



L. LEEDS

ALUMNI
MAGAZINE

ISSUE
I7

AUTUMN 2015

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a taste of flight

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of molecular biology



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

FROM THE EDITOR



Phil Steel (English 1997)
Head of Alumni Relations

Ever come across an old photo that's prompted a flood of memories you'd forgotten? We've been collecting more than 5,000 photos of life at Leeds over the decades, many of which were sent in by you. It's been both fascinating and fun to see pictures of student life from the fifties to the present – thanks to all of you who sent them in. So when you get a moment, make a drink, go to our website, and step back into your student days. Be warned though, you may be there some time.

And so to the present... this magazine is full of stories of about how rewarding Leeds life can be in 2015 – students reaching their potential as athletes, working with young people, or making the most of their academic study using facilities like our new Laidlaw Library.

What links those examples of student life to a scrapbook of photos? You do. All of the examples I've mentioned were ideas made real because of alumni. The support of so many Leeds graduates, through gifts of money, time and expertise, makes Leeds an inspiring place to live and study. When our current students graduate, and look back at photos of their time at Leeds, they will have you to thank for their memories.

We're so grateful, and so proud to be part of such an amazing community.

Enjoy the magazine

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(Political Studies 1990) is a journalist and former editor of the music magazines Q, Mixmag and Select (where he invented Britpop). His proudest moment, however, was editing Leeds Student in 1988-9. He now writes for Esquire, The Guardian and the New Statesman.

ADAM ROBINSON

(English 2006, MA 2008) is a photographer who has spent the last twelve years living, studying and working in Leeds. See his work at www.pikchures.com

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(English 1990, MA 1993) is a freelance lifestyle and entertainment journalist and editor working for assorted magazines and newspapers. He admits to having dodged all of James Joyce's works while at Leeds, but promises that he'll read Ulysses soon... honest.

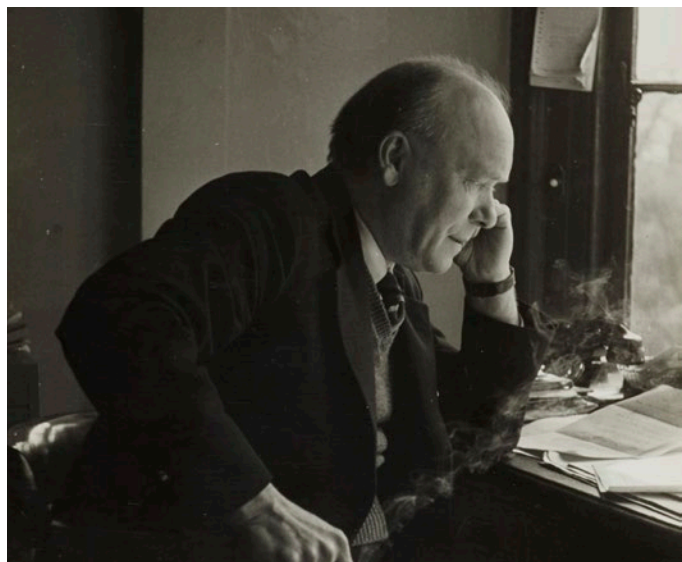
ANDY WILSON

(Politics 1994) is a member of the University's Rugby League alumni, having played for three seasons. He has covered sport, mainly rugby league and cricket, for The Guardian and Observer, and interviewed Alistair and Jonny Brownlee for Leeds shortly before they won Olympic gold and silver at the London 2012 Olympics.

KIPPER WILLIAMS

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

Leeds is published by the University of Leeds Alumni & Development Team. It is received by more than 230,000 graduates, members and friends of the University across the world.



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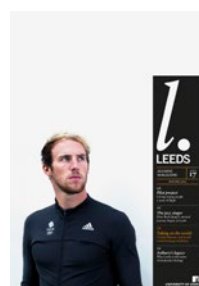
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COVER IMAGE:
GORDON BENSON, LEEDS STUDENT AND TRIATHLETE,
PHOTOGRAPHED BY ADAM ROBINSON.

"WORKING WITH GORDON BENSON, A WORLD-CLASS ATHLETE AND AMBASSADOR FOR LEEDS, WAS A REAL PLEASURE," SAYS ADAM. "HEARING ABOUT HIS REGIME AND THE DEDICATION HE PUTS INTO WHAT HE DOES WAS VERY INSPIRING. TRAINING AT THAT LEVEL, WHILST ALSO STUDYING FOR A DEGREE AT LEEDS, MUST BE INCREDIBLY DEMANDING, BUT GORDON SEEMED TO BE STOICAL ABOUT THE CHALLENGE. I WANTED TO CAPTURE BOTH GORDON'S CALM, COOL NATURE ALONG WITH THE DYNAMISM OF HIS DISCIPLINE IN THE SHOOT."

ALUMNI NEWS



Jon Moss (Education 1993) refereed the 2015 FA Cup Final between Arsenal and Aston Villa at Wembley.



A GAME OF TWO HALVES

The deafening roar of 90,000 football fans greeted Jon Moss (Education 1993) as he refereed the 2015 FA Cup Final. The match between Arsenal and Aston Villa was the largest of Jon's refereeing career so far, and a far cry from the Sunday games that kicked it all off when he was 18. Jon originally trained as a teacher, but fit his refereeing commitments around school hours. Despite his pitch-side success, he has not left education behind and still works one day a week as executive head of Beech Hill School in Halifax.



BACK TO THE FUTURE

Michael Aron (Arabic and French 1981) became British Ambassador to the Republic of Sudan in August. He was previously Ambassador to Libya, where he supervised the evacuation of British citizens from

▲ JON REFEREEING THE FA CUP FINAL

▶ JAY AND EVE OUTSIDE THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT WITH CHINESE VISITORS

▶ DR IAN KUPKEE ON NBC 6

◀ MICHAEL ARON

Tripoli after the outbreak of civil war in 2014. Michael lived in Sudan in the early eighties, teaching English at a secondary school in the northern town of Ed Damer. Since joining the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1984, Michael has worked all over the world, including posts in Jordan, Kuwait and Iraq, where he has made good use of the Arabic he learnt at Leeds.



A DOG'S BEST FRIEND

TV vet Dr Ian Kupkee (Agricultural Science 1983) recently gave Florida residents a crash course in animal CPR. Dr Kupkee, owner of Sabal Chase Animal Clinic in Miami, has a regular slot on TV channel NBC

6 where he demonstrated how to perform CPR on a furry friend. "I had wanted to be a vet as long as I can remember", says Ian, "I chose my degree at Leeds as a stepping stone to realise my dream, and I display it in my office with pride."



EAST MEETS WEST

The Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales are just two of the British beauty spots on Beiwei55's tours of the UK. The company was founded by Chinese Studies graduates Eve Baker and Jay Smith (2013) and offers trips across the UK to Chinese tourists in their native Mandarin. But there's a twist: all the guides are British-born and bred. "We know the ropes", explains Eve. "We realised the Chinese were seeing the UK solely with Chinese guides, and only visiting the obvious destinations. We offer them a more local experience."



Ian Kupkee (Agricultural Science 1983) is the owner of Sabal Chase Animal Clinic in Miami, and has a regular TV slot on NBC.



Johnny Mowlem (Geography and Spanish 1988) has won both the Le Mans 24 and the Daytona 24 hours and the Sebring 12 hours races.



KEEPING THE PAST ALIVE

Michael Day (English 1974) received the Outstanding Contribution prize in the 2015 Museums and Heritage Awards. As Chief Executive of Historic Royal Palaces, Michael is responsible for six historic sites, 4.2m annual visitors, 800 staff and £80m annual turnover. “Every day is different”, says Michael. “My office is at Hampton Court Palace but I’m often at our other sites. I had a leading role in the poppies project at the Tower of London last year, for example.” Michael, who was made Commander of the Royal Victorian Order in this year’s New Year’s Honours, credits “the brilliant Tony Green”, lecturer in Folk Life Studies, for first inspiring his career.

▲
**MICHAEL DAY,
OUTSIDE HAMPTON
COURT**

▶
JOHNNY MOWLEM

▶
**JULIE PRICE AND
FELLOW DIRECTOR
OF AMA GROUP PAUL
WATTS**

THE PLAY'S THE THING

Katy Rudd (Theatre & Performance 2009) is the Associate Director of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*. The production scooped best play at this year’s Tony Awards on Broadway and also claimed best leading actor, best scenic design and best lighting. “It was an incredible experience to take a play to New York”, Katy notes, “every member of the creative team worked tirelessly out of their comfort zone.” Katy’s directorial life began as a student at Leeds where “we were often given the freedom to take risks.”



UP TO SPEED

Whether inside a racing car or out of it, World Sportscar driver Johnny Mowlem (Geography and Spanish 1988) lives life in the fast lane. Johnny is ranked amongst the top professional sports car drivers in the world, has competed ten times at the Le Mans 24 race and is a two time British champion and 2013 European Le Mans champion. He has also won the Daytona 24 hours and Sebring 12 hours and has earned podiums in virtually all of the world’s

major sports car races. In 2015 he has been competing in the Prototype Challenge class of the North American Endurance Championship, setting the Daytona 24 pole position and finishing second in the race. He also runs his own Driving Academy, working with both corporate clients and aspiring professionals to improve their skills on the track.



RECURRING PATTERN

Julie Price (Textile Management 1980) is breathing new life into the North East’s textile industry with her business, AMA. Julie came out of retirement to set up the venture and now employs almost 200 machinists. “My father introduced me to the textile industry,” explains Julie, “most of my holidays were spent travelling on business with him. I loved it.” As Julie grew up, the textile industry declined, and many UK factories closed. With the AMA Group, Julie hopes to restore sewing to her native North East and is planning to work closely with local universities to bring young people into the trade.



Brigid Coady (Materials Science & Engineering 1994) won the 2015 Romantic Novelists' Association's (RNA) prize, sponsored by another Leeds graduate, gardening expert David Hessayon (Botany 1950, DSc 2008).

CHANGING PERCEPTIONS

Isaac Mwaura (MA Social and Public Policy 2012) is using his role as member of the Kenyan Parliament to improve disability rights. He is fighting to change the way albinism is perceived in parts of Kenya, where people with the condition have been ritually killed. Isaac, who founded the Albinism Society of Kenya in 2006, was appointed as Advisor on Special Interest Groups in the Prime Minister's office before joining parliament. "My Leeds education has greatly helped my debating skills in parliament, to advance the course of marginalised people," says Isaac.



ROMANCE BLOOMS

Two Leeds alumni, who graduated decades apart, are linked through a romantic novel. No One Wants to be Miss Havisham by Brigid Coady (Materials Science & Engineering 1994) won the Romantic Novelists' Association's (RNA) Joan Hessayon Award for new writers. The award is sponsored by gardening expert Dr David Hessayon (Botany 1950, Honorary DSc 2008) in honour of his late wife, a longstanding member of the RNA and a great supporter of its New Writers' Scheme. "I was so

pleased to discover David is a fellow Leeds graduate", says Brigid, "It shows that no matter where your life takes you, being a Leeds University graduate makes connections."

A JOB FOR LIFE

Doreen Harrison (Geography 1953, PGCE 1954) taught Geography in local grammar schools, before becoming Head of Geography at Charlotte Mason College of Education for teachers in the Lake District in 1961. Retiring in 1992 to be ordained Deacon and Curate of Ambleside, she was one of the Bishop

of Carlisle's "First XV" women priests in 1994. Serving her own three rural parishes until "retirement" at 70 in 2002, she has remained Chaplain to Ulverston Auction Mart ever since. Her last church service was in June 2015, at the age of 85. "I think I may have really retired this time", says Doreen, "but priesthood is for life!"

IN BRIEF

Sarah Griffiths (MA Criminological Research 2011), Placements Manager with the Youth Justice Board, has been awarded a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship to explore bullying among young people in Australian custody.

Dr Tom Milligan (Medicine 2003) has founded futuremedics.co.uk, which gives advice to school leavers, teachers and parents on how to gain a coveted place at medical school.

Evelyn Heathcoat Amory (Politics & Russian 2008) is head of Russian Art at renowned auction house Christie's.

Hull's UK City of Culture 2017 programme will be led by **Martin Green** (MA Theatre Studies 1996). Martin was previously Head of Ceremonies for the London Olympics in 2012.

Dr Andy Hargreaves (Sociology 1985) is the recipient of the 2015 Grawemeyer Award in Education from the University of Louisville for his research on the development and support of effective teachers.

American pharmaceutical company Cerulean Inc. has appointed **Stuart Arbuckle** (Pharmacology & Physiology 1986) to its Board of Directors.

Watch out for **Sally Hurst** (Political Studies 2000) at next year's Paralympics, representing Great Britain in the para-cycling team.

Roger Marsh (Metallurgy 1976), Chairman of the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership, was made an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to business and the economy.

Radio 1 DJ **Alice Levine** (English Language 2008) is one half of London's popular supper club, Jackson and Levine.

Management graduate **Ryan Kohn** (2005) has broken into the notoriously tough food market with "Propercorn", a range of low-calorie popcorn snacks.

◀
BRIGID WITH HER AWARD

VC'S VIEW



VICE-CHANCELLOR ALAN LANGLANDS ON MILESTONES ACHIEVED – AND MORE TO COME

As we begin the new term it seems a good moment to look back at our recent successes, and forward to the year ahead.

2014/15 ended on a series of high notes – and our alumni played their part in many of them.

July saw almost 200 donors, regional partners, staff and students gather for the official opening of the Laidlaw Library, to which so many of you have contributed. This beautiful library provides the ideal learning environment for today's undergraduate – silent reading space, group study areas, thousands of key texts, top-notch wireless access and decent coffee. Little wonder that in the run-up to exams, students were queueing to get in.

This was followed by a busy fortnight of degree ceremonies which saw more than 6,000 students graduating, swelling our worldwide Leeds community to almost a quarter of a million. Alumni played a role here too. Banners around campus celebrated the achievements of some of our most illustrious former students, while biologist Professor Howard Morris (Chemistry and Mathematics 1967), plant scientist Sir David Baulcombe (Botany 1973) and London's transport commissioner and new chair of Network Rail Sir Peter Hendy (Economics and Geography 1975) all returned to receive honorary degrees.

Over nine days in September alumni around the world celebrated this special Leeds community at more than 40 events – from picnics to pub nights and bike rides to barbecues – in our first Big Get Together. From these gatherings and the many meetings I have had with alumni during my two years as Vice-Chancellor I know that these are all people who care deeply about the University and are playing an important role in our future.

That future is an exciting one. Major developments are changing both the physical face of campus and our capacity to impact on some of the major challenges of tomorrow.

Earlier this year we announced a £17 million investment to make our internationally-renowned Astbury Centre for Structural Molecular Biology one of the best resourced centres of its kind in the world. Powerful electron microscopes will give researchers new insights into the structure of healthy and diseased cells. An ultra-sensitive nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer will offer insights into how to design new drugs for complex health challenges like cancer and Alzheimer's disease. Funding from the Wellcome Trust and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council will also allow us to recruit a cohort of the brightest postgraduates to study for their PhDs at the Astbury Centre.

This reflects our wider commitment to increasing the number of PhD students at Leeds by over 35% in the next five years. It is a competitive field. Postgraduate research students are a crucial part of the academic engine and, with a goal of having up to 3,000 PhD students at any one time, we need to attract 1,000 young talents to Leeds every year. With recent successes in attracting new Doctoral Training Centres, PhD scholarship support from alumni and their businesses, and our 110 Anniversary Scholarship Scheme, we are making important progress towards this goal.

At the same time, our 250 Great Minds programme is recruiting outstanding academic fellows over a three-year period. Already, these fellowships have attracted 70 outstanding academics from MIT, Harvard, the Max Planck Institutes, Oxford, Cambridge and other top universities. This migration of talent is attracting attention from around

“

FROM ALUMNI GATHERINGS AND THE MANY MEETINGS I HAVE HAD WITH ALUMNI DURING MY TWO YEARS AS VICE-CHANCELLOR I KNOW THAT THESE ARE ALL PEOPLE WHO CARE DEEPLY ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY AND ARE PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR FUTURE

”

the world – and recruitment is already under way for our second cohort.

More than simply the numbers, these initiatives are about creating and sustaining a career pathway for talented people. Through these studentships and fellowships we are developing future academic leaders who are grounded in the kind of interdisciplinary working that is a feature of Leeds, and which is crucial in addressing the big research challenges of our time.

Future campus developments will support just that kind of working. Our £100 million plans for the northeast quarter of campus (the area from the north end of the Parkinson Building through Engineering) will bring together computing, physics, chemistry and engineering in research and teaching facilities equipped to the very highest standards. The Bragg Centre at its heart will bring the most advanced equipment to Leeds to be used for interdisciplinary research creating functional materials from the nano-scale upwards. In the southeast corner of campus, a new £40 million Innovation and Enterprise Centre will increase incubation space, create laboratories for technology start-ups and provide the range of professional support needed by new ventures – while also enhancing our facilities for collaboration with business and industry.

As the new academic year begins and we welcome our new students to Leeds – many supported by the scholarships made possible by our generous donors – we look to the future buoyed by the knowledge that the involvement and support of alumni and friends can help us to achieve our highest ambitions.

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

HOW A TRAINEE PILOT GAVE YOUNG PEOPLE A FLYING START



“I got to sit in the Captain’s seat of an Airbus A321. Hopefully I will return there as a fully trained pilot one day in the future. Reach for the Skies has kept my dream alive.”

TAKE ONE STUDENT’S PASSION FOR FLYING. ADD SUPPORT FROM LEEDS ALUMNI. THE RESULT: YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE CITY ARE BROADENING THEIR HORIZONS

“I always wanted to be a pilot,” says Ben Gillard (Philosophy 2014), who is training for a career with UK carrier easyJet. During his time at Leeds, Ben had an idea that other young people, whatever their background, might share that passion, and that it could help them raise their aspirations and think about university.

Thanks to the involvement and support of alumni links, Ben turned his great idea into reality. He started by securing funding from the Leeds for Life Foundation. Supported by alumni gifts to the Footsteps Fund and funding from Santander Group, the Foundation supports projects that reflect the enthusiasm, creativity and initiative of Leeds students. Applicants are encouraged to seek out new challenges, experience new environments and cultures and make a positive difference to the lives of others.

Ben didn’t just receive funding however. Ben developed the project as part of the University’s Reach for Excellence programme, which each year works with students from schools and colleges across the north to demonstrate the value of higher education.

Funded for five years by the Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation, the scheme benefits 1,000 young people across the region. It also provides scholarships for those who progress through the scheme to win a place at Leeds, helping to relieve the financial pressure of studying and allowing them to take full advantage of the many opportunities that going to university opens to them.

The project got off the ground with a group of young people visiting the University for talks on aviation careers

and aeroplane engineering. They also got the chance to try their hand on the flight simulators in the Faculty of Engineering. Another Leeds alumnus, Adam Howey (Aviation Technology with Pilot Studies 2006) got involved too, speaking to them about his successful career as a pilot.

Reach for the Skies brought an extra dimension to the Reach for Excellence programme. Louise Oddy, a student at St Mary’s Catholic High School in Menston says: “The highlight was the opportunity to go on the flight simulators. It was a great feeling and it really felt as though you were up in the air.”

Ben’s Reach for the Skies project culminated in a two-day programme for the students to travel to Manchester City Airport and Heliport, where they visited the control tower, had a tour of Thomas Cook’s headquarters and sat in the cockpit of a commercial airliner.

“I learned a great deal from organising the project,” says Ben. “It was really rewarding to get such positive feedback from the students who participated in it. They said they learnt a lot from it and for some it had really motivated them to pursue a career as a pilot and all said how much they enjoyed taking part.”

For Ben, the scheme was not only a chance to share his passion for flying, but it also supported his application to join easyJet’s pilot training scheme: “It felt like a professional experience. I had to engage with professionals in the field of aviation, look after the budget and perhaps most importantly manage the many changes to the project as it developed.”

And for the young people involved, it proved an eye-opening experience.



YOUNG PEOPLE VISITED THE UNIVERSITY FOR TALKS ON AVIATION CAREERS AND AEROPLANE ENGINEERING. ANOTHER LEEDS ALUMNUS GOT INVOLVED TOO, SPEAKING TO THEM ABOUT HIS SUCCESSFUL CAREER AS A PILOT



1. CIARAN MORRISON
2. BEN GILLARD
3. LOUISE ODDY

Ciaran Morrison of Notre Dame College in Leeds says the scheme has given him a real insight into a career he now hopes to follow: “It was absolutely fantastic. To get advice from an experienced commercial pilot was really inspirational.

“I got to sit in the Captain’s seat of an Airbus A321. Hopefully I will return there as a fully trained pilot one day in the future. Reach for the Skies has kept my dream alive.”

Ben’s own dreams are very much alive: “I’ve been training for just under a year and have completed six months of theoretical training and passed the required exams and I’m about to finish basic flying training. The programme has been pretty tough and the theoretical training was really intense but the flying has been great fun!”

The last part of this course is in the stunning setting of Phoenix, Arizona – then on his return to the UK Ben will begin six months of detailed tuition on A320 simulators, replicating the aircraft which he will be operating when he takes up his position at easyJet. “As long as I pass all of the training I’ll start flying as a First Officer in the spring.”

He remains grateful for the support he received to establish Reach for the Skies: “It allowed me to demonstrate to airlines that I had the drive and commitment towards aviation and becoming a pilot which I’m sure helped me a lot in the selection process. Being able to get funding from the Leeds for Life Foundation was incredibly useful.”

Vicky Blake, Student Talent Spotting Officer at the University, is now hopeful that the programme can run again: “It was a really exciting two days,” she says. “It opened all kinds of doors in terms of work experience, and helped the young people to see the whole range of careers which are available in aviation.

“More than that, it helped them to develop themselves and understand that if they come up against obstacles, they have the tools to overcome them.”

THE LATEST FROM LEEDS



SOUTH BANK SHOW ARCHIVE FINDS A NEW HOME

A major archive comprising hundreds of hours of unseen interviews with many of the world's leading artistic figures has been established at Leeds.

Thousands of video tapes from the 32 year run of The South Bank Show have been acquired from ITV by the University. The cultural coup has been driven by the University's Chancellor Melvyn Bragg, who conceived, edited and presented the flagship arts show throughout its run.

The South Bank Show was a mainstay of British living rooms on Sunday nights from 1978 until 2010 and is widely celebrated for the way it combined high art and popular culture for a mass audience. Virtually every leading light from all branches of the arts joined Melvyn Bragg at some stage to film at least two hours of in-depth interview for one of the 760 or so shows.

Interviewees ranged from Paul McCartney and David Hockney to Ingmar Bergman to Victoria Wood. The show focused on subjects as diverse as Ralph Vaughan Williams, The Smiths, Scottish writers and Puerto Rican ghetto music. From the original interview tapes, usually only 15 or 20 minutes were broadcast, with the rest rarely, if ever, viewed again after the initial editing process.

This means that on the almost 8,500 tapes and reels of film now

carefully stored in climate-controlled conditions as part of the University of Leeds Library's Special Collections, there are up to 700 hours of footage, which has been restored and digitised thanks to support from the North American Foundation for the University of Leeds (NAFUL).

University Librarian, Stella Butler, said: "The South Bank Show Archive is potentially a hugely rich and untapped resource from one of the longest-running arts programmes in the world. We have been granted an exclusive licence to use the material for educational purposes, so as well as using this archive for research and teaching, we plan to digitise parts so that the public can view some of the materials too."

MAJOR MAKEOVER FOR UNION BUILDING

Plans have been approved for a major upgrade of the Union Building. The £20 million project follows several years of student feedback and staff consultation. The plans include redevelopment of the Riley Smith Hall, the Arts Quarter, the South Entrance, the Common Room, the

Foyer and the Market Square, as well as essential maintenance and the installation of solar panels. The Union is a key part of the student experience, and is regularly voted one of the best student unions in the country. The upgrade will make facilities more accessible for students, and for students clubs and societies to make the most of their time at Leeds.

www.unionupgrade.com



(LEFT TO RIGHT) DALE GRAYSON, DIRECTOR OF ARCHIVE & INFORMATION POLICY AT ITV, CHANCELLOR MELVYN BRAGG, VICE-CHANCELLOR ALAN LANGLANDS

JO JOHNSON MP LEARNS ABOUT IPAM, OUR ROBOTIC EXERCISE SYSTEM TO HELP STROKE PATIENTS WITH REHABILITATION

LEEDS SHOWCASES PIONEERING RESEARCH FOR MINISTER

The new Minister for Universities and Science, Jo Johnson MP, visited world-leading research facilities at the University in June.

Mr Johnson toured Leeds' Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering (iMBE), which has pioneered research in joint replacement technologies, regenerative medicine and tissue engineering, and the National Facility for Innovative Robotic Systems, one of the best equipped robot building labs in the world.

Mr Johnson said: "I've been hugely impressed by iMBE and the robotics and autonomous systems are just mind-blowing. The benefits we will see to UK productivity in years to come will be immense."

THERE ARE 8,500 TAPES AND REELS OF FILM COVERING ALMOST 700 HOURS OF FOOTAGE FROM THE SOUTH BANK SHOW IN THE UNIVERSITY'S SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

100 KNOWLEDGE PARTNERSHIPS COMPLETED



The University of Leeds is marking the completion of its 100th successful Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP). Dyson Technologies Ltd teamed up with the Centre for Technical Textiles in the School of Design to develop novel filter fabrics for Dyson's innovative vacuum systems.

22 NATIONAL TEACHING FELLOWS



The Award of Higher Education Academy (HEA) National Teaching Fellowships to Dr Dave Lewis (Biological Sciences) and Professor Nigel Lockett (Leeds University Business School) for excellence in teaching and learning brings the total number of Teaching Fellowships at Leeds to 22 – more than any other institution in England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

LEEDS OFFERS TOP STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Students have rated the University of Leeds as offering one of the best student experiences in the UK. The University has now been ranked in the top ten for the fifth year running. Each year, the Times Higher Education student experience survey asks over 14,000 full-time undergraduates what they think about their university, gathering views across a range of aspects of university life, from the quality of teaching through to social life and accommodation. Leeds is ranked ninth for students' overall experience and is rated highly across all categories, with Leeds University Union being voted the joint-second best student union. Leeds was also ranked joint-second for centralised and convenient facilities and joint-third for extra-curricular activities and societies.

LEEDS INSTITUTE FOR DATA ANALYTICS

A new institute set up to help public and private sector organisations meet the challenges and opportunities of the Big Data revolution has opened its doors.

The Leeds Institute for Data Analytics (LIDA) will partner with researchers and organisations to help them make the most of the rapidly growing fields of consumer and medical data analysis.

Professor Mark Birkin, Director of LIDA, explained more about the one-day event, the LIDA Research Forum. He said: "Today is all about making sure researchers and organisations know about LIDA and the expertise, support and resources we can offer.



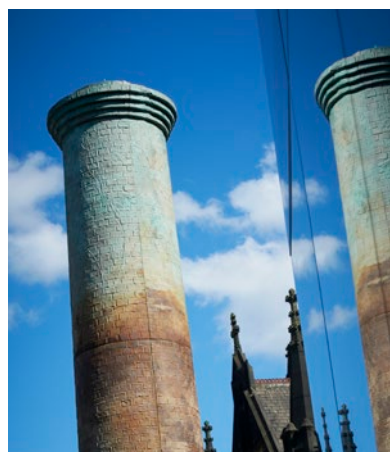
▲
LIDA'S PROFESSOR MARK BIRKIN

"Using large and complex data sets presents huge challenges for organisations. They may be combining different data with their own sales data, analysing and integrating data from various sources, or simply thinking about diverse data sets that can be pulled together to reveal new insights.

"With all these challenges, there is a constant need for new techniques and tools, and to ensure organisations have the right data analytics capabilities. That's where LIDA comes in – we're a trusted partner that has developed world-class facilities under one roof, so we've raised the bar in standards of secure data storage, access and analysis."

“
THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION SURVEY PUTS LEEDS IN THE TOP TEN UK UNIVERSITIES FOR THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE FOR THE 5TH YEAR RUNNING, AND TOP 3 FOR THE STUDENT UNION, FACILITIES, EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND SOCIETIES
”

ART ON CAMPUS



SIMON FUJIWARA SCULPTURE INSTALLED ON CAMPUS

A striking new sculpture by a rising star on the international art scene has been installed at the University of Leeds. The unveiling on Thursday 11 June of Simon Fujiwara's A Spire, outside the University's impressive new Laidlaw Library, coincides with the launch of a new art trail to guide people around the institution's impressive collection of public artworks. To download a copy visit alumni.leeds.ac.uk

NEW HOME FOR BODINGTON MURAL

If you were a resident of Bodington Hall you will remember the huge mural relief on its exterior. The work, by artist Hubert Dalwood was commissioned by the hall's architects and installed in 1961. Bodington closed in 2012 but the relief is about to get a new home in the centre of the Leeds campus. Subject to planning permission, the relief will be installed on the side of the stage@leeds building, home to the University's School of Performance and Cultural Industries. Professor Ann Sumner, Public Art Project Officer at Leeds, said: "We're looking forward to displaying this important bas-relief on campus. It will clearly make a major impact and form an excellent addition to our growing collection of sculpture that is being enjoyed by students, staff and members of the public alike as part of our new public art trail."

THERE ARE MANY SPLENDID REASONS TO CHOOSE LEEDS AS YOUR ACADEMIC SEEDBED. THERE'S THE GLITTERING REPUTATION FOR EXCELLENCE, THE NO-NONSENSE REDBRICK ATTITUDE, THE YORKSHIRE BLUNTNESS THAT SHARPENS THE MIND LIKE A BLAST FROM THE MOORS, THE OTLEY RUN AND THE BECKONING HILLS AND THE FINEST CURRIES YOU'LL EVER EAT...

Or you could just pick up a copy of your favourite rock'n'roll album and think "The Who Live at Leeds"? If it's good enough for Pete Townshend and Roger Daltrey then it's good enough for me."

Such was the case with Barb Jungr, British jazz singer, upholder of the *grand chanson* tradition and – from 1972 to 1975 – student of Botany at Leeds.

The study of plant life was perhaps not the obvious choice for a young woman with a musical bent. It's certainly a curious beginning for someone whose long career has taken in the post-punk cabaret circuit, early 80s tours supporting Julian Clary, Alexei Sayle and Kid Creole And The Coconuts, international music workshops across Africa and (most recently) widespread acclaim for a string of albums reinterpreting the songs of Bob Dylan, Elvis Presley and Leonard Cohen in the jazz idiom. But as has often been the case with Barb, the unusual decision turned out to be the right one in the long run.

"I went to a Catholic girls' school in the 60s," explains Barb, an effusive 61-year-old whose engaging demeanour comes of being born in Rochdale and raised in Stockport by German and Czech parents. "Times were different then. If you'd wanted to do music you'd have had to reinvent yourself as an entirely different human being in an entirely different place.

"But luckily I had a teacher, a natural mentor, who pointed me towards the sciences. I just followed the path without questioning it too much. Unlike nowadays, my generation didn't feel a horrible pressure to come up with a plan for our lives and stick to it. I really did just think "The Who Live at Leeds', what a great album,

I'll go there. And why not do a degree in something you know nothing about? I like flora, I like the open air... why not?"

Thus began a three-year stint at Leeds defined by "doing quite a lot of daft things." Barb played in a trad jazz band, performed at The Faversham pub, dabbled a little in theatre ("they were a bit precious and cliquey") and "generally experimented with music, sex and drugs." She and her friend Jelly worked behind the bar at The Original Oak and would sneak out bottles of booze under their long overcoats ("We'd walk down the street clanking"). On her botany course Barb wandered the rainy moors in the full flouncy uniform of post-hippydom. "Everyone else would be in sturdy walking boots and I'm in strappy high heels and big skirts, imagining that I'm the French Lieutenant's Woman."

Leeds was then experiencing the best of a golden era in British music. Hirsute monsters of rock gave way to the stylish Roxy Music-David Bowie vision of sophisticated Euro-pop and then, by 1975, the earliest rumblings of disco.

"We were really spoiled back then," she says. "It was an amazing time for music at Leeds. We saw The Sensational Alex Harvey Band, and Elton John in his cape and massive glasses. Real showmanship in the Refectory at Leeds, not Wembley Stadium. When Roxy Music had to cancel, the replacement – it took me years to appreciate how amazing this was – was Elkie Brookes and Robert Palmer. Can you imagine?" Every week another fantastic record would come out. "You'd spend hours round someone's house listening to the

“

TIMES WERE DIFFERENT THEN. IF YOU'D WANTED TO DO MUSIC YOU'D HAVE HAD TO REINVENT YOURSELF AS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT HUMAN BEING IN AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT PLACE

”



BARB JUNGR SINGS

WORDS: ANDREW HARRISON IMAGES: STEVE ULLATHORNE

THE ACCLAIMED JAZZ SINGER STUDIED BOTANY AT LEEDS. WELCOME TO BARB JUNGR'S
JOURNEY THROUGH THE SECRET LIFE OF PLANTS

FIVE SONGS THAT REMIND BARB JUNGR OF HER DAYS AS A LEEDS STUDENT:

new Steely Dan together, or Leonard Cohen, or Dory Previn, or Janis Ian. We were really, really lucky at that particular time.”

At the end of her days in Leeds Barb moved down to London into the emerging punk scene. “It was an impulsive thing to do but again it turned out to be the right decision.” Her then-boyfriend asked her why she wasn’t singing for a living, then fixed her up with some sessions. “I was rubbish but it broke the chains. So I started singing, and I kept on singing.” Music for theatre, an early *a cappella* group called The Three Courgettes – “we were *years* ahead of the vintage trend,” she laughs – and album releases via Billy Bragg’s Utility Records label followed. This carefree hand-to-mouth life alarmed Barb’s parents, who had lived through the privations of the Second World War.

“They struggled with a lot of it,” Barb admits. “They didn’t really understand what I did. They’d had a completely different life to me. My dad had been taken away at 18 to the German work camps, where they worked you to death if you weren’t robust enough. He never talked about those times so our family was always a little at sea. What they’d experienced was a world away from what I was doing. I only really got to know him towards the end of his life.”

Shortly before his death in 2004 her father Miroslav, a Czech former chemical engineer, wrote down his wartime experiences in the form of a letter to a friend. Barb had the letter turned into a little booklet for her mother, her nephew and herself. It described how one night Miroslav saw fires outside the prison camp and noticed that the guards had disappeared. Although he did not know it yet, the Liberation was at hand. Miroslav broke out and lived wild in the forest for three months before making his way back to civilisation. “I’ve got a photo of him when they found him,” says Barb. “He looks like a skeleton in a suit.”

Before he died, Miroslav apologised to his daughter for not supporting her

more in her singing career. “It made me cry,” says Barb, “because they *had* supported me in lots of ways. But mostly I had to do it for myself, and that’s a good thing.”



With the release of her album ‘Every Grain of Sand: Barb Jungr Sings Bob Dylan, in 2002, Barb’s career found a new focus and an expanded international audience. Billy Bragg began to describe her as our greatest living interpreter of Bob Dylan songs. She’s been exploring the world of rock songwriting further ever since.

“I do think that the great rock and pop records work as a songbook, in the chanson tradition,” she says. “The Tin Pan Alley songs are amazing, but I grew up in the 60s and my songbook is The Beatles and Dylan and Cohen. My job is to transmit what I hear in a song and ask, are you OK with this? If I can steer clear of trying to tell you what I think it is, and just sing it, then I’ve done my job.”

She’s proud, then, to work in a tradition as an interpreter of songs, like her heroines Nina Simone and the folk, blues and civil rights activist Odetta Holmes. Barb became friends with Odetta before her death in 2008, and from her she inherited a mantra that she uses every time she goes onstage. It goes like this:

“Thy will be done this day. This day is a day of completion. I give thanks for this perfect day. Miracles shall follow. Miracles and wonders shall never cease.”

Barb Jungr is touring the UK in September and October. www.barbjungr.com

1



STEELY DAN ‘Rikki Don’t Lose That Number’ (1974)
“I dropped into another student’s house and they’d just got it on vinyl. We all just imploded at the creativity and sound of Steely Dan. Nothing prepared you for them. It still stands so tall today.”

2



LEONARD COHEN ‘Bird on the Wire’ (1968)
“We had a running joke that you couldn’t have a Leonard Cohen album and a Dory Previn album in the same collection. They might mate in the night, and the love child would be a triumph of darkness of the soul hitherto unimaginable.”

3



ROXY MUSIC ‘Virginia Plain’ (1972)
“We loved this. It was our getting ready to go out and party record. The silver boots were out and the hair dye was flowing.”

4



DAVID BOWIE ‘John, I’m Only Dancing’ (1972)
“The king of hearts — the androgyny thing was around and we were riding those pre-punk winds with him. This is the record that made me want to go to New York.”

5



DORY PREVİN ‘Mythical Kings and Iguanas’ (1971)
“All that despair and wonder. Another writer whose work has really stood the cruel test of time. We all had that album — see Leonard Cohen, above. But not in the same cupboard.”

LISTEN AT:
ALUMNI.LEEDS.AC.UK/BARB-JUNGR

TWENTY YEARS JUNGR: A BARB JUNGR PLAYLIST

‘ONCE IN A LIFETIME’ (2010)

From ‘The Men I Love: The New American Songbook’ Jungr transports Talking Heads’ new wave classic into her own dreamy space.

‘EVERYBODY KNOWS’ (2014)

Leonard Cohen’s bitterly funny cynic’s anthem rendered as ice-cold jazz.

‘WATERLOO SUNSET’ (2003)

The best English pop song ever written? Jungr does it justice with this spare piano arrangement.

‘WAY DOWN IN THE HOLE’ (2012)

A shimmering ‘Riders on the Storm’-style version of the Tom Waits song best-known as the theme from ‘The Wire’. Got that cabaret jazz, yo...

‘WHAT A WASTE’ (1999)

A wry, dry and funny take on Ian Dury’s cockney daydream.

‘ALWAYS ON MY MIND’ (2000)

From Jungr’s Elvis project, this is the polar opposite of the Pet Shop Boys’ version.

‘DON’T LET ME BE MISUNDERSTOOD’ (2008)

Jungr mines the bleakness in a song originally written for Nina Simone rather than The Animals.

‘(S)HE’S NOT THERE’ (2012)

An uptempo organ-led groove on The Zombies’ original.

‘HARD RAIN’ (2014)

The Dylan epic turned Bryan Ferry hit gets a raucous Kurt Weill-style treatment.

‘THE RIVER’ (2010)

An intimate and devastating reading of Bruce Springsteen’s small-town drama.

DEPARTMENT ROUND-UP



CHEMICAL AND PROCESS ENGINEERING

Dr Matthew Murray (PhD Process, Environmental and Materials Engineering 2014) received the 2015 Royal Academy of Engineering and ERA Foundation Entrepreneurs' Award for his work in glass security. He is spearheading the commercialisation of a laser technology that creates patterns of new material in the structure of glass. These patterns are impossible to counterfeit, and can carry detailed information about where the product was manufactured. The technique could play a major role in tackling counterfeit goods in sectors that rely on glass containers, such as pharmaceuticals and alcohol.

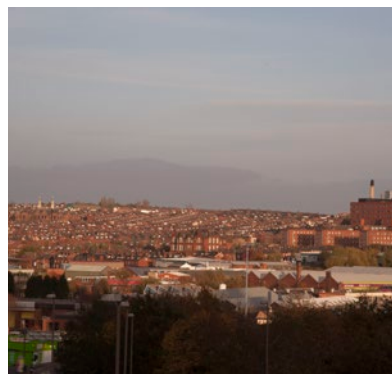
DENTISTRY

The University is at the helm of a new four-year programme which aims to transform dental care across Europe. The €6 million research project, funded by the EU, will shift practices from a focus on treating teeth by extraction and fillings, to more effective oral health care, ultimately preventing disease from developing. Researchers will use anonymous data from millions of health records across Europe to identify strategies to combat the onset of dental disease in each country.

▲ **DR MATTHEW MURRAY AND HIS AWARD-WINNING GLASS**

▶ **HAREHILLS, ONE OF THE AREAS IN LEEDS FEATURED IN THE STUDY, WITH ST JAMES'S HOSPITAL ON THE RIGHT AND THE BILAL MOSQUE ON THE LEFT**

▶ **A FORMAL PRESENTATION OF FEMINIST VOLUMES TO SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AS A RESULT OF THE CONFERENCE. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: KATY THORNTON, HEAD OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, MAGGIE ALLISON, HONORARY SENIOR LECTURER, UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD, DR OWEN HEATHCOTE, HONORARY READER IN FRENCH, UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD, PROFESSOR DIANA HOLMES, LCS, LEEDS, PROFESSOR MARGARET ATTACK, LCS, LEEDS, DR IMOGEN LONG SCHOOL OF MODERN LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY OF HULL, PROFESSOR ALISON FELL, LCS, LEEDS**



EDUCATION

Researchers in the School of Education are part of a consortium investigating multilingual interaction in four locations. "Translation and Translanguaging" aims to develop new understandings of "superdiverse" cities – those populated by speakers of multiple languages. The team are conducting linguistic investigations in Birmingham, Cardiff, Leeds and London within a range of settings to obtain detailed evidence of how people communicate across languages and cultures. The project will inform the development of teaching materials and give educators a more holistic understanding of communication in settings outside the classroom.

ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING / MEDICINE AND HEALTH

Microelectrode arrays so fine they can attach to human tissue are the latest step in the quest to create life-like artificial limbs. Researchers are working to join nerve-endings in the arm to a revolutionary bionic hand, capable of sensing temperature and pressure. Thanks to this micro-technology, real-time information can be relayed from the hand to the brain,

enabling the user to have enhanced control and sensation. "The diameter of the nerves can be smaller than the width of a human hair so the microelectrodes need to be similarly sized," says Dr David Steenson.

FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION

Bioinformatics from plants will help researchers develop predictive modelling for disease control in crops. The work is possible thanks to a multi-million pound government grant to the N8, a consortium of universities who collaborate on priority research. The project will also focus on solutions to sustainable food production, resilient supply chains and improved nutrition. With a growing global population, providing access to affordable food is seen as one of the greatest challenges to society.



FRENCH

Leeds hosted the biennial Women in French conference which focused on the events of 1975, a period of intense feminist creativity in France. Participants discussed *Les Femmes s'entêtent*, a major feminist text of the decade, and evaluated its legacy in 21st century Francophone culture. Organised by Professors Margaret Attack, Alison Fell and Diana Holmes, the conference welcomed leading feminist historian Christine Bard. She introduced her research on the relationship between the Women's Movement (MLF) and French State initiatives in 1975.



GEOGRAPHY

The colonisation of America brought about the start of the ‘Anthropocene’, a geological epoch dominated by humans, according to Dr Simon Lewis. In 1610, roughly 100 years after the Old World met the New, a marked change in the level of CO₂ in Earth’s atmosphere was recorded, species had jumped continents via new global trade routes, and a global re-ordering of life began. These changes, caused entirely by humans, fulfil the criteria for defining a new epoch.



GERMAN

Professor Paul Cooke worked with young people from the UK and Germany to produce a series of films exploring the legacy of the German Democratic Republic in contemporary Germany. The project was based at the Bautzen Memorial, the former prison of the Stasi, and will be incorporated into its permanent exhibition. A community filmmaking group provided training to the young participants, who were encouraged to reflect creatively upon the ethical lessons to be learned from the GDR dictatorship and to relate this to

their own notions of heritage and citizenship. Watch more at vimeo.com/135783634



HISTORY

As part of the international Magna Carta Conference at the British Library, Professor of Medieval History Graham Loud was one of the keynote speakers at a round-table event which discussed contemporary European parallels to the Magna Carta. He spoke about the Emperor Frederick II’s ‘Constitutions of Melfi’ (1231) and his imperial land peace, issued at Mainz in August 1235.

ITALIAN

The decline of the Italian aristocracy in 19th century Italy resulted in behavioural uncertainty, according to research by Dr Annick Paternoster. Traditional behaviour codes, for centuries inherent in Italian society, were lost along with the noblemen who propagated them. As a result, hundreds of conduct manuals were published, advising the Italian bourgeoisie on a range of social norms and etiquette. Among these were the “Nuovo Galateo” which reached a total of 46 reprints, and “La Gente Per Bene” which had reached 27 reprints by 1901.

LAW

Professor Gerard McCormack and Adam Baker (Law 2006) are working with British small-to-medium-sized business leaders on a project examining conflicts of interest in the commercial property sector. They aim to produce a white paper which

1. **CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, DISCOVERER OF CONTINENT, DEFINER OF GEOLOGICAL EPOCHS. ALBERT BIERSTADT, THE LANDING OF COLUMBUS, 1892**

2. **JOHN SEALING THE MAGNA CARTA BY FRANK WOOD 1925. (WWW.BRIDGEMANIMAGES.COM)**

3. **PROFESSOR ADAM CRAWFORD SPEAKING AT THE FUTURE CITIES CONFERENCE**

4. **SETTING UP A SHOOT IN A STASI WATCH TOWER WITH PROJECT RESEARCH ASSISTANT AXEL BANGERT**

will evaluate whether commercial occupiers and landlords are being treated equally within the real estate cycle, and assessing if property advisors represent their interests fairly.



LEEDS SOCIAL SCIENCES INSTITUTE

Authorities on city planning came together at Future Cities, a University event to explore the changing face of city life over the next 50 years. Leeds showcased its work in the areas of Big Data, Low Carbon Futures and iBuild which focuses on the networks of roads, energy, water, transport and ICT that support an urban society. “The cityscapes we will inhabit in years to come are of concern to us all,” says conference organiser Professor Adam Crawford, “so this was a welcome opportunity to see how leaders in the field view the city of the future.”



MEDICINE

The natural world could once again help us beat disease, according to two recent research projects. Margatoxin, a usually venomous poison from a Central

STAFF GOODBYES

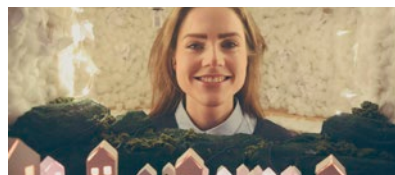
LAW

The School bade farewell to Professor Clive Walker (Law 1975) on his retirement. Clive, who joined the staff as a lecturer in 1983, later founded the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies and twice headed the School. He continues to supervise research students and to publish research on terrorism. Wish Clive well with a message at alumni.leeds.ac.uk/clivewalker

American scorpion, could be used to prevent neointimal hyperplasia, a complication causing blood vessel blockage following bypass surgery. Africa, too, offers potential medical solutions. Professor David Beech's research shows that the *Phyllanthus engleri* bush may hold the key to killing renal cancer cells. Englerin A, a chemical in the bush, activates a protein which triggers changes in the cancer cell.

NURSING

A recent report by Professor Karen Spilsbury looks at the care and professional development needs of the nursing workforce in UK care homes. Nursing staff employed in this sector are often overlooked, yet ensuring their future recruitment, retention and development is of pressing public concern. This research provides a platform for policy makers to focus on these nurses and to ensure the needs of care home residents can be met.



PERFORMANCE AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

Audience members took a leading role as the protagonists in final year students' performance of *The Dreaming*, an immersive performance based on Ibsen's *Peer Gynt*. Participants were taken on an hour-long journey through a labyrinth containing a series of one-to-one encounters with performers. The audience followed the eponymous anti-hero's quest and were encouraged to dream, contemplate and wonder. "This kind of immersive theatre is an antidote to the modern 'heads down' culture," commented one participant.

SOCIOLOGY

Leeds held a one-day conference, *Researching Relationships across Generations and through Time*, which celebrated Professor Bren Neale's retirement and her contributions to research, policy and practice. Wish Bren well with a message at alumni.leeds.ac.uk/brenneale

POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Depictions of war in videogames are too simplistic, according to Rob Young and Dr Nick Robinson in their seminar *Killing in the Name*, which explored aesthetics and narratives of warfare in military videogames. Such games allow players to be an active part of combat, in an environment where the iniquity of the enemy is seldom questioned and violence generally favoured over negotiation. The seminar addressed the impact of this reductive form of combat and argued for more academic analysis of virtual war.

CO-AUTHOR TIM MOORSOM (RIGHT), CO-LEAD AUTHOR FATMA AL MA'MARI (LEFT) AND RESEARCH LEADER DR OSCAR CESPEDES (CENTRE) WITH THE SQUID MAGNETOMETRY FACILITY USED TO PERFORM THE BULK OF THE RESEARCH



PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

Researchers have demonstrated how to generate magnetism in metals that are not naturally magnetic, potentially ending reliance on iron, cobalt and nickel. Such a restricted choice of ferromagnetic metals "limits our ability to tailor magnetic systems to the needs of applications," explains co-lead author Tim Moorsom. By manipulating the electronic interactions in copper and manganese, Leeds scientists have beaten the Stoner Criterion, an equation that determines whether an element is magnetic, and given them magnetic properties. The Stoner Criterion was formulated by Professor Edmund Clifton Stoner, a theoretical physicist who worked at Leeds from the 1930s to the 1960s, and after whom the EC Stoner building is named.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/1Jbrkyw>



SCENE FROM THE DREAMING

DEPARTMENT NEWS IN BRIEF

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES:

A £17 million investment will bring state-of-the-art laboratory equipment to the Astbury Centre for Structural Molecular Biology. (see p.24)

ENGLISH: A first edition of *The Hobbit* inscribed to a former English student sold at auction for £137,000. JRR Tolkien wrote the inscription in Elvish to Kitty Kilbride, a student of his when he taught at Leeds.

FINE ART: Dr Mark Westgarth has developed an online resource that charts the British antiques trade. With interactive maps and information on British dealers throughout the 20th century, this is the first comprehensive study of the trade.

LEEDS UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL:

Professor Nick Wilson's study of 5.1m directors found that smaller companies are three times more likely than larger ones to have a female director.

MATHEMATICS: Dr Vassilios Dallas has been awarded a Newton International Fellowship jointly by the British Academy and the Royal Society. He will conduct research on rotating turbulence and dynamos.

PSYCHOLOGY: Professor Daryl O'Connor has recently been elected a Distinguished International Affiliate of the American Psychological Association's Division 38 (Health Psychology).



THE WORLD AT YOUR FEET

WORDS BY ANDY WILSON
PICTURES BY ADAM ROBINSON

“

AT 21, YOU TAKE A RISK, YOU GO FOR IT, AND EVEN IF I DON'T GET THERE IT FURTHERS MY DEVELOPMENT AS AN ATHLETE. THERE'S A BLANK BOX AND I WANT TO WRITE MY NAME IN IT

”

GORDON BENSON IS THE LATEST MEDAL-WINNING TRIATHLETE TO EMERGE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS. WITH A EUROPEAN GOLD UNDER HIS BELT HE HAS THE RIO OLYMPICS IN HIS SIGHTS

Gordon Benson is sitting in the café on the Headingley campus of Leeds Beckett University, sipping a Lilt and reflecting on a summer in which he became Great Britain's first gold medallist at the first European Games in Baku, on his chances of supporting the Brownlee brothers at the 2016 Olympics in Rio – and on the “surreal” prospect of racing “five minutes down the road” in a World Series Triathlon event in his home city.

Life was pretty sweet for Benson anyway – having stumbled on triathlon by accident in his teens, in a tale that includes locking himself out of a courtesy car near Ilkley, he was able to join one of the elite training set-ups in the world without having to leave West Yorkshire.

Then, in April, came the announcement that Leeds will stage an event in next year's World Series. “If I could do two races next year, you know what they'd be,” Benson says with a smile. “I'd love to race Leeds and Rio.

“Having a triathlon in the centre of town? It's surreal that it's going to be here. The course will literally be five minutes from here, just down the road. We travel all the way around the world to do this sort of race, and the start line's going to be 10 minutes away which is almost unbelievable. But bring it on.

“And if Yorkshire people get behind it like they have done for the Tour de Yorkshire and the Tour de France, then it will be absolutely amazing.”

They surely will, because thanks mainly to the Brownlees from Bramhope, and their success at London 2012 – where Alistair won gold and Jonny bronze – Yorkshire sporting folk are now properly proud of the Leeds High Performance Triathlon Programme that is based at the city's two universities.

It means that for the last four years Benson, a local lad who attended Leeds Grammar School, has been able to train with Alistair, Jonny and numerous other dedicated triathletes, under state-of-the-art coaching and in a range of facilities, while studying Nutrition at the University of Leeds.

“I'd say I was fortunate to have this centre around me naturally,” reflected the 21-year-old. “I grew up in west Leeds, near Elland Road, so I've not really moved away from home. I moved out, got my own place in Headingley, it's perfect for me. I grew up here, loved it – I go away for 10-15 weeks a year but I always love coming home to Leeds.”

He played rugby as a lad, alongside Stevie Ward, now of the Leeds Rhinos, before his success in an aquathlon at Leeds Grammar – “swim to run, triathlon without the bikes” – earned him an invitation to the Yorkshire Triathlon Academy. “But I'd never been on a road bike in my life,” he explains. “They arranged for me to borrow one from one of the coaches, but then I managed to lock myself out of a courtesy car up at Ilkley Lido. My mum wasn't very impressed – it turned out the spare keys were in Birmingham so I left her stood in the car park and went for a bike ride. We finished at the top of the Cow and Calf hill, a solid hill. That was the first time I'd been on a bike and I enjoyed it. That was that. We got the car back eventually, and I got a bike.

“That summer (2008) I entered three triathlons, just three local races, nothing massive, and won all three local races. After that I applied for the British Triathlon squad. They said ‘We're not sure you know what you're doing, but you've got some credentials’ – so they welcomed me on to the squad.”



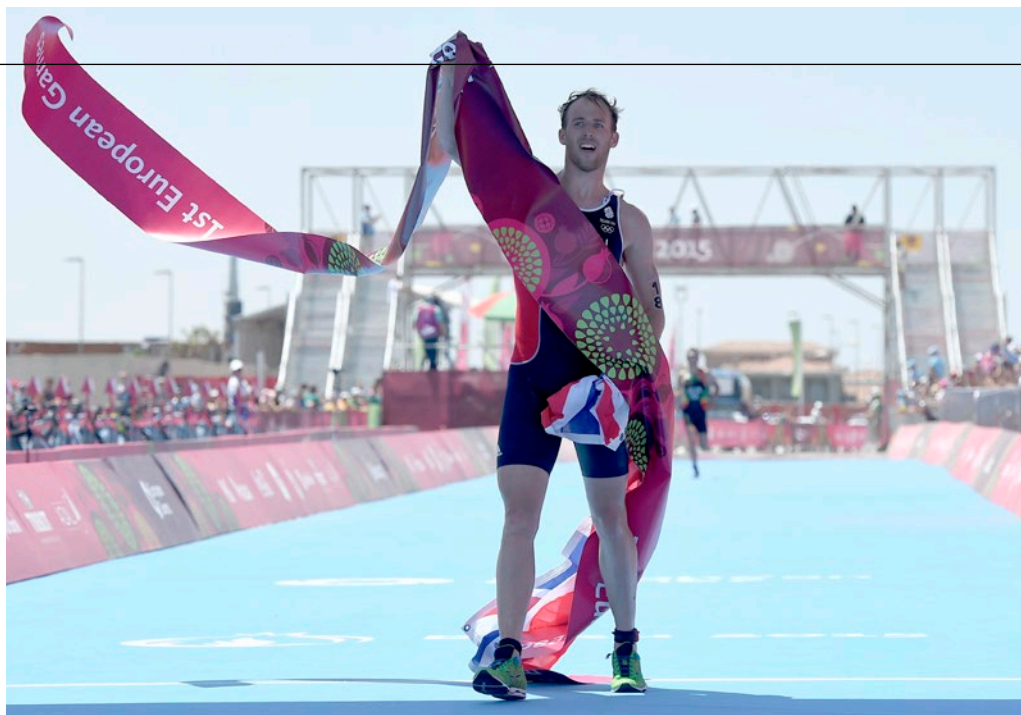
Leeds' aim is to provide the best university sports experience in the UK. In 2014/15 Leeds was ranked 5th in country for Sport Experience (Times Higher) and 3rd in the Russell Group for Sport Experience (International Student Barometer).

Soon he was travelling to Portugal for a youth championship in which Jonny Brownlee was competing at under-23 level. "Jonny was 20 at the time and I was 16 – it was great to have him to look up to. Having the lads, not only Al and Jonny but the rest of the group, offering me a little bit of advice here and there – it's great to have such a great group around you."

That group includes Vicky Holland and Non Stanford, who are also aiming to double up in Leeds and Rio next year – and if all goes to plan Benson will also travel to Brazil with the Brownlees as their pilot athlete. "Like a domestique in cycling," he says. "You're basically there to aid medal delivery. So I'm going to put my hand up at the end of the season and say I'd like to go to Rio, and I'll play that pilot role. For me it's a great opportunity to go to an Olympic Games. It would mean me being the third man on the team, alongside Alistair and Jonny most likely, and I'm basically sacrificing my chance to run, and concentrating on swimming and biking for them. I just think at 21, you take a risk, you go for it, and even if I don't get there it furthers my development as an athlete. There's a blank box and I want to write my name in it."

Benson had a first taste of what could await in Rio and beyond when he won gold in Baku in June. "It was my biggest win to date, definitely," he says. "For me it was all a bit surreal. At the start no-one knew too much about it, we were on one of the early events, but I knew myself if it goes well I can get a medal and there's no reason I can't win the race. It went well and suddenly I'm doing all sorts of press conferences, I'm on all the news channels in the UK apparently, and the next morning I'm live on BBC Breakfast. Then 24 hours later it's back to reality, I had more races to crack on with. It was the biggest thing in the world on the Monday, and on the Tuesday it was all gone and forgotten about."

Normality for Benson for these last four years has been combining



his training with his degree, just as the Brownlees did in the run-up to London 2012. In doing this he has benefited from the extra support that comes with a Sport Scholarship funded by Leeds alumnus Patrick Way QC (English 1975).

"My mind and heart were set on Leeds so I enrolled on nutrition, and from the first couple of weeks I thought 'Yeah, I'm into this'. I've been fortunate to have a lot of support from the Uni. It's almost a welcome distraction sometimes. You go to a lecture and it's an hour away from triathlon physically and mentally. You sit there so you're recovering and mentally I can switch off from triathlon for an hour."

"The Centre is based around both Universities, which makes us unusual – in other sports they compete against each other with a fierce rivalry, whereas in the triathlon club we do everything together. An average week is five swims using a range of facilities – the pool at Leeds Beckett, which you wouldn't call state of the art but keeps us down to earth, plus the newer one down at The Edge, and also up at Holt Park and in the lake at Otley Sailing Club through the summer."

"Riding wise we'd always head north – places like Knaresborough, round Harrogate way, then we've got Otley, and down in the valley, Grassington, Kettlewell, places like that. It's perfect. It's not leisurely, you're doing 30k an hour around the Dales, but we're chatting, we're enjoying it and we've got a great group. If you didn't enjoy doing it you wouldn't be able to do it. It's that much of a demanding sport with that many hours required you'd struggle if you didn't."

▲ GORDON CELEBRATES AFTER WINNING THE MEN'S TRIATHLON EVENT AT THE 2015 EUROPEAN GAMES (GETTY IMAGES)

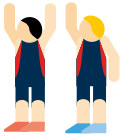


WHY DOES LEEDS PRODUCE THE WORLD'S BEST TRIATHLETES?

With Gordon's growing success, the continued dominance of the Brownlee brothers, and other Triathlon hopefuls coming through the ranks, Leeds is set to rule the world for some time to come.

It's not just something in the water. Leeds Triathlon Centre, a partnership between the University, Leeds Beckett University, British Triathlon and Leeds City Council is widely regarded as the leading triathlon programme in the world.

Between 2009 and 2014, athletes from Leeds won 17 medals in Olympic, Commonwealth and World



Other Leeds students to look out for in future Triathlon competitions: Sam Dickinson (Sports Science); Constantine Docherty (Physics); Josie Savill (Management and Mathematics); Jack Willis (Mathematics).

60

60 Leeds sports teams currently compete in national University sports competitions. Last year Leeds achieved highest ever national BUCS league ranking of 13th. We have ambitions to be in the Russell Group Top 5 by 2018.



Championships. More than double the number won by all USA athletes.

The programme currently supports around 110 athletes, including Gordon Benson, Alistair (Biological Science 2009, LLD 2013) and Jonny Brownlee (History 2012, LLD 2013), Tom Bishop (History 2013) and Heather Sellars, who have all succeeded on the international stage whilst studying at Leeds. Other high-profile athletes are also part of the Leeds centre, including Non Stanford, Mark Buckingham, Richard Varga, Lucy Hall and Vicky Holland.

Athletes use the University's facilities: the swimming pool, and gym at The Edge on campus, and the running track at Weetwood. There are plans to build a 1.6k closed loop cycle track and dedicated triathlon centre at Weetwood, in partnership with British Cycling, British Triathlon and UK Sport.



"Leeds Triathlon Centre has developed since about 2010," explains Rob Wadsworth, Head of Sport at Leeds. "With the success of Ali and Jonny, and particularly after the 2012 Olympics, the Centre has really grown. It's designed to enable athletes to achieve their potential in triathlon alongside excelling in their studies, so it's starting to attract student athletes with world-class potential. That means our ability to produce the best athletes can only keep getting better."

This couldn't have happened without the support of Leeds alumni. Alistair Brownlee was one of the first students to benefit from a Sports Scholarship funded by the Footsteps Fund, which also enabled Leeds to appoint a Head of Triathlon, Liam O'Neil. Gifts from alumni support the Athlete Scholarship Scheme (see coaching and support sidebar). "Alumni support has transformed what we've been able to do in Triathlon," Rob says. "It's thrilling to see our students excel, not just as elite athletes, but in their academic studies too."

The future is bright: next year Leeds will hold the World Series Race – a huge coup for the city that is set to do for Triathlon what 2014's Tour de France did for cycling in Yorkshire. On your list of "great things to come out of my university" it might be time to add "the world's best triathletes."

17,000 people – mainly students – are members of University sports facilities. There are more than 1 million visits to the facilities every year, and Leeds has invested £18 million in sport and wellbeing over the last decade. £2 million of that has come from external funding – grants, partnerships, and financial support from alumni. Last year we opened a new boathouse on the River Aire – the first time the University's rowers could train in the city since the 1980s.

COACHING AND SUPPORT

There is as a talented group of people behind students like Gordon, not just to help them develop as athletes, but to ensure they can balance performance and their studies.

Leeds' Head of Triathlon Liam O'Neil, works alongside the Leeds Triathlon Centre coaching team, Malcolm Brown, Jack Maitland and Rob Harvey on the athletes' training, fitness and conditioning.

Alongside this, Leeds' Athlete Scholarship Scheme, supported by alumni donations to the Footsteps Fund and the Making a World of Difference Campaign provides

- Up to £10,000 financial support
- Strength and conditioning services
- Physiotherapy services
- Essential race equipment support
- Bike maintenance
- Discounted accommodation

Crucially, it also provides the administrative support so athletes can balance academic study with a busy schedule of races and events. Gordon Benson needed to split his final year over two years to allow him to train to qualify for the Rio Olympics without affecting his study, while Jonny Brownlee completed a history exam at the University of Sydney whilst he was in Australia for a World Series race.



PUT YOURSELF IN THE PICTURE

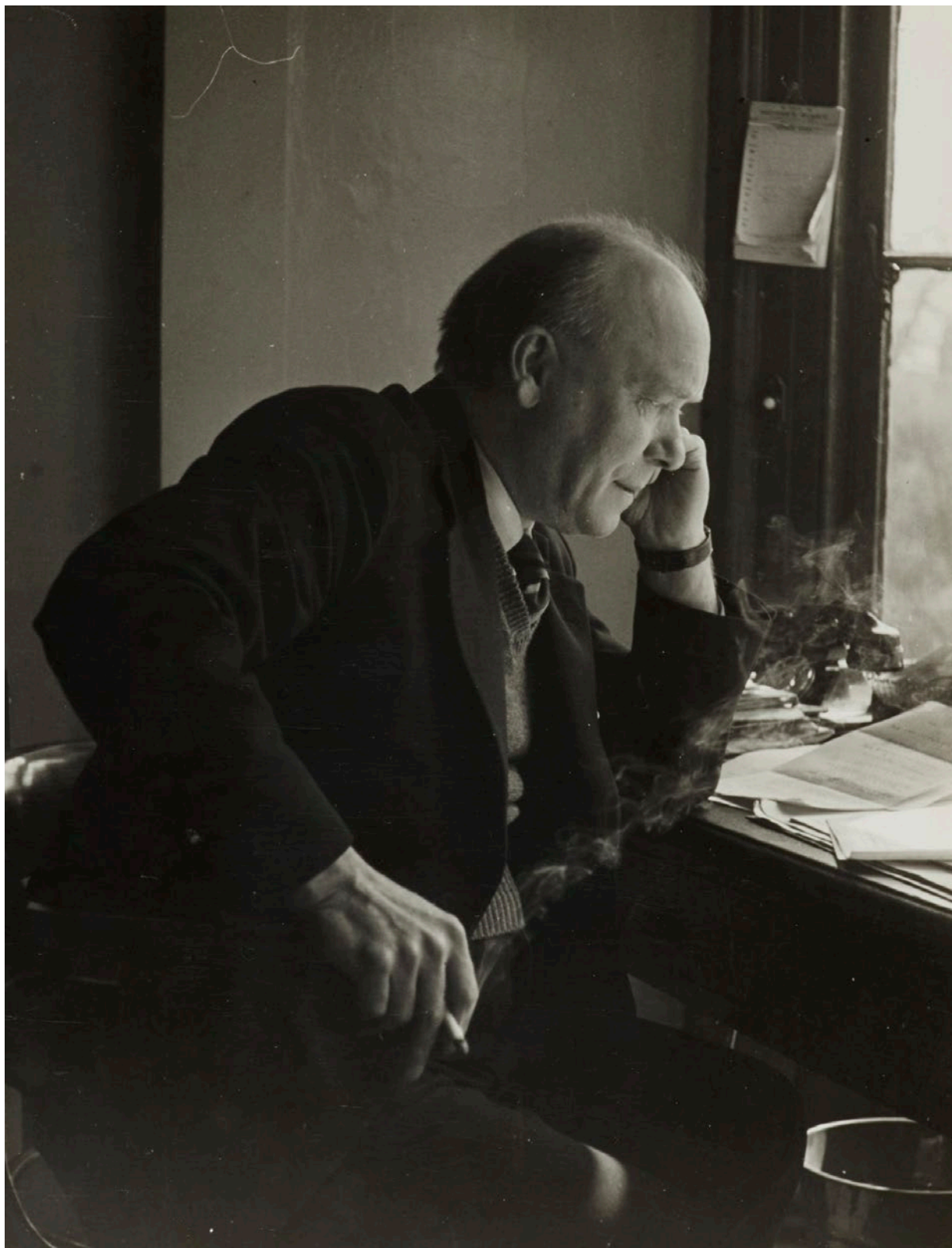


A picture tells a thousand words. With your help we have built a scrapbook of more than 5,000 photos of life at Leeds, from the 1950s to the present day, from class and team photos to field trips and Christmas parties. Here are some that caught our eye. Do any look familiar? To view the scrapbook visit alumni.leeds.ac.uk





P R O F E



◀
WILLIAM ASTBURY
AT HIS DESK AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS
(REPRODUCED WITH
THE PERMISSION OF
LEEDS UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY)

S S O R X

SO INFLUENTIAL WAS THE RESEARCH OF WILLIAM ASTBURY THAT LEEDS HAS JUST INVESTED £17 MILLION IN THE CENTRE FOR STRUCTURAL MOLECULAR BIOLOGY NAMED AFTER HIM. BUT WHO WAS ASTBURY, AND WHY WAS HIS WORK SO IMPORTANT?

KERSTEN HALL

HONORARY FELLOW IN THE CENTRE FOR HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

TELLS THE STORY OF A LEEDS PIONEER

Thanks to a legendary performance by Ian Botham in the Ashes Test Series of 1981 and, more recently Alastair Cooke's Test run record, the Leeds suburb of Headingley is probably more famous for its association with sporting prowess than with scientific achievement. Yet almost directly over the road from the world-famous cricket ground stands the former home of a scientific pioneer who not only played a role in one of the biggest scientific discoveries of the 20th century but who also helped to found a whole new scientific discipline that has had a powerful impact on science and medicine today.

Once described as 'scientist, scholar, musician, bon viveur, humorist, in some ways a swashbuckler', William Astbury was a physicist who became fascinated by biology and was convinced that the best way to study life was by using the tools of physics. Starting from studies on wool fibres, he pioneered the use of X-rays to study the structure of the giant molecular fibres found in living systems. In the course of this work he made early studies of the structure of DNA, the genetic molecule, and his laboratory at Leeds was once hailed by the Nobel laureate Max Perutz as 'the X-ray Vatican'. Yet today his name is hardly known other than to a select group of historians of science.

Despite his international stature, Astbury came from a humble background. He was born in 1898 in the market town of Longton, near Stoke-on-Trent, where his father worked as a potter's turner and furniture maker. Recognising that her son showed academic flair from an early age, Astbury's mother

nurtured his talents. Her drive and determination were rewarded when he won a scholarship first to Longton High School and later to Jesus College, Cambridge. His undergraduate studies were soon interrupted however by the First World War during which he served in Ireland with the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) in charge of a medical X-ray unit. Since the discovery of X-rays in 1895, the medical profession had been quick to seize upon their remarkable power to penetrate human tissue and reveal the underlying bone structure, but by the time that Astbury took up his posting, scientists had already discovered that X-rays could do far, far more.

One of the most eminent names in this field of research was physicist William Bragg who, whilst Cavendish Professor of Physics at Leeds in 1913, had developed a ground-breaking new method together with his son Lawrence which used the scattering, or 'diffraction' of X-rays to determine the precise arrangement of atoms and molecules in a crystal. Known as X-ray crystallography, 28 Nobel prizes have since been awarded for discoveries made using this method and for their achievement, William and Lawrence Bragg were themselves jointly awarded the 1915 Nobel prize in physics.

At the end of the war, Astbury completed his studies and joined William Bragg's research team, first at University College London and then the Royal Institution where Bragg set him the challenge of finding out whether X-ray crystallography might be used not just to determine the structure of

simple crystals but also of more complex fibrous materials found in living organisms.

Whilst of fundamental scientific interest, this was a question which also had very practical applications. Ever since the end of the 19th century there had been growing concern that Britain might be overtaken by economic rivals, particularly Germany which excelled in applying basic science to industry and providing its manufacturing workforce with a solid training in science. In response to these concerns there was a feeling that if Britain was not to be left standing economically it must emulate the example of Germany in applying basic science to industry and, after his years in Leeds, Bragg had one particular industry in mind that he felt might benefit from the insights offered by X-ray crystallography.

Ever since the Cistercian monks at Kirkstall Abbey in Leeds had sold the fleeces of their sheep to foreign merchants, wool had come to dominate the local economy and account for a large proportion of its wealth. At one point the city boasted the world's largest woollen mill owned by the industrialist Benjamin Gott and the importance of textiles to Leeds is still reflected today in the city's coat of arms which bears a hanging fleece. Yet despite the importance of textiles to the city, Bragg had lamented before his departure to London that the Textile department at Leeds 'does not know enough physics'. What was needed, he suggested, was 'a keen young man' who could use X-ray crystallography to reveal important new insights about the molecular nature of wool and when Astbury joined his team in London, Bragg was confident that he had found the ideal candidate for his role.

Astbury however did not share the enthusiasm of his mentor. In a letter written to his friend and fellow crystallographer JD Bernal in September 1928 he said that leaving the Royal Institution to take up the new post of Lecturer in Textile Physics at Leeds left him feeling as if he was "going into the

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ASTBURY WORKED WITH A PASSION AND EXCITEMENT THAT HIS COLLEAGUE RD PRESTON ONCE DESCRIBED AS "BOISTEROUS TO THE END, WITH EVERY MORNING A CHRISTMAS MORNING"

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ASTBURY'S FUTURE: THE ASTBURY BIOSTRUCTURE LABORATORY

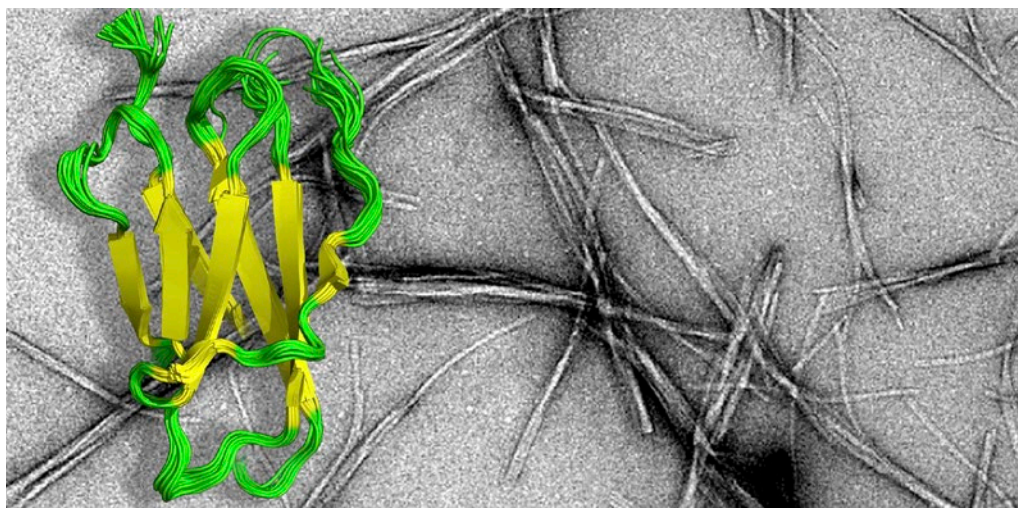
Early this year, Leeds announced that it was investing £17 million in a state-of-the-art laboratory for structural biology research within the Astbury Centre.

The new facility will provide the University's internationally-renowned Astbury Centre for Structural Molecular Biology with instruments for Electron Microscopy and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance that are amongst the very best in the world.

Professor Sheena Radford FRS is Director of the Astbury Centre. She says: "The biomedical challenges we face today include complex disorders associated with ageing, cancer, lifestyle and drug resistance. To develop new therapies for these diseases, we need to understand biological structures at a molecular level and this investment will keep Leeds at the forefront of this science."

The funding, approved by the University Council, will pay for two powerful 300 kilovolt (kV) electron microscopes (EM) that will give researchers new insights into the structure of healthy and diseased cells, and how pathogens like viruses and bacteria attack them. The new microscopes will also allow researchers to solve the structures of individual molecules and the complexes they make, in unprecedented detail.

The University will also fund a new, ultra-sensitive 950 megahertz (MHz) nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrometer which can reveal how biological structures move and interact in real time. This is essential to understand healthy cells and how they malfunction in disease. The new instrumentation will also provide researchers with insights into how to design new drug molecules to target complex health challenges such as cancer, Alzheimer's disease and antimicrobial resistance.



▲ **NEW INSTRUMENTS IN THE ASTBURY BIOSTRUCTURE LABORATORY (SEE SIDEBAR) WILL ALLOW RESEARCHERS TO UNDERSTAND THE BIOLOGICAL STRUCTURES OF INDIVIDUAL MOLECULES AND DEVELOP NEW THERAPIES FOR COMPLEX DISORDERS INCLUDING CANCER AND ALZHEIMER'S. THIS IMAGE SHOWS THE AGGREGATES (GREY) THAT CAUSE AMYLOID DISEASES (SUCH AS ALZHEIMER'S) AND THE PROTEIN THAT FORMS THESE AGGREGATES (GREEN AND YELLOW)**

wilderness." Dismissed by some as being 'biochemically lifeless and uninteresting', wool did not seem like a promising subject on which to build a scientific career, yet it was from his initial X-ray studies of wool fibres that Astbury established himself both as an international authority on the study of biological fibres using X-rays and as the standard bearer for a whole new science (see sidebars).

Popularised by Astbury as 'molecular biology', this new scientific discipline aimed to understand living systems in terms of the shape of the giant molecules from which they were made. Working with a passion and excitement that his colleague RD Preston once described as being "boisterous to the end with every morning a Christmas morning", Astbury now turned his attention to a whole range of other fibrous materials, including DNA, the molecule which we today know to be at the centre of heredity. In 1938, his research assistant Florence Bell took the very first successful X-ray photographs of DNA fibres and from these early studies by Bell and Astbury, the Cambridge scientists James Watson and Francis Crick gained an important foothold when they began their own work on the structure of DNA, for which they would eventually be awarded the 1962 Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine.

COME AND FIND OUT ABOUT HOW IT ALL WORKS!

A free public event on 12 April 2016 from 3pm - 5pm will demonstrate the importance of structural molecular biology. Get involved in interactive, hands-on activities and see demonstrations from the various Astbury disciplines of chemistry, physics and biological sciences. For more information and to book, visit astburyconversation.leeds.ac.uk

By the end of the Second World War, Astbury had a grand vision of establishing Leeds as the national centre for molecular biology and in a letter to the Vice-Chancellor in 1945, he declared that "Leeds should be bold and help to lead the way" in this emerging new science. In support of Astbury's vision, the University Senate passed a resolution to establish a new research unit dedicated to studying the structure of biomolecules with Astbury as its head. Much to Astbury's irritation however they refused to allow him to use the name 'molecular biology' in the title, insisting instead that it be called 'The Department of Biomolecular Structure.' Astbury referred to it as "that rather ridiculous mouthful." Semantics aside, there was the rather more urgent problem of how to fund the new unit, a golden opportunity for which came early in 1946 when Astbury was invited down to London to present his case before the Medical Research Council (MRC). Sadly however, the MRC did not share his vision and they rejected his proposal for funding, forcing him to return to what he lamented as 'the cap-in-hand' business (a description which may be familiar to many researchers in academia today).

Rejection by the MRC came as a severe blow to Astbury's spirits, and on top of this there were more immediate challenges. Today, the



The Astbury Centre headed by Professor Sheena Radford brings together researchers from across the University – largely from physics, the biological sciences and chemistry – to understand the molecular basis of life.

Find more about the work of the Astbury Centre at www.astbury.leeds.ac.uk



You can read more about William and Lawrence Bragg's initial development of X-ray crystallography at alumni.leeds.ac.uk

Astbury Centre headed by Professor Sheena Radford for Structural Biology at the University of Leeds is internationally renowned for producing top-quality research housed in an impressive building on campus, but this is a far cry from its origins. Astbury's new unit was originally housed in 9 Beechgrove Terrace, an old row of Victorian terraced houses that stood opposite the Student Union building but which have since been demolished. As a former residential home, the property required extensive work before it was fit for use as a scientific research laboratory and fell far short of what Astbury had hoped for, described once by him as being 'a makeshift and poor solution'.

Yet despite having to contend with a number of challenges, not the least of which was regular flooding, Astbury continued his work here and in 1951 his research assistant, Elwyn Beighton, took some new X-ray photos of DNA that showed a striking pattern of black spots in the shape of a cross. Nearly two years later, an almost identical image known as 'Photo 51' and which was taken by the King's College scientist Rosalind Franklin and her PhD student, Raymond Gosling would provide James Watson with an important clue in the quest to solve the structure of DNA. Yet whilst Watson later recalled how 'Photo 51' made his jaw drop and his pulse race, Beighton's near identical image elicited no such excitement in Astbury: he never published it in a scientific journal nor did he ever present it at a meeting and it was the last piece of work on DNA that he did.

Astbury's apparent failure to grasp the significance of Beighton's photographs may well account for his lapse into obscurity. But whether this would be a fair or accurate way to remember him is another question entirely. More than thirty years after his legendary cricket performance at Headingley, Ian Botham's name is still well known, because when writing the history of sport, it is the winners who are remembered. All too often there is a tendency to write the history

of science in a very similar way, with clear winners and losers in a race to the finish line. Nowhere is this truer than in the story of the discovery of the structure of DNA. Yet the flaw in such accounts is that they interpret the past in terms of the present – the route to which looks obvious with the benefit of hindsight. Writing history in this way overlooks Astbury's true scientific legacy which went far beyond DNA and was wonderfully symbolized in his rather unusual overcoat (see inset). Historians and philosophers of science will no doubt continue to debate these issues. Whilst they do, what remains certain is that thanks to William Astbury and his work, Leeds has a scientific heritage of which it can be proud.

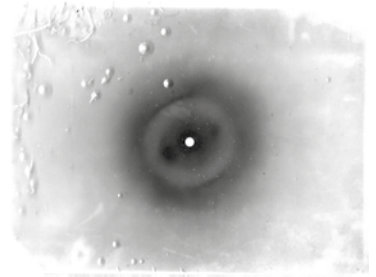
THE MAN IN THE MONKEYNUT COAT

Astbury sported an overcoat which had been woven from an experimental fibre called 'Ardil' that was made by deliberately unravelling the chains of the main protein component of monkeynuts, and refolding these chains into insoluble fibres. While this did not ultimately provide a cheap and abundant alternative to wool for use by the textile industry as had been hoped, it did illustrate the important idea that we could now not only understand life in terms of molecular shape but deliberately alter living systems at the molecular level. Not that Astbury himself was entirely comfortable with this idea, for having spent his career passionately evangelising for molecular biology, he was also deeply concerned that a solely reductionist and mechanistic view of life might leave humanity with a severely diminished and impoverished view of itself.

A CARTOON DEPICTING ASTBURY'S 'MONKEYNUT COAT' WHICH APPEARED IN THE YORKSHIRE EVENING POST IN JANUARY 1944



(TOP RIGHT) X-RAY DIFFRACTION IMAGE OF MOZART'S HAIR, TAKEN BY ASTBURY'S RESEARCH ASSISTANT ELWYN BEIGHTON IN 1958. (BY PERMISSION OF ASTBURY AND BEIGHTON FAMILIES)



CHAIN MOLECULES AND CLASSICAL MUSIC

Astbury was a passionate communicator of science and would regularly explain to both lay and scientific audiences how the idea of giant chain molecules changing shape could account for everyday phenomena such as the boiling of an egg or the perming of hair. Along with science, another of his great passions was for classical music and this furnished him with a poetic image when explaining the importance of these large molecules, by describing them as 'Nature's chosen instrument in the symphony of creation'. In a wonderful convergence of these two passions, he once exhibited an X-ray image which showed the patterns made when X-rays were scattered by the fibrous protein keratin in human hair. On one occasion, this image is said to have even moved him to tears as the hair fibres that were used in the experiment had actually come from the head of none other than Mozart, who was one of Astbury's favourite composers.

THE ASTBURY CONVERSATION 11 - 12 APRIL 2016

The Astbury Conversation will bring together leading researchers from across the globe to discuss the most recent work taking place in the field of structural molecular biology. This unique event will take place over two days and will comprise a Symposium, Public Engagement Event and Public Lecture by Nobel Laureate Professor Michael Levitt, FRS. For more information and to book visit astburyconversation.leeds.ac.uk

OLD BOOK— NEW CHAPTER



THE NEW LAIDLAW LIBRARY IS CUTTING-EDGE, BUT PART OF TRADITION THAT STRETCHES BACK TWO CENTURIES

In 1786, William Hey, a Leeds surgeon and the ‘principal medical men of the town’, agreed to pay half a guinea a year each to buy medical books, disseminating the latest knowledge to the local professions. In 1865, the resulting collection was presented to the Leeds School of Medicine, later part of the University of Leeds, and so the Health Sciences Library, now in the Worsley Building and refurbished in 2008 with support from the Wolfson Trust, was born.

By 1936, Lord Brotherton, a successful industrialist, philanthropist and one of the country’s leading private collectors of rare books, had funded the wondrous Brotherton Library; and in 1975 former Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan, opened the Edward Boyle Library, the University’s ‘undergraduate library’, offering students core course materials and new teaching space.

The Laidlaw Library, named after Irvine Laidlaw (Economics 1963) will continue the tradition of ensuring easy access to the Library’s High Demand Collection, including undergraduate texts for all disciplines. It offers students over 900 study spaces, bookable group study rooms to promote collaborative writing, great technology including universal wireless access, and that much coveted prize, decent coffee. The Community Classroom is a unique feature of the new building, inspiring young people from schools across the country, especially those from non-traditional backgrounds, to enjoy their first taste of university life.

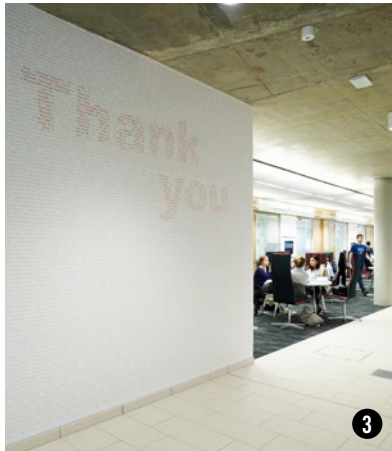
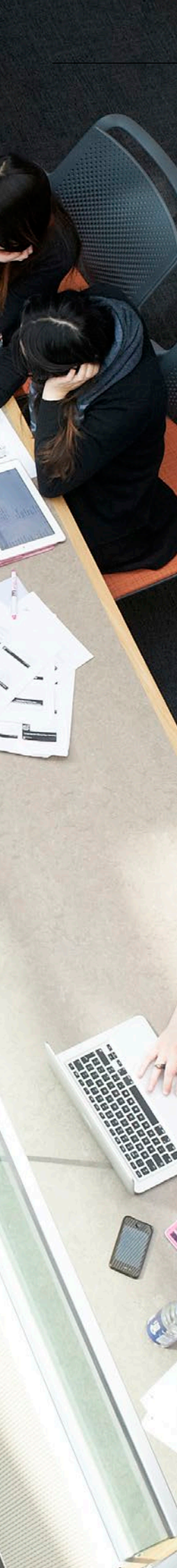
*Alan Langlands
Vice-Chancellor*

“

“I LOOK BACK ON MY TIME AT LEEDS WITH GREAT FONDNESS AND REMAIN ACUTELY AWARE THAT MY UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE PROVIDED A CRITICAL FOUNDATION FOR MY FUTURE LIFE. IT GIVES ME ENORMOUS PLEASURE TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS BEAUTIFUL NEW LIBRARY, WHICH WILL PROVIDE A STIMULATING AND ENJOYABLE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR GENERATIONS OF STUDENTS TO COME.”

LORD LAIDLAW
(ECONOMICS 1963)

”



1. THE NEW LIBRARY HAS MORE THAN 900 SPACES TO STUDY
2. VIEW FROM WOODHOUSE LANE
3. A WALL NEAR THE ENTRANCE LISTS THE NAMES OF THE 2,300 LEEDS ALUMNI WHO GAVE A DONATION TO HELP BUILD AND EQUIP THE LIBRARY

“Architecturally it forms a stunning new entrance to our campus; educationally it provides the stimulating and flexible space needed for current and future generations of students. I’ve watched with fascination as the new library has risen from its foundations and taken form, beautifully clad in Portland stone. Its design is in harmony with the iconic Parkinson Building, its facilities utterly in tune with the demands of modern study. The Brotherton Library, with its breathtaking domed reading room, inspired postwar generations. The Edward Boyle Library, with its brutalist design, provided cutting-edge facilities for a new generation. The Laidlaw Library will make an equally profound impression on the students of the future.”

*Lord Bragg
Chancellor*

LIDLAW LIBRARY TOP FACTS

2,300 Leeds alumni contributed to the £26 million investment. All their names are written on the “thank you” wall near the entrance.

As well as silent study areas, there are 8 group study rooms, 10 group study booths, and a cafe on the ground floor.

There are more than 900 spaces to study with 17 different types of chair to choose from. There are 1,068 charging sockets for laptops and tablets.



The library houses 150,000 books.



The library has two beehives, on a green roof halfway up the building home to 50,000 bees. The queen is born from a long line of Leeds bees!



95% of waste generated during the construction of the library was recycled. The building has an ‘excellent’ BREEAM environmental rating. All the LED screen and low energy lights turn themselves off when no-one is around or when natural light levels increase.

The Brotherton and Edward Boyle Libraries continue to be essential resources for students and academics. The Edward Boyle is beginning a major refurbishment.



To see a video of the building of the Laidlaw library, from plans to completion, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=671bz2PDyL8>

THANK YOU STUDENT AND RESEARCH SUCCESSSES THAT YOU MADE POSSIBLE



Each year, alumni gifts to the Footsteps Fund ensure students have the opportunity to make the most of their experience at Leeds, regardless of their background.

A large proportion of your gifts support scholarships to enable students from less-privileged families to come to Leeds.

From our callroom in the EC Stoner Building, a team of students makes phone calls on behalf of the Footsteps Fund to graduates across the world. Contacting alumni over the telephone connects graduates with current students, enabling them to hear the news from campus and share their own stories. During the last academic year the gifts given by alumni over the phone have funded over fifty scholarships.

It's also a great opportunity for current students to speak directly to graduates. Blake Lawrinson, studying International Relations, is one of the Footsteps Fund student callers: "One of the great things about speaking to alumni is having the chance to share stories and hear what University used to be like,"

he says. "More often than not the conversation centres on which pubs are still around and which bands they saw in the union!"

Like many on the call team, Blake is himself a scholar, so knows first hand the benefits which this support can bring. He was awarded a Centenary Alumni Scholarship, created to broaden the intake of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

"I've really enjoyed my time as a Footsteps Fund caller," says Blake. "It gives me an opportunity to fundraise for other student scholarships, which will hopefully help them like mine has helped me."

Thank you to all of you who have donated to the Footsteps Fund and we hope that the next time you receive a call, you'll enjoy talking to one of the current students and sharing your stories from your time at Leeds.

LEGACIES EVENT

More than 50 guests enjoyed a guided tour of the stunning new Laidlaw Library, followed by afternoon tea at a special event to celebrate the important role legacies have played – and continue to play – in the University's development.

▲
SOME OF OUR
STUDENT CALL TEAM
MEMBERS

▶
SCHOOL PUPILS ON
THE INTOUNIVERSITY
PROGRAMME

It was an opportunity to thank members of the Brotherton Circle, which recognises those who have chosen to include a gift to the University in their Will, and alumni who have expressed an interest in supporting the University in this thoughtful way.

The group takes its name from Lord Brotherton, whose remarkable philanthropy helped create one of the UK's great academic libraries at Leeds and guests were able to see some of the rare books and manuscripts which he bequeathed.

We are enormously grateful to the growing number of people – alumni, current and former staff and friends of the University – who are choosing to support Leeds through a gift in their Will and we look forward to holding more events which recognise their special contribution.



INTOUNIVERSITY

Thanks to the support of our donors, our partnership with national charity IntoUniversity is going from strength to strength.

February saw the official opening of our centre in Harehills in East Leeds, where children aged seven and upwards attend after-school classes aimed at raising their attainment and sparking an interest in higher education.

It's based on a successful model. IntoUniversity began in 2002 as a homework club in North Kensington – and now operates 21 learning centres across the country, typically in communities with high levels of poverty and poor attainment at school.

MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Donations from alumni and supporters over the last 5 years have taken our Campaign total to nearly £60 million. Gifts to date have supported low-income students in coming to University; research in heart disease and cancer; sustainable agricultural techniques; theatre, music and literature projects. They have provided opportunities for undergraduate students to run their own research projects, and for students to get their business ideas off the ground.

SCHOLARS' SUCCESS

New figures show that on average, scholarship students are out-performing the rest of our student body. Of all last year's graduates, 78% received either a First Class degree or a 2:1. In the same year, 88% of scholars achieved either a First or 2:1, proof that despite them sometimes entering with lower A-Level grades than their peers and having experienced barriers to higher education, a scholarship enables them to fulfil their potential at Leeds.

Gifts from seven donors have funded the first five years at the Harehills centre, based in a local community hall. With its places already fully subscribed, lively classes take place every weekday, its success underlined by students like 16-year-old Aysha, transformed from a shy and reluctant participant when she first arrived, to a confident, hard-working Student Council member.

A student mentor from the University worked with Aysha to develop her confidence and perfect her revision technique as she prepared for her GCSE exams. Supported by IntoUniversity, she won a full bursary to take part in an expedition to Canada, spending three weeks away from home, learning survival skills and meeting many new people.

Now support from three alumni donors, a donation from engineering firm Mott MacDonald and a major gift from the Asda Foundation have enabled the opening of a second centre in Beeston, close to the supermarket group's headquarters just south of the city centre, offering the same life-changing opportunities to young people from this inner city community.



TRUST BACKS CANCER RESEARCH

Pioneering cancer treatments are the focus of three young researchers whose work is being funded by a gift from a Yorkshire charitable trust.

▶ **ENGLAND RUGBY
UNION PLAYER
(AND FORMER
SPORTS SCHOLAR)
CALUM CLARK**

Clinical Research Fellow Dr Sebastian Trainor has joined a team investigating key proteins involved in the development of kidney cancer, with a view to designing drugs to target these proteins. PhD Scholars Michelle Wantoch and Matthew Holmes are contributing to Leeds' work on using viruses to kill hard-to-beat tumours which survive surgery, chemotherapy or radiotherapy.

Dr Naveen Vasudev, Honorary Consultant in Medical Oncology, said: "We are so grateful to the Tony Bramall Charitable Trust for this generous gift, which is funding vital research and investing in talent. These young people will not just be working on our approaches to cancer over the next three years, but will go on making important contributions throughout their careers as researchers and clinicians."

A GREAT NIGHT, ACTUALLY

Leeds cinema and photography students took the chance to showcase their own talents – while creating films about our Making A World of Difference Campaign – for a special cinema themed event in London.

Students submitted screenplay ideas for short films covering one of three projects supported by the Campaign: the IntoUniversity programme, Special Collections and brain cancer research.

The shortlisted film-makers each picked up a cheque for £500 and went on to make and edit their films, which were shown to an alumni audience at the Mondrian cinema on London's South Bank. The event was hosted by Col Needham (Computer Science 1988) who established the internet movie database IMDb.

The audience on the night voted 'Leeds Actually Is You' by third years Stacey Kendall and Alice Greenfield as the winning film – for which the two students received a further £500 prize. To watch the films go to <http://bit.ly/1S8HVrI>

◀ **PHD SCHOLAR
MICHELLE WANTOCH,
WORKING ON
RESEARCH INTO
USING VIRUSES TO
KILL TUMOURS WHICH
SURVIVE SURGERY
OR TREATMENTS**



SCHOLAR'S WORLD CUP HOPES

Former sports scholar Calum Clark (Computing 2010) made his England rugby debut as the national side prepared for the IRB Rugby World Cup. The Northampton Saints star captained England's under-20's while still a student – and is now hoping to make an impact in the tournament which starts on September 18.

To read more about how your support has made a world of difference to our students and research visit: campaign.leeds.ac.uk



SET SAIL WITH ULYSSES

2016 WILL MARK 75 YEARS SINCE OF THE DEATH OF AUTHOR JAMES JOYCE AND ULYSSES IS HIS MASTERPIECE. DON'T PANIC YOU'RE WORRIED IT MIGHT BE WILD, WEIRD OR DIFFICULT FOR THE UNINITIATED – DR RICHARD BROWN FROM THE SCHOOL OF ENGLISH WILL GUIDE YOU THROUGH. (IT'S MORE ACCESSIBLE AND REWARDING THAN YOU MIGHT THINK)

A DAY IN THE LIFE

To most people, the prospect of sitting down and reading *Ulysses* would be daunting. It's too big, too challenging, too difficult. But at its heart, there's something quite simple. The novel covers what's happening in Dublin on a single day, the 16th of June 1904. Joyce tries to take account of all of the things that might happen to an ordinary person, in an ordinary city, on an ordinary day.

A SMALL STORY...

In *Ulysses*, Joyce brings Aristotle's notion of the unities of time, place, character and action into the 20th century. *Ulysses* has a very limited place and time – the urban space of Dublin on the 16th June 1904 – a small number of key characters – the everyman Leopold Bloom, his wife Molly and the intellectual Stephen Dedalus – and a minimum of action. Though, of course, from another viewpoint quite a lot happens.

▲ **JAMES JOYCE (LEFT) IN 1920 CHATTING WITH SHAKESPEARE & CO. BOOK SHOP OWNER SYLVIA BEACH (CENTRE) AND WRITER AND PUBLISHER ADRIENNE MONNIER (RIGHT). BEACH WAS TO PUBLISH ULYSSES IN 1922. (GISELE FREUD/GETTY IMAGES)**

“
EACH YEAR ON 16 JUNE, PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD CELEBRATE BLOOMSDAY, IN TRIBUTE TO THE MEANDERINGS ON THAT DAY OF THE BOOK'S MAIN CHARACTER, LEOPOLD BLOOM
”

...BUT ALSO AN EXPANSIVE ONE

Ulysses is as epic as the titular tip of the hat to an ancient hero suggests. Take one episode, a rambling soliloquy by Molly Bloom which isn't even set in Dublin. Molly may be in bed in Dublin but her thoughts range throughout her life – particularly her upbringing in Gibraltar. There's as much history in *Ulysses* as present moments, as much science as there is literature.

FLOWING LANGUAGE

There are moments in *Ulysses* where Joyce embarks on a linguistic journey that removes you from being able to understand, at a simple level, what's going on – and it doesn't matter one bit. In one chapter, some medical students are gathered in a maternity hospital. Their conversation soars on wild and wonderful literary journey from the very origins of English as a language through the English of medieval times, the Renaissance, the 18th and 19th centuries and into 20th century urban idiomatic slang. It's

an amazing feat of writing to even contemplate, let alone achieve.

LET HIM ENTERTAIN YOU

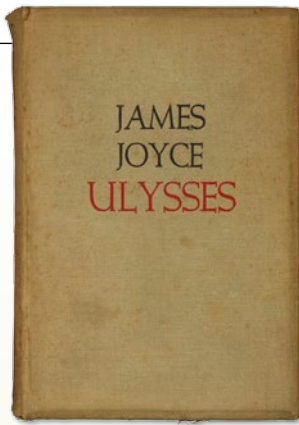
Ulysses is a massively funny book. It's full of jokes and, as in real life, some of them are groaners. One character, called Lenehan, offers a dreadful pun about opera being like a railway line with its rows of cast steel. *Rose of Castille!* *Ulysses*, like life, is full of people who tell bad jokes. There are satirical elements too, but the underlying humour of the book emerges from a warm, open and tolerant understanding of human nature in all of its complexity.

SCIENCE IN LITERATURE

Here's your fact to impress others. The word quark, now commonly used in physics, was coined by Joyce in his novel *Finnegan's Wake*. There's broad spectrum of science in his novel *Ulysses* too. Leopold Bloom is interested in astronomy, in physics, in urban engineering. Acknowledging just how much about his own field can be learnt from *Ulysses*, the psychologist Carl Jung “I suppose the devil's grandmother knows so much about the real psychology of a woman, I didn't.”

IRISH WRITER

James Joyce the quintessential Dubliner? In reality, Joyce left Dublin in 1904, at the age of 22, and he only returned for one short period after that. He lived in Trieste, then Zurich, then Paris, where he was at the epicentre of European experimental art and literature. Dublin, however, remained the setting for his stories. Joyce died in 1941 at the age of 58 and was buried in Zurich in Fluntern cemetery.



Dr Richard Brown, Reader in Modern Literature in the School of English at the University of Leeds, where the main focus of his interest is modern literature and especially the work of James Joyce and selected contemporary British novelists. As well as conference papers and article, he has published four books on Joyce, and co-edits The James Joyce Broadsheet. Richard was speaking to Ceri Thomas.



JAMES JOYCE AT LEEDS

Joyce wrote a body of work worthy of a literature course in itself, beginning with relatively simple short stories – Dubliners and his lyric poems Chamber Music – and then going through A Portrait Of The Artist as a Young Man, then Ulysses to his last, even more experimental work, Finnegans Wake. “But I don’t think that that’s the necessary trajectory for everyone” says Dr Brown.

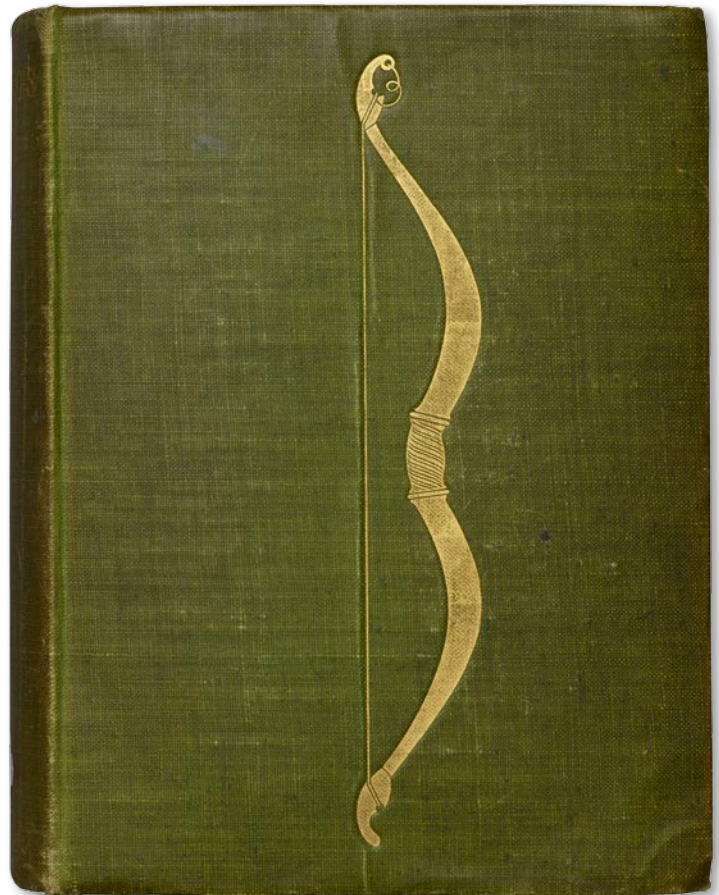
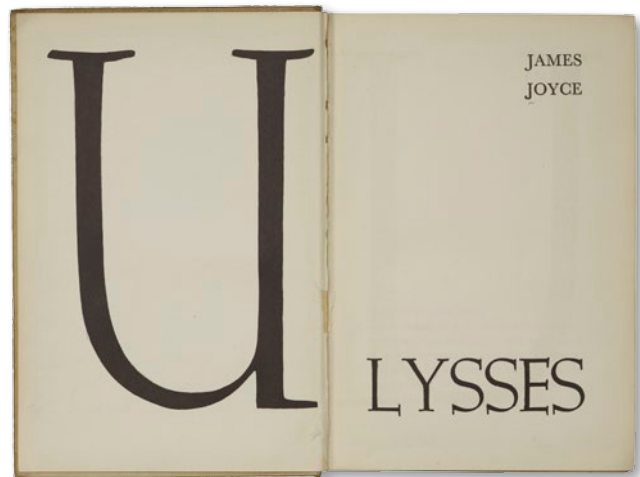
“At Leeds,” he says, “we have all sorts of ways to help people into James Joyce. We edit a journal about Joyce called The James Joyce Broadsheet which recently passed its 100th issue.

“I teach a module on Ulysses where we read it in detail, get to know about the ways it has been discussed and can even go off to Dublin on a day trip to explore the locations of the book.

“Since 2011, we’ve been running a reading group based around Joyce’s final novel, Finnegans Wake. People who haven’t encountered any James Joyce, or even any literature before, are very welcome to come and participate in the challenging and enjoyable process of trying to make sense of Finnegans Wake.” That’s four years. On the same novel. One imagines Joyce’s pleasure at turning the modern book club on its head.

▲
LEEDS STUDENTS AND JAMES JOYCE IN DUBLIN. STUDENTS VISIT THE LOCATIONS IN ULYSSES AS PART OF THEIR STUDY

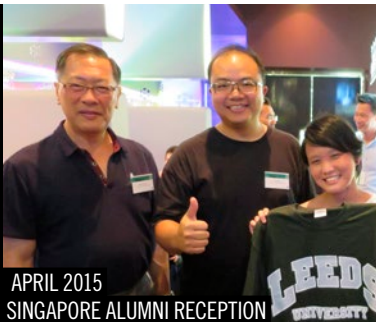
▲▶
LEEDS’ SPECIAL COLLECTIONS HOLDS A NUMBER OF RARE BOOKS BY JOYCE, INCLUDING A FIRST EDITION OF ULYSSES (PICTURED). THE UNIVERSITY ALSO HAS A COPY OF THE FRENCH MAGAZINE ‘TRANSITION’ THAT CONTAINS AN EXTRACT OF WHAT WAS TO BECOME FINNEGAN’S WAKE, AND A POSTCARD IN THE DOBREE COLLECTION FEATURING A SKETCH OF JOYCE BY THE VORTICIST WYNDHAM LEWIS



LEEDS ALUMNI EVENTS

2,027 of you have attended an alumni event or reunion over the last year. You brought an additional 1,248 guests with you! Here are highlights from some of the 102 alumni events that took place. To find out about forthcoming events visit alumni.leeds.ac.uk/events

We visited our alumni in Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong in April. The Vice-Chancellor Alan Langlands joined us for his first alumni events in Malaysia and Hong Kong.



APRIL 2015
SINGAPORE ALUMNI RECEPTION



APRIL 2015
HONG KONG ALUMNI LECTURE AND RECEPTION



MAY 2015
ALUMNI SPORTS DAY, WEETWOOD



SEPTEMBER 2014
WIMBLEDON ALUMNI RECEPTION





APRIL 2015
HONG KONG ALUMNI LECTURE
AND RECEPTION



We've had fun at the Leeds2London quiz night, annual Sports Day and wine tasting event.



APRIL 2015
KUALA LUMPUR ALUMNI RECEPTION



MARCH 2015
ALUMNI PUB QUIZ, LONDON



We've had some very special events this year including our first ever event at Wimbledon in September and our fifth event at the House of Lords in June 2015.



MAY 2015
HOUSE OF LORDS ALUMNI RECEPTION



We've thanked our donors at some fantastic events including the Scholarships Reception, Hard Hat Dinner, Leeds Actually and the official opening of the Laidlaw Library.



DECEMBER 2014
SCHOLARSHIPS RECEPTION



OCTOBER 2014
LAIDLAW LIBRARY HARD HAT DINNER

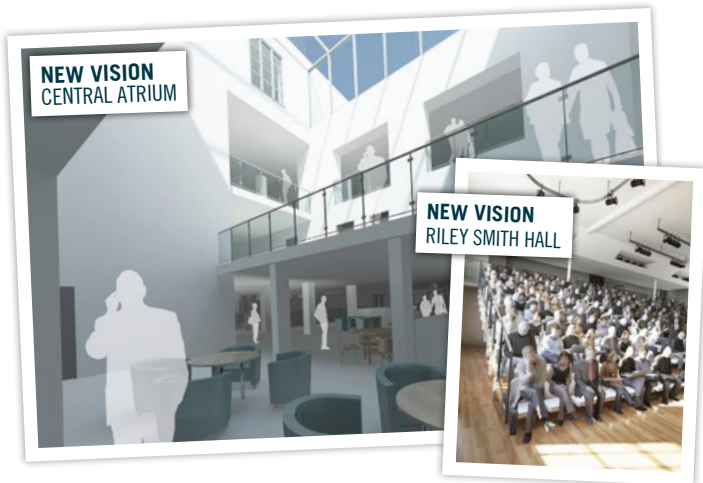


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UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS