

LEEDS

*Alumni
magazine*

*Issue
II*

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stage*

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Mixing expertise

What happens if you cross research in performance and computing, or food science and history?



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

FROM THE EDITOR

Where will you be in July and August? If it's glued to the TV, watching the Olympics (or if you'll be there in London), then you should know that Leeds is involved in almost every aspect of the Games, right from the opening ceremony. This issue, we'll show you just some of our many people behind the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games.

We're celebrating culture as well as sports, and so we take two areas – music and poetry – and look at how Leeds staff and alumni are taking the creative arts beyond the campus and into the public sphere in different ways

Ultimately, whether it's culture, sport, or a staggering range of other disciplines from medicine to mechanical engineering in which Leeds people excel, we're about collaboration and sharing. The University of Leeds is a melting pot of ideas, experience and expertise, and so we've picked some examples of the sort of cross-discipline collaboration you might not expect. As usual, with a University and alumni community like ours, we're only ever showing you the tip of the iceberg.

Enjoy!

Phil Steel (English 1997)
Head of Alumni Relations

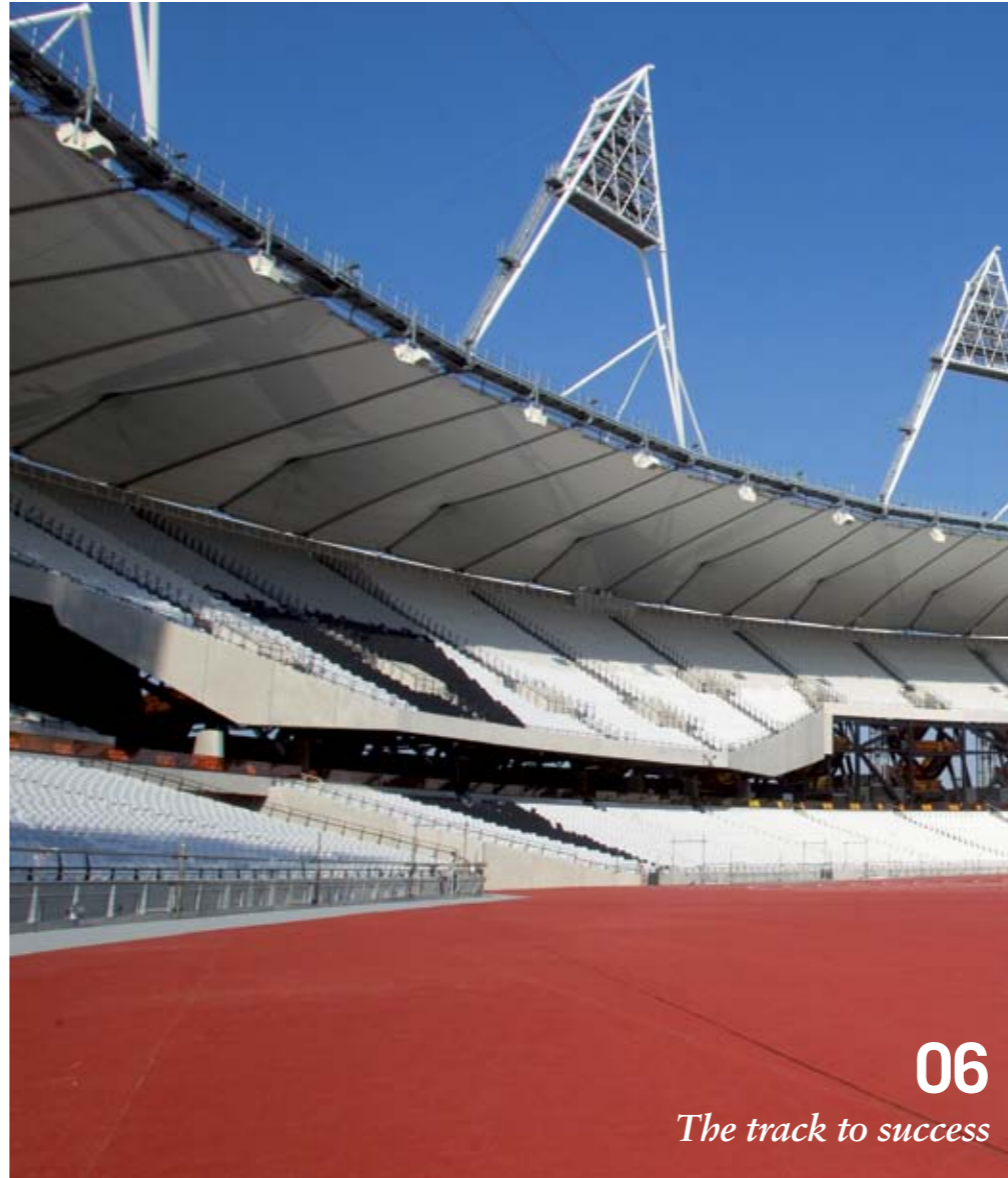


Leeds is published twice a year by the University of Leeds Alumni & Development Team. It is received by more than 187,000 graduates, members and friends of the University across the world.

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Mixing it up



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Talking poetry



06
The track to success

Photo credit: LOCOCG

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This magazine is also available for download from www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk or can be emailed out on request

This magazine is printed on 50% recycled paper and mailed out in 100% biodegradable packaging

Views expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the University of Leeds

Design: Appetite
www.appetiteuk.com



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Facing the music

Photo credit: Dan Smith

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Ian Beetlestone (English 2000) is a writer and pianist based in London. He has written for the Guardian and the Observer, and before that the Leeds Guide. He has performed throughout Soho and the West End.

Phil Sutcliffe is a regular contributor to *Leeds* and has written for Sounds, The Face, Q, Mojo, The Los Angeles Times and The Northern Echo. He is Member of Honour of the National Union of Journalists.

Andy Wilson (Politics 1994) covers sport – mostly cricket and rugby league – for The Guardian and The Observer, which has the happy requirement of regular returns to Headingley. He is also a member of the University's Rugby League alumni having played for three seasons including an appearance in the UAU final at Doncaster.

Kipper Williams (Fine Art 1974) draws for a number of publications including The Sunday Times, The Guardian and The Spectator.

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Cover image: The AccelorMittal Orbit, designed for the 2012 Olympics by sculptor Anish Kapoor (honorary DLitt 1993)



TAKING CENTRE STAGE

*A remarkable engineering feat for
The Queen's Diamond Jubilee concert*



Photo credit: Dan Kitwood/Getty Images

The Queen Victoria memorial in front of Buckingham Palace received a modern makeover with help from Atelier One Director **Neil Thomas (BSc Architectural Engineering 1980)**. Having previously engineered grandiose stages for

U2, Pink Floyd and Take That, Neil helped create a premiere concert stage for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee concert, which featured Sir Paul McCartney, Dame Shirley Bassey and Sir Elton John among others. The structure proved a challenge:

"The roof over the stage was a series of canopies radiating out from the centre supported at the rear only," Neil says. "Achieved with springs beneath the bases as the wind increased, the forces were transferred around the structure to avoid overloading."

DESIGNING FOR DIVERSITY

Abu Dhabi-based fashion designer **Manar al Hinai (MA Diversity Management 2009)** won an Arab Woman of the Year award from L'Officiel Middle East magazine and landed on Alhan!'s Hot 100 list for her contributions to fashion and business. Manar created clothing brand Lucky Noon after noticing the lack of Arabian Gulf designs in fashion. She says: "That really bothered me, so I decided this was something I had to do." Her clothing retails online and in boutiques in Oman, Bahrain and United Arab Emirates.



A model wears one of Manar al Hinai's designs

SPRINGING INTO ACTION

When professional footballer Fabrice Muamba collapsed on the pitch during the first half of a FA Cup match in March, cardiologist **Dr Andrew Deaner (MBChB Medicine 1987)** was one of the first to reach him. Andrew, a fan seated in the stadium, sprang to the field to assist medics when Fabrice suffered a cardiac arrest.

He accompanied the victim in an ambulance to London Chest Hospital, where Andrew works. He remained by Fabrice's



Photo credit: Julian Finney – The FA/The FA via Getty Images

side in intensive care after his heart stopped beating for 78 minutes and was revived. "If I was ever going to use the term miraculous, it could be used here. He has made a remarkable recovery so far," said Andrew.

During the game's rematch minus Fabrice-fans of both teams were seen bearing messages of hope for the athlete. Andrew once again smiled and cheered from the audience. Fabrice, released from hospital one month after his collapse, said: "I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to every single member of staff who played a part in my care."

A GREAT DAME CELEBRATES AT THE GREAT HALL

More tales of relationship building in the alumni community

Dame Fanny Waterman (honorary MA 1966; honorary DMus 1992) celebrated her 92nd birthday by hosting a dinner fundraiser in the Great Hall for the Leeds International Piano Competition (LIPC), which takes place from 29 August to 16 September. The dinner also marked the internationally-renowned competition's golden jubilee. Dame Fanny recently arranged a Children's Jubilee Concert to honour The Queen's Diamond Anniversary, held at Leeds Town Hall. It featured more than 400 children from underprivileged schools, who had no prior music background. The BBC is currently making a documentary about Dame Fanny's life.



CANDID STREET SCENE

A street scene snapped on a mobile phone won **Kheoh Yee Wei (MEng Electronics and Nanotechnology 2011)** Street Photographer of Year in an international competition run by the Citizen Journalism Educational Trust (CJET). His prize-winning photo of

a residential street in Leeds appeared at the London College of Communication's Street Photography Exhibition held in March. All entries were taken by citizen journalists or non-professionals on their mobile phones.

Kheoh's photo depicts a mother and child walking, an excitable dog and on-looking neighbours. He says: "I knew I had to stop and capture a candid street photograph."



Photo credit: Michelle Lukins

GRADUATE TAKES OLYMPIC GOLD

On his record breaking 10th summit of Mount Everest, **Kenton Cool (Geological Sciences 1984)** fulfilled a pledge made after a failed Everest expedition that gripped the world in 1922.

Kenton had been spurred into action by a long-forgotten story uncovered in the lead-up to the London Olympics. Two years before George Mallory's famous effort, a group of British explorers had been thwarted by an avalanche a mere 500 metres from the summit of Mount Everest.



Photo credit: Cool Ascents

When Pierre de Coubertin, the father of the modern Olympic Games, presented the adventurers with gold medals for mountaineering in 1924, their leader vowed that one day the medal would go to the top of Everest.

Time passed. The pledge was forgotten. Kenton heard the story and said 'I have to do that'. On learning of Kenton's quest for an original medal, a Toronto resident invited Kenton for a visit. His grandfather's medal found itself taken out of storage and accompanying Kenton across the world to the top of the world's highest mountain, 88 years after it had been awarded. See Kenton's climb at kentoncool.com

HELPED BY A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Lara Jordan (MSc Biodiversity and Conservation 1999) manages and develops the bird collection at Johannesburg Zoo in South Africa. As Curator of Birds, she has been part of the conservation projects for endangered species including the Wattled Crane, Cape Vulture and Mabula Southern Ground Hornbill project. Lara, has specialized in hand-rearing and incubation of chicks, her passion is for conservation of bird species.

Previously she worked with Mauritian Fody, Mauritian white eyes, Waldrapp Ibis and hornbills in the Philippines. She is currently working on her PhD proposal the subject of which is a secret for now! The Johannesburg Zoo recently received *We Make Joburg Great Excellence Award* from the City of Johannesburg, for their conservation efforts.



Photo © Apex News & Pictures

SHE TAKES TO THE SKY

Kate Moran (Aviation Technology and Management 2007), aged 25, has begun a career as a commercial airline pilot in an industry where less than five percent of pilots are women. Kate has dreamed of becoming captain of an aircraft since the age of nine and

pursued any courses that would lead to her flying professionally. "I'm getting paid to do my hobby – how many people can say that? There has never been a time when I have wanted to do anything else." She flies with Devon-based airline Flybe.

CAMPAIGNING FOR THE CHILDREN

As Chief Executive of the Child Poverty Action Group, Alison Garnham (Philosophy and Psychology 1980) campaigns against rising child poverty in the UK. Working with MPs and lobby groups, Alison has stressed the importance of maintaining universal child

benefits. CPAG researched various scenarios to predict outcomes of benefit cuts, concluding that families with three or more children could be pushed below the poverty line. "The effect of more than £18 billion cuts to welfare benefits together with stagnating wages and rising unemployment and rising prices will result in there being 800,000 more children in poverty by 2020," she said. "My whole career has felt like preparation for this job."



Photo © David Levene/The Guardian

HOOKED ON ETHICS

Angela Fitzpatrick (Latin 1982) co-founded The Reel Fish Co., a tinned tuna business that uses only poles and lines in the Maldives to catch its selection, and provides a more ethical alternative to netting practices. Angela decided early on to pursue a career with consumer goods, but was always keen to study Latin at Leeds. "I always knew I could add a business qualification later in life," she said, "but I would never have had a second chance at a classical education."



HELP IN SHANGHAI



A Shanghai centre supporting homeless people, founded by Jimmy McWhinney (MA Asia Pacific Studies 2011), has been nominated for the Rotary Leadership Awards in Shanghai for excellence in social responsibility. Jimmy founded The Renewal Center, to support Shanghai's homeless men and women with daily provisions, medical attention, employment, residency and support. During the winter months Jimmy worked with the local community to collect warm clothes and donations for The Renewal Center's residents.

In brief

Professor of Social Work for Children and Families at the University of Birmingham **Sue White (PGDip Applied Social Studies 1984)** received funds to develop a transferable hospital tool-kit for detecting child abuse and safeguarding children prior to release.

Rugby lock **Tom Palmer (Physics 2001)** will return to England from France next season to play for London Wasps. He played in four of England's 2012 Six Nations rugby matches earlier this year.

Singer-songwriter **Corinne Bailey Rae (English Language & Literature 2000; DMus honorary 2011)** won Best R&B Performance at the GRAMMYS for her recorded version of Bob Marley's "Is This Love".

Dannick Jethwa won the UK Best Young Dentist award in 2011 and was highly commended as Dentist of the Year (North UK) at the Dental Awards 2012. He is studying for an MSc in Clinical Dentistry at Leeds Dental Institute while running a thriving practice in Derby.

Nicholas B Lydon (Biochemistry & Zoology 1978) became 2012 Japan Prize Laureate for his role in developing Imatinib, a drug that targets cancer cells.

Nancy Carroll (Fine Art 1997) co-starred in *The Recruiting Officer*, a Restoration comedy in London's Donmar Warehouse. Nancy won Olivier and Evening Standard awards in 2010.

Philip Broadhead (History 1973) has been appointed Deputy Rector of academic services at University of the Arts London. His new role begins August 2012. He was formerly Pro-Warden at Goldsmiths.

Elizabeth Price (PhD Fine Art 1999) has been nominated for the Turner Prize, the most prestigious prize modern art.

For the latest alumni news visit alumni.leeds.ac.uk/alumninews, check out [facebook.com/leedsalumni](https://www.facebook.com/leedsalumni) and follow [@leedsalumni](https://twitter.com/leedsalumni) on Twitter. To tell us your news email alumni@leeds.ac.uk

What did you do to break into your career?

How did your degree get you that job?

If you were starting out again, what advice would you give?

Share your experiences with Leeds students to help them on their way.

Leeds Network

Register with the Leeds Network if you would like to answer career questions from students by email or could write a profile about your career.



Find out more here
alumni.leeds.ac.uk/leedsnetwork

LeedsforLife

Leeds may be 200 miles from the Olympic Stadium – but alumni and students are putting the University right at the heart of the London Games. From the top sports doctor to the man responsible for 1,000 medal presentations, the dancers performing in the opening ceremony to the brothers chasing Gold medal glory, London 2012 will be a showcase for Leeds talent. Andy Wilson and Simon Jenkins meet some of those involved



THE LEEDS

OLYMPIANS

MORE LEEDS STUDENTS AND ALUMNI THAN EVER WILL BE COMPETING AT LONDON 2012. THESE ARE THE ATHLETES TO LOOK OUT FOR:

PAUL MATTICK

(GB Men's Rowing, Lightweight Fours)
Heats, 28 Jul // Repechage, 29 Jul // Semi Final, 31 Jul // Final, 2 Aug

ANDREA DENNIS

(GB Women's Rowing, Lightweight Pairs)
Heats, 28 Jul // Repechage, 29 Jul // Semi Final, 31 Jul // Final, 2 Aug

MATT HOLLAND & ED SCOTT

(GB Men's Water Polo)
Preliminaries, 29, 31 Jul, 4, 6 Aug // Quarter Final, 8 Aug // Semi Final, 10 Aug // Final, 12 Aug

ASHLEIGH BALL

(GB Women's Hockey)
Preliminaries, 29, 31 Jul, 2, 4, 6 Aug // Quarter Final, 8 Aug // Final and Bronze Medal Match, 10 Aug

REBECCA GALLANTREE

(GB Women's Diving)
3m synchronised heats and Final, 29 Jul // 3m springboard preliminaries, 3 Aug // Semi Finals and Final, 4 Aug // 10m platform preliminaries, 8 Aug // Semi Finals and Final, 9 Aug

JACK OLIVER

(GB Weightlifting)
77kg class heats and Final, 1 Aug

JONATHAN HAMMOND

(GB Prone Rifle Men)
Qualifying and Final, 3 Aug

ALISTAIR BROWNLEE

(GB Men's Athletics)
Triathlon, 7 Aug

JONATHAN BROWNLEE

(GB Men's Athletics)
Triathlon, 7 Aug

Paralympics:

CLAIRE CASHMORE

(GB Class S9 swimming)
30 Aug

KIM DAYBELL

(GB Class 10 Table Tennis)
Preliminaries from 30 Aug

KAREN DARKE

(GB Hand Cycling, H2 time trial and H2 road race)
5, 7 Sep

THE TRIATHLETES



Photo credit: Copyright © 2011 Nigel Farrow

If all goes well in Hyde Park on August 7, Leeds University could be basking in the golden glow of the brothers Brownlee. Alistair (Biological Sciences 2009) and third year history student Jonny say the city has been the perfect base from which to prepare a dual medal challenge in the triathlon.

They grew up in Horsforth, went to school at Bradford Grammar and now split their training between the University pool and the rugged Chevin Country Park. “A lot of our success is down to Yorkshire really,” says Jonny, at 22 the younger by two years, and impressively relaxed about his standing as second favourite behind Alistair. “We love training here.”

“We’d rather be here than away,” echoes Alistair, who won gold to Jonny’s silver in last year’s World and European Championships, and jumped at the chance to return to Leeds from Cambridge when the High Performance Triathlon Unit was set up in the city four years.

“The feeling that drove me more than anything really was just enjoying training – away from inspiring places to train I just didn’t enjoy it any more. Cambridge is a

The gruelling event, introduced to the Olympics in Sydney 2000, begins with a 1,500m swim in the Serpentine, before the 55 competitors cycle 40km – seven laps of a scenic circuit taking in Buckingham Palace and the Wellington Arch – then finish with a 10k run back in Hyde Park.

The two brothers are not physically imposing, but that normal appearance belies a wiry toughness achieved by years of self-sacrifice – which must require huge mental strength when surrounded by contemporaries indulging in the traditionally hedonistic student lifestyle. “I don’t necessarily miss it,” says Alistair. “A lot of people say ‘Wow, how can you do that much training?’ But if it’s what you’ve done – cycling, swimming, running since you were 12 years old – you don’t know any different. That’s a big advantage.”

“Sometimes it’s really nice to have something different,” Jonny says of his studies. “Other times you’re tired and it’s hard. But now it’s my own personal study. I like doing something different and I think it’s important to take your mind away from it, otherwise all you think about is triathlon.”

“A LOT OF PEOPLE SAY ‘WOW, HOW CAN YOU DO THAT MUCH TRAINING?’ BUT IF IT’S WHAT YOU’VE DONE – CYCLING, SWIMMING, RUNNING SINCE YOU WERE 12 YEARS OLD – YOU DON’T KNOW ANY DIFFERENT”

boring place to train: the footpaths aren’t that good, the roads just tend to be flat. Here you can just go out on the moors and it’s really inspiring. When you move away that’s the big thing you realise.”

Alistair had been in Cambridge reading medicine, and after moving north to study sports science and physiology, now combines his Olympics preparation with a masters in finance. When we spoke, in the cafe bar at The Edge after the brothers’ Thursday morning swimming session, Jonny was halfway through his dissertation on Richard III, part of his history degree.

But they admit that triathlon has been their main focus in the countdown to London 2012.

Their training routine is relentless, but so much easier to bear because they do it together. They live together, too, only 10 minutes’ drive from their parents in Horsforth – which is handy for the odd home-cooked meal. “I’m awful at cooking,” says Jonny. “Alistair cooks occasionally, but I think it’s a waste of time. We’re sponsored by the Chevin Country Park Hotel, so they give us some food. If I ever need anything else, I go back to my parents’ house – about three times a week.”

They talk of long winter bike rides with cafe stops for a toasted tea cake, and Christmas dinner with their grandparents at the family home. Theirs is a terrific story of two level-headed, down-to-earth lads, yet in Hyde Park this August, they could be



Watch for the brotherly rivalry of the Brownlees of Leeds. Having trained and studied on campus, Alistair and Jonny will represent Great Britain in the London games. Photo credit: Copyright © 2011 Nigel Farrow

battling each other for gold.

“We get asked the ‘brothers’ question a lot,” says Jonny. “It’s good having Alistair around. Good to train with him, good for interviews like this. It makes it a lot nicer. I’m kind of used to getting beaten by Alistair now. If I come second and get beaten by him in a way it’s a victory, because if anyone else is going to win I want my brother to win. But it is nice to beat him sometimes.”

“I haven’t come second very often,” responds Alistair with a smile that is somewhere between

“IF ANYONE ELSE IS GOING TO WIN I WANT MY BROTHER TO WIN. BUT IT IS NICE TO BEAT HIM SOMETIMES”

sheepish and steely. “To get two of us on a podium of three in the most competitive race in the world, it’s not easy going, is it? To do it last year in the World Championship in London, I thought that was pretty special.”

Now the final countdown to the race that could define the rest of their lives is very much on. So when will they leave Yorkshire for London?

“As late as possible,” says Alistair. For the Brownlee brothers, there really is no place like home.

THE ROWERS

As Leeds went to press, both Paul Mattick (Pharmacology and Physiology 1999) and Andrea Dennis (Sports Science and Physiology 2003) are in contention for a place in Great Britain’s rowing squads.

For Paul, from Abingdon in Oxfordshire, London would be his second Olympics, having been a member of the Lightweight Men’s Four which was placed fifth in



Paul Mattick – Photo credit: Matthew Lewis/Getty Images

Beijing. He was also part of the crew that took gold medals at the 2007 and 2009 World Championships, and has competed in the pairs and individual events. At 30, Andrea is a veteran of two European and five World Championships, at the most recent of which in 2011, she took a gold medal as part of the Lightweight Women’s Four. A former county track athlete, Andrea took up rowing in her home town of Oxford, when home from University for the summer, and rowed for the Leeds team in the final year of her studies.

THE WEIGHTLIFTER

Weightlifter Jack Oliver has his sights firmly set on London after smashing Britain’s under-20 and under-23 records at the 2011 World Championships, held at Disneyland Paris. Jack, who is studying Classics at Leeds, lifted a combined weight of 300kg in the two lifting disciplines – snatch and clean and jerk – to achieve the Olympic qualifying B standard and put himself in contention for the 2012 Games. Jack, from Bexley in South London, only began weightlifting six years ago, quickly climbing the rankings and winning numerous Junior National Titles before being selected to compete at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi, where he came eighth.

THE WATER POLO PLAYERS

Leeds could have two representatives in the GB water polo squad – Matt Holland (Sport and Exercise Science 2010) and Ed Scott, studying medicine. But only one of them will be in the water at any one time, as both are goalkeepers.

After success with the national junior team, Ed, from Bolton was the youngest member of the GB team at the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, aged just 17. After his A-Levels he spent a season with Hungarian club, Szolnoki Foiskola – and he also took a year out of his medical studies to play full-time at Club Mediterrani in Spain. As we go to press, Ed is looking certain to



be chosen, and may be joined in the squad by Matt, from Carshalton in Surrey, who made his senior debut for the GB squad in January 2008.

Great Britain will have a tough task competing for the final stages of the competition. Their first round group includes matches against Hungary, the US and Serbia – the gold, silver and bronze medallists respectively in 2008.

LEEDS TO LONDON OLYMPIC CELEBRATION

Tuesday 7 August
11.30am – 2pm (Triathlon)
2pm – 4pm (Paxton’s Head pub, Hyde Park)

Come and celebrate Leeds’ contribution to the London Games with staff, students and alumni. The reception at the Paxton’s Head follows the Triathlon in Hyde Park, where Leeds brothers Alistair and Jonny Brownlee will be representing Great Britain.

> Booking essential at alumni.leeds.ac.uk/triathlon

THE HOCKEY PLAYER

Having competed in the 2011 World Championships and 2010 Commonwealth Games, hockey star **Ashleigh Ball** (Medical Sciences 2007) is now hoping to add the Olympic Games to an impressive CV which has seen her capped 47

times by England and five times by Great Britain. From Brighton, Ash started playing hockey at 10 years old alongside netball and a number of other sports while at school. The midfielder now plays for Slough and has the happy knack of scoring key goals, like the ones that secured victory over Olympic silver medallists China and semi-final opponents Germany at this year's Champions Trophy in Argentina, where Great Britain finished second.



Photo credit: The Hub Entertainment

THE DIVER

Essex-born **Rebecca Gallantree** (Sport & Exercise Science 2005) settled in Leeds after completing her studies, and is on course to be selected for two separate diving events – the 3m springboard individual competition, and the 3m



Photo credit: Feng Li/Getty Images

“...WHEN I WAS LOOKING AROUND TO CHOOSE A UNIVERSITY, LEEDS WAS DEFINITELY MY FAVOURITE”

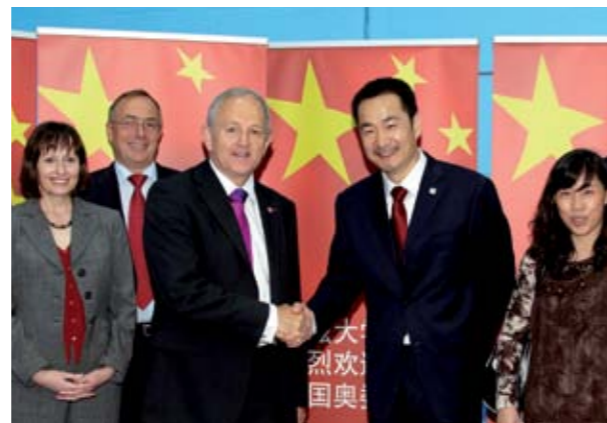
synchronised competition, with Alicia Blagg, a 15-year-old from Wakefield.

“I finished ninth in the World Cup in the Olympic pool in London in February, which was an amazing experience,” she says. “To be in front

of a home crowd was fantastic, and obviously now I want to experience that again in the Olympics.”

Rebecca trains at the Aquatic Centre John Charles Centre for Sport under Ady Hinchliffe, the senior coach of the Leeds Diving Training Scheme. “I’d been up to Leeds a couple of times for diving competitions, and then when I was looking around to choose a university Leeds was definitely my favourite,” she explained.

“We train six days a week, twice a day most days, with about half of what we do on dry land – in the gym, fitness work, stretching and weights. It’s going to be a busy few months, and so exciting.”



Officials from Leeds and the Chinese Olympic Committee met in March to arrange for Leeds to be the pre-Games training base for the Chinese Olympic programme

THE CHINESE TEAM

51

Gold medals won by China at 2008 Olympics

A team of 60 student volunteers will welcome around 300 Chinese athletes, coaches and support staff based in Leeds as they make their final preparations ahead of the games. The students, all Chinese speakers, will act as hosts and translators for the visitors.

Athletics stars, swimmers, boxers – and competitors from a host of other sports – will be based in the University’s Storm Jameson hall of residence. Many will use the state-of-the-art facilities in the University’s new gym and swimming pool complex The Edge, while others will use the John Charles Centre for Sport in South Leeds and venues further afield.

China is a world superpower at Olympic level, having topped the medal table in their home Olympics in Beijing in 2008, claiming 51 golds and a total of 100 medals overall. The most high-profile among the Chinese athletes coming to Leeds will be table tennis stars who enjoy near-total dominance over the rest of the world. China currently boasts four of the top five men and five of the leading six women in the world rankings. Another athlete expected in Leeds is 110m hurdler Liu Xiang, gold medallist in 2004 and on course to claim gold again in London.

2550

Rooms used over the course of the whole training camp

The visit is also expected to provide a major long-term boost to trade, commerce and tourism as well as strengthening longstanding cultural ties between Yorkshire and China.

It isn’t just the Chinese team that has chosen Leeds as its base. Members of the Canadian paralympic team will also be based on campus before the start of the Paralympic Games. Canada’s wheelchair rugby team tested out the facilities last year.

6

Chinese Men ranked in World top 10 for Table Tennis (May 2012)

8

sports represented: Fencing, Table tennis, Taekwondo, Swimming, Athletics, Boxing, Women’s Hockey, Canoe Slalom

THE PARALYMPIANS



Photo credit: Dr Ayoade S Ademakinwa

The dust will barely have settled on the Olympics, before the paralympians take centre stage for 12 days of competition. Three athletes are flying the flag for the University of Leeds.

Medics have a reputation for working hard and playing hard. In the case of **Kim Daybell**, that has a slightly different meaning. He’s combined the first year of his course with preparations for the Paralympics, where he hopes to make a real impact, having represented England in able-bodied table tennis at junior levels despite having been born with Poland’s syndrome – which in his case meant no fingers on his right hand.

“It’s been a busy year,” says Kim, who will turn 20 shortly before the Games. “But one of the big appeals for me about Leeds – as well as the course, which is great – was the support they would give me as an athlete.”

Originally from Sheffield, which is the training centre for all Britain’s leading table tennis players, Kim took a year out to work on his game full-time before starting his degree. “The Chinese will be the players to beat, as they are in the able-bodied sport,” he says.

“But it’s probably a bit more equal in the Paralympics with good European players from places like



Photo courtesy of Back Up and riversidecreatives.com

“ORIGINALLY I JUST WANTED TO GET IN THE TEAM; NOW I AM THERE, I WILL BE DISAPPOINTED IF I DON’T WIN A MEDAL”

Slovenia and Poland. At the moment I’m rated number eight or nine in the world so I’m aiming to reach the quarter finals at least – and hopefully a bit better!”

London may be **Karen Darke**’s first Paralympic Games, but it represents just another milestone for an inspirational graduate who has skiied across Greenland, kayaked around Corsica, cycled in the Himalayas and been world Para-Triathlon Champion – all since a ten-metre fall from a cliff in 1993 left her severely disabled at the age of 21.

After watching the 2008 Paralympic Games on television, hand-cyclist **Karen** (Chemistry and Geological Science 1992) was determined to compete in 2012. “Beijing was the first time they had included hand-cycling and I thought it would be amazing to compete.”

She qualified for London last year after winning two bronze medals at the World Championships – and now has her eyes on Paralympic glory too. “Originally I just wanted to get in the team; now I am there, I will be disappointed if I don’t win a medal.”

She’s so determined to succeed, that her successful coaching and speaking business Inspire and Impact has been put on hold, at least for now. “My focus is completely on cycling – I have world Championship races in Italy, Switzerland and Spain coming up, and then it’s all about London.”

For swimmer **Claire Cashmore** (Linguistics 2011), who was born without her left forearm, London will be her third Games – and she is hoping to add more silverware to the three bronze medals already in her collection.

Her first, in the 100m backstroke in Athens, is a special memory: “I looked up at the scoreboard and it said I was third. I couldn’t believe that I had won a medal. I was still so stunned that I forgot to smile when I was on the podium!”

She achieved another third place in the individual medley, but her bronze medal in the 100m breaststroke in

“I COULDN’T BELIEVE THAT I HAD WON A MEDAL. I WAS STILL SO STUNNED THAT I FORGOT TO SMILE WHEN I WAS ON THE PODIUM!”

Beijing was a serious disappointment. “I had set the fastest times going into the Games, but then someone came from nowhere to win it. It was a girl who had been an able-bodied competitor, but then lost a limb and switched to the Paralympics.”

Since graduating, Claire has worked for Leeds charity the Jane Tomlinson Appeal, and has visited schools to spread the word about the Paralympics. She is hoping to forge a career in the media “ideally as a Blue Peter presenter!”

Having already qualified for the games, Claire is determined to make amends in the breaststroke, though she will not know until nearer the time which events she will be competing in. And despite her experience, Claire is clearly excited about London: “Being in front of a home crowd will be incredible.”



Photo credit: Guang Niu/Getty Images

MAKING IT HAPPEN

From planning to construction, transport management to media coverage, Leeds alumni have been involved in every aspect of creating a successful Olympic Games

Sculptor Anish Kapoor (honorary DLitt 1993) has designed the iconic 376-foot-tall Orbit tower, which was commissioned specially for the Olympic Park in east London. Unveiled in May, the twisted tangle of red steel, described by Kapoor as 'awkward but beautiful', is right beside the Olympic Stadium and features two observation floors, a 455-step spiral staircase, a lift and a restaurant.



"IT'S TERRIFYING."

Martin Green (MA English 1996) admits that his is among the more daunting roles at London 2012. As head of ceremonies, he is charged with delivering the opening and closing events at both the Olympics and Paralympics – and something like a thousand medal ceremonies in between.

In some ways the job is a natural progression from previous high-profile roles including major London events such as the New Year's Eve celebrations, festivals in Trafalgar Square and the opening of the O2 Arena in the former Millennium Dome.

The first ceremony is already well under way. The torch relay began on 17 May and culminates in the lighting of the Olympic Stadium flame. 8,000 runners are involved during a 70-day marathon taking the torch the length and breadth of the UK. "When the torch relay started, people began to realise the Olympics really are happening."

Come July, the whole world will know. The opening ceremony is

the most watched TV event on the planet; around one billion people tuned in four years ago. But Martin feels no pressure to better Beijing: "Comparisons don't work. The opening ceremony should be an idiosyncratic display of our city and country at this moment in its history. The Beijing ceremony was very Chinese, the Athens one very Greek."

With a cast of 12,000 and film director Danny Boyle installed as Creative Director, Martin is promising to deliver "the very best ceremony that we possibly can."

For the medal ceremonies, he opted for military precision. "We have 1,000 ceremonies – that's 3,000 flags and 1,000 national anthems. We can't afford to get one wrong." So the responsibility has been passed to the armed forces: "Who else would you turn to, to make sure it's all executed perfectly?"

Though only a student at Leeds for a year, Martin "arrived early and left late" because he liked the city so much. "The department had such extraordinary staff who encouraged us to follow the paths we wanted. I wrote a play, and the University funded us to take it to the

Edinburgh Festival. For me that's where it all started."

And the future? "I don't think about it. I have a team of 500 people who feel it is a privilege to be delivering on the expectations the UK has of us. You can't conceive of the 'after'."

As leading sports doctor for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Dr Stuart Miller (Medicine 1982) will co-ordinate the care of all 15,000 athletes competing in London.

"It's a great honour," says Stuart, but it reflects his pre-eminence in an emergent field. The General Medical Council established the specialism of Sports and Exercise Medicine as recently as 2007; Stuart was its first recognised specialist.

His own interest in the field was sparked by a painful incident "on the awful Woodhouse Moor tennis courts" where Stuart twisted an ankle and was lucky to be treated at Leeds General Infirmary by Dr Ian Adams, considered by many to be the father of sports medicine. At the time, rehabilitation for sports injuries was considered complete once the patient could walk comfortably. "Dr Adams went much further," says Stuart. "He took the view that patients should be able to do the things they were able to do before."

After graduating, Stuart had stints in Otley, Hertfordshire, Surrey and Bristol, before moving to the University of Bath where he is Clinical Director of the biggest sports medicine course in the world.

"WE HAVE 1,000 CEREMONIES – THAT'S 3,000 FLAGS AND 1,000 NATIONAL ANTHEMS. WE CAN'T AFFORD TO GET ONE WRONG"

At London 2012 he is charged with looking after all the athletes, including those who use the Polyclinic in the athletes' village – essentially a small hospital which features everything from a minor accident unit to the very latest imaging equipment. "Our team will be supporting the team doctors who are travelling to London with the athletes, and we can call in dental, optical and massage experts as we need them."



While athletes are competing in the Olympic Stadium, Leeds alumni are involved at the highest level in some of the crucial behind-the-scenes activity

Looking after the athletes is a big part of Simon Mason's remit too. As a veteran of the Atlanta, Sydney and Athens games, the former GB hockey captain was ideally placed to ensure that for those taking part, the London experience is second to none.

As a member of the Athletes Committee, Simon helped shape every aspect of London 2012 – from the detail of billion-pound media contracts, to the food served for breakfast in the athletes' village. Chaired by Jonathan Edwards the committee includes notable ex-Olympians such as Karen Pickering, Tim Henman and Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson.

"Athletes were involved at every stage," says Simon (Economics 1994, Hon LLD 2009). "Even when they were deciding whether London should submit a bid, there was a determination the competitors should be at the heart of the Games."

The group's wealth of sporting knowledge, their range of skills outside the competitive arena – and their independence from the organising committee – are key strengths. "If there's something which we don't like, we simply say 'no'."

Simon brings to the group the business acumen developed by owning and running Mercian Sports, which exports hockey equipment worldwide.

Simon remembers his time at Leeds with fondness – even though he was travelling to Bristol every weekend to play National League Hockey. "I perhaps chose to study the wrong course, but I threw myself into every sport going at Leeds!"

So will London be the best games ever for those taking part? "Sydney was wonderful – it set a new benchmark. Beijing was good too. "But if London is as good as Sydney the athletes will have a fantastic experience."

THE DANCERS

Holly Welham and Georgina Kettman will be among the cast of thousands in the opening ceremony – an event set to break global records for its TV viewing figure.

Holly, a first year chemistry and biology student from St Neots in Cambridgeshire, explains: "I applied online two years ago, when I was in the Lower Sixth, and had to attend two big auditions before finally hearing in January that I'd been chosen." For second year dance student Georgina, performing is second nature, but for Holly it's a totally new experience: "I've never done anything like this at all. I was

"THERE'S SO MUCH GOING ON, JUST IN THOSE TEN MINUTES. THE WHOLE THING WILL BE INCREDIBLE"

determined to be involved with the Olympics, but I didn't really want to do something behind the scenes."

It's a big commitment, says Georgina: "We have to go to London for about 20 half-day rehearsals – and then there are three full dress rehearsals in the stadium before the opening ceremony." Both are tight-lipped about the content, and neither has yet seen the whole performance: "We've had to sign declarations of confidentiality," says Georgina. "Although we know about the short sequences we're involved in, we won't see the rest until much nearer to the date. "There's so much going on, just in those ten minutes. The whole thing will be incredible."



Holly Welham and Georgina Kettman



INSTRUMENTAL TO THE FILM

*At the age of 29,
Ilan Eshkeri was composing
the score for a \$70 million film. Phil Sutcliffe
finds out about the drive and talent behind one of the
UK's most sought after film score composers*

“Movie soundtracks are invisible to the ear,” says Ilan Eshkeri, enjoying the sensory contradiction and apparently untroubled by the implication: that his work as a film-score composer passes unremarked by the people who hear it.

Because they're not listening. Nor should they be, he reckons: “If you notice what I've done, probably I've done something wrong. I have to not take people away from the story. Even so... you do want them humming your tunes when they walk out of the cinema.”

This anonymity is an odd aspect of a career which has gone like a train ever since Ilan graduated from Leeds with a Music and English degree in 1999. Only 34, he's already written music for 20-plus films, Hollywood and British, including *Layer Cake*, *Stardust*, *The Young Victoria*, *Johnny English Reborn* and *Coriolanus*.

Big business this: tens of millions of dollars. Which explains why he's hard to pin down for an interview. *Leeds* missed him in London and Venice, finally caught up with him in Los Angeles. It's a hustling life, then? “Oh, the larger your business becomes, the

Photo: Ilan Eshkeri (right) collaborating with director and producer Matthew Vaughn. The two have worked together on *Kick-Ass*, *Stardust* and *Layer Cake*

more time you spend doing business. It gets harder to carve out writing periods... But I wouldn't grumble!”

It's not what he wanted to do when he was growing up in London. That would have been weird, he says. “No, I wanted to be in a rock band,” he says. “Because I thought I wouldn't have to work too hard to make a living. I took up guitar when I was 13 and... messed about.” But, as parents will, his Israeli father and French mother had already pressed him into formal music lessons on the violin. So, a firm basis for he didn't know what.

“I guess I was always aware of soundtracks,” he muses, unconvinced, naming only *Indiana Jones* and *Back to the Future*. He was hardly on a mission before arriving in Leeds. It's more that once he got there doors opened, helpful voices said “walk this way”, and opportunity revealed ability. Everything worked, planned or random. He loved studying music technology under Professor David Cooper (Music 1978). Likewise composition with Professor Philip Wilby (DMus 1997), a composer himself, in particular, a lesson about creative ego: “He believed a lot of composers spent too much time trying to establish their ‘signature’ – something to make them different and attract attention. He said, ‘Then they forget about writing music’. Creating work is the thing, the rest will take care of itself.”

Ilan plunged into the English half of his joint honours degree too: “Lynette Hunter was an inspiring teacher. With my English, I was studying narrative and that's what film composing is about. Later, it helped me with reading scripts.”

Then luck got involved: “Someone introduced me to Ed Shearmur who was ten years older than me and already writing soundtracks (*The Wings of the Dove*, *Charlie's Angels*, *Johnny English*). I started spending summer vacations in the studio in

London making tea for him and setting up computers, copying music.”

It only got better. Shearmur often collaborated with established big-timer Michael Kamen (*Brazil*, *Die Hard*, *Licence to Kill*, *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*, Steven Spielberg's HBO series *Band of Brothers*). Another introduction produced further chances to brew up and peer over the shoulder of a master.

Still, Ilan stuck with his degree course. In Leeds, he wrote and recorded demo cassettes – David Cooper recalls him “bringing professional-standard work into the class” – and sent them to anyone who might be interested: “When I was living at Oxley Hall a guy making a short at a school in London wrote to say he liked the tape and he wanted me to write a soundtrack for him. I remember jumping for joy. My first film!”

And so to Hollywood, though only for more dogsbodying at first, assisting Chichester-born Harry Gregson-Williams (*Shrek*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*). Plus, naturally, he networked. As the former cute English kid in town, he recalls, “There's a studio Vice President in Hollywood who still looks at me like, ‘Ah, there's little Ilan’. She doesn't squeeze my cheeks but almost.”

While Hollywood was a bold post-uni adventure, real progress came when he flitted back home to do some arranging and programming for Kamen, who then suddenly died in November, 2003, in the middle of scoring an animated movie called *Back to Gaya*.

“I played a large part in finishing it from the themes he'd written and other material he'd left,” says Ilan. “A few weeks later *Layer Cake* (a British crime thriller starring Daniel Craig) needed some work. That was my first proper credit on a movie.” Via director Matthew Vaughn and various intervening detours, it led to his breakthrough: a commission to score Paramount Pictures' \$70-million comic book fantasy *Stardust* (featuring Robert De Niro as a camp pirate), and in due course the Best New Composer award from the International Film Music Critics Association.

“Writing and recording the whole *Stardust* soundtrack when I was 29, that's really unusual,” he says.

Leeds lecturer in music and film score expert, Dr Ian Sapiro (BA 2000, MMus 2002, MPhil 2005, PhD 2011), says Ilan got the breaks for sure, but only because he'd built his working life on such firm foundations: “He served those ‘apprenticeships’ here and in LA, and he developed a well-rounded sense of the composer's place in the process. He can do British pop as in *Layer Cake* and Hollywood symphonic as in *Stardust*. That's why he's in demand.”

And up for anything: “Within three years I did *Ninja Assassin* which was super-violent, noisy guitars, loud orchestras, *The Young Victoria*, a love story with a light, orchestral score...” He breaks off. “I put my heart and soul into everything, but *The Young Victoria* is a very personal work for me. I was falling in love with a girl I thought I was going to marry. Emotionally it’s all about that. Anyway, then there’s *Coriolanus*, a modern-dress Shakespeare tragedy set in ancient Rome, and *Johnny English Reborn*, an action comedy caper. I think film composers need to be musical chameleons.”

“I like those times at the cinema when it gets quiet, intense and the walls close in on you. You hear the person next to you breathe, you hear a character’s sleeve brushing against a wall...”

Going from *Coriolanus* to *Johnny English Reborn* looks quite a leap. “I think comedy is the most difficult discipline,” says Ilan. “Rowan Atkinson taught me a lot. He was hands-on about every detail of the entire score, the timing, what happens if we do this... or that? Eventually we decided to score *Johnny English* extremely seriously, not ‘play’ the jokes. So, straight action-movie music with a slightly Bond-style brass section even while the audience is laughing at him making a fool of himself. And there’s sad music where he’s in trouble – you need to make the audience really care about him.”

Ralph Fiennes was a first-time director playing the lead too when he made *Coriolanus*. Ilan has been quoted saying that initially Fiennes “didn’t really want any music at all, or just the bare minimum”, which sounds like a challenge? “No difficulty. He was open to ideas. So the *Coriolanus* soundtrack doesn’t have tunes, it’s not accessible, but I love the sounds, no reverb, very brutal, very uncompromising. We banged bits of metal and coiled springs. I focused a lot on the imperfection when I moved a bow quietly against a violin or cello string rather than trying for the best quality of note.”

This reminds me of a striking moment when James Nesbitt as Sicinius is inciting the mob to rise against soldier-hero cum monster *Coriolanus*. Subliminally, if you’re not on soundtrack watch or pan-sensorily-aware, an eerie, low ticking effect beats out the tension: “Glad you heard it! I don’t think there’s a real distinction between noise and music; that was me banging a cello with the back of the bow.”

But some of the most riveting moments in any film may involve the composer sitting on his hands: there’s a screaming argument or a cacophonous battle and the next moment you cut to... the sound of silence: “I like those times at the cinema when it gets quiet, intense and the walls close in on you. You hear the person next to you breathe, you hear a character’s sleeve brushing against a wall...”

That’s the magic all right. But what about the nuts and bolts? Does film composition start when a film’s almost finished and you sit in front of a screen, rolling images back and forth, jotting ten-second snippets? “Partly, but often you come in earlier and work on the main musical themes without any footage in front of you. That’s hard and that’s the creative process. The nitty-gritty is the ‘spotting session,’ usually at the director’s cut stage, when you discuss exactly where music is needed. For instance, the director will tell me things like, ‘This scene needs some support,’ ‘I never got the performance I wanted here,’ ‘Can you help me emotionally?’ That’s the craft bit, like building a chest of drawers.”

Ultimately, is the director the boss? “Director, editor and producer all have a lot to say. And I have a strong voice too. In the end, though, if they insist on one piano note...” When you’ve argued for an orchestra? “Well, you have to do what they say. But then they test-screen and things can change quite dramatically.”

“You pay the price for success at a young age ... I didn’t go on holiday until I was 27. Meanwhile, my friends had travelled the world and had amazing experiences”

I ask whether there are any examples of films where he’s had to write new music because a tragic ending had to get happy, or similar. It’s the one question Ilan ducks. “I can’t really say without undermining a film I’ve worked on and therefore undermining my own contribution,” he replies coyly.

Ilan Eshkeri has come a long way since graduating: not only from *Leeds* to Hollywood, but from student to studied. From novice to mentor too. He’s now employing younger Leeds graduates, Paul Saunderson (Music 2008) and Steve Wright (Music 2009, MMus 2010), as studio assistants.

However, he’s not telling them to “do what I did” exactly. “You pay the price for success at a young age,” he says. “I didn’t go on holiday until I was 27. Meanwhile, my friends had travelled the world and had amazing experiences. Well, part of it was that I didn’t have any money. I’d walk an hour to the studio because I was too proud to ask the people I worked for to advance my pay. So I missed those hanging-out years. I love my life, but if I was advising someone young now I’d tell them to go slower, take your time.”

No belated gap year for Ilan now, though. At time of writing, he’d just finished the soundtrack for a film called *Austenland* (romantic comedy set in a Jane Austen theme park) and started early drafts for Ralph Fiennes-directed *The Invisible Woman* (the story of Charles Dickens’s mistress). But he says he’s “thinking a lot about doing my own work”, making music that isn’t fundamentally “serving someone else’s vision”.

He talks fondly of a tone poem he’s currently composing for a Paris Tuileries exhibition this summer by South Korean photographer AHAE. “It’s different, even though it’s true I’m still responding to his art,” he says, trying to be honest with himself. “I’ve been talking to some people about writing an opera, but it would be a hell of a commitment, I’d have to take a lot of time out. And I’ve got a great idea for a ballet. And I’ve finished a violin concerto I started at Leeds – really difficult stuff for someone else to play, I’m just not good enough!”

Maybe he’ll get to them. No time for that now, though. His friends from British rock band Kasabian are in reception waiting to drive out to the Coachella Festival in the Californian desert. Now, if that’s not a day off... 🎧

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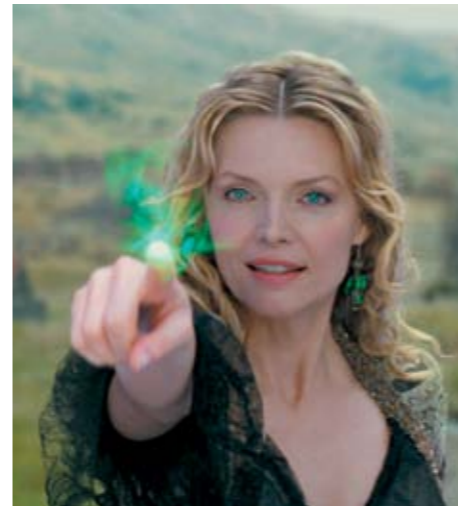
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ALMOST MUSIC, BUT MUCH MORE

People can get sniffy about film soundtrack music when they see it on a curriculum. However, the University’s pioneering has helped to rebuff that attitude. “It’s not regarded suspiciously at all now,” says Professor David Cooper, whose own specialisms include Alfred Hitchcock’s go-to soundtrack maestro Bernard Herrmann (renowned progenitor of the nerveshredding Psycho shower-scene violin shriek).

David points to the ’80s when Peter Franklin boldly launched film music studies to music students. “It’s about developing students’ critical interest,” says David, “finding out how the music works, the psychology, the systematic nature of the way it connects emotionally to us.”

Film score academic Dr Ian Sapiro, now writing a book about Ilan Eshkeri, sees the study of film music as both simple and sophisticated: “Classical, pop, world, jazz, they all come together and film composers need to be grounded in all of them. Whether it’s Elizabethan costume drama or a New York gangster movie, the composers know how to come up with sounds that tell us more about a scene than pictures and dialogue can. So you teach it musicologically because it’s very serious work.”

TREASURES OF THE WHITE VAN

In June 2005, a white van arrived at the School of Music. Trevor Jones, author of three decades’ worth of lauded scores for British and Hollywood movies including *Brassed Off*, *Mississippi Burning* and *Notting Hill*, unloaded about 400 reel-to-reel tapes of music in various stages of completion along with piles of related paperwork.

It was an accidental coup, David Cooper avers. That March, at a Bradford Film Museum conference, he’d chatted with keynote speaker Jones: “I said it was difficult to get hold of materials to study film scores and he said he had a load of tapes sitting in his son’s garage...” That comment led to Leeds having one of the best collections of film score archives in the UK.

At a conference in 2007, David spoke about archives to Michael Nyman — *The Piano*, *The Libertine*, and a slew of Peter Greenaway-directed movies including *The Draughtsman’s Contract*. A similar response ensued (bar the white van). Nyman handed over 700 assorted master tapes, demos, final mixdowns. This archive has proved a great research resource. “You can track the development of ideas; it’s like reading early drafts of a play or a novel,” marvels David.

The fragile two-inch tapes can rarely be used. “If we could digitise more of them we could illustrate the whole process of film score development,” says Dr Ian Sapiro. “It would be very helpful in teaching composition for films— if we could get the funding.” They’ve digitised a quarter of the reels, but it’s a tricky business, as Ian explains: “A lot of tapes need baking in industrial ovens, otherwise they can stick together like cling film. And you can only bake them twice, after that they’re useless.”

Meanwhile, Jones and Nyman seem happy to keep lending and the School hopes develop an archive of even greater use (and renown) by drawing in more soundtrack composers.

- 1 Ralph Fiennes in *Coriolanus*, a contemporary, action-packed version of Shakespeare’s classic story of revenge. Copyright Lionsgate Films. *Coriolanus* is now out to own on DVD and Blu-ray
- 2, 3 Ilan Eshkeri at work
- 4 Michelle Pfeiffer in fantasy adventure *Stardust*™ and Copyright © 2007 by Paramount Pictures. All Rights Reserved. *Stardust* is out now on DVD and Blu-ray, from Paramount Home Entertainment
- 5 Comic superhero film *Kick-Ass*; Photo credit: Dan Smith

M&S AT HOME IN LEEDS

Archive opening marks a stellar partnership



Former head of MI5 Dame Stella Rimington cut the ribbon to officially open the new Marks & Spencer company archive at the University.

The Michael Marks Building on the University's western campus houses more than 70,000 items from the history of the world famous retailer which began life as Michael Marks' Penny Bazaar stall on Kirkgate Market in Leeds.

Previously housed in London, the move makes the archive fully accessible to the public for the very first time while opening up the collections to academics and students for research, teaching and learning.

The collection includes business papers, advertising materials and merchandise such as clothing, toys and household items. It will be of particular interest to staff and students working in subjects including business, economics, textiles, arts, history, communications, marketing, colour chemistry, food sciences and the social sciences. Highlights from the collection will be on display in an exhibition which walks visitors through the company's 128-year history.

The building also comprises education space, a dedicated reading room, temperature and humidity-controlled units to house the vast collections – and additional space for archived items from the University's extensive collections.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Arthur said: "Our partnership with Marks & Spencer represents a new model for how a world-leading university and an iconic FTSE 100 company can work together. The new Michael Marks Building will be a fantastic resource for staff and students, the company and the community."



(left to right) Professor Michael Arthur, Dame Stella Rimington, M&S Chairman Robert Swannell

CLIMATE WEEK

From cutting-edge atmospheric research to switching off appliances – a host of events highlighted the positive work which Leeds is doing for the environment.

A series of themed activities hosted both by the University and Leeds University Union took place during Climate Week in March, focused on the benefits of developing a sustainable world and a sustainable University.

They showcased our world-leading climate research, while demonstrating how minimising waste, recycling, cutting down car use and turning off appliances has helped Leeds to meet tough targets for reducing its carbon footprint.

HONORARY DEGREES

Director of Public Prosecutions Keir Starmer (Law 1985) will receive an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the University this summer. Starmer has earned a reputation as one of the country's most gifted lawyers and an expert in the field of human rights. As DPP he is responsible for prosecutions, legal issues and criminal justice policy. He gave the keynote address at the formal opening of our new law school in October 2011.

Others to be honoured this summer are historian Sir Ian Kershaw, former head of MI5 Baroness Eliza Manningham-Buller, philosopher Baroness Onora O'Neill and Sir Mark Elder, Music Director of the Hallé Orchestra.

OUR ROYAL APPOINTMENT

Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education

University Chancellor Lord Bragg, Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Arthur and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor John Fisher visited Buckingham Palace in February to receive the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education. As reported in the last issue of Leeds, the Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering was awarded the prize for its pioneering research into joint replacements, spinal interventions and tissue engineering.

The prizes, awarded every two years, are part of the UK honours system, and promote world-class excellence in UK universities and colleges. This is the second such award to Leeds, whose Institute for Transport Studies was a winner in 2010.

The Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering is led by Professors John Fisher and Eileen Ingham and they were accompanied at the ceremony by postgraduate students and research assistants.

Professor Fisher said: "We are absolutely delighted. This



is recognition of the hard work for a lot of people – and of the fact that we are taking this work forward into the future. Our objective is to improve the quality of life of people as they age by focusing upon the research, development and translation of practical medical engineering interventions."

A major focus for iMBE in the years ahead will be on early interventions to address the global burden of osteoarthritis which is predicted to be the fourth leading cause of

disability in the world by 2020.

Professor Fisher added: "We can't live forever. Our work is about enabling people to enjoy their old age more actively, but of course by staying active, people are also reducing their risk of heart disease, diabetes, obesity – all of them potential killers.

"We are driven by the conviction that, with the right medical and biological interventions, the goal of fifty active years after the age of fifty is within reach."

GOLD AT WORLD'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS FLOWER SHOW

A green-fingered team from the University travelled to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in May to exhibit a garden at the show's Environment Zone. The garden, designed by gold-medal winning designer Martin Walker, brought to life research conducted by academics from the Faculty of Environment and the Faculty of Biological Sciences.

Dr Rebecca Slack, of Leeds' Faculty of Environment, said: "Chelsea Flower Show was fantastic. Our message that simple changes can make a positive contribution to the planet, was a great success."

The design focused on how gardeners can control water to keep plants growing during dry periods, how to encourage bees and insects and how to turn a garden into a carbon sink.

A "bee-vision" camera and linked screen also allowed visitors to see the garden from the perspective of a pollinating insect.

The garden won the gold award in the Environment category. Rebecca said: "It's an accolade for the team, but more importantly it's a great way to draw attention to the science behind the garden."



Photo credit: Michael Leckie

For further details visit gardenchampions.leeds.ac.uk

In brief

Spin-out success

A University of Leeds spin-out company with an innovative idea to tackle climate change has been shortlisted for a national award. C-Capture Ltd, spun-out from research in organic chemistry, has been shortlisted for the Shell Springboard award for its novel solvents for the capture of CO₂ from gas streams, including the exhausts of coal-fired power stations. Shell Springboard is a Shell-funded UK Social Investment programme, which gives financial support to small and medium enterprises with innovative, low-carbon business ideas.

For flora and fauna

The University has published its first Biodiversity Action Plan setting out how we can increase the variety of plants and animals on campus. Prepared by staff in the faculties of Biological Sciences and Earth and Environment it provides a detailed study of the current habitats and species already on campus and gives clear direction on how we can encourage them to flourish. New wildflower meadows, bat and bird boxes – and a grass mowing regime that takes more account of wildlife – are all part of the plan.

New partners

The University has signed a five-year education and research agreement with design consultant Arup. The partnership will see our academics from engineering and the social sciences working alongside Arup's designers, engineers and technical experts on sustainable and resilient business practices, innovative transport systems, energy reduction and the efficient use of resources. The University already enjoys several research links with Arup in areas including asset management, lifecycle carbon and energy accounting, low carbon vehicles and the critical assessment of urban infrastructure.

Find out more

For more news on what's happening at Leeds visit alumni.leeds.ac.uk/universitynews, check out [facebook.com/leedsalumni](https://www.facebook.com/leedsalumni) and follow [@leedsalumni](https://twitter.com/leedsalumni) on Twitter

LOCAL HERO

“You’ve got to let the poems sneak up on you”

Ian Beetlestone talks to poet Simon Armitage about his archive at Leeds, and why he sees poetry as an inclusive art

I met Simon Armitage at a University of Leeds Poetry Centre reading and asked him why, as a poet with links to many educational establishments, including the Universities of Sheffield, where he currently teaches, and Portsmouth and Manchester, where he studied, he chose to house his archive with the Brotherton Library’s Special Collections.

He explains that he was approached by Chris Sheppard, as Head of Special Collections at Leeds, some time ago with a view to housing the archive here, but it was only after later interest from the USA that Simon got back in touch with Chris to make the current arrangement. “I really wanted them to stay local,” he says. “They’ve got a good and unusual and eclectic archive of poetry related papers and documents here [...] there’d been a kind of leaching away of papers towards America and I’m somebody who has stayed local in lots of ways.”

Simon grew up in Marsden in the Pennine foothills of West Yorkshire and still lives in the same area. His work has consistently referenced the county, as exemplified by the popular memoir *All Points North* and the forthcoming *Walking Home*, in which he walks the Pennine Way to Marsden without the aid of money, hoping poetry will pay his way.

The difference between Simon’s archive material and the larger archive it joins is that Simon’s is a work in progress. Chris Sheppard had talked to me about investing in the history of the future with Armitage’s ever-developing archive – does Simon too see this as a two-way project? “I think it is an ongoing project. In some ways I think [Chris] took a bit of a gamble on me, it could all have come to nothing.”

Does Simon see an opportunity in building the archive to do a similar favour for younger people and the public at large? Is the archive in some way an outreach project? “I’m not a campaigner and I’m not a crusader. I’m a writer. It just seems to be the way of things that as a poet

you get involved in teaching poetry and spreading the word of poetry. [Poetry] can be thought of as a very inclusive art – on a very crude level all you need is to be able to read and write, and a pencil and paper, and you’re away.”

But Simon’s body of work is much wider-ranging than the straightforward production of volumes of poetry. As well as the memoirs and novels there have been forays into radio broadcasting, and even a (rather good) band, the Scaremongers.

I’d read in an old piece from the *Holme Valley Express*, found in one of Simon’s archive boxes, that he still thought of himself as a probation officer long after he’d become established as a poet. I wonder if he still feels a little like that, since so much of his work is non-poetry



“I believe that art is a good thing for people, it increases their self-worth.”

It’s important to me that life isn’t just functionality, that there are other ways of living and forms of expression that just go beyond mere description and information, and I think it’s a human instinct towards art

related. It’s interesting that Simon’s response to this suggests that, more than just being about having wider interests, this state of mind is an essential part of his creative process: “I think if you consistently and continuously thought of yourself as a poet that might get in the way of actually doing some work, you’ve got to somehow let the poems sneak up on you, or imagine that you’re stealing time away from other

activities [...] One of my big worries when I gave up being a probation officer was that I would come downstairs on a Monday morning and be confronted by a blank piece of paper and I wouldn’t have anything to say, so I quite often fill my time doing other things.”

Those other things include several television projects. We talk about *Feltham Sings*, a film in which the inmates and staff of the young offenders’ institute sing, rap and recite lyrics written for them by Simon. It’s an extraordinary project, and it seems to me a perfect example of the kind of outreach work that Simon has been fairly reluctant to lay claim to. Indeed, amongst his film projects, Simon lists writing for “soldiers, women prisoners, women in the sex industry, prostitutes, alcoholics...” Surely this is a kind of outreach he is doing? “Straightforwardly,” he says, which is rather the way one expects him to speak, “I believe that art is a good thing for people, it increases their self-worth.”

And poetry in particular? What is important about that? “There’s absolutely no rational reason for writing a poem, so that makes it very important. We don’t just want to live our lives out of the left hand side of our brain. It seems to me that it’s inevitable for as long as we have language and as long as we have feelings we’re going to be trying to combine these two things in a sort of compact and intimate form. It’s important to me that life isn’t just functionality, that there are other ways of living and forms of expression that just go beyond mere description and information, and I think it’s a human instinct towards art.”

This certainly feels true of Simon himself, a man who studied Geography in Portsmouth and worked as a probation officer in Salford, yet who’s now responsible for the existence of an enormous archive of his own prolific poetic output at the University of Leeds. “Stuff,” to quote from his poem *The Christening*, “comes blurring out.”

WHY POETRY MATTERS

I'm in a vast, dimly lit room down a corridor off the main rotunda of the Brotherton library. The room is packed with hundreds of metres of movable shelves, each marked alphabetically with names like Bragg, Harrison, Hill, Silkin.

My eye is caught by a Subbuteo set, on closer inspection a souvenir edition from the launch of Simon Armitage's first novel, *Little Green Man*, in 2001. Armitage's entire archive is stored here, growing in parallel with the poet's career. The Subbuteo set is one of countless curios in this Aladdin's cave of delights for anyone with an interest in the creative process.

There are boxes and boxes of notes, doodles, drafts, rare editions of pamphlets, half-formed ideas – the detritus and treasure left behind during the writing process by writers through the centuries.

Amongst them are riches from poets Sir Geoffrey Jon Silkin (English 1962), Tony Harrison (Classics 1958, honorary DLitt 2004) and Ken Smith (English 1963). Writers with a particular connection to the city or the University, or both, many of them artists in residence as part of the Gregory Fellowships which ran

from 1950 to 1980. There is a huge amount of material relating to the celebrated Geoffrey Hill (honorary DLitt 1988), who taught at the School of English during roughly the same period.

Hill will be back at Leeds this October in one of a series of events organised by the new Poetry Centre, which sits across the School of English, the Faculty of Arts and the Library.

I ask John Whale (English 1977, PhD 1982), Head of the School of English and Professor of Romantic Literature, to tell me more about the plans "The Poetry Centre will bring together the whole set of expertise on campus, give us greater reach and impact worldwide, and link research more fruitfully with the cultural activities of the city and the region. It will also give the general public the opportunity to meet writers and enjoy workshops."

As well as the Geoffrey Hill reading, Leeds has held 12 poetry readings over the past 18 months. In September the Centre will celebrate the 60th anniversary of *Stand*, an independent poetry magazine associated with the School of English since it was founded by Jon Silkin in 1952. During the anniversary

Leeds Poetry Centre is using a rich archive to spearhead a programme of activity on campus and beyond. Ian Beetlestone finds out more

year, Leeds will be hosting poets and novelists (*Stand* also publishes fiction), as well as workshops on campus and further afield.

An exhibition of visual poetry is coming up in the autumn too and there are plans for exhibitions of archive materials, for example on an electronic display of a variorum text of Tony Harrison's poem *Them And Us*. John Whale says "the archive provides us with a unique opportunity to chart and document that process of creation."

... poetry gives us a unique opportunity to reflect not only on ourselves but on the language in which we articulate ourselves. Language, the very stuff of poetry, is often taken for granted, but best poetry wakes us up to new linguistic possibilities

Why does all this matter, and why in Leeds, particularly? Because poetry does matter – as John tells me, "poetry gives us a unique opportunity to reflect not only on ourselves but on the language in which we articulate ourselves. Language, the very stuff of poetry, is often taken for granted, but best poetry wakes us up to new linguistic possibilities."

Leeds, meanwhile, has always been at the forefront of our national, and international, poetic life. Through the Gregory Fellowships, and *Stand* and *Poetry & Audience* (which turns 60 next year) magazines, there is something "profoundly rich and very distinctive about Leeds" which has led to this extensive archival resource.

John sums up the Centre and what it stands for: "It's about having high quality internationally excellent research that's taking place alongside engagement with the general public. We're mobilising our distinct history and giving it due prominence."



THE FOOTSTEPS FUND

Leeds scholarship > Headingley home > Late nights in Edward Boyle > Discovering my vocation > Led to this...

For Cheryl, Leeds wasn't just the place where she could begin to realise her dreams – it was the first place she could properly call home.

Cheryl's £1,000 per year scholarship, provided by the Footsteps Fund, was a life-saver. It gave her the financial security to move away from a troubled family background and begin to discover what her true potential really was. She discovered a true love of teaching and mentoring. In her vacations she began working with our Access Academy - to reach out to other young people in the same situation as she had been in, and show them what could be possible for them, too.

Now, just 2 years since she graduated, Cheryl is already an inspirational teacher. And all from a scholarship of £1,000 per year, provided by donations from Leeds alumni.

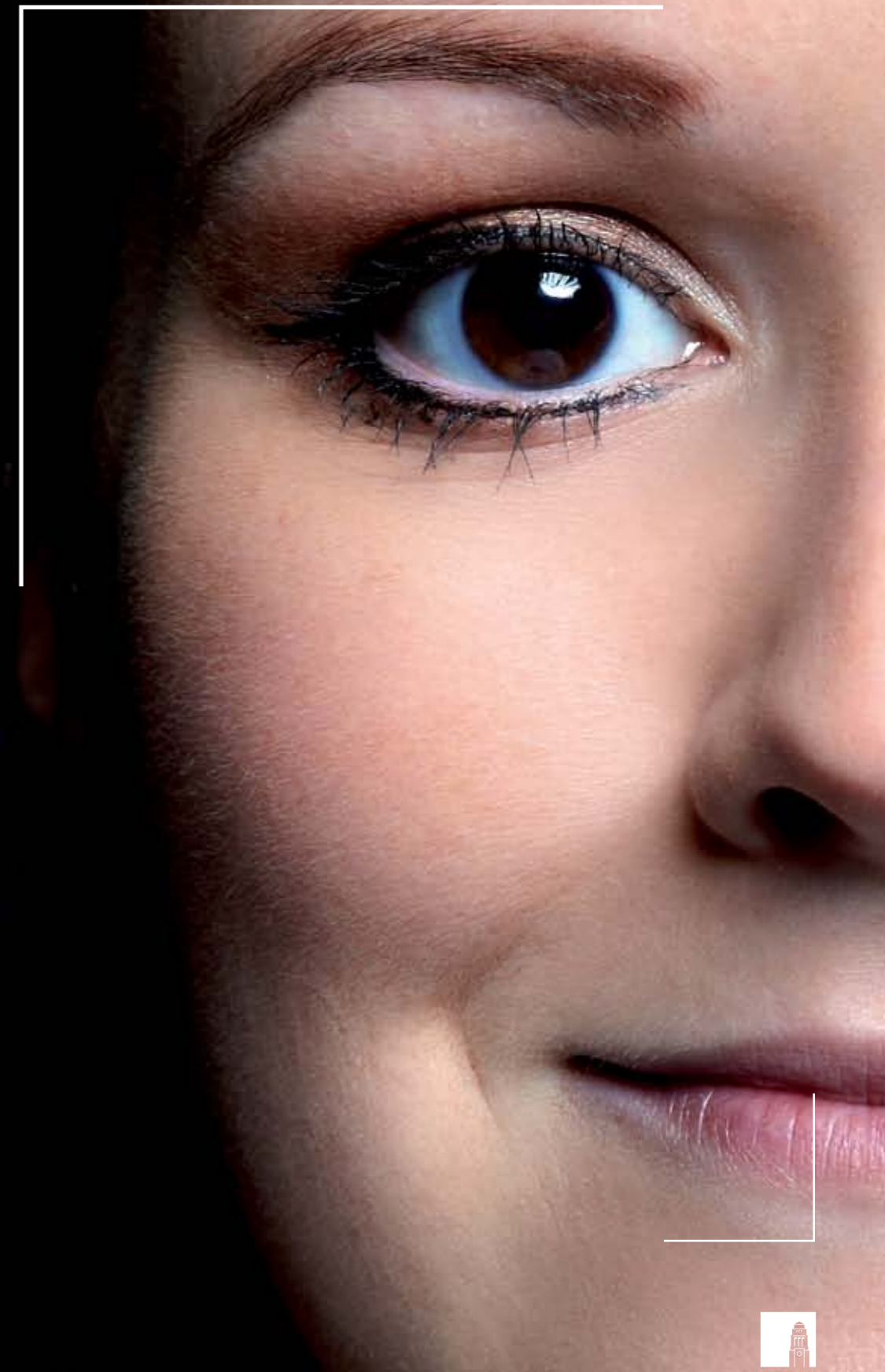
Just 25 gifts of £40 to the Footsteps Fund will provide a whole year's scholarship for another student like Cheryl. Please give today, and help another student follow in her footsteps.

Our funding deadline to award the next cohort of scholarships is 1st August 2012, so please give today.

Send back a donation with the 'Update Your Details' form with this magazine.

Alternatively, give online at www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/makeyourgift or text 'STEP05 £3', 'STEP05 £5' or 'STEP05 £10' to 70070.

(Texts are charged at your carrier's rate, in addition to your donation, and you must have the permission of the person who pays the bill in order to text. Text donations are handled by Justgiving in partnership with Vodafone so that 100% of your donation is received by the Footsteps Fund).



TEN LEEDS COMBINATIONS

1. Colleagues in textiles and chemistry are developing a range of sustainable commercial cosmetics, reducing the impact of chemicals on waste water

Using clean technologies to extract and purify active ingredients from plant materials, the team has already developed a commercial-standard hair dye which they hope to bring to market in the next year.



Our large single-campus University, where academics research and teach virtually everything from Accounting to Zoology, is the perfect breeding ground for collaboration. Here are just ten examples of how colleagues from quite different disciplines have benefited from putting their heads together

2. Engineers and sociologists are making playtime fun for all children

Moves towards inclusive education have seen more disabled children in mainstream school, but they can still feel excluded at break times if they are not invited to join in. The project is looking at the social factors at work in the playground and exploring how designers of play equipment can help make playtime truly inclusive.

3. Engineers, geographers, biologists, economists, political scientists and lawyers are tackling the complex challenges affecting the world's water supply

Their work will bring scientific innovation to areas where water is scarce, and the combined efforts of physical and social scientists to regions where poor infrastructure and socio-political failures mean plentiful water is poorly distributed.

4. Experts in biology, environment, engineering, the social sciences and transport are addressing concerns about whether the world will be able to feed itself in the future

As the world's population grows and the environment changes, Leeds is responding to the huge ecological, social, economic and political challenges of ensuring food is produced and distributed efficiently and sustainably.

5. Academics in performance and computing have created SpiderCrab, a 3.5-metre-high robot which is both architectural environment and dancing partner

SpiderCrab dances by moving its limbs – and the team is examining how performance theory and practice might inform the design process – and how similar tools might help us to better understand our relationship with technology.

6. Food scientists and historians are leading the 'You Are What You Ate' project

This three-year project draws on research into how food affected our ancestors – and examining how our knowledge of the past can improve health now and in the future. The project aims to get people thinking about their own diet through a variety of fun and interesting public engagement activities.

7. Computing and medical researchers have developed a digital scanning system to study tissue samples in 3D

Its high-resolution, multicoloured images can be rotated, allowing them to be examined easily from any angle. The system has a number of potential uses in showing how organs develop, why some therapies are less effective than others, and creating new drugs to precisely target disease.

For the latest on Leeds research visit alumni.leeds.ac.uk/universitynews, check out [facebook.com/leedsalumni](https://www.facebook.com/leedsalumni) and follow [@leedsalumni](https://twitter.com/leedsalumni) on Twitter

8. Academics in gender studies and geography are examining the burgeoning global market for cosmetic surgery tourism

and its potential impact on healthcare providers in the future. The project will look at people's motivations and experiences, and how countries such as Spain and Thailand market the 'sun, sand, sea and silicone' package.

9. The Socio-Technical Centre incorporates the expertise of staff in engineering, geography and psychology

and aims to put people at the heart of the design of buildings, services and computer systems. Through its work on understanding crowd behaviours, the Centre has been involved with the Cabinet Office in its preparations for the 2012 Olympics.

10. Textiles and epidemiology researchers are leading a collaboration to improve the design of maize storage sacks

so they don't harbour the harmful *aspergillus fungus*. Exposure to aflatoxin produced by this fungus can cause growth impairment in children and is a known risk factor for the development of liver cancer – a particular risk in some African countries where maize forms a major part of the diet.

WHAT'S GOING ON

A selection of news from our University departments

Biological Sciences

New approach to pain treatment

Dr Nikita Gamper and his team have found a previously unknown mechanism through which pain is signalled by nerve cells. They have been investigating the difference between persistent pain, such as toothache, and hyperalgesia, when pain results from the increased sensitivity of nerves in injured or diseased tissue. They have found that these two types of pain are generated by the same nerves, but result from different underlying mechanisms. The discovery could explain the current failings in painkiller effectiveness for some conditions and should help with development of hyperalgesia drugs with fewer side-effects.

Earth and Environment

Crystal clear

Bassanite crystals have been caught in the act of assembling into gypsum by Professor Liane Benning and her team. Gypsum can grow into translucent crystals more than 10 metres tall in nature and its formation has been largely unexplored. Understanding this process can lead to more efficient anti-scaling strategies for water desalination plants. A cleaner, greener way to make plaster of Paris has become one goal of this study. Huge amounts of gypsum are dehydrated at high temperature to make bassanite plaster, which is used in industries worldwide. By experimenting with supersaturated gypsum solutions, the researchers were able to produce bassanite at room temperature. Professor Benning said "If we manage to produce and stabilise bassanite crystals at room temperature, we don't just learn something

about a natural process but, compared to what is industry standard currently, our research could also lead to a massive cost and energy saving for the production of plaster."

Humanities, Theology and Religious Studies

Way of the samurai

Keanu Reeves sought samurai expert Stephen Turnbull's (MA Theology 1993; MA Military History 2005; PhD Theology & Religious Studies 1996) advice on ancient Japanese customs, costumes and weaponry for his role in *47 Ronin*. Dr Turnbull worked on location to help authenticate details of props, sets and wardrobes. "I am delighted at what they have done with my suggestions and have been proud to work on the movie," said Dr Turnbull. Dr Turnbull has written a book on the subject, *The Revenge of the 47 Ronin: Edo 1703*.

Law

UN Rapporteur

Events in Cambodia have been under the watchful eye of Surya Subedi, Professor of International Law, since 2009 when he became the UN Special Rapporteur for human rights in Cambodia. Fact-finding missions have led Professor Subedi to examples of misconduct including land grabs, evictions and environmental degradation. The collapse of the communist Khmer Rouge regime in 1979 left Cambodians with no land ownership. Land grabs ensued, with little consideration for human rights. Professor Subedi urges the current Cambodian government to address the human rights issues associated with granting of land concessions.



01

Chemistry

Silver metal for the win

Dr Charlotte Willans is using a grant of more than £44000 from Yorkshire Cancer Research to carry out research into whether silver could be used as a treatment for cancer. As silver is thought to have a lower toxicity level than other metals, its use could reduce negative side effects of chemotherapy and lead to a more targeted approach to cancer therapy. Dr Willans and her team have prepared silver complexes which possess comparable cytotoxicity to cisplatin, the most widely used drug in the treatment of cancer. They plan to find out how exactly the compounds cause cellular reactions and kill cancer cells.

English

New languages

At this year's Headingley LitFest, Dr Richard Brown discussed his expertise in literature's use of new languages. His talk, "Experimental Languages: Elvish and Newspeak" covered imaginative approaches by JRR Tolkien, Anthony Burgess, George Orwell and James Joyce in their novels – from transliterated Russian to the multilingual,



02

calligraphy-inspired lexicon of Middle Earth's Elves.

German

Film school

Films like *The Matrix* and *Avatar* have Rainer Werner Fassbinder's *Welt am Draht* (*World on a Wire* 1973) to thank for starting to question the nature of reality in science fiction movies, according to Dr Ingo Cornils. He has found that Fassbinder's attempt to mix art house cinema and popular culture paved the way for a more 'mature' approach to the production of science fiction films. *Welt am Draht* represents a significant and distinct contribution to the iconography of apocalyptic thinking. "The film transports us back to the beginning of the information age in the 1970s, and forward to a world where virtual realities challenge our sense of self," he said. "The message that we



03

must always challenge consensus reality is as vital today as it was nearly 40 years ago."

School of Medicine (LIGHT)

Getting the numbers right

The number of children with conditions such as muscular dystrophy, neurodegenerative disorders or severe cerebral palsy who are surviving into adulthood has been underestimated, a new study shows. Because the number of children in England who have received specialist palliative care – or who might need it in the future – is not recorded nationally, there are concerns that health authorities may be overstressing existing resources. When compiling national data, lead researcher Dr Lorna Fraser found a steady increase in the number of children living with a life limiting condition, particularly in the 16-19 age group. Dr Fraser said: "Children and teenagers with life limiting medical conditions will often need many years of specialist palliative care before they reach the end of their life, making it all the more important that their needs are not overlooked." Research was funded by Together for Short Lives.



04

School of Medicine (LIGHT)

A helping of fibre

A team has come up with correct amounts of high-fibre foods like wholegrain bread, cereal, porridge and brown rice needed to decrease the risk of bowel cancer, England's third most common disease. Eating three daily servings of wholegrain foods lowers risk of bowel cancer by 20 percent, while every 10 grams of daily intake decreases risk by 10 percent. The work by teams from Leeds, Imperial College London and Wageningen University supports fibre's value in forming a daily balanced diet.



05



06

School of Medicine (LIMM)

Top honour for top research

The highest rheumatologist award in the world has been given to Paul Emery. He is only the second person in the UK to receive the Carol Nachman Award, which is granted annually in recognition of outstanding, innovative research in rheumatology. Professor Emery's research centres around the immunopathogenesis and immunotherapy of rheumatoid arthritis and connective tissue diseases. Professor Emery is the Arthritis Research UK Professor of Rheumatology and Head of Division of Rheumatic & Musculoskeletal Disease at the University of Leeds.

20%

Eating three daily servings of wholegrain foods lowers risk of bowel cancer by 20 percent, while every 10 grams of daily intake decreases risk by 10 percent

- 01 Keanu Reeves and Dr Stephen Turnbull
- 02 Professor Barry Cooper spoke about Alan Turing in a Distinguished Speaker Luncheon in Hong Kong
- 03 Children who receive specialist palliative care share quality playtime with parents and staff (photo courtesy of parents from Martin House Children's Hospice)
- 04 Professor Denise Bower
- 05 Colossal translucent crystals formed from gypsum
- 06 Professor Surya Subedi

Mathematics

Championing a hero

In the centenary year of the brilliant mathematician Alan Turing's birth, Professor of Mathematical Logic Barry Cooper is chairing a group of UK academics who are celebrating the Alan Turing Year. Professor Cooper has fronted a campaign for the government to grant a pardon to Alan Turing, co-edited the book *Alan Turing – His Work and Impact*, written a piece for *Nature*, presented at and co-ordinated Turing conferences worldwide and built a big following on his blog about Turing. In *Nature*, Professor Barry Cooper discussed the importance of turning to the universe's organic traits for more creative approaches to computing, promoting



Mark Goddard, with the University's garden at the Chelsea Flower Show (see page 19)

England and Wales will follow suit and produce their own maps in due course," he said.

Geography

Mapping the wild

Improved environmental protection, land development and tourism promotion will be helped by the first-ever definitive map of Scotland's wild landscapes. Prior maps identified national parks or scenic areas only. The mapping method developed by Leeds researchers and the Wildland Research Institute is "robust and repeatable," according to Dr Steve Carver (PGDip Learning and Teaching in Higher Education 2004). Using a Geographic Information System approach, certain attributes of wildness are mapped in layers and overlapped in levels of importance. Results are then generated with the Multi-criteria evaluation method. "Hopefully,

Civil Engineering

Managing massive projects

The Engineering Project Academy was launched in March to develop excellence in both the people and organisations who initiate and deliver engineering projects. The Academy, headed by Professor Denise Bower, brings together a growing interest from government, industry and professional institutions to develop education and best professional practice for engineering project management. The Academy will look at evidence-based research, collaborate with practising engineers and share expertise with both students and professionals. To mark the launch, Professor Naomi

Brookes delivered a lecture on 'Megaprojects: why they fail, why this matters and what we can do about it'.

Physics and astronomy

Living computers

Magnet-making bacteria could be used to build tomorrow's computers with larger hard drives and speedier connections. A team led by Dr Sarah Staniland used a type of bacterium which 'eats' iron to create a surface of magnets, similar to those found in traditional hard drives, and wiring. As the bacterium ingests the iron it creates tiny magnets within itself. The team has also begun to understand how the proteins inside these bacteria collect, shape and position these "nanomagnets" inside their cells and can now replicate this behaviour outside the bacteria.

History

Head of School advises Number 10

Head of School, Professor Kevin Theakston joined Prime Minister David Cameron at Number 10 Downing Street for the official launch of the new history section for the Number 10 website. Professor Theakston has been advising the PM's Office on the history of British prime ministers and working with it to update and refresh the website.

More department news:
alumni.leeds.ac.uk/news



In the news

Women reduce insolvency

UK officials cited Leeds research that business boards with one woman have a 20 percent less chance of bankruptcy. Those with more women decrease the risk even further. (Channel 4 News)

LGBT communities

LGBT populations increase in cities with historically progressive policies, though urban areas often get misidentified as more tolerant than rural ones, said Centre Director Sally Hines in BBC News Magazine.

European austerity

In a letter to the Financial Times, Professor Emeritus Rachel Killick (PhD 1977) stated that current austerity measures reflect post-WWII efforts to restore Greece's failing economy under the US Marshall Plan.

Taking liberties

Liberty Director Shami Chakrabarti spoke at the School of Law about international human rights flaws – particularly civil liberties, indefinite detention, and the proposed UK Bill of Rights – and the need for embedding protection in society, not just the courtroom.

Quantum dot dilemma

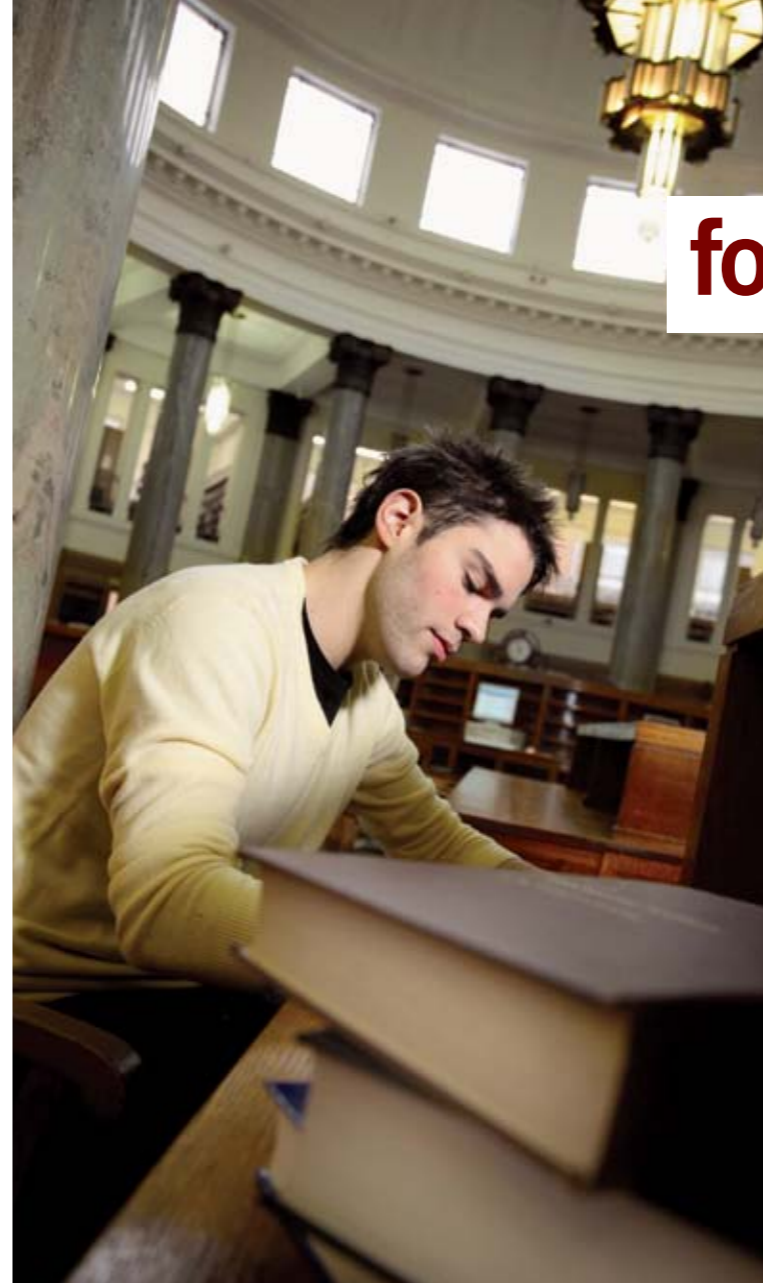
Dr Kevin Critchley (Physics with Electronics & Instrumentation 2000; PhD Physics 2005) commented in *New Scientist* that University of Washington findings about restorative light-sensitive molecules (quantum dots) offer biomedical advancements but pose a risk of toxicity.

Children's food security

Save the Children reported that 500 million malnourished children will grow up mentally and physically underdeveloped within 15 years. Despite improved food conditions, Dr David Hall-Matthews said in the *Yorkshire Post* that pricing, demand, distribution and environmental damage remain concerns.

England's drought

Adrian McDonald, professor of environmental management, was heavily consulted by the press on his views on the consequences of this year's drought in England.



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for generations

to come

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UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

A TRIBUTE TO PHIL

Communications Studies lecturer's memory honoured with scholarships and bursaries for future students

As a longstanding popular member of staff at Leeds, Professor Phil Taylor (History 1975, PhD 1978) touched the lives of very many students over the course of his career. Now students from less privileged backgrounds will benefit from a legacy which has been pledged in his memory by Sue Heward (History 1975), his widow. The two met on their second day as undergraduates – and their lives have been interwoven with that of the University ever since.

After winning a trial with Merseyside club Tranmere Rovers, Phil turned his back on a promising future as a football goalkeeper, choosing to study rather than chasing the dream of a professional contract.

He spent the whole of his career at Leeds, joining the School of History as a lecturer after completing his PhD, and later moving to the Institute of Communications Studies, becoming its director in 1998. He died in 2010, though his name will always be connected

to the Institute through its Philip M Taylor Cinema, which opened in 2011, and a student prize which will be funded by the continuing royalties from his many books.

Now Sue is planning to go further, and after providing for some personal gifts to friends and relatives, a share of the residue of her estate will enable us to give scholarships and bursaries to Leeds students who face challenging financial circumstances.

"Phil and I talked about this a long time ago," she says. "We didn't have children, and we don't have large families and it was a question of what we should do with our estate, after we go. We decided we wanted to help students less fortunate than ourselves."

Though neither came from a privileged home, Government support enabled the couple to study without worrying about the finances. "I got a full grant of £365 a year and my tuition fees were all paid – and I ended up with money

left over. It's quite different today. With the thought of repaying £9,000-a-year fees and maintenance loans after they graduate, there might be a lot of people who think 'I don't want that burden'.

"If I were in the same position now, it would give me a big question mark about whether I wanted to study or start earning some money. Hopefully this will help someone who is facing that question about whether or not they should go to University."

Sue hopes that as well as enabling such students to gain the benefits of studying



she says. "The Students' Union looks the same from the outside, but the facilities inside are so much better than they were. But it's good to see that some things haven't changed."

We didn't have children, and we don't have large families and it was a question of what we should do with our estate, after we go. We decided we wanted to help students less fortunate than ourselves

for a degree, it will also give the recipients the same life experiences which were afforded to her and Phil during their time at Leeds. "I think in the discussion about the value of degrees, we have perhaps lost sight of the fact that your three or four years at University form a pivotal point in your development.

"It's where you grow up and where you learn how to conduct relationships. It sets you up, not just for a career but for life. We need to make sure that these opportunities are not denied to people on purely financial grounds."

We're talking as Sue is looking around her old University: "It's amazing how it has changed and grown,"

Having enjoyed "a wonderful time at Leeds", Sue is now planning to return to the history department to study for a Master's degree. "Phil got a First – he was the first history student to do so for years. I got a 2:2, but hopefully they'll still have me..!"

A website of tributes to Phil can be found at www.philtaylortributes.org. To add a tribute email philtaylortributes@leeds.ac.uk.

For more information about remembering Leeds in your Will, visit www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/legacies, email legacies@leeds.ac.uk or telephone Caroline Bartholomew on 0113 343 2347.

GIFTS BEING WELL-USED

Alumni-funded exercise and wellbeing programme helps students' mental health

Students are benefiting from a programme to help their wellbeing through health and fitness with a programme funded by The Footsteps Fund and run jointly by the Student Counselling Service and the Sport and Physical Activity team.

Counsellor Liz Oxley explains: "We have students facing a whole range of issues – anxiety, bereavement, illness, depression, debt – on top of academic pressures." For some, this can lead to self-neglect, where health, diet and sleep patterns suffer.

Exercise can be an effective panacea. "We find that a lot of students used to be physically active at school, but when they began A-levels that fell by the wayside," she says. "Research shows that nutritional, psychological, recreational and physical interventions can positively impact on wellbeing."

The programme gives these students a 12-week membership of Leeds' Sport and Physical Activity facilities – with access to the gym, squash courts,



swimming pool and exercise classes – as well as guidance from wellbeing consultants who encourage them to structure their days, work, leisure time and diet.

"It's about getting students to work more effectively – and nourish themselves in different ways," says Liz. "Exercise doesn't necessarily mean going to the gym, it can be taking a stroll around St George's Field or walking back from the

supermarket. "Most of all, it is allowing them to effect changes in their lifestyle. It improves confidence, helps them deal with the issues in their life and focus more effectively on their academic work."

A student on the programme commented: "I have never felt more in control and able to cope with my academic and personal pressures." Another said: "I can sleep properly and my days are getting back to normal."

ENTERPRISING STUDENTS

Scholarships support student entrepreneurs

Thirteen enterprising students have been awarded scholarships which were generously funded through the support of a number of Leeds alumni – several of them successful entrepreneurs themselves.

Now in its third year, the Enterprise Scholarships offer financial and professional support to enable the very best undergraduate entrepreneurs to

turn their ideas into businesses.

This year's scholars are involved in a variety of ventures, including an orthopaedic sports consultancy, language summer camps for schoolchildren, a swimming school, training DVDs for the catering industry and a vintage clothing venture.

In addition to financial support, scholars attend a two-day residential bootcamp which features workshops and presentations from the region's business community, giving them a grounding in key areas such as planning, finance, IP protection, marketing and PR, tax and legal matters.

Helen Whitwood is working with three of her



Medicine classmates to market a wireless medical device. "The information and advice we have been given will help us avoid common pitfalls and improve our chances of success," she says.

"I don't know where else we could have accessed that level and quality of knowledge and experience all under one roof."

In brief

In better focus

A gift from Michael Beverley (Economics and Politics 1973) has enabled the purchase of a Super Resolution Light Microscope for medical research. Each human cell contains millions of proteins, each with its own function. In many areas of medicine, an understanding of these proteins, how they work – and how they malfunction – is critical to understanding disease.

The microscope will enable scientists to look at these proteins in previously unimagined detail, opening new possibilities in the search for effective treatments. Professor David Beech, head of the Multidisciplinary Cardiovascular Research Centre, says: "The greater magnification will enable us to drill down into what is really wrong with a patient. In my area it will enable us to differentiate between patients who are at different stages and with different types of disease and work towards therapies tailored to these different needs."

A crop of successes

A gift from Nigel Bertram (Agriculture 1971) has not only supported our work in sustainable agriculture, it has also helped secure public funding to take the research to the next level. It is tackling a key issue – how we manage land better to produce high-yield crops – while also maintaining thriving ecosystems and biodiversity.

Nigel's gift enabled the three-year appointment of postdoctoral research fellow Ute Bradter, part of a team working on ways to use spatial modelling and remote sensing technology to map the landscape. Ute says: "I am really grateful for Nigel's support. To work out how to improve our land use, we need to understand what is produced where and what wildlife lives there, and traditionally this comes from time-consuming survey work. The methods we are developing are enabling us to do this more quickly and more accurately." Her progress has enabled the team to apply for – and win – a grant from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council to push the research forward further and more quickly.

Thank you

3,540 Leeds alumni have helped us fund projects across the University so far this year. Your support has been invaluable. **Thank you!**



Professor Phil Taylor and Sue Heward on their graduation day

VC'S VIEW

Professor Michael Arthur on a momentous year for the University of Leeds



The rhythm of the term brings us back to summer – examinations and degree ceremonies and a warm farewell to a cohort of graduates, each set to make their mark on the world. Yet 2012 is set to see a special summer, capping a year of real highs for us.

The opening of the Marks & Spencer company archive was one such high, when the former head of Britain's spy service MI5 Dame Stella Rimmington and M&S chairman Robert Swannell unveiled the Michael Marks Building, symbolic of our partnership with this world-renowned company whose roots are in Leeds. The wealth of resources in the archive opens new opportunities for research, teaching and outreach.

A fortnight later saw the opening of our Energy Building which will be a hotbed of collaboration in energy research, teaching and innovation, housing staff and students from the Faculties of Engineering and Environment.

In February I joined Deputy Vice-Chancellor John Fisher and members of his team, who have won the Queen's Anniversary Prize for two decades of pioneering research into medical devices and regenerative therapies that is changing lives the world over. To meet the Queen in her Diamond Jubilee year was special enough, to receive this prize on behalf of the University was a tremendous honour and an experience I will never forget.

The award of a Gold Medal to the team which created the University garden at the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show was another ringing endorsement. Those of you who went along will have been impressed by how this small garden showcased research into ecology, biodiversity and water scarcity by our Faculties of Environment and Biological Sciences.

Such collaborations are a hallmark of Leeds and the bedrock of partnerships such as the one we have signed with design consultant Arup. This fuses expertise in engineering and the social sciences to address global issues of engineering and human behaviour – sustainable

business practices, innovative transport systems, energy reduction and the efficient use of resources. We are also embarking on a partnership with the Chinese University of Hong Kong, which alongside our research agreement with chemicals giant Sinochem demonstrates strengthening links with China.

The University strategy identifies such high-quality partnerships as a way of enhancing our profile worldwide. Our collaboration with Opera North is a model for how two quite different organisations can work together to their mutual benefit. With more than 100 projects involving research, performances,

Kath Hodgson; Dr Neil Morris being named Britain's Biology Teacher of the Year; and you have the clear sense of a University whose staff are making their own mark while taking the name of Leeds out into the world.

Around campus, there is a sense of optimism about achieving our ambitions. Amid the publicity surrounding the new fees regime our application figures have stayed strong, while those students completing their degrees have given Leeds a big vote of confidence in the National Student Survey. Perhaps more than anything, these show that we're moving in the right direction.

Yet we won't rest on our laurels. From September we are doubling to £16m a year financial support to the brightest students from low-income families. We are also preparing our submission for the Research Excellence Framework, which measures the strength and impact of our work, and whose results are crucial to our global reputation, our standing in world league tables and to securing future research contracts.

But we have every reason to feel confident. That a number of US-based academics have applied to take up Leadership Chairs – a series of key research appointments – is the symbol of a University known and respected worldwide. That we will be hosting the Chinese Olympic team as they prepare for London 2012 is further evidence of the same phenomenon.

The Olympics may be 200 miles south of here, but Leeds' involvement is a source of real pride, both in the number of alumni holding key administrative positions and the alumni and students taking part. Among those flying the flag for Leeds will be brothers Alistair and Jonathan Brownlee, who live in the city, study and train at the University – and have a real chance of bringing home medals for Great Britain in the triathlon.

Such an achievement would crown an amazing year for Leeds.

lectures, seminars and activities to inspire young people – as well as funded scholarships and fellowships – it is making a big impact in the University and the whole region.

Add an impressive string of individual achievements: *Professor Paul Emery* winning the prestigious Carol Nachman Prize for rheumatology; *Professors John Fisher, Tony Turner* and *Peter Grant* being elected to the Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences; Queen's New Year Honours for *Professor of International Business Peter Buckley* and *Director of Learning and Teaching Support*

To meet the Queen in her Diamond Jubilee year was special enough, to receive this prize on behalf of the University was a tremendous honour and an experience I will never forget

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

What's on for Leeds alumni over the next few months

For a full list of all events, including class reunions and international events visit www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/events

AUGUST

Celebrate the London 2012 Olympic Triathlon

Tuesday 7 August, 11.30am – 2.00pm (triathlon), 2.00pm – 4.00pm (refreshments), Hyde Park and the Paxton's Head pub
> *Booking is essential* www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/triathlon

SEPTEMBER



Leeds International Piano Competition Gala Recital

Sunday 16 September, 2.00pm
Great Hall, University of Leeds
> *LIMITED AVAILABILITY*
Contact *Kathy Isherwood* on 0113 343 7520. For more information visit www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/pianocompetition

OCTOBER

ALUMNI ANNUAL LECTURE

John Hirst (Economics 1973), Chief Executive, The Met Office
Separating climate science from politics
Saturday 6 October
11.30am – 12.30pm
Rupert Beckett Lecture Theatre, Michael Sadler Building, University of Leeds
> *Free, but booking is essential. Admission by ticket only.*
www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/JohnHirst
> *A three-course alumni lunch at University House will follow the lecture at 12:45pm. The lunch costs £30 per person. Booking is essential.*

Alumni parents' lounge at the University Open Day

Saturday 13 October
1.00pm – 3.30pm, 1913 Room, Great Hall, University of Leeds
Complimentary cream teas, strawberries and cakes
> *Further details* www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/openday

Faust opening night and post-show party

Saturday 13 October
from 7.00pm
Leeds Grand Theatre
Join VIP guests for a pre-performance reception celebrate at the post-show party with the production's cast, orchestra and creative team.
> *LIMITED AVAILABILITY*
10% ticket discount, tickets available from 17 July. Visit www.operanorth.co.uk/productions/faust or call 0844 848 2720, quoting the promotional code *Love Leeds Alumni* and providing your email address.

Leeds 2 London pub night

Thursday 18 October
6.30pm – 8.30pm
The Yorkshire Grey pub, 2 Theobald's Road, London
> *Booking and further details* www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/londonpubnight

Rowing Club's 100th celebration with speaker Paul Mattick

Friday 27 October
from 7.00pm
The Refectory, University of Leeds
> *More information and bookings* luubcalumni1912@gmail.com

NOVEMBER

An evening with Jonathon Porritt: lectures and conversation on why everyone should care about Climate Change

Thursday 1 November
5.30pm (drinks and registration),

6.00pm (lecture)
Clothworkers' Centenary Concert Hall, University of Leeds
> *Free entry but places limited. Online booking available from early September at* www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/jporritt

Leeds alumni media group reception

Tuesday 13 November
6.30pm – 8.30pm
Bond, 24 Kingly Street, London
Join the annual networking event for Leeds alumni working in journalism and media industries.
> *Booking essential* www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/media

Leeds Dental Institute alumni day and reunion dinner

Friday 16 November
Study day: 8.45am – 4.00pm at Leeds Dental Institute
Reunion dinner: 7.00pm – 10.00pm at The Met Hotel, King Street, Leeds, LS1 2HQ
> *Enquiries to* Connie Koh-Grieve, c.m.koh-grieve@leeds.ac.uk, 0113 343 4280.
More information: www.leeds.ac.uk/dental/alumni

The big debate: Chinese investment – From 'Open door' to 'Going out'

Tuesday 20 November
6.30pm – 9.00pm
Asia House, 63 New Cavendish Street, London
Chaired by Kamal Ahmed (Political Studies 1990), Business Editor of The Sunday Telegraph. Not to be missed by anyone with an interest in business or international policy. The discussion will be followed by networking over drinks and canapés.
> *Cost* £10. *Booking and further details* www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/pn/china

LUOSA EVENTS

Leeds University Old Students Association in Yorkshire

September: Visit to Mount Grace Priory
October: Trip to the National Coal Mining Museum

Leeds University Old Students Association in London

Saturday 18 August: Trip to Blatchley Park for the Alan Turing Centenary
19 or 20 September: 100th birthday party of LUOSA in London

> *For more information on LUOSA events, visit* alumni.leeds.ac.uk/luosa

LUOSA London Centenary celebrations

Leeds alumni have been getting together since the University was founded, and Leeds University Old Students' Association, our oldest social network, celebrates its 100th birthday this year. LUOSA has been organising regular social events non-stop for a century, and is running a special programme of activities and a very special birthday party in London in the autumn.

> *To find out more about LUOSA, visit* www.luosa.org.uk



John Hirst, Chief Executive, The Met Office to give the Alumni Annual Lecture

THE FOOTSTEPS FUND

**A talent for gymnastics >
Passion for medicine >
A Leeds scholarship >
Rio 2016?**

For any top athlete, the balance between sporting and academic commitment is incredibly hard to maintain.

First year medicine student Sasha is an international athlete aiming for the Rio de Janeiro Olympics in 2016. This means training in Manchester up to four times a week on top of one of the most challenging degrees at Leeds, and the financial implications are huge.

The Footsteps Fund Olympic Scholarship gives students like Sasha the chance to fulfil their athletic and academic potential. From train fares and access to top coaches, to support with planning her academic study.

Ed Scott and Alistair Brownlee, both Olympic Scholars at Leeds thanks to alumni support, will be representing their country at London 2012.

Just 25 gifts of £40 to the Footsteps Fund will provide a whole year's scholarship for another student like Sasha. Please give today, and help another student follow in her footsteps.

Our funding deadline to award the next cohort of scholarships is 1st August 2012, so please give today.

Send back a donation with the 'Update Your Details' form with this magazine.

Alternatively, give online at www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/makeyourgift or text 'STEP05 £3', 'STEP05 £5' or 'STEP05 £10' to 70070.

(Texts are charged at your carrier's rate, in addition to your donation, and you must have the permission of the person who pays the bill in order to text. Text donations are handled by Justgiving in partnership with Vodafone so that 100% of your donation is received by the Footsteps Fund).

