single honours student as well, however I'm never quite sure if this is because I am spoilt for choice or I overthink which module fits in which slot allowing me to follow different choices.

Despite the small obstacles to climb, I think I prefer being a joint honours student. Not that I have any experience as a single honours student, though at times I certainly feel more like a linguistics student than a media student and from talking to other students I get the idea that no one ever quite sees themselves as a member of both schools, rather a person who drifts into one from the other.

Matt Jackson

## Course Rep and Student Led Teaching Awards

At the beginning of this month, PJ Hall was filled with Course Reps, lecturers, food, music and many award. The night was to celebrate the hard work from the Course Reps for their hard work over the past year, as well as to award the



lecturers and other members of staff across a variety of departments.

From our department, we had three members of staff who were on the shortlist for an array of awards: Peredur Davies, Christopher Shank and Nia Jones. Christopher was up for New Teacher of the Year, whilst Nia was up for Outstanding Pastoral Support. Peredur, on the other hand, was up for two awards, for which one of them was the Dissertation/Thesis Supervisor of the Year.

Even though they didn't win the main awards for the categories that they were nominated for, we are proud they were in the shortlist.

Kathryn Barlow

### Ready, set, graduate!

If you are one of the students graduating this year, first of all congratulations! Now, you must at some point surely have wondered what to do by when and how to back up information from your e-mail accounts and M: drive. For this we have tried to collect some information on what is happening to your accounts and privileges when and the important dates to look out for.

The most important first: The graduation ceremony for linguistics is on the 17th of July at 3pm in PJ Hall. However, registration has now passed so if you haven't already registered for it you will probably graduate in absentia. For the graduation ceremony you will also need to hire a gown from Ede & Ravenscroft online, best well in advance. Make sure you have a measurement tape to hand when doing this as you will be asked for various measures such as head circumference to ensure all parts of the gown fit!

If you want to bring guests to the ceremony in PJ Hall you need to buy tickets for them (a maximum of 2pp) via the <http://bangor.ac.uk/graduation> website, which will set you back £12 per ticket. If you do not do this there will also be a lecture room with live CCTV to the ceremony where as many guests as you like to bring can watch the whole thing for free.

While you can still go to the library and consult books and journals there, borrowing rights for undergraduates have ceased on the 1st of June, so that there is no access to online journals or the possibility to borrow books any more. The 1st of June was also the date from which student status officially ended for undergraduates, though graduates will variously have more time left.

You will be able to access BangorPortal and Blackboard until the 13th of July, which is when Student Records will terminate accounts for graduating students. This will also be followed shortly by termination of your E-Mail account and M: drive, so if you have any E-Mails you wish to keep beyond that date or data on the university computers it is best to back these up before then.

There is a guide on the IT-Services website under <http://bit.ly/BangorBackup> which explains how to transfer the Bangor E-Mails onto your own computer using either Thunderbird or Outlook. To back up data from your M: drive, you can either go and copy it onto a pen-drive yourself or use the CD burning services provided by IT Services, who will for £2.50 provide you with a CD or DVD containing all the files you've saved on the university computers. This service is available by email-

ing [cd@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:cd@bangor.ac.uk).

Note that the university also provides a service called "E-Mail for Life", which basically is a free Bangor email address that is permanently forwarded to another E-Mail account, for instance a Hotmail or Gmail account. These are mostly in the form [initial.surname@univ.bangor.ac.uk](mailto:initial.surname@univ.bangor.ac.uk) and you can sign up for them here: <http://bangor.ac.uk/alumni/email>. What a great way to show off your Bangor past and stay in touch with the friends you've made here!

Florian Breit

### Keep in touch with the BLS

We have a website which can be found at <http://bangorlinguists.org>. We are now also on Facebook (new page!) and on Twitter:

<http://on.fb.me/BangorLinguists>.

<http://bit.ly/BLStweet> (English)

<http://bit.ly/CIBtweet> (Welsh)

There are also some year groups on Facebook, named "Linguistics & English Language 'XX'", where "XX" is the year of graduation (e.g. '12 for the current third years). Make sure to join!

### Contributors

#### Chief Editor

Kathryn Barlow

#### Editorial Board

Florian Breit

Matt Jackson

Roseanne Orr

#### Contributors

Callum Robson

Jenny Smith

