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## LEEDS

ALUMNI  
MAGAZINE

ISSUE  
**I2**

06

### *Material benefits*

How textiles research is reaping medical benefits

16

### *Making a stand*

Alison Garnham on tackling child poverty in the UK

22

### *The power of words*

Writer Ngugi wa Thiong'o returns to Leeds

28

### *Top of her game*

Karen Darke on the Paralympic Games, and what comes next



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## FROM THE EDITOR



**Phil Steel (English 1997)**  
Head of Alumni Relations

When we were busy producing our last issue back in June, we were looking forward to the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Five months on and the closing ceremonies have long since ended. But we were delighted that five Leeds alumni returned from London with medals, and many more were integral in making the Games so successful.

Karen Darke, who talks to us in this issue, won a silver Paralympic medal, and has already gone on to win a World Championship gold in a different discipline. Like Karen, all our alumni and students involved in the Games have stories to tell, and we're immensely proud of them.

We number a lot of other heroes within our alumni community and we talk to two in this issue: Alison Garnham, and Ngugi wa Thiong'o, who are both doing remarkable work in two very different fields. And we look at some of the amazing medical breakthroughs that are coming out of our textiles research here at Leeds.

2012 has been a special year for us. I wish you all the best for 2013.

**Editorial Team**  
Phil Steel, Editor  
Jill Bullock, Deputy Editor  
Simon Jenkins  
Melissa Snowden

**Thanks**  
Kathy Fairclough  
Dr Andrew Hewitt  
Emma McKeown  
Adam Robinson  
Tom Saunders

Correspondence is welcomed and should be addressed to the Editor at:

Alumni & Development,  
EC Stoner Building,  
University of Leeds,  
Leeds, UK  
LS2 9JT

Web: [alumni.leeds.ac.uk](http://alumni.leeds.ac.uk)  
Tel: +44 (0)113 343 7520  
Email: [alumni@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@leeds.ac.uk)

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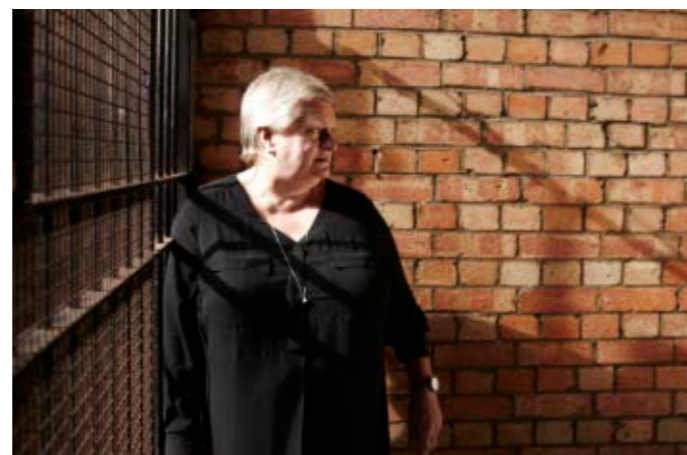
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10

16

22

06



28

## OUR CONTRIBUTORS

**David Atkinson (French & Management Studies 1993)** has covered stories from Japan to South America as a freelance travel writer for the Daily Telegraph, the Independent and Wanderlust magazine amongst others. He has also written about the city of Leeds for a previous issue of this magazine. [www.atkinsondavid.co.uk](http://www.atkinsondavid.co.uk)

**Paul Gallagher (History 2001)** is a reporter for the Observer and Independent on Sunday. After editing Leeds Student he reported for the European Voice in Brussels before joining the Daily Mirror's trainee scheme. He spent two years freelancing in Tokyo before returning to the UK.

**Richard Hanson (Mechanical Engineering 1990)** got distracted by the University darkroom, resulting in a career reporting from around the world for charities, and working for national newspapers and magazines in the UK. He lives with his family in Sheffield.

**Marcus Lyon (Political Studies 1987)** is a British artist and social entrepreneur. His work has been exhibited globally in over 90 shows. Outside of the art world he is the chairman of the advocacy network and think tank the Consortium for Street Children.

Former Leeds Student editor **Ceri Thomas (English 1990, MA Medieval Studies 1993)** is a freelance lifestyle and entertainment journalist and editor working for magazines and newspapers including Total Film, The Mail On Sunday, Nuts and Stylist.

**Fergus Walsh (English 1983)** began working for the BBC in 1984 and has reported on health, science and medicine for nearly 20 years, covering topics such as stem cells, obesity, HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB, polio and cloning. Fergus has had all his genes sequenced, his heart, brain and other body parts scanned, as well as being vaccinated against bird flu – all to illustrate TV news reports.

ALUMNI NEWS PAGE 2

## CONTENTS

### REGULARS

<b>Alumni news</b>	02
Olympic medal and the music prizes	
<b>Department news</b>	12
News from your department: from food security to film awards	
<b>The latest from Leeds</b>	20
What connects Sir Paul McCartney and JRR Tolkien to Leeds?	
<b>Giving to Leeds</b>	24
How alumni support is benefiting the student experience	
<b>VC's View</b>	31
What we've learnt from the London Games	
<b>Events</b>	32
What's coming up for Leeds alumni	

### FEATURES

<b>The ideas factory</b>	06
Medical innovations in nonwoven textiles	
<b>Thinking big</b>	10
Reinvigorating the region through small businesses	
<b>Taking a stand</b>	16
Alison Garnham, Chief Executive of the Child Poverty Action Group	
<b>Writing home</b>	22
Ngugi wa Thiong'o, writer and activist	
<b>How do you remember Leeds?</b>	26
Memories and favourite places	
<b>For my next challenge...</b>	28
Karen Darke, Paralympian	



COVER IMAGE: NONWOVEN FABRIC RESEARCHER DR PARIK GOSWAMI (PHD TEXTILES 2009) PLACES A DROPLET OF AQUEOUS POLYMER SOLUTION IN AN ELECTROSPINNER. THE APPLICATION OF 35,000 VOLTS WILL TURN THE DROPLET INTO NANOFIBRES THAT ARE APPROXIMATELY 100 TIMES FINER THAN NORMAL TEXTILE FIBRES

PHOTOGRAPHER: RICHARD HANSON

# ALUMNI NEWS



Altogether our University's graduates garnered 7 medals for Team GB

## CLEAN FUEL EXPERT

With 35 years in the industry, Andrew Minchener OBE (Chemistry 1974, MSc 1975, DSc 1998) plays a key role in clean coal and carbon capture and storage (CCS) around the world. Most recently he's advised the UK's Department of Energy and Climate Change on the design of a programme to demonstrate and set in practice CCS technologies specifically in China, Indonesia and South Africa, but also more widely.

Andrew advises the UK and Chinese governments on fuel policy and environmental aspects of CO<sub>2</sub> and climate change, having gone on more than 135 missions to China and a further 30 to Eastern Europe. Andrew is an International Adviser to the Clean Coal Engineering and Research Centre of the Coal Industry and the China Coal Research Institute.



▲ THE BROWNLEE BROTHERS ARE WELCOMED BACK TO LEEDS

PHOTO: PA WIRE/PRESS ASSOCIATION IMAGES

▶ BEN FAULKS AS MR BLOOM

PHOTO: BBC

## SEVEN UNIVERSITY MEDALS

Congratulations to our eleven Leeds alumni who competed in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Altogether our University's graduates garnered 7 medals for Team Great Britain.

Paralympic swimmer Claire Cashmore (Linguistics and Phonetics 2011) won a whopping three medals altogether, finishing second in the 100m Breaststroke and 4x100m Medley Relay, as well as earning bronze in the 4x100 Freestyle Relay. Alistair Brownlee (Sports Science and Physiology 2009) won the coveted Olympic gold, while his brother Jonathan (History 2012) won bronze. Newcomer Karen Darke (Chemistry and Geological Science 1992) scored a silver for the Cycling Road Individual H 1-2 Time Trial. Olympian Ashleigh Ball (Medical Sciences 2007) won a bronze for Women's Hockey. See page 28 for more on Karen.



▶ GEMMA GODFREY, HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY AND MEDIA COMMENTATOR

▶ STEPHEN STUKINS IN THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

PHOTOGRAPHER: JOHNNY GREEN

## JURASSIC CLUES

Stephen Stukins (Geological Sciences 2005) is a museum scientist of micropalaeontology at the Natural

History Museum in London. By researching tiny amounts of pollens and spores found in rock deposits, he hopes to help create reconstructions of Jurassic ecosystems.

Stephen's study of multivariate statistical analysis of particles as small as five micrometres will feed into an understanding of how the organisms became fossilised within different settings, which in turn offers clues to life long ago.



## BLOOMING SUCCESS

Sebastian the Aubergine, a clan of cheeky radishes called The Wee MacGregors and a helping group of Tiddlers learn from allotment owner Mr Bloom, played by Ben Faulks (Bretton Hall, Theatre Acting 2001), on the popular children's television programme *Mr Bloom's Nursery*.

In 2007 Ben wrote a theatre show called the Vegetable Nannies. It was a street show that went on to tour throughout the UK, Europe and Canada. But after a few years on the road he thought the material could be developed for pre-school television. After successfully pitching the show to CBeebies in 2009, Ben worked with the BBC in developing what would

become *Mr Bloom's Nursery*. The programme combines live action and puppets to show how young children can learn from the experience of nurturing plants and vegetables.



## JUST THE BUSINESS

Award-winning TV personality Zheng Junfeng (MA Accounting and Finance 2003) is anchor and market editor of CCTV's BizAsia, the nightly flagship English business programme for CCTVNews, China's only national English language television. His programme tracks the pulse of the economy of China and the world, and reflects the latest developments in the Asian marketplace.

Junfeng covers Asian stock markets on a daily basis, talking to reporters and analysts in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Singapore and New Delhi live on the show. Throughout his television career he has covered a wide range of stories from the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake to the Beijing Olympics and has interviewed numerous CEOs of Fortune 500 companies who have visited China.



Junfeng's programme tracks the pulse of the economy of China and the world



*An Awesome Wave*, has been in the Top 20, and brought critical acclaim and radio play to alt-J

Photo of alt-J out of copyright date

## FROM HYDE PARK TO THE MERCURY PRIZE

A student house in Hyde Park's Ash Grove echoes with a Mercury Prize winning album that started out here when members of alt-J were residents. The album, *An Awesome Wave*, has been in the Top 20, and brought critical acclaim and radio play to alt-J members Gwil Sainsbury (Fine Art 2011), Thom Green (Fine Art 2010), Joe Newman (Fine Art 2010) and Gus Unger-Hamilton (English 2010). Next year the indie band headlines a tour that will take them to the London's O2 Academy Brixton and the O2 Academy in Leeds.

## BUILDING FOR HEALTH

Once advised by her school that architecture was a profession suitable only for men, Jennifer (Ross) Meiring

▲ ALT-J AT HYDE PARK

PHOTOGRAPHER: NICK PICKLES/GETTY IMAGES

▶ ZHENG JUNFENG AT CCTV'S BIZASIA

▶ ARCHITECT JENNIFER MEIRING

PHOTOGRAPHER: RICHARD HANSON



DipArch RIBA (English and History of Art 1979) is now a highly qualified Architect Director working on large scale, complex healthcare projects for Building Design Partnership in their Sheffield studio.

Jennifer is responsible for the detailed design of hospitals, collaborating with healthcare clients to ensure the hospitals function as needed. "We plan where every →

single department goes, where every single room goes within each department and where every item goes in every room,” says Jennifer. “I have a big team!”

She is currently engaged in the new Alder Hey Hospital, Liverpool, and recently led the clinical planning design teams for Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, Southmead Hospital in Bristol and Victoria Hospital in Fife.



## NORTHERN ART PRIZE NOMINEES

The shortlist for the £16,500 Northern Art Prize are Joanne Tatham (Fine Art PhD 2004) and Tom O’Sullivan (Fine Art 1991), who create staged theatrical experiences through sculpture, painting, architecture, photography, performance and literature. Their nomination says “they frequently employ the tools of theatre to frustrate straightforward interpretation of either text or object.”

The pair have been collaborating since 1995 and their works question cultural and economic value in the production and distribution of art and cultural material. Their next exhibition opens in December at Chapter in Cardiff.

The Prize, which celebrates contemporary visual artists based in the North of England, will be awarded in May.



## A HOUSE NAMED HOULDSWORTH

Mike Fletcher (PhD Metallurgy 1964) may win the award for best tribute to his time at Leeds. It’s all in the name of his house. Mike’s generation of material engineering students studied in the “Houldsworth School” at Leeds, in a building still known as Houldsworth to this day.

Now based near Oakham, Rutland, Mike says “I enjoyed the university experience so much, I thought the least I could do was name my house ‘Houldsworth.’” His home is not the first house named for this reason, although admittedly, Mike’s been responsible each time. He brought the name ‘Houldsworth’ with him when he moved from Carmarthenshire two years ago.

Who was Houldsworth? As well as being an eminent barrister, Sir Hubert Houldsworth (Physics 1911) was chairman of the coal board and heavily involved with nationalising the industry. He also held the post of University Pro-Chancellor.

▲ MIKE FLETCHER AT HOULDSWORTH  
PHOTOGRAPHER: JOHNNY GREEN

◀ PHOTOGRAPHER: RUTH CLARK



## IN BRIEF

Harry Fitzwilliam-Pipe (Philosophy and History and Philosophy of Science 2011) received a £20,000 scholarship from the Institute of Physics aimed at raising classroom standards through attracting high-achieving graduates into physics teaching.

Jazz singer Barb Jungr (Botany 1975) released Stockport to Memphis, an album about growing up in and moving out of her hometown, with covers of Bob Dylan, Neil Young and more.

Head of Wildlife Andrew Kelly (PhD Biology 1991) is RSPCA spokesperson for the impact of humans on wildlife, focusing on wildlife crime, pollution, animal trade and rehabilitation.

James Kityo (Health Management Planning and Policy 2007) began Shade Stands, an award-winning project to put seats and shaded shelters at bus stops in Uganda to provide protection from harsh weather conditions.

Simon Lord (Music 1985) is Artistic Planning Director of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, managing productions that range from Beethoven’s symphonies to award-winning videogame scores.

Sarah Rule (MA Interpreting and Translation Studies 2005) founded Translationsrule, a language-services company that interprets and translates for businesses and organisations.

The Rt Hon Jack Straw (Law 1967, LLD 1999) published *Last Man Standing*, a memoir of his upbringing and political career as Home Secretary, Foreign Secretary and Lord Chancellor.

Dentist Ben Underwood (BChD Dental Surgery 1999; DipHE Addiction Studies 2007) developed Brush DJ, a free app that plays music from the owner’s iTunes library for two minutes to improve tooth-brushing habits.

Michael Zdanowski (BA History 2000, PhD History 2007) was appointed Corporate Communications Director for PBN Hill+Knowlton Moscow, a public relations and strategic communications agency spanning the Ukraine, CIS and Russia.

## 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](http://alumni.leeds.ac.uk/leedsnetwork)

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.

LeedsforLife

## YOUR GIFT OUR UNIVERSITY EVERYONE’S FUTURE

Your legacy could help change our world for the better

Legacies have helped to shape the University of Leeds for generations. They have funded scholarships to attract and support the best students regardless of their background, advanced pioneering medical and scientific research, enhanced our libraries’ collections, and provided our students and academics with outstanding equipment and facilities.

By including a gift to the University of Leeds in your Will, you could help to nurture the people, generate the ideas and invent the technologies that will change our world for the better. Every legacy can make an impact, no matter the size.

To find out how your legacy could make a difference, get in touch with Caroline Bartholomew, Alumni and Development Team, University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT; T: 0113 343 2347; E: [c.bartholomew@adm.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:c.bartholomew@adm.leeds.ac.uk).

Alternatively, please tick the appropriate box in the Remembering Leeds section of the update form that came with your magazine and return it in the envelope provided.

Thank you

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



# MATERIAL BENEFITS FROM THE IDEAS FACTORY

WRITER FERGUS WALSH PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD HANSON

TECHNICAL PROJECT COORDINATOR JANA SIMČINOVÁ TESTS THE ABSORBENCY OF NONWOVEN FABRICS AT THE NONWOVENS INNOVATION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

**IT COULD BE CALLED THE IDEAS FACTORY. SUCH IS THE SCALE AND VARIETY OF DISCOVERIES, PROTOTYPES AND PRODUCTS POURING OUT OF TEXTILE RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

A washing machine that cleans using polymer beads, a mosquito net that kills without chemical insecticide and a compression-activated self-cleaning door handle – innovations which have all stemmed from academic research in Leeds and now in commercial development.

Then there are high-tech wound dressings, filters and flushable ostomy bags. It is all a long way from fabrics and fashion, for these textiles are unlike anything used in clothing.

But there is a continuous link between the wool merchants of previous centuries and the cutting-edge textile technology of today.

Textiles were at the heart of the booming economy in Leeds in the nineteenth century. 1880 saw the opening of a new building for the Department of Textile Industries and Dyeing. The driving force was Obadiah Nussey, a wool merchant who wanted to ensure that the region remained at the forefront of science. It became part of the newly

exciting. “We can create nanofibres so small that you can’t see them until many layers have been assembled to form the fabric. These fibres can be a thousand times smaller in diameter than a human hair and can carry chemical compounds such as drugs. They have enormous surface area, can be manufactured from a multitude of different biocompatible materials and the resulting nanofibre fabrics are extremely light, frequently less than 1 g/m<sup>2</sup>.”

This has given rise to numerous potential applications in the field of healthcare, from wound management to blood filtration. The underpinning research forms part of The Clothworkers’ Centre for Textile Materials Innovation for Healthcare in Leeds, which is driving forward an ambitious academic research programme aimed at developing advanced textile materials for better performing wound dressings, blood filters, incontinence products and infection control devices. The research

**WE TALK TO THE CLINICIANS, THE NURSING STAFF AND PATIENTS AND FIND OUT WHAT THE PROBLEMS ARE**

created University of Leeds in 1904. The original building was funded by the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers, based in London, and textile teaching and research takes place in the same location today.

These days, nonwoven fabrics are a major focus of research in Leeds. As the name suggests they are not produced by the traditional methods of knitting or weaving but from continuous sheets of fibres that are bonded by friction, heat or adhesives.

Stephen Russell (PhD Textile Industries 1993), Professor of Textile Materials and Technology says nonwoven technology is extremely

is also promoting multi-disciplinary collaboration across the campus.

In addition to developing the science and technology, Leeds also has a successful track record of translating its research outcomes nationally and internationally. NIRI (Nonwovens Innovation and Research Institute) was formed in 2005 as a University of Leeds spinout company to exploit research results in textile technology by manufacturing high performance prototype fabrics and developing new nonwoven technologies for commercial development. It has a global client base and is particularly active in the

engineering of nonwoven fabrics for the healthcare sector in close collaboration with NHS Trusts and supply chain manufacturers. “The research and development is not done in isolation.” says Stephen. “We talk to clinicians, nursing staff and patients to find out what is really needed.”

One good example: how to reduce hospital infections.

The challenge presented to the Leeds researchers was how to break the transmission of germs. It takes just one person to contaminate a surface such as a door handle in a hospital, and that means superbugs like MRSA and other bacteria or viruses can spread quickly.

NIRI developed and commercialised SurfaceSkins – a range of patented disposable materials which self-disinfect every time they are used. Clipped on to a door-plate or handle, the surface releases a tiny volume of disinfectant every time it is touched.

The aim is not to clean people’s hands but to keep contact surfaces free of pathogens and prevent the transmission of dangerous bugs from person to person. The product has undergone clinical evaluations and has patents pending. Stephen says: “The prototypes were developed in consultation with infection control experts and the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and we hope it will be used in a clinical setting soon.”

But will patients and staff be content to have disinfectant on their hands each time they push a hospital door? “The feedback we have had in trials was good,” he says. “People recognise the importance of preventing patients from becoming infected and all you experience is quite a pleasant sensation on your fingers as the fluid evaporates, rather like touching cold water, which quickly disappears.”

Developing fabrics and dressings for treating chronic wounds is another area of research. This is not the sort of area that is likely to grab headlines, but thinner, low adherent, more absorbent dressings can make a huge difference to patient care, both in the health service and the armed forces. Fabrics



“The nonwoven fabric they have developed works like a lock and key device. As the liquid passes through the filter the antibodies bind with the fabric and are removed”

can also be loaded with antimicrobials to limit the risk of infection.

One area that Leeds researchers are exploring is the transparency of dressings. Every time you change a dressing you can damage the wound and create an opportunity for infection. A see-through material would allow nursing staff to see how a wound is healing.

And the research goes beyond wound dressing to blood itself. Many life threatening operations are reliant on the gift of blood – more than 5000 units a day are needed. Antibodies present in blood plasma are the reason why it is crucial that patients receive a compatible blood type. Researchers at NIRI are developing filters made from nonwoven material with the aim of removing antibodies from plasma, which would allow patients to receive plasma from any donor. The nonwoven fabric they have developed works like a lock and key device. As the liquid passes through the filter the antibodies bind with the fibre surfaces and are removed. The other beneficial components pass through unadulterated.

I said earlier that nonwovens research was a long way from fabrics and fashion. They are already used for single-use, protective garments such as surgical gowns and facemasks, but what about clothing? What sprang to mind was the great Ealing Studios comedy, *The Man in the White Suit*. It starred Alec

**STEPHEN RUSSELL, PROFESSOR OF TEXTILE MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY, IN THE NONWOVENS RESEARCH GROUP LAB. HE MANAGES A LARGE PROGRAMME OF RESEARCH CONCERNED WITH IMPROVING THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROCESS-STRUCTURE-PROPERTY RELATIONS OF NONWOVEN MATERIALS.**

**“DEVELOPING DRESSINGS FOR TREATING CHRONIC WOUNDS IS UNLIKELY TO GRAB HEADLINES BUT CAN MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE TO PATIENT CARE”**

Guinness as a scientist who invents a fibre which repels dirt and never wears out. Initially hailed as a genius, the mill owners and workforce soon realise the material could put them out of business.

“All of us here identify with that film,” says Stephen. “Creating nonwoven fabrics suitable for use in clothing as outerwear is seen by some as a Holy Grail. Substantial progress has been made by industry and the research community despite the fact it is technically challenging to satisfy all the aesthetic requirements cost-effectively.” But Stephen – who is happy to be thought of as an enthusiastic inventor in the Alec Guinness mould, is upbeat. “I’m sure we’ll get there eventually. We are working on many new ideas in conjunction with colleagues in the Schools of Process, Environmental and Materials Engineering as well as Chemistry. It’s just a question of time.”

At the end of the film Alec Guinness’ suit begins to fall apart, his dreams in tatters. But in the closing moments he consults his research notes, exclaims “I see!” and walks off with a smile.

If an everlasting clothing fabric is ever invented, don’t be surprised if the idea comes from Leeds. — (L)

THE TOP



10

LEEDS FOR LIFE



**LIVING CV**

A record of academic achievements, activities, experiences and skills students can draw on to tailor their job applications

**OPPORTUNITIES**

A way for students to identify opportunities to develop themselves and help others: voluntary, employment, or in clubs and societies

**PERSONAL TUTORING**

A way for students and their personal tutors to develop a shared meeting agenda and reflect on the outcomes of their meetings

**LEEDS FOR LIFE IS AN INITIATIVE TO HELP EVERY STUDENT GET THE MOST OUT OF THEIR TIME AT LEEDS.**

**EMPLOYABILITY**

All the opportunities on Leeds for Life are linked to the skills employers want our graduates to have

**NETWORKING**

Events through the year enable students to meet alumni and employers to find out about their career – and learn how to network!

**SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**

Recognising the importance of all the skills, knowledge and experiences students gain, both in and outside their course

**THE FOUNDATION**

Funding for students to develop their skills and broaden their life experience through projects, from running art projects for children in local hospitals, presenting at a European academic conferences, to building orphanages in Africa

**VOLUNTEERING**

Students can find out about and access the thousands of opportunities for voluntary and community work during their time at Leeds

**LEEDS NETWORK**

Students and recent graduates can read about what other Leeds graduates have gone on to do – and ask them questions about how they did it

**LEEDS FOR LIFE AMBASSADORS**

Students who work across campus to make sure everyone is aware of Leeds for Life, and that it is developed to meet the needs of students



“There are loads of aspects to Leeds for Life. The website is a great resource both for helping me to prepare for personal tutorials and to find opportunities to develop my skills.

There’s a new volunteering database that lets me find opportunities either in my local community or further afield, and I can see case studies of voluntary projects for inspiration. I currently volunteer with St John Ambulance and with Leeds Marrow, and think the website is an excellent way of recruiting new volunteers to become engaged in the fantastic work of charities like these, and increasing awareness of what you get out of it as a volunteer.

The Leeds for Life Foundation is a brilliant part of Leeds for Life. It funds students to take part in a project whilst developing the skills important at university and in the world of work. I visited a conference on Bacteriocins last summer, and had the opportunity there to discuss the future of antibiotics and meet internationally renowned academics. It really increased my confidence and knowledge about the field, and hopefully will stand me in good stead for gaining a postgraduate research post in Biochemistry next year.

The Leeds Network helps me see what our inspiring graduates have achieved and gives me an indication of the sort of careers available to me when I complete my education. I like being able to contact them directly to discuss their path to their current profession. It has given me food for thought about the possibilities of what I might be doing ten or even twenty years from now!” — (L)

LAUREN IS A 3<sup>RD</sup> YEAR MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTRY STUDENT AND A LEEDS FOR LIFE AMBASSADOR

[LEEDSFORLIFE.LEEDS.AC.UK](http://LEEDSFORLIFE.LEEDS.AC.UK)

## SMALL BUSINESSES

# BIG

# IDEAS

MANAGING DIRECTORS ARE DEVELOPING THEIR BUSINESSES AS PART OF AN AWARD-WINNING PROGRAMME TO GROW THE LOCAL ECONOMY. DAVID ATKINSON FINDS OUT MORE

Viv Parry has gone from Leeds to Manhattan in the space of a year. The Managing Director of the Leeds-based company Exquisite Handmade Cakes, which supplies bakery products to cafés, schools and hotels, was one of the local businesspeople

“  
WHEN I SET UP THE BUSINESS MY AMBITION WAS TO MAKE A PROFIT. MY AMBITION TODAY IS TO HAVE AN INTERNATIONAL BRAND  
”

helped by an innovative programme from Goldman Sachs and the Leeds University Business School. She wanted to grow her small enterprise and give something back to the local economy. She ended up on a flight to New York City.

“When I set up the business in 2004, my ambition was to make a profit. My ambition today is to have an international brand,” she says.

Lancashire-born Viv trained as a chartered accountant and spent 11 years as a stay-at-home mother to three daughters. She has found the programme personally as well as professionally fulfilling.

“The shared experience of being with like-minded people was very empowering and the academic input very valuable,” she says. “As a result of the programme, for example, I feel like a completely different person now when it comes to giving presentations.”

Viv was part of the second cohort for *10,000 Small Businesses*, a programme run jointly between Goldman Sachs and the Leeds University Business School to help grow powerhouse small enterprises and foster job creation in the local economy.

It may be delivered by the University but this is no ivory-tower experience.



The curriculum has a strong practical focus, spreading work on finance, marketing and leadership across 12 hands-on sessions delivered at the SHINE conference centre in Harehills. The participants are also given opportunities to network with new contacts and assigned a mentor to support them in moving forward.

“Nothing is abstract,” says Rob Whieldon, Corporate Development Director at Leeds University Business School. “The academic input is based around short workshop sessions, rather than lectures, and all the assignments are focused on the participants’ own businesses.”

The programme, funded by the Goldman Sachs Foundation, was piloted at the university in 2010. Goldman Sachs chose to pilot the programme in Yorkshire due to the region’s reputation for enterprise, and Leeds was a natural fit to partner the scheme. It has subsequently been rolled out by universities across the UK in Manchester, Birmingham and London.

The Yorkshire programme went on to win the 2012 EMFD Excellence in Practice Award from the Management Development Network, a member organisation drawn from academia, business, public service and consultancy in 81 countries.

The fifth cohort starts March 2013 and the University will shortly start recruiting candidates for cohort six. There are already a host of success stories from amongst the graduate group.

Shakoor Ahmed, Managing Director of Lahore Cafe Bar, has found the programme so beneficial that he subsequently opened a third branch of his business on Burley Road in Leeds — just a stone’s throw from the Business School. Shak opened his first deli in his hometown of

▲ SHAKOOR AHMED AT LAHORE CAFÉ

PHOTOGRAPHER: ADAM ROBINSON

▼ VIV PARRY

PHOTO: BQ MAGAZINE



Bradford in 2002 while still studying at the Bradford University School of Management. He opened a second deli in Bradford in 2007.

“It has given me a platform to get my ideas down on paper and to make my ideas happen,” he says. “The people on the programme brought a lot of practical experience to the table and this exchange of ideas gave me confidence in my approach to business.”

The confidence inspired by the scheme translates into a tangible benefit for Leeds, driving local economic growth and employment. Shak took on 35 new employees after the course to grow his business and opened a new branch of Lahore Café Bar in Manchester during summer 2012.

“There’s a great sense of energy about Leeds,” he adds. “I’m proud to be part of something happening just ten miles from home in Bradford and seeing how it has grown to support local businesses.”

“I hadn’t realised before what a great place Leeds is to do business — it has a big academic community and a growing role as a financial centre,” agrees Viv, who runs her business from Kirkstall Lane. “I feel much more connected to the Leeds business community as a result of the programme. I’ve even got a good buddy from it and we now talk every day to exchange ideas.”

But while Leeds remains home, Viv is still buzzing from a recent visit to Boston and New York, taking part in a trade mission with a group of businesswomen. As a result, she is now exporting a high-end retail product to the food hall in the Plaza Hotel on Fifth Avenue.

“None of this would have happened without Leeds and the Goldman Sachs programme,” says Viv. “It’s a snowballing thing. Suddenly the world just opened up to me.” — (L)

# DEPARTMENT NEWS

## BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES



At the Rio +20 event held in June, Professor Tim Benton, UK Champion for Global Food Security, spoke of the importance of managing environmental and agricultural landscapes to maintain a balance between ecosystems, agricultural production, and intensification, to achieve sustainable development. This requires an interdisciplinary approach that involves environmental scientists, ecologists and agricultural producers to ensure that goals of sustainability and feeding a growing global population are both realised. When there is pressure on land, Professor Benton said, it is best practice to produce goods and services, like clean water, food, fibre and erosion control, that are 'natural' to the area. He added that sustainability needs to be examined trans-nationally, as intensification in one area may come at the cost of another ecosystem: "So we're protecting our local environment, thinking we're being sustainable, but in a global sense we're exporting and amplifying that environmental impact to create a bigger effect somewhere else."

## BUSINESS

Increasing the number of doctors on the governing boards of NHS Trusts increases patient satisfaction, improves Health Commission scores and lowers

morbidity rates according to research by Professor Ian Kirkpatrick and his colleagues. On average 14 per cent of board membership in England consists of doctors, despite government attempts over the last decade to increase clinician participation. The findings counter arguments that improvement of hospitals depends on major structural reform for overall improvement, instead suggesting there are effective, less drastic, and more cost-effective measures available.



## COMMUNICATIONS

A reworking of Danny Boyle's *Trainspotting* film by students and alumni of the Institute of Communications Studies (ICS) has been awarded a Special Jury Mention in an international Film 4 competition. The sequence, called *Dogspotting*, directed by Simon Glass (Cinema, Photography and Television Studies 2007) and produced by Tom Pitt (Cinema and Photography 2011) and Chloe Trayner (Cinema and Photography 2012) and acted by Leeds students, was shortlisted for Scene Stealers, a Film4 competition that challenged budding filmmakers to remake iconic movies with their own unique visions. *Dogspotting* takes characters from the *Trainspotting* film and reworks them as characters hooked on religious vices. Simon said: "We were delighted to have so many students and alumni involved, as well as the support of technical staff and lecturers in ICS. Just to be shortlisted is an achievement, and we couldn't have come this far without the skills we all developed through the Cinema and Photography degree."

▲ PROFESSOR TIM BENTON SPEAKS IN THE RUN-UP TO THE RIO+20 EVENT

PHOTOGRAPHER: NICK CLARK

## ONLY 14% OF NHS BOARD MEMBERS ARE DOCTORS

## EARTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Professor Andy Gouldson has been named a Northern Champion for his promising work on the environment and economy. He was chosen as one of 12 influential people in 2012, from amongst more than 100 nominees, who contribute to the arts, politics, sports, business, and education sectors. As an 'environmental social scientist', Andy's ground-breaking research examines the relationship between economic development and climate change, notably how lowering carbon emissions can boost economies. The accolade was given by the Institute of Public Policy Research North, a think tank for sustainability, fairness and democracy in communities.

## ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

In October, a High Frequency Measurements Laboratory opened in memory of Emeritus Professor Roger Pollard, former Dean of Engineering, who passed away December 2011. The cutting-edge facility offers researchers a unique chance to study technologies at incredibly high frequencies with a 1.1 terahertz PNA network analyser, the first of its kind in Europe. Professor Pollard served as Chair in High-Frequency Measurements at Leeds, sponsored by Agilent, the scientific measurements company that supplied the system. It will help to develop research in a wide range of areas of nanoelectronics as well as specialised THz antennae, fibres and filters.

## ENGINEERING

Students Edward Kolb, Carl Muldal, Aaron Parkinson and Graham Robertson created an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) using an intricate 3-D printing process known as Additive Layer Manufacturing. After designing the UAV's components on a computer, a high-powered laser

*Dogspotting* by students and alumni of the Institute of Communications Studies (ICS) has been awarded a Special Jury Mention in an international Film 4 competition



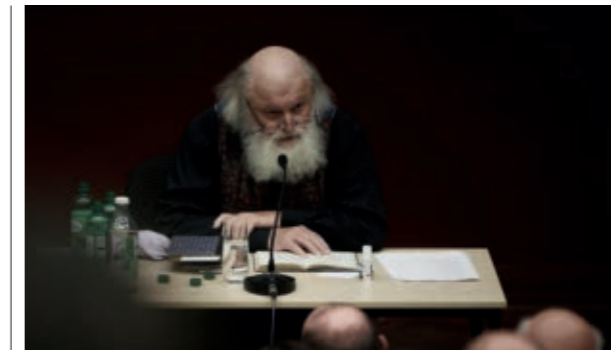
then melds fine powder – metal, plastic or nylon – into shape through repetitive layering until each single part is constructed. Their portable UAV, which could be used for search and rescue missions, surveillance or disaster control, measures 1.5 metres in wingspan and can be handled over a short distance with wireless video remote. Such technology allows for more accurate testing of stability, aerodynamics and weight for flight optimisation, including reduced drag and fuel consumption. The UAV was presented at the Farnborough International Airshow in July.

## ENGLISH

Sir Geoffrey Hill recently returned to the scene of countless Shakespeare lectures to mark two important occasions – Sir Geoffrey's 80th birthday and the Library's acquisition of his archive. Sir Geoffrey, who taught for 26 years at the University, read a selection of his own and others' poems to an appreciative audience of students, staff and alumni in the Rupert Beckett Lecture Theatre. Accompanying his reminiscences about life in Leeds were poems written for eminent members of the English department, Bonamy Dobrée and G Wilson Knight, as well as a poem about fellow poet Tony Harrison (Latin and Linguistics 1958, DLitt 2004) that took decades to complete.

## FINE ARTS

Nearly six years ago, while Joanna Brown (Mathematics 1988, PhD Applied Mathematical Studies 1992, MA Fine Art 2007) was studying for an MA in Fine Art at Leeds, a chat about creativity's relationship to fingers emerged. Now, Joanna has fulfilled the vision of casting the index fingers of 28 prominent creators into bronze – architects, animators, painters, playwrights, poets, musicians and more – including Alan Bennett (DLitt 1990), Anish Kapoor (Honorary DLitt 1993) and Dame Vivienne Westwood. Joanna said: "I'm really thrilled by how the artistic



▲ SIR GEOFFREY HILL AT THE RUPERT BECKETT LECTURE THEATRE

PHOTOGRAPHERS: SIMON AND SIMON

▶ TWENTYEIGHT FINGERS BY JOANNA BROWN

PHOTOGRAPHERS: TIM KENDALL AND JOANNA BROWN

work has matured over time; it has exceeded my dreams and has developed far more facets than I had envisioned at the beginning." TWENTYEIGHT FINGERS is a fundraising project, with the casts auctioned online for charity until January 2013. Until then, visitors can see the exhibit in Devon and West Yorkshire. See [www.twentyeightfingers.org](http://www.twentyeightfingers.org) for further information.



## HEALTHCARE

Thanks to work from a team led by Professor of Pharmacy Theo Raynor, Luto Research and the MHRA, patient leaflets for medicines used for ADHD (attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder) now include information written specifically for children and teenagers. In a bid to help young people better understand the medicine they take – which includes the brands Ritalin, Concerta and Equasym – the MHRA (Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency) and pharmaceutical companies agreed to include a section describing the medicine, including possible side-effects, using words and phrases appropriate for young people. "This is the first time that children and teens have had a chance to comment



STUDENTS CREATED AN UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE



on the information that goes into medicine packs, and it has proven to be very successful," Professor Raynor said. "We are now hoping that this approach can be taken for other medicines that are used widely by children, such as medicines for asthma or epilepsy."

## HISTORY

Researching for his newly published book, *The Watchers*, Professor of Early Modern British History Stephen Alford discovered that Queen Elizabeth I's government doctored a piece of 'evidence' which sent a Jesuit priest to his execution. During a reign of Protestantism threatened by Catholic overthrow, Edmund Campion was accused of leading hundreds of English priests in treasonous gatherings under Rome's influence. Because there was not enough proof, Professor Alford claims, the state forged Campion's name on an incriminating dossier that helped to prosecute him. Thousands of documents had been scoured, from minute details to minor characters, for *The Watchers*, released in August. "It takes a keen eye to spot the adjustments: they are small, but their implications are profound," the author said.

## MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

The school won a record-breaking number of awards at the Graphical System Design Achievement Awards, run by National Instruments in Texas, beating companies such as Siemens and other top universities from around the world. A team of undergraduates won the Student Design Showcase for their Kinesthesia toolkit which merged the gaming technology Microsoft Kinect with National Instruments' (NI) LabVIEW to develop a selection of motion tracking tools and programs with the specific aim of medical application in areas such as stroke rehabilitation and surgical assistance. A team of researchers, led by Dr David →





School of Music staff contributed to a new volume celebrating Nicholas Temperley, who pioneered the history of popular church music

Keeling, won three awards for the design of a heart stimulator, used to test an artificial “muscle wrap” supporting a failing heart by squeezing it in time with the body’s own muscle. Dr Keeling says: “We can adapt the heart stimulator to fit virtually any size or shape heart, and any sort of heart disease as well.”



## MEDICINE (LMBRU)

Dr Phil O’Connor led the radiological imaging services for the 2012 Olympic Games, supervising more than 200 staff members – a highly-qualified team ready to accompany the Games’ 20,000 athletes with MRIs, ultrasounds, treatments and diagnoses of fractures. Once London received the Olympic bid in 2005, Dr O’Connor applied for the lead position, which involved working nearly 17-hour days with very intense, hands-on activity. “It was one of the most exhausting experiences I have been through, but utterly fantastic at the same time,” he said. “I was really surprised that my lasting memory of the Games is the team spirit within the imaging team. I was really impressed and proud to have worked with them.”



## MUSIC

School of Music staff contributed a significant amount to a new volume celebrating a key British musicologist. Four chapters in *Music and Performance Culture in Nineteenth-Century Britain: Essays in Honour of Nicholas Temperley*, have been produced by Leeds academics. Temperley, who is 80 this year, pioneered the history of popular church music, and has been a key figure in correcting the belief that nineteenth century Britain was a ‘Land Without Music’. Articles were written by Leeds staff Professor Derek Scott, Dr Michael Allis, Professor Peter Holman, Emeritus Professor Julian Rushton and Dr Sally Drage (PhD Music 2010).



## PERFORMANCE AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

Smell and performance are combined in a new work by Dr Anna Fenimore. Together with Pigeon Theatre, specialists in immersive performance, she has created a performance work that explores the neuroscience and psychology of spatial and olfactory memory. The work is part of Dr Fenimore’s project Site and Smell: an immersive performance of olfactory-spatial memory which is funded by a Wellcome Trust Arts Award and is a collaboration with cognitive neuroscientist Dr Colin Lever at the University of Durham. She presented a paper on the project at the IFTR (International Federation of Theatre Research) annual conference in Santiago in July 2012. The show, *The Smell of Envy*, investigates the neuroscience of smell, memory and place, exploring how smell links to our processes of long-term memory formation, specifically our memories of space, and Pigeon Theatre is working with a scent manufacturer in Scotland to develop a complex ‘smell-scape.’ *The Smell of Envy* will be touring in spring 2013, and will play at stage@leeds in March.



## POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Children playing inappropriate video games “will not deal with the real problem of inappropriate games getting into the hands of children,” according to research by Dr Nick Robinson. New legislation transfers responsibility for age-appropriate games to the Video Standards Council (VSC), which rates games according to the Pan European Game Information system (PEGI), but Dr Robinson says: “Experience shows us that in the US, despite a concerted effort to educate parents and children about the ratings system, a significant minority of parents still purchase

inappropriate material for their children. Historically, the companies that produce these games have been largely absolved from the burden of responsibility because it is seen as the job of the state and the regulator. Perhaps paradoxically, this has legitimised the growth of more violent games as developers are shielded by the ratings framework.”



## SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL POLICY

The last decade has seen an increase in the number of cohabiting couples, whilst the number of married couples decreased, according to a study by Dr Esmée Hanna and Dr David Grainger for Co-operative Legal Services and Fishburn Hedges. ONS data showed that, by 2011, 38 per cent of cohabiting couples had children, the same proportion as married couples with children. A survey commissioned for the research also revealed a shift in attitude to cohabiting couples raising children, with 52 per cent of respondents believing marriage is not important providing the parents are in a committed relationship. Hanna and Grainger commented: “Part of the decline in marriage in recent years can perhaps be explained by the increase in cohabitation as a family format, with ever more couples choosing to live together. And as the number of cohabiting couples increases, they are increasingly seen as a socially legitimate family environment for childbearing.”



I WAS REALLY SURPRISED THAT MY LASTING MEMORY OF THE GAMES IS THE TEAM SPIRIT WITHIN THE IMAGING TEAM. I WAS REALLY IMPRESSED AND PROUD TO HAVE WORKED WITH THEM



# THE FOOTSTEPS FUND

**Ambitions in law > Alumni scholarship > Legal Advice Clinic volunteering > Helping the next generation**

When Sammie heard that she had been accepted to study Law at Leeds, it was the first step towards fulfilling a dream. In addition to working hard, she needed the support of alumni to achieve it.

Sammie’s £1,000 a year scholarship, provided by the Footsteps Fund, has given her the support she needs to be able to make a difference - from volunteering in the Leeds Legal Advice Clinic and giving free legal advice to members of the community, to going into schools to encourage students from low-income backgrounds to come to university.

On top of all this, with the help of her Footsteps Fund scholarship Sammie’s been able to purchase the materials she needs to keep on top of her studies and achieve incredible grades so far.

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

**Send back a donation with the ‘Update Your Details’ form with this magazine.**

**Alternatively, give online at [www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/give](http://www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/give)**

**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).



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

# DOING WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

ALISON GARNHAM

WORDS CERI THOMAS PHOTOGRAPHER MARCUS LYON



**AFTER ALL THE GOOD  
WORK WHERE 1.1 MILLION  
CHILDREN WERE LIFTED OUT  
OF POVERTY, MOST OF THEM  
ARE NOW GOING BACK**



In a way I feel like my career has been an apprenticeship for this job,” says Alison Garnham, Chief Executive of the Child Poverty Action Group. “I’ve done the welfare rights bit, the policy bit, the campaigning bit... and all those bits fit together at CPAG.”

Slotting in an interview at her London office between stints at this year’s party political conferences, Alison is a long way from any clichéd woolly, amateur idealist. The 53-year-old Leeds graduate is a veteran campaigner, lobbyist and organiser with a fearsome grasp of facts and figures – reeling off damning statistics about the frightening levels of poverty in the UK – and a habit of mocking herself if she strays into pomposity. Her remark about a career spent doing “what needs to be done” is undercut with a guffaw: “That sounds a bit puritanical doesn’t it? Sorry!”

In existence since 1965, the Child Poverty Action Group identifies the root causes of poverty and then finds ways to attack them, either by lobbying for new government



**I’VE DONE  
THE WELFARE RIGHTS  
BIT, THE POLICY BIT,  
THE CAMPAIGNING  
BIT... AND ALL THOSE  
BITS FIT TOGETHER  
AT CPAG**



policy or highlighting those causes to the media and the public through information and research. In addition CPAG advises on the complexities of the social security system and takes on test cases for claimants, to secure benefits to which people are entitled.

“We raise our money to do an important job in terms of policy and campaigning work and making sure that people are properly informed about their entitlement. It’s never been our intention to rattle collecting tins and hand the money on to poor families. That’s not what we’re for.”

Alison’s been chief executive for two years, but it does sound like a job she’s been preparing for, even before arriving at Leeds to study Psychology and Philosophy in 1977. “I think I was always politically active,” she says. Born in County Durham, Alison was brought up in Bristol after her teacher dad moved south for work when she was seven. She remembers “being the only person with a slightly different identity to the other people at school

so I never minded being the odd one out.”

Arriving at Leeds, she liked the energy of the place and the music (“Andy Kershaw was the Ents Secretary around that time, so it was big on music,” she says, sheepishly admitting to being a member of the Grand Funk Society) but student politics left her cold. “They felt like the same boring characters that you’d spend time at parties with drinking a bottle of cider when you were at school,” she grimaces.

However, the women’s movement in the city of Leeds itself was an inspiration. “Student feminist politics were drab but Leeds itself was a centre for feminist analysis in those days. It was one of the first places to set up a rape crisis centre and had women’s aid refuges. There were conferences, activism around violence against women. I ended up being much more involved in the city than what was going on at the University.” As the Yorkshire Ripper attacks prompted police to warn women to stay at home at night, →

**3.6 million**  
CHILDREN LIVE IN POVERTY  
IN THE UK. THAT'S 27%  
OF UK CHILDREN.

**62%**  
OF CHILDREN GROWING UP  
IN POVERTY\* LIVE IN  
A HOUSEHOLD WHERE AT  
LEAST ONE MEMBER WORKS.

**1.1 million**  
CHILDREN WERE  
LIFTED OUT OF  
POVERTY BETWEEN  
1998/9-2010/12<sup>-1</sup>

**300,000**  
UNDER CURRENT GOVERNMENT POLICIES,  
FROM 2012/13 CHILD POVERTY IS  
PROJECTED TO RISE WITH AN EXPECTED  
300,000 MORE CHILDREN LIVING IN  
POVERTY BY 2015/16.

**4.2 million**  
CHILDREN PROJECTED  
TO BE LIVING IN POVERTY  
BY 2020.



PHOTOGRAPHER: ALVARO TORRENTS

Reclaim the Night marches in cities like Leeds were inspiring. A volunteer at the rape crisis centre, Alison found her exposure to Leeds' feminist movement life-changing. "It totally was. Still today, my interest in child poverty is as much to do with the fact that women are more vulnerable to poverty in many ways. It's more often women who look after kids and who spend the money on children. They're the ones who find themselves face to face with the authorities, whether about housing or social security benefits."

After graduating, Alison wanted to put her degree to use by working in psychiatric care. In Leeds in the early 1980s, though, that wasn't easy. "The city had been razed to the ground. It was visible what was going on in the economy – all around Leeds, industrial estates had been flattened. So you were very aware that there wasn't much in the way of jobs. As a result, I thought 'Right, what can I do to make a difference?'"

Alison's answer lay in volunteering. She continued helping at the rape crisis centre, but also began working with Mind, setting up self-help groups for people with mental illness problems. "I ran a depression self-help group, a group for people with phobias and anxiety, and one for people looking after relatives with Alzheimer's," she says. "Those were quite early forays into these kinds of issues."

It occurred to her, though, that before the people in her groups could begin to sort anything out, what they needed was advice about their finances. "That kind of practical help was probably more important in terms of people's mental health than anything else," she says. "The fact that they were looking after elderly parents or depressed and claiming sickness benefits when they didn't know what they were entitled to, meant they were struggling far more than they should have been. So I ended up training at the Citizens' Advice Bureau as an advice worker.

Then I became a welfare rights worker, advising the public on their entitlement to benefits."

Leaving Leeds in 1984, she became Peterborough's first Welfare Rights Officer. "It was interesting being the first person to challenge the local DHSS office, the Department Of Stealth And Total Obscurity as we used to call them," she laughs. "But you can only get out of the system what's on offer there. After the hundredth or thousandth person came into my office with a carrier bag full of debt and benefit letters, poured them onto the table and asked me to figure them out, I just thought 'this has got to be sorted out. It's ridiculous.' I began thinking about how I could work to change the system."

That took her to the Child Poverty Action Group. She joined as a training officer in 1989, but also became involved in writing books about the Child Support Agency. "The first White Paper on it came out in 1990. We all read it and went: 'Oh my God, this is going to be a disaster' and sure enough, it was." She then spent two years as a lecturer in Social Policy at the University of North London, before taking a pay cut to join the charity One Parent Families in 1997 as director of policy, research and information.

"I loved it there, I felt really at home," she says. "My first task was to lobby and brief MPs and attend bill committees about legislation to cut social security benefits. The Labour government tried to stick to Conservative spending plans. I remember sitting in the House of Commons at midnight as Harriet Harman, poor soul, was made to drive that legislation through."

She's immensely proud of the work that she did there and in her next post as Chief Executive of the Daycare Trust. "We were able to work very closely with the government on issues like tax credits and the development of the Welfare to Work programmes and combating child poverty," she explains. "There are certain

\* Poverty means being cold, going hungry, not being able to join in activities with friends. 62 per cent of families in the bottom income quintile would like, but cannot afford, to take their children on holiday for one week a year.

By 16, children receiving free school meals achieve 1.7 grades lower at GCSE than their wealthier peers.

1. This is due in large part to measures that increased the levels of lone parents working, as well as real and often significant increases in the level of benefits paid to families with children.

things we achieved that wouldn't have happened otherwise, like the disregard of child maintenance on tax credits. It made a massive difference to lone parents, making work worthwhile for them. With things like that you really do feel you're making a difference. You can see change happening."

The chance to move back to CPAG came in 2010. "I loved working at CPAG when I was here the first time," she says. "It's a fantastic organisation, with a fantastic history. It was quite scary coming back though. Some of my predecessors have been very impressive people. I was a bit like: 'Blimey, do you really want me to do this? OK then...'" Alison acknowledges she faces an



PROFILE  
ALISON GARNHAM

PROFESSION  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF  
THE CHILD POVERTY  
ACTION GROUP  
[WWW.CPAG.ORG.UK](http://WWW.CPAG.ORG.UK)

DEGREE  
PHILOSOPHY AND  
PSYCHOLOGY 1977

she has to. Alison has already got under the skin of welfare secretary Iain Duncan Smith by calling for a judicial review of housing benefit caps. CPAG lost the case, but a furious Duncan Smith still railed at them for what he called an "ill-judged PR stunt."

"I was frustrated about that," admits Alison. "I couldn't understand it. Number one: he won the case so why was he upset? I'm not quite sure why we got a backlash. And secondly, I thought: 'We are entitled to challenge you when you break the law.'

"That's a real worry: that charities will become afraid to challenge effectively because so many rely on government for some kind of



## MY INTEREST IN CHILD POVERTY IS AS MUCH TO DO WITH THE FACT THAT WOMEN ARE MORE VULNERABLE

uphill battle. Child poverty is on the up. The charity predicts a rise of 800,000 children in poverty by 2020. "After all the good work that happened between 1997 and 2010 where 1.1 million children were lifted out of poverty, most of them are now going back.

"It's to do with £18 million worth of benefit cuts, but it's also to do with the fact that wages are stagnating, prices are incredibly high and unemployment is high. And for poor families, it's worse than for anyone else. Practically all your money is spent on items that are rising in price at the moment – food, fuel, clothes." Alison won't let the numbers rise without a fight. She may prefer to work with governments but she's not afraid to slug it out with them when



I BEGAN THINKING ABOUT HOW I COULD WORK TO CHANGE THE SYSTEM



income," she says. "I think it's essential we retain our critical faculties. I described how we worked in a very collegiate way with government and so expect to be able to do that now. But, we have a long tradition here of taking legal test cases, especially where we can see that the law is working to the disadvantage of the claimants. We intend to continue doing that. We have no intention of stopping just because people get cross." — (L)



### WHEN MARCUS MET ALISON

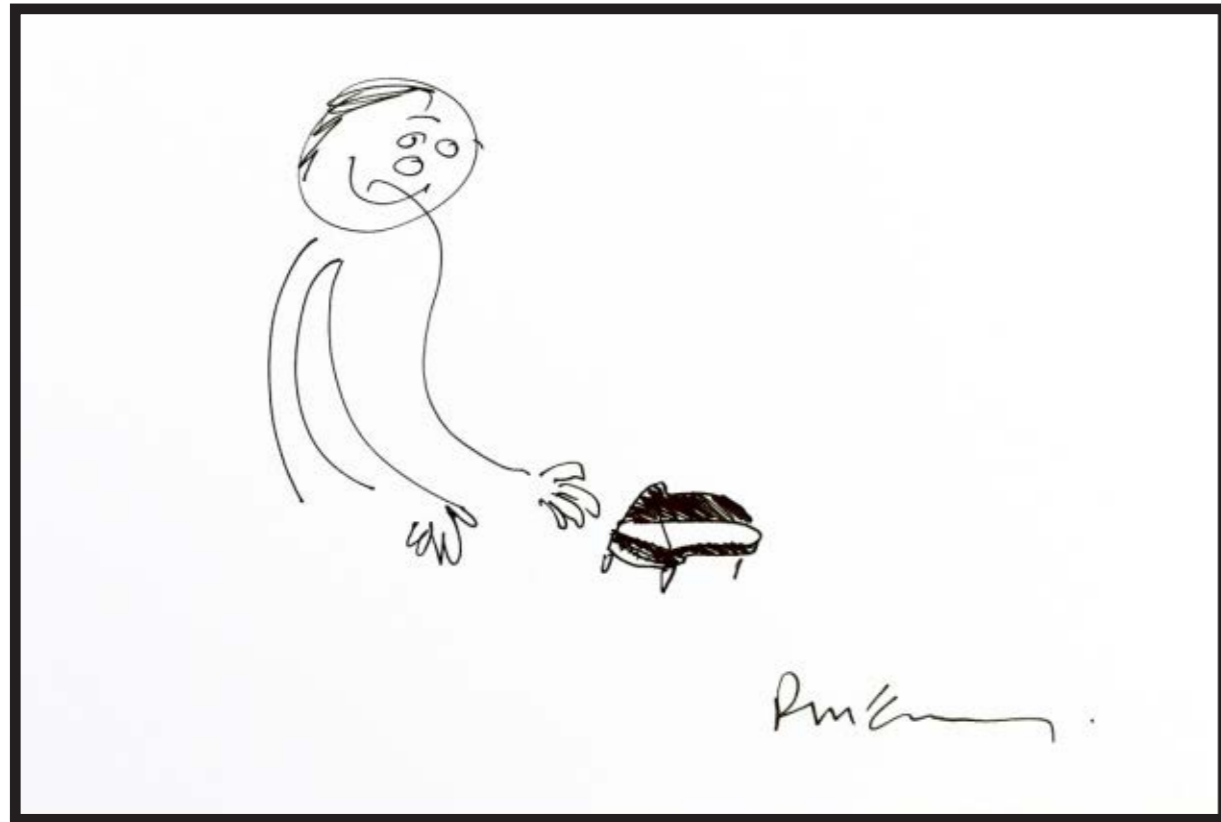
Photographer and artist Marcus Lyon (Politics and International Studies 1987) may have been commissioned to create portraits of the Queen and the last four Prime Ministers in an award-winning career, but those aren't the achievements that he's most proud of. No, top of the heap for him is his charity work supporting street children around the world. After early work shooting street life in Latin America, he's gone on to become a major global campaigner for street children's rights and is currently chairman of the think-tank and campaign group The Consortium for Street Children (CSC) [www.streetchildren.org.uk](http://www.streetchildren.org.uk) As such, the Leeds graduate seemed like the perfect choice to photograph Alison Garnham.

"I was delighted to meet someone like Alison because we're both campaigning in the same space," says Marcus. "The CSC is a global organisation, but many of our network members such as the Children's Society, The Railway Children and Save the Children do significant work in Great Britain where CPAG campaign.

I was determined to photograph Alison in a dark alley or in an underpass where homeless people live or runaway children might try to hide for safety at night," he explains of the photo you can see on the contents page. "So I found an alleyway with a caged gate and razor wire up at the top. I took a picture of her in sharp angled light with a lock on the gate, showing that she was someone who was trying to unpick an issue, to help people to be free. Perhaps the symbolism will be lost on some viewers," he laughs. "But I hope others will see how the image represents the core of Alison's work."

[marcuslyon.com](http://marcuslyon.com)  
[streetchildren.org.uk](http://streetchildren.org.uk)

# FAMOUS FRIENDS BACK POSTCARD EXHIBITION



Former Beatle Sir Paul McCartney, acclaimed writer Alan Bennett and Olympic ceremonies star Emeli Sandé were among a host of famous names who supported the University's charity initiative, 'Piano Postcards'.

The celebrities – each with either a connection to Yorkshire or the music world – were invited to create highly individual postcards celebrating music. Others who contributed included Grammy Award-winning opera singer Sir Thomas Allen and comedienne Jenny Éclair.

Their efforts went on display as part of a special exhibition in the University's Stanley and Audrey Burton Gallery to coincide with the world-renowned Leeds International Piano Competition. Following the contest, the postcards were auctioned online, raising £2551 for charities Nordoff Robbins and Live Music Now. The second one (most valuable of them) was McCartney's which sold for £1599.

The University is a long standing supporter of the Leeds International

Piano Competition which is still run by Dame Fanny Waterman (MA 1966; DMus 1992). The competition has featured prize-winners from 28 different countries since its launch in 1961. It has launched the careers of some of the world's pre-eminent pianists including Murray Perahia, Radu Lupu, Andras Schiff, Mitsuko Uchida, Lars Vogt, Louis Lortie and Artur Pizarro.

This year's competition attracted 270 entries from more than 20 countries and was won by Federico Colli of Italy, who carried off the first prize of £18,000.

## TOP TEACHERS

The 2012 National Teaching Fellows awards saw Leeds become the most successful university in the history of the scheme.

The fellowships, awarded by the Higher Education Academy, honour excellence in both teaching and

support for learning. An award to Dr Neil Morris of the Faculty of Biological Sciences brings our total number of awards to 16 – more than any other institution.

As director of the undergraduate school in Biological Sciences, Dr Morris led a number of innovations in the way our students learn, including voting handsets, audio recordings of lectures and video feedback. He published a study investigating the use of tablet devices for enhancing learning opportunities.

Leeds was one of only two UK institutions this year to receive a commendation for its enhancement of the student learning experience in its review by the Quality Assurance Agency. The six-yearly review highlighted our admissions policies, widening participation initiatives and strategy to improve graduates' employability as examples of good practice.

SIR PAUL MCCARTNEY



SIR ALAN THOMAS



JENNY ECLAIR



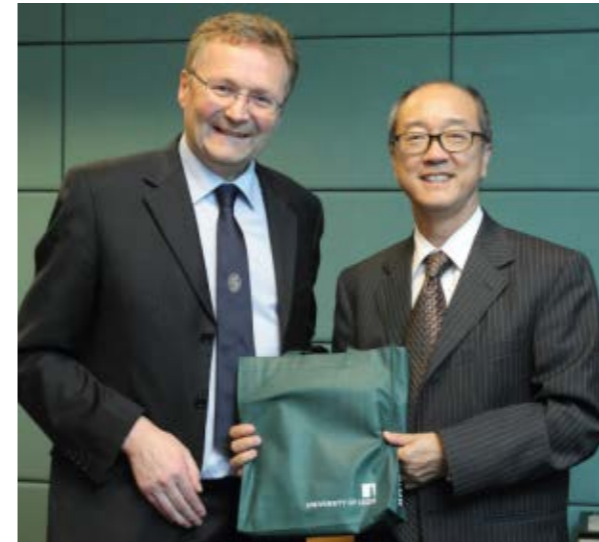
ALAN BENNETT



FORMER BEATLE SIR PAUL MCCARTNEY, ACCLAIMED WRITER ALAN BENNETT AND OLYMPIC CEREMONIES STAR EMELI SANDÉ WERE AMONG A HOST OF FAMOUS NAMES WHO SUPPORTED THE UNIVERSITY'S CHARITY INITIATIVE



“We are delighted to be signing this agreement. Our strategy at Leeds is about producing research which has a major impact on society and the partnership”



## LEEDS ENTERS NEW CHINA PARTNERSHIP

New research projects, student exchanges and closer working relationships will all flow from a new Memorandum of Understanding which has been signed between Leeds and the Chinese university of Hong Kong (CUHK), one of Asia's leading higher education institutions.

Both are members of the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN), an alliance of 19 leading research-led universities. Future projects undertaken together will focus on areas identified as priorities by the WUN: global public health, non-communicable diseases, understanding cultures and the globalisation of higher education and research.

Leeds Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor John Fisher CBE signed the memorandum during the visit of a Leeds delegation to the region to boost educational links and research collaborations.

The delegation included academics from across the University as well as members of the Alumni and Development team and the International Office. They met representatives from a number of other Hong Kong Universities and staged a special University

of Leeds Hong Kong Open Day at the British Council offices. Professor Fisher also met Andrew Seaton (Chinese Studies 1977), the British Consul-General to Hong Kong and Macao.

As part of the visit, Andy Gouldson, Professor of Sustainability Research, gave a lecture to Leeds alumni based on his ground-breaking research into how cities around the world can simultaneously reduce their carbon footprint while stimulating their economy and creating employment.

Tolkien lived with his wife Edith and their young family during their last two years in the city.



## GOOD FELLOWS

Three Leeds researchers have been recognised for excellence in medical science by being elected to the Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Professors John Fisher (Mechanical Engineering), Tony Turner (Biochemistry) and Peter Grant, (Medicine), are among 46 researchers honoured for their outstanding contributions to the advancement of medical science, for innovative application of scientific knowledge or for their conspicuous service to healthcare.

## UNIVERSITY HONOURS EXCELLENCE

The outstanding achievements of four individuals were recognised at a ceremony in the University in July. Honorary doctorates were conferred upon, front from left: Director of Public Prosecutions Keir Starmer QC (Law 1985), philosopher Baroness Onora O'Neill, historian Sir Ian Kershaw and the former Director-General of intelligence service MI5 Baroness Eliza Manningham-Buller. They are joined by, back from left, Pro-Chancellor Linda Pollard, Macebearer Ed Elliott and Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Arthur.

## TOLKIEN PLAQUE

A commemorative blue plaque has been unveiled at a house in north Leeds which was home to one of the University's most illustrious former members of staff.

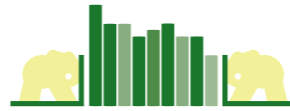
*The Lord of the Rings* author JRR Tolkien joined the School of English at Leeds as a Reader in 1920 and was later promoted to a Chair of English Language – making him the youngest professor at Leeds at the time – before he moved to Pembroke College, Oxford in 1925.

In a ceremony organised by the Leeds Civic Trust, a plaque was unveiled by Dr Kersten Hall, Visiting Fellow in the School of Philosophy, at the house in Darnley Road, West Park, where Professor



TOLKIEN JOINED THE SCHOOL OF ENGLISH AT LEEDS AS A READER IN 1920 AND WAS LATER PROMOTED TO A CHAIR OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE





His second novel, *The River Between*, was published during his time in Leeds



He was arrested on New Year's Eve and imprisoned without trial



Amnesty International secured his release a year later, but the country's Moi regime banned him from academic life.

# NGUGI WA THIONG'O MAN OF LETTERS



**PROFILE**  
NGUGI WA THIONG'O

**PROFESSION**  
WRITER AND ACADEMIC

**DEGREE**  
STUDIED ENGLISH LITERATURE 1966-7, D LITT 2004

▲  
PHOTO COURTESY OF NGUGI WA THIONG'O

By the time Ngugi wa Thiong'o arrived in Leeds in 1965, his first novel *Weep Not, Child*, the story of a boy growing up amid the country's anti-colonial conflict, had already been published.

"I came in winter and my first impression was of buildings covered in soot," he says. "I had read *Wuthering Heights* and I realised then how incredible a writer Emily Brontë was when she described the sound of Yorkshire's howling winds. "But I didn't want to go to Oxford or Cambridge. A number of my friends were at Leeds already – and the University had a reputation for radicalism, which was attractive."

Ngugi says he has good memories of his time as a student. "I was in Bodington Hall for two years and later lived in Hyde Park and in Chapeltown. Leeds was a dirty city back then, but they have cleaned it up a lot."

His second novel, *The River Between*, was published during his time in Leeds: "It was my first proper launch; we held it at Austicks bookshop across the road from the University." His growing reputation

was underlined by the fact that the event was organised by John Braine, part of the 'angry young men' set of British writers, and author of the renowned novel *Room at the Top*. Ngugi's third novel *A Grain of*

**I REALISED THEN HOW INCREDIBLE A WRITER EMILY BRONTË WAS WHEN SHE DESCRIBED THE SOUND OF YORKSHIRE'S HOWLING WINDS**

*Wheat* was also written in Leeds.

Returning home in 1967 to take up a lectureship at the University of Nairobi, his reputation as a writer grew rapidly. His criticism of colonial rule, post-colonial abuses and of Christianity attracted public admiration and the suspicions of the authorities in roughly equal measure. The unsparing portrayals of Kenya in his 1977 works *Petals of Blood* and *I'll Marry When I Want* earned Ngugi critical acclaim worldwide, but he was arrested on New Year's Eve and imprisoned without trial.

Amnesty International secured his release a year later, but the country's Moi regime banned him from academic life. During a visit to the UK he learned of a plot to kill him on his return home, forcing him into twenty years' exile in the UK and US. An assassination attempt in Harare in 1986 was foiled by the Zimbabwean authorities.

Ngugi describes the threats against him as "an occupational hazard", pointing to figures such as Dante and Bunyan as the founders of "a great tradition" of writers who have been persecuted because of their work. He is now Distinguished Professor of English and Comparative Literature and Director of the Center for Writing and Translation at the University of California, Irvine.

In 2004 Ngugi visited Kenya for the first time in 22 years to be greeted by a crowd of thousands. That same year he returned to Leeds as one of a number of distinguished figures awarded honorary degrees in the University's centenary celebrations. It was a memorable occasion, for a perhaps unlikely reason: "I was lucky enough to meet the former Leeds United footballer Jack Charlton, who was also receiving an honorary degree. He had been such a big name during my time at Leeds."

A number of other universities have bestowed similar honours on this prolific writer who remains politically active and continues to write, to edit and to deliver distinguished lectures at institutions

worldwide. The creative gene has been passed on: several of his children and grandchildren have become writers.

Yet Leeds continues to play a role in his life. "I still have family in the city and I have good connections to the Leeds University Centre for African Studies." His recent return to give a public lecture for the Centre sprang from his long friendship with its director Professor Jane Plastow: "She directed a production of *I'll Marry When I Want* in Eritrea in



▲  
PHOTOGRAPHER MAX FARRAR

## THE UNIVERSITY HAD A REPUTATION FOR RADICALISM, WHICH WAS ATTRACTIVE

2000. It had been translated into the local language and was an excellent production."

Now working on the third volume of his memoirs, Ngugi traces much of what he has achieved in life to the influence of his mother Wanjiku. "She didn't know how to read or write, but she had big ambitions. She sent me to school and made me promise to always do my best. If I got 100 per cent in an exam she would always ask: 'Is that the best you could have done?'"

"That aim of doing the best I can is behind everything I have ever done." — (L.)



“ I STILL HAVE FAMILY IN THE CITY AND I HAVE GOOD CONNECTIONS TO THE LEEDS UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR AFRICAN STUDIES

”

▲  
NGUGI WA THIONG'O WITH WOLE SOYINKA AT LEEDS UNIVERSITY

▲  
PHOTOGRAPHER MAX FARRAR

## LIFE AND TIMES NGUGI WA THIONG'O

1938 — Born James Ngugi in Limuru, Kenya 1938. Mother later divorces and raises Ngugi by working as a labourer on agricultural estates

1955 — Wins scholarship to the premier colonial government boarding school, Alliance High School, and goes on to win a place at the only university in East Africa, Makerere in Uganda

1961 — First play *The Rebels* performed

1962 — Début novel *Weep Not, Child* published

1964-67 — Studies MA in English at Leeds, during which time he writes his first major novel *A Grain of Wheat*

1967 — Lecturer at Nairobi University

1978 — Detained for 1 year without trial for his radical play *I Will Marry When I Want* which accuses the Kenyan government of selling out to neo-colonialism

1982 — A further critical play *Mother, Sing For Me* is banned as Ngugi is forced into exile, settling in the USA where he continues to write literature and polemic particularly advocating the writing of African literature in African languages

2004 — Awarded honorary doctorate from Leeds

# ONE GRACIOUS ACT REPAYS ANOTHER

The establishment of a new scholarship scheme in the School of Physics and Astronomy closes a 70-year circle for one remarkable Leeds alumnus

Born in the 1920s to a Jewish family in Germany, Geoffrey Eichholz arrived in Britain in March 1939 with little in his pockets except £4 and a Refugee Scholarship for Harvard: "Some distant relatives had agreed to care for me before I travelled on to the United States."

One was David Eichholz, Professor of Classics at the University of Bristol, who helped Geoffrey get some unpaid work in the physics department there: "I was lucky enough to be working with Cecil Powell, who later won the Nobel Prize for Physics."

But war ended Geoffrey's hopes of a place in the Ivy League – the US Consul refused his visa application and following the Dunkirk evacuation he was interned to camps in Devon, Shropshire and the Isle of Man. Geoffrey spent much of the time in a tent: "Fortunately 1940 was a dry and sunny summer!"

Though he was released that December, Bristol – along with other coastal areas – was now out of

GEOFFREY IN 1948 ▶



“ I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO BE WORKING WITH CECIL POWELL, WHO LATER WON THE NOBEL PRIZE FOR PHYSICS. ”



bounds to foreign nationals.

Geoffrey instead came to Leeds, where he first encountered Edmund Clifton Stoner, the Professor of Theoretical Physics who would one day give his name to a landmark building at Leeds. "He was very kind and supportive, and on the strength of a recommendation from Bristol, accepted me as a second year student, free of fees."

By now Geoffrey's mother and brother had also escaped to England and settled in Bradford, though they learned later that his father had died in Auschwitz.

One of just eight students on his course, Geoffrey enrolled at Leeds in January 1941, using borrowed notes from a classmate to catch up. It was an intensive regime, with degree studies compressed and accelerated because of the war: "It was a very concentrated course and I had to study hard. We had classes six days a week and no summer break. We were based in the Cavendish Building, overlooking the cemetery. I was commuting every day from Bradford, had hardly any money and no social life, apart from occasionally going to the cinema."

Every student was expected to join the Home Guard and Geoffrey recalls nights sleeping in the Union building after stints on firewatching

duties. The newly-completed Parkinson Building was being used to house food supplies.

After graduating with a First in May 1942, he was assigned to the Admiralty Signals Establishment in Surrey where he put his physics knowledge to good use working on developments in radar. "It was a very interesting and exciting time. Microwaves had just been discovered and the forces were in the process of switching their radar receivers from echo-sounding to microwaves."

After the war he returned to Leeds, encouraged by Stoner to begin his postgraduate work in magnetism: "I came to an empty lab. We had nothing. I had to scrounge all our equipment. The Admiralty was selling off surplus electronic gear for ten shillings a pound!"

With this ex-military hardware – including valves, meters and a crank-operated calculating machine – Geoffrey established the laboratory, living in Headingley on an £80-a-year scholarship for graduate work and the savings he had accrued while working for the war effort. At the same time he worked towards his own PhD, much of it based on his wartime experience of microwave technology: "I typed my own thesis, making five carbon copies."

He received his Doctorate in 1947 and from there his career really began to take off. "I saw an advert in *Nature* for an Assistant Professor at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver." He later moved to the Canadian Bureau of Mines, examining uranium ores, and in 1963 joined the Georgia Institute of Technology as Professor of Nuclear Engineering. He retired in 1989 becoming Regents Professor Emeritus.

Yet Professor Eichholz has never forgotten the kindness which was shown to him by two British Universities. At Bristol he funds bursaries for Classics students, while at Leeds he has established Eichholz Scholarships for undergraduates in the School of Physics and Astronomy. Each year, two scholarships are awarded to students from less

privileged backgrounds, providing them with £1,000 per year during the course of their studies.

He describes the "feeling of obligation" which lies behind the gift: "Leeds let me in as a student for no fees at the start of the war. It was a very gracious act. It made a great difference to my life and was the foundation of everything I have done."

## SPORTING CHANCE



When Stephen Ledger (Medicine 1979) was a student at Leeds he helped to establish the Medics and Dentists Football Club. As an alumnus, he has remained heavily involved with the club, which fields four teams in the Yorkshire Amateur league and plays in the University's inter-mural competitions. As the best student team in the University they then beat the best student team at Leeds Met to become Inter-Varsity Champions at the end of last season.

Now Stephen's financial support will help to take the club to a new level. His gift will enable second year Sports Science student Ben Robinson to train for his official Football Association Coaching badges alongside his University studies. Using these, he will then deliver coaching and fitness training to help the club to raise its game. Says Stephen: "The qualifications will be of value to Ben, but will also really improve the team's potential."

Ben, from Cambridge, is a keen footballer and delighted to take this opportunity. "There comes a point

when you realise you are never going to be a professional player. So I would love to go into coaching instead and am really looking forward to working with the Medics and Dentists."

## MEDICAL LEGACY

A legacy from Dr Katherine Worley (Medicine 1952) has provided bursaries to medical students taking intercalated degrees.

These intensive one-year degrees enable students to specialise in an area of interest away from their general medical studies, helping the University to create the exceptional medics of tomorrow.

Recipient Helen Robertson hopes to use her training to help people in developing countries. She chose to do an intercalated BSc in International Health to better understand the challenges faced by such communities.

Helen says: "Working in the developing world will be an enormous challenge. I have been fortunate to have travelled to many countries and spent a summer working in a hospital in Madagascar. But I have much to learn. I want to be better informed and better equipped to bring about improvements and justice. I am incredibly grateful for Dr Worley's support which has motivated me to do my very best."

Emily Dinsdale also received a bursary: "After completing my third year, I chose to intercalate in Primary Care for the next year as I felt that it would be something that I would find particularly interesting – and the content was especially topical in the changing world of the NHS. I also learned a lot from the GP practice which I attended and from my research project which explored the views of patients diagnosed with coronary artery disease on being screened for depression."

## ENGINEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Support from Duncan Moore (Biochemistry and Microbiology 1980) has established a clinical secondment scheme enabling postgraduates to join research teams in developing biological scaffolds to replace damaged knee joints, helping patients to recover from their injuries and preventing osteoarthritis. The project has also been supported by Andrew Lamming (Electronic and Electrical Engineering 1962).

## HISTORY OF COOKING

Thanks to a gift by Liz Pointon (General Studies 1968) the Library is intending to add to our celebrated Cookery Collection, which has more than 3,000 volumes and 60 manuscripts covering not only recipes but also 500 years of social history, including food production, brewing, household management, gardening and medicine.

## POWERFUL SUPPORT

A gift from the Azima Foundation is enabling the installation of a wind turbine on the roof of the University's new Energy Building. The turbine will be used to support research and teaching in our Renewable Energy Study Centre focused on improving the reliability and efficiency of alternative energy supplies.

## MASTERS OF SOCIETY

A generous gift from an alumnus has enabled graduates Jack Palmer and Joanna Lane to undertake postgraduate study looking at some of the pressing social issues of 21st century life. Joanna is researching the UK government's changing role in promoting voluntary organisations while Jack is focusing on the media, morality, violence and globalisation.

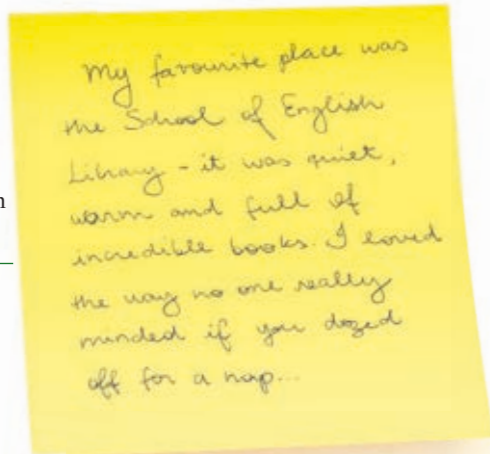
# HOW DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR UNIVERSITY?

BACK IN MAY, WE ASKED SOME LEEDS ALUMNI TO SHARE THEIR FAVOURITE MEMORIES. THE RESPONSE WAS FANTASTIC, AND THIS IS WHAT YOUR FELLOW GRADUATES HAD TO SAY

## WHAT'S YOUR BEST MEMORY?

You sent back more than 2000 Post-it notes – each with a personal (and often life-changing) memory from your years at Leeds.

*Honor Baldry (English 2007) remembers the hours spent 'studying'.*



From meeting spouses and lifelong friends, to legendary pub nights and inspiring lectures, each memory captured a taste of the Leeds culture.

*James Darin (Engineering 2002) will never forget how Leeds changed his life.*

Do you have a best memory to share? Add your Post-it to the wall below by visiting [www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/yourleedsmemories](http://www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/yourleedsmemories)



## YOUR SURVEY SAYS...

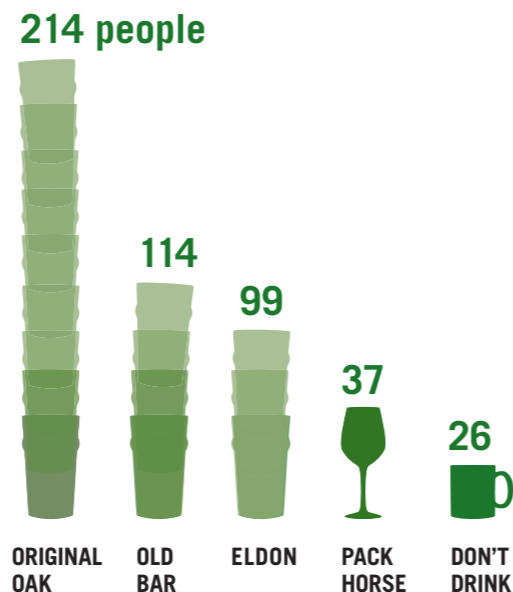


### YOU HAD A GREAT TIME AT LEEDS

We found a common theme running through your best memories – you had the time of your life with your friends at Leeds! Above, you'll see the words you used most often – the bigger the word, the more you said it.

### WE ASKED FOR YOUR VOTE ON THE BEST LEEDS PUB...

And the Original Oak wins! Did your favourite not make the cut? The debate rages on over at our LinkedIn alumni page.



Have you visited our alumni pages? You could share your memories of Leeds or get in touch with old friends. We've got a LinkedIn group, Twitter feed, Facebook page and a Flickr album. You can find old friends on our website too. Just search for *Leeds Alumni* or visit [www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk)



### YOU MADE LIFELONG FRIENDS

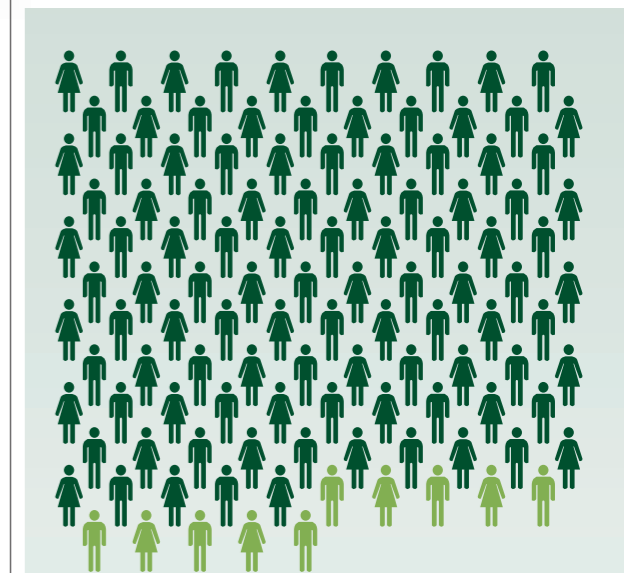
86% of you still keep in touch with the friends you made at Leeds. Why not make this number even higher by catching up over a drink at one of your favourite pubs?



“ 86% OF YOU STILL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE FRIENDS YOU MADE AT LEEDS ”

## YOU'VE HELPED NEW STUDENTS

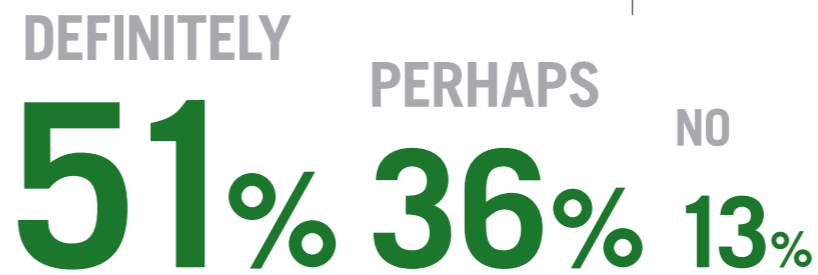
Leeds alumni are a generous bunch – just ask the 105 new students who received scholarships this year, thanks to your gifts. And we're absolutely delighted to tell you that you sent so many donations along with your survey responses, that you'll be offering scholarships of £1,000 per year to 10 more students!



TO HELP GIVE ANOTHER STUDENT THE CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE ALL THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS HAS TO OFFER, YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE BY VISITING [WWW.ALUMNI.LEEDS.AC.UK/DONATE](http://WWW.ALUMNI.LEEDS.AC.UK/DONATE)

### DECIDING TO STUDY

You said you had an amazing time at Leeds but we know that the decision-making process is different for today's students. Nearly half of you were unsure whether you'd make the same choices under the new funding system.



This is just a taste of our survey results so far. If you'd still like to have your say, visit [www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/yourleedsmemories](http://www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/yourleedsmemories)

# BEYOND LIMITS

KAREN DARKE

WORDS PAUL GALLAGHER PHOTOGRAPHER MARTE LUNDBY REKAA

PARALYMPIC SILVER MEDALLIST, WORLD CHAMPION TRIATHLETE. AND SHE'S STILL GOT AN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION TO PLAN... IT'S BEEN A BUSY YEAR FOR KAREN DARKE

**K**aren Darke (Chemistry and Geological Science 1992) is a busy woman. Over the last two years she has won cycling medals at the World Cup and World Championships across Europe and Australia and, following her silver medal in the Women's H1-2 Individual Time Trial at London 2012, has just returned to Britain after a stunning gold medal performance, in her first attempt, at the World Triathlon Championships in Auckland, New Zealand. All this just two years after turning pro.

Catching up with her on her way back home to Inverness, via a stopover in nearby Perth, one might expect her to be taking time off for some much needed rest and relaxation.

But Karen, being Karen, has a packed diary.

"It has been mad since the Paralympics," the 41-year-old says. "I've been turning things down and then had to prepare for New Zealand. I didn't really expect to win in Auckland as I haven't done the triathlon before. I'm not a great swimmer and usually get quite scared

in 1993 left her paralysed from the chest down. Shortly after, while on a beach in Australia, Karen accepted a stranger's offer of a piggyback into the sea for a swim in thigh-deep water. But within moments Karen panicked having rolled over, swallowing water and becoming disorientated in the process. Little did she know, as the man rescued her, that ultimately, returning to the sea would secure her a gold medal.

Karen was a keen climber and runner prior to her accident. While studying at Leeds, Karen joined the orienteering club and her love of the wilderness developed.

"I had a fantastic time at Leeds and met so many people through orienteering and the climbing club. It was through climbing that I went to the Alps, which was wonderful. Leeds was a very special time and I cycled everywhere I could."

That lifelong passion propelled her into public consciousness at the Olympics. The individual H1-3 road race produced one of the most memorable moments of the Games: after enduring a miserable run-up to London 2012, which included a car accident just weeks before, double amputee Rachel Morris was neck and neck with Karen coming into the race finish. They decided in the final moments that they would grab each other's hands and attempt to share the bronze medal, crossing the finish line together. Karen admits, "Perhaps we were naive in that decision as we could apparently have been disqualified, and ultimately the judges decided from a photo finish that Rachel's wheel was a fraction ahead of mine, so she was awarded the Bronze."

Karen explains: "It was a spur of the moment, decision, we hadn't planned it all. We came in for some criticism, which was disappointing but it was never pre-planned. People didn't know the inside story or the journey we had been through together to get to that stage. To me it's not necessarily about the winning, but the struggle and the journey there.

"There was just so much adrenaline and we were happy for another medal

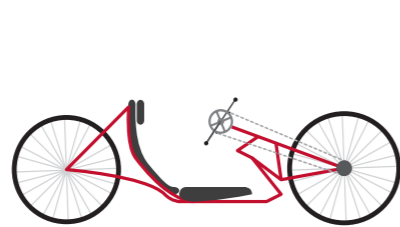
## TWO OF HER OLD LEEDS HOUSE-MATES CHEERED HER ON

in the open water but thankfully the bike ride did it for me."

Transition times between disciplines in the Tri-1 event – the 750m swim, 20km handcycle and 5km wheelchair – are included in the athlete's overall time. Karen won in 1.06:58, overcoming her fear to beat fellow Brit Jane Egan by more than 10 minutes.

Surprising perhaps, but not to those who know her. Karen has been overcoming huge challenges for 20 years after a rock-climbing accident





Her silver medal success has secured a better deal for the next two years. "It comes under review, so I know what I need to do."

for Team GB. Looking back, it was a hugely symbolic moment – it summarised what our journey is about."

Even though she had won medals more than two years ago, Karen said nothing compared to winning silver in the H1-2 Individual Time Trial at the Paralympics. Two of her old housemates from Leeds were there to cheer her on.

"They came with their children to support me. I wish I had 20 medals so I could give them out to all the people who have helped me get to that stage," says Karen. "Paralympians have big teams behind us and so much support."

It was watching the Beijing Olympics and Paralympics four years ago that led Karen to her podium finish this summer. Having always been active, she stepped up her training until in the spring of 2010 she found herself a coach and began racing competitively. Despite finishing last in her first two hand-cycling races, Karen was determined to plough on. One year later, she gave up work altogether.

"I thought the only way I was going to succeed was if I committed to doing it 100 per cent. The first challenge I faced was financial because until you achieve success, funding options are pretty limited. UK Sport funds on performance so as I was starting out it was a difficult time, but I was luckily to be supported by a company called BBraun who produce medical equipment, some of which I use. It was a fantastic boost to my ability to train."

About 18 months before the Games, Karen became eligible for funding when she joined the British Cycling's Olympic Academy programme. Her silver medal has secured a better deal for the next two years but she is all too aware of the pressures in retaining the funding.

"It comes under review after two years so I know what I need to do. I can understand the current system, as lottery funding isn't there for people who are half-hearted about doing it. You have to show you want it."

An inspiration herself, Karen once told Channel 4 who her hero was: Lance Armstrong. "To go through



PHOTOGRAPHER: BRYN LENNON/GETTY IMAGES



PROFILE  
KAREN DARKE

PROFESSION  
PARALYMPIC ATHLETE

DEGREE  
CHEMISTRY AND  
GEOLOGICAL SCIENCE  
1992

PHOTOGRAPHER:  
MARTE LUNDBY REKAA/  
WWW.MLRPHOTO.CO.UK

## I THOUGHT THE ONLY WAY I WAS GOING TO SUCCEED WAS IF I COMMITTED TO DOING IT 100 PER CENT



HER STORY IS NOT JUST ONE OF THE TRIUMPH OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT, BUT OF THE 'SPIRITUAL'. IT'S 'SPIRIT' THAT MAKES US WHAT WE ARE, 'SPIRIT' THAT CALLS OUT TO US IN WILDERNESS PLACES

SIR RANULPH FIENNES



what he did and achieve what he has is incredible," she said. Today, she has inevitably changed her view of the Texan. "Maybe that was the culture of cycling during Armstrong's time so if he was to stand up and say, 'yes, I was part of that and I am very sorry for it,' it would be different and not such a bad thing."

The Armstrong revelations have led Karen to be even more careful about her diet. "We get sent on drug awareness courses so I am paranoid about taking vitamins or something like that."

Karen is now preparing for her biggest challenge yet – Pole of Possibility: a two month trek across the Antarctic. The team, which includes her partner Andy Kirkpatrick and brother Simon Darke, hope to be ready to begin the feat in mid-November and reach the South Pole not far into the New Year.

Given the increased physical challenge, Karen is arguably a greater adventurer than James Cracknell. Unlike James, Karen and her team are struggling to gain corporate sponsorship or a TV company wanting to cover it. It means the trip, which they hope will raise £1 million for Back Up Trust, a spinal injury charity, is far from certain.

"I met James once, briefly, last year at a royal reception, but I didn't have much time to pick his brains. I have spoken to Blue Peter's Helen Skelton, who trekked 500 miles to the South Pole earlier this year and she gave me some good advice about the glide of the ski bikes, which didn't work for her, so we're looking at the mechanics of it." Karen's new book, *Boundless*, describes her life as 'an adventure beyond limits'. With the South Pole trek to prepare for and Rio 2016 approaching, Karen Darke is about to embark on her next extraordinary chapter. — (L)



We weren't disappointed; the brothers winning gold and bronze medals for Great Britain topped a great day in perfect fashion

## VC'S VIEW

### Professor Michael Arthur draws inspiration from the University's role in the greatest show on earth.

It's not every day that my duties as Vice-Chancellor require me to wear a T-shirt and jeans and wave a plastic clapper amid a crowd of thousands.

But the day I spent cheering on our triathletes Alistair and Jonathan Brownlee in the Olympic Games ranks among the most memorable not just of my time at Leeds, but of my whole life.

It was wonderful to be able to share this fabulous day with so many of you who came along to Hyde Park to support your fellow alumni. We weren't disappointed; the brothers winning gold and bronze medals for Great Britain topped a great day in perfect fashion.

Their success crowned a memorable year for the University. Yet we face some specific challenges in the new academic year. The

retain academics, researchers and postgraduates.

In the face of these challenges you might ask whether jumping up and down in Hyde Park was a productive use of the Vice-Chancellor's time. To which I'd say there was absolutely no better place to be, coming as it did at the start of a process to re-examine our strategy and vision to be placed among the world's top 50 universities.

If one ever needed a reminder of how leadership and investment can make a difference to an organisation, London 2012 offered the perfect model. Wonderful venues, thousands of volunteers, and a fabulous celebration for the whole world: to see that up close was very special indeed.

Leeds played a big part. As well as the Brownlees there was an amazing three-medal haul by our student Claire Cashmore in the swimming pool and further medals for alumni Ash Ball in the hockey and hand-cyclist Karen Darke. If the University were a country, we'd be above Portugal in the medal table!



IF THE UNIVERSITY WERE A COUNTRY, WE'D BE ABOVE PORTUGAL IN THE MEDAL TABLE



### THE OLYMPIC FLAME HAS MOVED ON, BUT OUR OWN VISION CONTINUES TO BURN BRIGHTLY



introduction of a new fees regime for UK undergraduates has changed the whole landscape of student recruitment. There's also increased competition for research funding, notably from overseas, meaning that we must redouble our efforts to win research contracts and to recruit and

I'd like to think that our own progress mirrors at least to a small degree that of the Olympics and Paralympics. A decade ago, when London was beginning its bid to host the Games, few outside the organisers' inner circle can have imagined just how dazzling a

spectacle Britain could deliver, let alone the transformation it would bring to run-down areas of east London.

Nor, I guess, would many have thought that by 2012 the University would have the quality of sports facilities to enable athletes like the Brownlees to combine their studies with their preparations for the Olympics. Fewer still would have dreamed we could attract a sporting powerhouse like China to stage its pre-games training camp here, or that so many staff, students and alumni would be involved as competitors, organisers, officials and volunteers. These were the London Games, but Leeds was at their heart.

The Olympic flame has moved on, but our own vision continues to burn brightly. Ours is not a sprint. If anything, it's more like a triathlon – our strategy for a place among the elite is about the ability to integrate research, scholarship and education. These are the swimming, cycling and running of the academic world; to neglect one is to fail overall.

We're seeing positive signs. For the second year in a row we've made across-the-board improvements in the National Student Survey. Our student union was rated one of Britain's best. The award of a National Teaching Fellowship to biologist Dr Neil Morris brings the total number of our fellowships to 16, more than any other UK institution.

Whenever I meet our alumni – and this autumn I've been delighted to meet members of our worldwide Leeds community in both New York and China – I'm struck by your warm memories of Leeds and your desire to help the University achieve its goals. The Games took as their motto "Inspire a generation." I hope that in your time at Leeds, you were inspired to succeed, both as a student and in your life beyond. With your support, I know we can inspire generations to come. — (L)

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

## ALUMNI RECEPTION AT THE HOUSE OF LORDS



**FRIDAY 10 MAY**  
7.15 – 9.00PM  
HOUSE OF LORDS,  
WESTMINSTER, LONDON  
HOSTED BY THE CHANCELLOR,  
LORD BRAGG OF WIGTON

Join us for an exclusive evening reception hosted by University Chancellor Melvyn Bragg. Set within the majestic House of Lords, you will have a special opportunity to meet the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, University senior staff and other Leeds alumni. Take pleasure in canapés and wine in the Cholmondeley Room and Terrace, which overlook the River Thames and offer stunning views of London. Prior to the reception guests may also enjoy a private guided tour of the Houses of Parliament. Booking is essential as places are strictly limited.

Cost: £35 per person, plus additional £3.50 per person if you wish to take part in the optional tour of the Houses of Parliament. Booking and further details at [www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/houseoflords2013](http://www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/houseoflords2013)

## FEB 2013

### SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: LITERATURE COLLECTION FROM BROTHERTON TO THE PRESENT



**WEDNESDAY 6 FEBRUARY**  
6.00 – 7.30PM  
BROTHERTON ROOM, BROTHERTON LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Discover some of the exceptional objects that make up one of the most interesting literary collections in the UK. From William Shakespeare to Oscar Wilde, Elizabeth Gaskell to Tony Harrison, the University of Leeds Special Collections holds unique manuscripts and rare editions which shine new light on some of our best-known writers. This event offers a rare chance to see items from our distinctive collection of literary material and hear fascinating stories behind the objects. Booking and further details at [www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/specialcollections](http://www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/specialcollections)

### POSTGRADUATE OPEN DAY



**FRIDAY 15 FEBRUARY**  
UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS CAMPUS

Whether you're looking to enhance your career or pursue a subject passion, Leeds has a postgraduate course to suit you. See our facilities, chat to current postgraduate students, and get advice on how to apply, fees and funding, accommodation and careers support. Booking at [www.leeds.ac.uk/jointheleaders](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/jointheleaders)

## MAR 2013

### WINE TASTING



**THURSDAY 7 MARCH**  
6.30 – 8.30PM  
LEEDS UNIVERSITY UNION,  
UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Learn about the wines of South America and how they have evolved from their origins in the vineyards of Europe. This includes a tutored wine tasting, fun quiz and finger foods. Cost: £15 per person. Booking and further details at [www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/winetasting](http://www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/winetasting)

TO FIND OUT ABOUT MORE FORTHCOMING EVENTS VISIT [WWW.ALUMNI.LEEDS.AC.UK/EVENTS](http://WWW.ALUMNI.LEEDS.AC.UK/EVENTS) OR [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/LEEDSALUMNI](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/LEEDSALUMNI)

### LEEDS2LONDON PUB QUIZ



**THURSDAY 21 MARCH**  
6.30PM TEAM REGISTRATION  
7.00PM QUIZ STARTS  
THE COUNTING HOUSE,  
50 CORNHILL, LONDON, EC3V 3PD

See if you have what it takes to be a quiz champion. Form a team with family, friends and work colleagues, or come solo and join a team and compete for special top prizes. Any six people can make up a team, but the captain must be a University graduate. Exercise your brain power with our wide range of topics, and come prepared for a few Leeds-themed questions! Booking and further details at [www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/pubquiz](http://www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/pubquiz)

## APR 2013

### THE BIG DEBATE



Branding in the digital era: Do marketers have a love-hate relationship with social media?

**DATE TBC**  
6.30 – 9.00PM  
LONDON (LOCATION TBC)

Whether you are a marketing communications professional or you are interested in how social media is



SOCIAL



TRIP TRAVEL



ARTS AND CULTURE



REUNION



TALK / SEMINAR



SPORT



RECEPTION



PROFESSIONAL

used to advertise and communicate, join us for a lively panel discussion on advertising, marketing and public relations in the Information Age. Meet and network afterwards with other Leeds alumni over drinks and canapés. Booking and further details at [www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/pn/branding](http://www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/pn/branding)

### LUOSA LONDON CENTENARY PARTY



**TUESDAY 23 APRIL**  
6.30 – 10.00PM  
RIVER ROOM, GLAZIERS HALL, LONDON

Leeds University Old Students Association celebrates its hundred year anniversary this year. Join us for birthday treats, including wine and refreshments, in the beautiful River Room overlooking the Thames with fellow alumni. Entry is free. Booking and more information at [luosainlondonat100.eventbrite.co.uk](http://luosainlondonat100.eventbrite.co.uk) or call 01727 864981

## MAY 2013

### ANNUAL ALUMNI SPORTS DAY



**SATURDAY 4 MAY**  
ALL DAY  
THE EDGE, GRYPHON SPORTS CENTRE AND WEETWOOD PLAYING FIELDS

Football, hockey, netball, rugby - what's your sport? Come along and compete with other alumni against student teams. Enjoy an all-day barbecue on the terrace and have drinks at the bar. Booking and further details at: [www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/sportsday](http://www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/sportsday)

### VIP MORNING AT THE EDGE



**SUNDAY 5 MAY**  
9.00 – 11.00AM  
THE EDGE, UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS  
All alumni, family and friends are invited for a free swim in The Edge pool. Book at [www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/freeswim](http://www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/freeswim)

### ALUMNI RECEPTION AT THE HOUSE OF LORDS



**FRIDAY 10 MAY**  
7.15 – 9.00PM  
HOUSE OF LORDS,  
WESTMINSTER, LONDON  
See lefthand column

## JUN 2013

### ALUMNI PARENTS' LOUNGE AT UNIVERSITY OPEN DAY



**FRIDAY 21 AND SATURDAY 22 JUNE 1.00 – 3.30PM**  
ROOM 1913, GREAT HALL,  
UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS  
Relax and mingle as we offer complimentary cream teas, coffee, cakes, fruits and more.

Booking and further details at [www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/openday](http://www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/openday)

## LISTEN AND WATCH ONLINE

The return of an eminent Leeds graduate always creates a buzz on campus, but during one week in October, the University had two occasions to welcome back alumni who now head up two iconic British institutions.

### DIRECTOR OF GCHQ HONOURS TURING

The Director of GCHQ, Iain Lobban (French 1983), returned to his University to deliver a lecture marking the centenary of cryptanalyst and mathematician Alan Turing's birth. As head of the UK's signal intelligence gathering organisation, Iain celebrated the achievements of GCHQ's forerunner, the Government Code and Cypher School and the brilliant Alan Turing's contribution to wartime code-breaking.

Iain spoke of Turing's cracking of the Enigma, other key people at Bletchley Park and their legacy to today's GCHQ. He explored the values and ethos which attracted and nurtured talent in the past and which continue to be relevant today in the cyber age.

Read Iain's lecture at [www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk)

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF MET OFFICE GIVES JUST THE FACTS

A packed Rupert Beckett Lecture Theatre welcomed John Hirst (Economics 1973) for this year's Annual Alumni Lecture, entitled 'Separating climate science from politics.'

John, head of one of the UK's most successful brands worldwide, spoke about the extensive monitoring work of the Met Office, which feeds into weather prediction, flood preparations, aviation planning, air quality health advisories and climate science.

He provided evidence of climate change and discussed the relationship between scientific conclusions and political and economic judgements.

Watch John's lecture at [www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk)

# THE FOOTSTEPS FUND

**An Olympic dream > A passion for swimming > Competing and studying > Paralympic success**

Claire Cashmore's triple medal-winning performance in the Paralympics at London 2012 was the fulfilment of a dream. It was testament to her hard work and talent – but also to the support she received at Leeds as an Olympic Scholar.

The scholarship, provided by the Footsteps Fund, gave Claire financial support as well as access to the University gym, to sports massages – and to the practical help of managing training and competing alongside her Linguistics studies.

Claire is determined to build on her success. "I'd love to reach the Paralympics again. It was such an amazing experience. But I'm taking it step by step. Next it's the World Championships in Canada, then the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow."

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

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

**Alternatively, give online at [www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/makeyourgift](http://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).



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS