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## Leader column

# Future ambitions and contemplation of our past

Following a summer of achievement – including strong student recruitment, campus improvements, key appointments, grant successes, the introduction of lecture capture, progress on developing the seven research themes, and a campaign to recruit 250 new academic fellows – we are now focusing on follow through and new challenges for the year ahead. As staff and students settle into the rhythm of the academic year, it's vital that we continue to move forward.

Although there is no room for complacency, our quest to provide all our students with an outstanding education and opportunities for personal growth continues to make great strides. The next phase of the Student Education Service project has been agreed, and will build on the foundation of the Leeds Curriculum, the Partnership and LeedsforLife. We will continue to ensure that our programmes respond to student demand and the needs of employers. Collaboration and enterprise is ready to make a step change, with the newly opened Leeds Institute for Data Analytics well-placed to identify and build important new partnerships. Plans for a cultural institute, 'academic health science partnership' and Innovation and Enterprise Centre will also enhance our capabilities. Ongoing work is underway to articulate 'International Leeds', tailoring our proposition to different audiences and countries, including creating a new pathway programme encompassing English language tuition and foundation years.

The demands of the research and innovation challenge facing the University are substantial. We aim to secure our place in the UK's top 10 research universities and to go further and faster where we have existing strengths. To increase research income by 50% is a hugely demanding target that will require a coordinated, focused approach. This means investing in people – including our programme of new PhD studentships and academic fellowships; infrastructure in the form of new technology platforms – where we already have great success in robotics and medical imaging; and partnerships – with other universities, industry and our major funders.

In the wider political arena, we await the Autumn Statement to see what impact it will have on higher education. My current sense is that this may be restricted to some additional capital funding. The general election will follow in May. Although the main political parties have said very little about their plans for higher education funding, or indeed HE policy in general, the comprehensive spending review that must surely



follow the election will certainly prompt change, and may have a bearing on our future plans.

This year, along with more than 60 other universities, we face the prospect of national reforms to the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS). The USS is no longer affordable in its current form and Trustees of the scheme are legally responsible for making sure that there is enough money in the fund to pay members' benefits, both past and future. Universities are committed to working with the UCU and USS Trustees Board to make appropriate changes, and discussions between employer representatives and UCU and the USS Joint Negotiating Committee are ongoing. The outcome of these discussions will be considered by the USS Trustee Board which then has a responsibility to trigger a formal consultation with all USS members and their representative bodies, probably in the early part of 2015. The current estimated date for implementing any changes to the USS is April 2016, subject to negotiations. Throughout the negotiations we will keep the University community fully apprised of progress through clear, impartial communications.

Moving from future ambitions to contemplation of the University's past, I was honoured to attend the rededication of the University's Brotherton War Memorial – one of the most poignant and moving events of the extraordinary Legacies of War (LoW) centenary project which continues to capture the imagination of so many people, local, national and international. The ceremony celebrated the men – staff and students – with connections to the University, who served during the First World War. Of the 328 names on the memorial, 25 were added in August this year after their stories were uncovered by community researcher David Stowe, who is working alongside our academic staff on the LoW project.

An accompanying exhibition – University of Leeds: Legacies of the First World War – is now open in the Parkinson Building. It tells the stories of some of the people commemorated by

the Brotherton Memorial, as well as setting out different aspects of life at the University during the conflict, and I would urge you to visit it.

The rededication service was followed by Anthem for Doomed Youth, a concert that saw former Poet Laureate Sir Andrew Motion and pianist Ian Buckle present poems and music carefully chosen to commemorate and reflect the experiences of people caught up in the tragedies of war, in particular the First World War.

This concert was held in the Clothworkers Hall and formed part of the International Concert Series. Jillian Johnson and her team do a superb job planning the series, and the breadth of this year's programme and the calibre of performers is really something to celebrate. I recently also attended and enjoyed an evening featuring the Hallé Soloists and pianist Andrew Tyson – one of the successes of the 2012 Leeds International Piano Competition (LIPC) – and there is much to look forward to as the year progresses. The current exhibition in the foyer of the Clothworkers Hall of work by our alumna Hannah Ostapjuk – including a portrait of former Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Arthur – served to remind me of the University's unflinching commitment to supporting the arts and culture.

The work of the Friends of University Art and Music (FUAM) also enriches the cultural life of the institution through its support for the Stanley and Audrey Burton Gallery and the International Concert Series. Its enthusiastic promotion of young artists and performers is especially important. With the University's Public Art Strategy now in place, the LIPC returning to Leeds next summer, and our diverse programme of arts events and activities, I am confident that the University's contribution to the cultural life of the city and region will flourish and grow.

Alan Langlands

## News

# University treasures to go on display with help of Lottery grant

**A treasure trove of rare manuscripts and books held at the University of Leeds can go on show to the public thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.**

The University boasts one of the finest collections of rare books and manuscripts in the world in its Special Collections, housed in the Brotherton Library.

The breadth of the subjects is exceptional, from exquisite photographs of pre-revolutionary Russia to books dating from the beginning of printing, as well as archives of some of the 20th century's most influential poets and writers, and much more.

Now a grant of £1.3m has provided the final piece of the jigsaw for a £1.9m project for a gallery where some of these can go on display – Treasures from the Brotherton: Inspiring Audiences and Engaging Communities.



Jacobean Travelling Library, 1617

## Chris Sheppard

The University was saddened to hear of the death of former Head of Special Collections, Chris Sheppard. For almost two decades, his close bonds with a number of poets, artists, authors and donors had an extremely instrumental effect in making Special Collections the size and success that it is today. Chris's close working relationship with Chancellor Melvyn Bragg also helped secure Lord Bragg's literary archive for Leeds.

A memorial service for Chris will be held on Friday 6 March 2015. Further details will be released in February. A full obituary can be found at <http://goo.gl/SdAcIM>



The 'Treasures' team

This project will open the collections to audiences in Yorkshire and beyond by creating a gallery where permanent and temporary displays can be supported by a diverse programme of workshops, talks, discussions and activities.

Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands says: "We are incredibly proud of our Library with its Special Collections of international importance which have been built up over the past century. I am delighted that this grant will allow us to bring these treasures to a much wider audience."

The University also received a generous private donation from the Brotherton-Ratcliffe family towards the project.

Work is expected to start on the new galleries, to be housed in the iconic Parkinson Building on Woodhouse Lane, next spring, with a provisional opening date of November 2015.

Leeds is the only library to have five of its Special Collections awarded Designated status – recognised as collections of outstanding international importance – by the Arts Council.

The announcement by the HLF is part of a £4.4m series of grants awarded to four Yorkshire institutions.



Chris Sheppard

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## About the Reporter

The *Reporter* is the University of Leeds' staff magazine, produced eight times a year. More than 7,600 copies are distributed to our staff and stakeholders. The *Reporter* is produced by the Communications team.

If you have an idea for a story, want to write a letter, comment on this edition or would like to voice your opinion about University matters, please get in touch:

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If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of the magazine, please email [internalcomms@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:internalcomms@leeds.ac.uk) quoting your staff number or, if you are external to the University, your name, postcode and preferred email address.

The front cover shows Penelope Curtis, Librarian Stella Butler and Keith Wilson with Sign for Art.



## News

# Sign for Art unveiling

**A major new artwork has been unveiled on campus as part of a significant refurbishment project at the University.**

Artist Keith Wilson, together with the Director of Tate Britain, Penelope Curtis, officially revealed the Sign for Art sculpture in the newly opened Beech Grove Plaza. The afternoon's events celebrated Wilson's creation and added another new artwork to the University's landscape.

Sign for Art represents Wilson's early years working as an art instructor for deaf-blind adults after he left the Slade in the 1980s. Professor Wilson says: "Drawing two spaced fingertips in a wave motion across the forehead of the student – a tactile 'brainwave' sign – announced the arrival of the artist, the subject of art and the imminent activity of making art.

"This modification of the British Sign Language, presumably derived from the making of a brushstroke, struck home and stayed with me."

The 5.1m (16ft 8ins) sculpture stands outside the newly refurbished Social Sciences Building, which is planning its own opening ceremony later in the academic year.

The unveiling was followed by a joint talk on 'Sculpture outdoors' by Wilson and Penelope Curtis in the University's Centenary Gallery. Curtis, Curator of the Leeds Henry Moore Institute (2004-2010), says: "Keith Wilson is a very singular artist whose work always has both a mischievous and a serious side. His forms



Penelope Curtis

follow their material, and in this case the steele references represent not only the grave markers of the classical world but also the upright markers of postwar minimalism."

The University is currently finalising a new Public Art Strategy, an ambitious programme focusing on public art that spans a wide range of the University's activities, including research, student experience, communications, fundraising, audience development and building partnerships locally, nationally and internationally.

Dennis Hopper, the University's Director of Facilities Management, has expressed a keen interest in the strategy and the newest addition to campus artwork. He says: "The proximity of the artwork and plaza to the refurbished Social Sciences Building means that this area of campus is now much more welcoming and accessible, providing a space where people can meet, relax or simply pass through and enjoy."

Sign for Art is situated in the centre of Beech Grove Plaza.



Crowds gather to celebrate the opening

## Poet Helen Mort joins Academy of Cultural Fellows

Funded by a donor to create new work and interact with colleagues across the University, Helen Mort is the newest member of the Academy of Cultural Fellows.

"Poetry is something I have always loved," says Helen. "I was an only child, so I grew up on my own. My mum used to read to me at bedtime, my dad was an English teacher and I used to listen to stories on the radio. These things have a formative influence."

After winning a national writing prize at the age of 12, she was given the chance to take part in a week-long residential poetry course: "That really started me off."

After completing a degree in psychology, Helen combined these twin passions in PhD research on the relationship between neuroscience and poetry. "It was looking at

the extent to which neuroscientists and poets are interested in the same thing – about how we think and how we process metaphors in the brain."

A gift from alumnus Douglas Caster (Electronic and Electrical Engineering, 1975) will now allow Helen to develop her writing as a Cultural Fellow in Poetry, working in the school of English and beyond. The Academy revives the tradition of the Gregory Fellowships, which saw a string of talented creative artists take up residence here in the postwar years.

Helen sees campus as a fertile ground for her creativity: "The University has wonderful poetry archives, and I want to write new work which responds to some of this material. I also want to establish links between writers in the University and those elsewhere in the city.

"I have spent a lot of time being extremely busy doing lots of things. The most exciting thing about this is that it will allow me to dedicate time and space to poetry."



Helen Mort



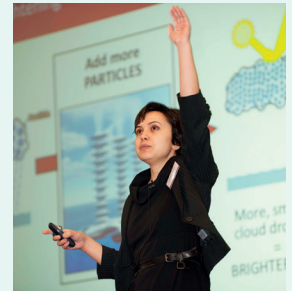
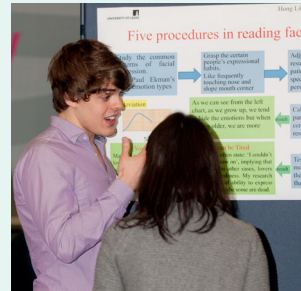
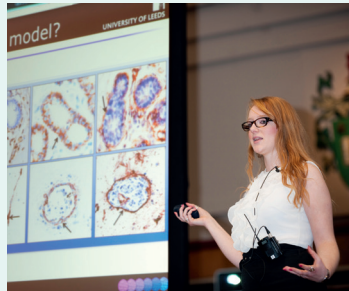


## Opportunities for students

# Postgraduate research conference 2014



Attendees and speakers at last year's Postgraduate research conference.



Each year the University celebrates the achievements of its postgraduate researchers, and bookings and competitions have now opened for Showcase 2014 – the fifth University of Leeds Postgraduate Research Conference.

The conference will be held on Thursday 4 December in the Great Hall and Parkinson Building. Competitions include University of Leeds Postgraduate Researcher of the Year, Postgraduate Research Poster of the Year, Postgraduate Research Image of the Year and the Three Minute Thesis contest. Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands will present awards to the winners at a closing ceremony.

Guests are also welcome at this popular event, which is always an enjoyable and informative pre-Christmas celebration of the major research contributions made by our postgraduate researchers. To enter a competition or book your place at the event go to [www.pgrconference.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.pgrconference.leeds.ac.uk)

# Placement celebrations and successes

The University welcomed back over 500 students who undertook a placement year in the past 12 months with an evening of celebrations and awards at the Careers Centre. Professor Vivien Jones hosted the event, which gave students the chance to share their experiences and be praised for their efforts over the year.

Awards were given for Placement Student of the Year (sponsored by PwC) and Placement Year Image (sponsored by Sensio Lighting).

Prema Ghasemi (Medicinal Chemistry) received the Placement Student of the Year honour for her work with GlaxoSmithKline RandD, a science-led healthcare company. Psychology student Lucy McMichael won the image competition with a photograph taken during her placement with Walk in Love International in Tanzania. The Careers Centre's Angie Willshaw received an award for her outstanding contribution to student placements.

Celebrations were also the order of the day for staff in the Employability Suite in the Faculty of Engineering, which has gone from strength to strength during the 12 months since it opened. The Employability team

welcomed the success of students at the first Placement Awards ceremony, where students were recognised for their outstanding achievements, nominated by their employers. Georgia Hopkin (Computing) received the award for Outstanding Performance on Placement for her year at IBM, while certificates of achievement went to Chris Mould (Chemical and Process Engineering) for his placement at Sellafeld and Mazvydas Narvidas (Electrical Engineering) for his work with National Instruments.

In the past 12 months, the Employability team has sent over 100 students on industrial placement with companies such as Williams F1, Microsoft, Airbus and TATA – more than double the number in the previous year. The future looks even brighter as over 80% of first years expressed an interest in completing a placement. Students registering for the placement degree



Engineering placement winners  
l-r: Christopher Mould, Mazvydas Narvidas, Georgia Hopkin



Lucy McMichael's winning image

have a dedicated Work Placement programme delivered in conjunction with the Careers Centre to help them in their placement search.





The choir of the Tłomackie Synagogue, Warsaw, c1929. Directed by David Ajzensztadt (left), Source: Yivo Institute for Jewish Research

## Research and innovation

# Shedding light on Jewish art

**A University-led research project has attracted significant funding to shine new light on the forgotten works of Jewish artists.**

Performing the Jewish Archive has been awarded £1.53m by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) under its Care for the Future: Thinking Forward Through the Past theme.

The project, led by Dr Stephen Muir of the University's School of Music, will bring recently rediscovered musical, theatrical and literary

works by Jewish artists back to the attention of scholars and the public, and stimulate the creation of new works. Dr Muir's recent work has drawn upon musical archives of Russian and Polish Jewish composers who found their way to South Africa through various processes of displacement and migration.

Alongside Dr Muir, a multidisciplinary team

across four continents will focus on the years 1880-1950 – an intense period of Jewish displacement – to explore the role of art in such upheaval. Performing the Jewish Archive stems from work done on several projects with colleagues at both the University and Leeds College of Music.

Dr Muir says: "All this work has built up a great deal of momentum at the University, paving the way for this large grant."

A number of people across the University were involved in providing support to the applicant team. Dr Muir's research project began when Louise Heery and Anoushka Kulikowski from the Funding Development team in the Research and Innovation Service (RIS) helped him secure a small research mobility award from the University in 2012 to fund a trip to the University of Cape Town, one of our partners. This was followed by a further modest award from the Fund for International Research Collaboration in 2013.

With the groundwork in place, Odette Dewhurst from the Public Funding team set up a series of initiatives to support Dr Muir's AHRC application. These included reviewing drafts and organising practice interviews for the team. Ged Hall from SDDU and Sue Hayton from the Cultural and Creative Industries Exchange Hub were also part of the network of support throughout the application process.

Dr Muir says getting the AHRC award would not have been possible without the help of colleagues. He believes the grant has come at an apt time for the University: "The time seems to be right for us to becoming a leading centre for the study of Jewish arts, and responses to experiences of repression, exile and displacement.

"It's also a great opportunity for scholars from a variety of disciplines to take a fresh look at what archives are, how they function, and how they might best be used in modern society."



Dr Stephen Muir



## Research and innovation

# Five things you never knew about open access at Leeds



As part of Open Access Week – and to promote the software as a new ‘norm’ in scholarship and research – the Library published the following little-known facts about open access at Leeds, which come from the White Rose Research Online open access repository.

- There have been over one million downloads of papers held in White Rose Research Online.
- Open-access papers are downloaded and cited more than three times as often as equivalent articles available only through journal subscriptions.\*
- The most popular Leeds paper in White Rose Research Online, ‘Extinction from climate change’, has been downloaded more than 36,000 times.
- The most popular Leeds author is Malcolm Heath, Professor of Greek Language and Literature, whose papers have been downloaded more than 47,000 times.
- You don’t always need to pay to make your journal article open access. Many subscription-based journals allow authors to make a version of their paper open access by adding it to White Rose Research Online.

To make your paper open access, upload the post-peer-review version of it into the University publications database (Symplectic). Library staff will check any copyright restrictions before making it openly available in the institutional repository, White Rose Research Online.

Find out more about open access at Leeds at <http://library.leeds.ac.uk/open-access> or email [research@library.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:research@library.leeds.ac.uk)

\* RIN (2014). *Nature communications: a citation analysis (online)*. Available at <http://goo.gl/MkjtKN>

## Research and Innovation Support Conference: Increasing Knowledge and Opportunity – open for booking

**The 2014 Research and Innovation Support Conference – *Increasing Knowledge and Opportunity* – takes place on Tuesday 2 December at Weetwood Hall.**

This year’s event will provide an important opportunity for research and innovation professionals to engage with the new University Strategic Plan. With keynote speakers Dr Malcolm Skingle, Director of Academic Liaison at GlaxoSmithKline, and Professor Paul Stewart, Dean of Medicine,

the conference plenary will consider the opportunities provided through academic collaboration with important industry partners.

The conference will offer a choice of 12 breakout sessions covering a wide diversity of topics including:

- The role of postgraduate research students in delivering the research agenda
- The strategic initiatives underpinning the 2014-2020 Strategic Plan from a central and faculty perspective, and how we can work together to deliver them

- What academics want from research support professionals
- Developing medicines through collaboration
- Harnessing research networks to deliver strategy
- Managing risk in research
- Open innovation and creative thinking techniques and clinical trials.

Early booking is recommended as places are limited. Book your place (£30 per person) at <http://goo.gl/e5kwwU>

## News in brief

### MSc Engineering Geology receives accreditation

The School of Earth and Environment’s MSc Engineering Geology has received accreditation by the Geological Society. The Geological Society’s accreditation scheme for taught MSc programmes was introduced in 2007. It provides added assurance to prospective students that a programme’s teaching is of the highest quality and has been approved by an independent body of academics and industrialists. An accredited degree reduces the amount of experience required for graduates to reach chartered geologist and chartered scientist status.

### Business School scores another top 10

Leeds University Business School has been named a top 10 institution in International Business (IB) research in a global survey recently published in *Management International Review*. In addition, based on citations, Professor Peter Buckley is listed as one of the most prolific authors in IB, as is Professor Constantine Katsikeas, Research Chair in Marketing and International Management, and visiting academics Professor S Tamer Cavusgil, Chair in International Management, and Dr Leonidas Leonidou, Principal Research Fellow, both in the Marketing Division.



### The Edge – bigger and better

This summer, the gym at The Edge has undergone a refurbishment, which includes replacing all the Technogym equipment with the latest cloud-integrated equipment, increasing the number of stations to 250 and extending weekend opening hours until 9pm. These changes make The Edge one of the most enviable facilities in higher education.



## Infrastructure and Sustainability

# A plug for sustainability

Ten electric vehicle (EV) charging points have been installed on campus, together with a further two points at Devonshire Hall. The units have been functioning since September and are available to all staff and visitors to campus.

The installations were made possible following a successful bid for funding from the Office of Low Emission Vehicles. The EV spaces are marked out clearly and only electric vehicles are authorised to use them. Staff with access to an electric vehicle can apply for a permit to park and charge at an EV charging point. This will be done on a 'first-come' basis and a permit will

be issued accordingly. Permit holders will pay parking fees according to the emissions banding under current terms and conditions. Visitors driving an electric vehicle may park and charge their vehicle if there is a space available; they will still have to pay the £5 visitor parking fee to gain entry.

The units link to a nationwide network of charging points. To charge a vehicle, users register with the Charge your car website – <http://chargeyourcar.org.uk/> – and can then pay by phone, text or online. If you would like to know more, please contact Majid Khan at [m.m.khan@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:m.m.khan@leeds.ac.uk)



## Spotlight on energy use

New, innovative software called 'Energy Spotlight' will enable staff and students to view the energy usage of campus buildings.

The user-friendly tool allows immediate access to data giving current and past energy use, displayed in a format of graphs and widgets. This allows independent explanations of why different usage can happen, and gives staff and students the opportunity to think about how they can make a difference and reduce energy use. The software can also be used in the context of student education and research.

"Although we have been using energy software to manage consumption on campus for a while, Energy Spotlight makes the data transparent, accessible and available to staff and students for the first time," says the Energy team's Jason Jutha.

"The University plans to reduce carbon emissions by 35% by 2020/21, and Energy Spotlight is one way to improve awareness of energy use wastage and involve everyone in

reducing it. By viewing the energy data of a workplace or area of study, users can make changes – even small ones like turning off lights and computers – that, done on a large scale, can make a big difference. It will make campus into a 'living lab'"

Energy Spotlight is monitored and maintained in partnership between Estate's Energy team and the Sustainability Service:

[www.leeds.ac.uk/energyspotlight](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/energyspotlight)

## Sustainable Labs go from strength to strength

As a research-intensive institution, the impact of our laboratories on the environment can be huge and, in recognition of this, a Sustainable Labs working group has been established.

The group, chaired by Assistant Professor Louise Jennings (Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering), brings together researchers, technicians, academics and services from across the University to work together to improve and share best practice. An example of work commissioned by the group is [reuse@leeds.labs](mailto:reuse@leeds.labs), which allows lab users to access the popular reuse site to share or redistribute items such as equipment or glassware that are no longer needed. In addition, the group hosts regular S-Lab\* events, seminars and guest speakers.

At the recent S-Lab National Conference – Supporting World Class Science – held at

King's College London, the University ran two well-attended sessions: one on engaging lab users with sustainability and the other detailing the University's fume cupboard refurbishment project. The refurbishment of 64 fume cupboards in the School of Chemistry's Priestly lab saved 511 tonnes of carbon, with an estimated energy saving of £81,000 per annum. The initiative, which was commissioned by the Energy team in Estates Services, saw the University win an award for laboratory environmental improvement during the conference.

\* S-Lab provides guidance (eg cases, guides, white papers), networking and tools on sustainability, especially energy and resource efficiency.



## Infrastructure and Sustainability

# Green Impact gears up for another year

Changes introduced to the Green Impact initiative for the 2014-15 academic year will make it easier for people to analyse their team's performance and decide what evidence to include in the Green Impact workbooks.



Teams taking part in Green Impact for the first time will still have to complete all the criteria in the Bronze workbook. However, after this, they now have two choices – they can either continue working their way through the Silver and Gold workbooks or they can undertake a project that they set up themselves. This could range from a project in the office to a project across campus that demonstrates a drive

towards sustainability and raising awareness. In the workbook, the criteria are now split, so that each of them comes under one of the Sustainability Strategy themes.

“We hope that the changes will make it easier for people to integrate sustainability into the workplace” says Emma Richardson, this year's Sustainability intern.



## Examples of Green Impact team actions

- The Lifelong Learning Centre team's Coast to Coast Challenge encourages staff to reduce their carbon footprint by walking, running or cycling to work. The aim is to 'travel' 3,073 miles from the west to east coast of America along Route 50, starting in Ocean City, Maryland and passing through 11 states before reaching the destination of Sacramento, California.
- The School of Earth and Environment organised a week-long event which coincided with Climate Week. They produced a display of transport options to encourage staff to take a more sustainable approach to travel. They also ran a pedometer challenge for colleagues, bringing people together to talk about being active.
- Leeds University Business School introduced 'electronic only' submissions for assessments.
- The International Student Office has embedded sustainability to improve the

Global Café's environmental impact. Café staff received training which emphasised the importance of sustainable procedure, using recycled cups and stirrers and composting teabags and biscuits. Paper cups are recycled paper from Vegware, all tea and coffee products are Fairtrade and biscuits are Cooperative's own brand.

- Geography's Green Impact team worked with Treesponsibility – [www.treesponsibility.com/](http://www.treesponsibility.com/) – to plant around 1,000 trees near Todmorden.
- Crocus planting is now an annual event organised by the Sustainability Service. This year's planting will take place on 7 November from 12-2pm in St George's Field; meet at the mausoleum at midday. Crocus planting promotes habitats for bees and other invertebrates, supporting our Biodiversity Action Plan.



Colleagues take part in the annual crocus planting



## International/Community Engagement

# New initiative for Dentistry recruitment

**Prospective students got a chance to practise their interview skills during the School of Dentistry's October open day.**

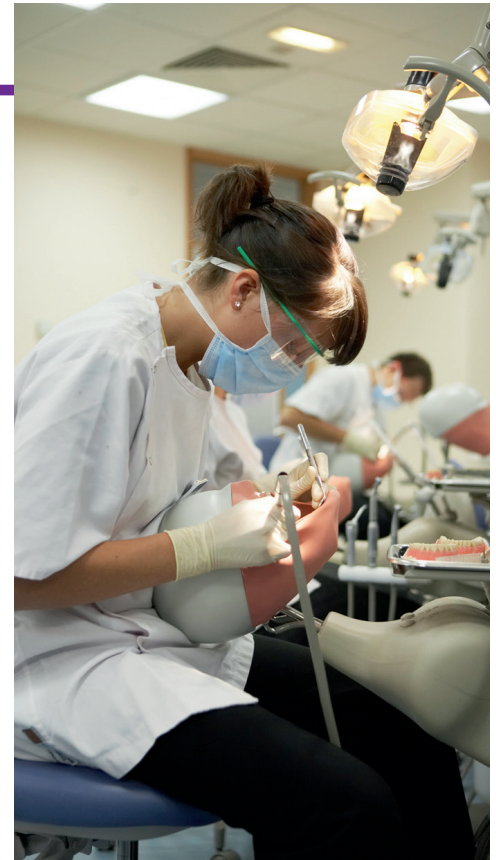
The idea for mini-interview sessions was a result of research undertaken by the school, which found that non-traditional applicants – many of whom who fit in the Access to Leeds category – do not progress as well in the application process as students from different backgrounds.

During the coaching sessions, potential students were tested on their communication skills, manual dexterity, ethical dilemmas, empathy and social awareness.

Current students wrote the scenarios and presented them to the applicants and were on hand to pass on knowledge of their own experiences during the application process and give helpful feedback on their applicants' mock interviews. It's hoped that the sessions will help prospective students go into the real application process with confidence.

"Around 100 young people took part in the sessions, and their feedback was excellent," says Naomi Tickhill, the faculty's Admissions and Quality Assurance Manager. "They found the feedback from current students very useful, and felt that the sessions helped them to identify areas where they could improve their skills in preparation for the real interview process."

The student society Open Wide also ran a family fun day at the School of Dentistry during the open day to encourage and inspire even young children to take an interest in dentistry. This featured a dentist 'dress up' area, family photoshoots, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training, the chance to try materials to make and fill teeth, and games to help develop manual dexterity. It also provided visitors and families the opportunity to sign up as patients of the Leeds Dental Hospital.



For more details about the organisation and content of the open day, contact Naomi Tickhill at [n.r.tickhill@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:n.r.tickhill@leeds.ac.uk)

## Collaboration and Enterprise

# Breakthrough in medical and pharmaceutical research

A University of Leeds spin-out is scaling up with the potential to be a global business after investing £10m in the launch of its alternatives to antibodies.

Wetherby-based Avacta Life Sciences, which provides innovative diagnostic tools, consumables and reagents aimed at reducing the cost of human and animal healthcare, has created a new type of protein to replace antibodies in the \$55bn worldwide research, diagnostics and pharmaceuticals markets.

It is investing £10m in launching these new products, offering dramatic reductions in research timescales and opening up new areas of drug discovery in both industry and academia.

Avacta Life Sciences, part of the AIM-listed Avacta Group, has created a catalogue of what it calls Affimers, an engineered protein alternative to antibodies, and is manufacturing

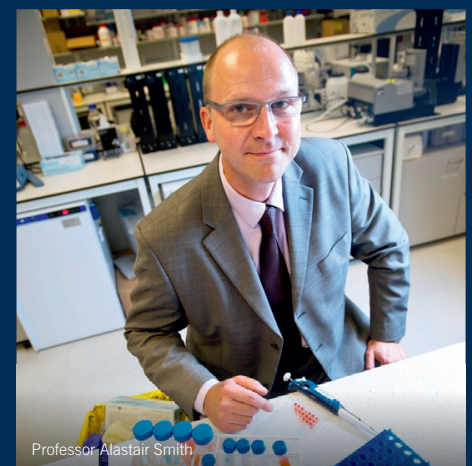
them at its site in Wetherby. The company is also providing researchers with bespoke Affimers that address their specific research requirements through a custom service.

Antibodies have a worldwide market worth \$55bn; the majority is in pharmaceuticals, where a third of all drugs in development are antibodies.

Professor Alastair Smith, a former lecturer and professor in the University's Physics department and now CEO of Avacta Life Sciences, says:

"Our patented technology offers reliable and easy-to-adopt solutions to some really widespread and difficult problems in a global market worth billions, and we have the resources and backing to scale up rapidly as demand grows."

The Avacta Group created Avacta Life Sciences to exploit the Affimer intellectual property it acquired from the University's Institute for Molecular Medicine.



The company is investing in product development and manufacturing capacity as well as in commercialisation of Affimers. In anticipation of this catalogue launch, it has expanded its senior management team with the recruitment of Dr Matt Johnson, formerly head of R&D at Abcam, the market leader in antibody supply, to head up operations.

The company raised £10m in a share placing in May to support the scale up and commercial launch of Affimers.



## Valuing our people

# Team talk – University Sports Office: Sport and Physical Activity (SPA) and Leeds University Union sports team

### You're a new team – how did that come about and what will you be doing?

The formation of our new team has evolved over the past few years, but is really one of the key outcomes of our Sport and Physical Activity (SPA) Strategy. Historically, the delivery of sport for our students, staff and the community has been split between the University's Sports Development Team, based at The Edge, and LUU's Activities Team. Our team will now work together to ensure that we deliver well-researched, well-resourced and well-coordinated programmes, providing the best possible sporting experience for our participants.

### Who's in the team?

The team is a big one, with over 20 members of staff – we're fortunate to now have one of the largest sports development teams in the sector. We have really experienced development professionals who will be working together to meet the goals in our strategy. For the first time, we also have a number of full-time sports-specific positions in hockey, swimming, netball, cricket and rugby.

### What's the latest news from the team?

We are currently moving offices. Soon staff from SPA will be located in a new, more student-facing sports office in LUU.

We were recently successful in securing a funding grant from Sport England for £220,000 to establish a new project that focuses on the development of opportunities in seven sports: triathlon, running, cycling, rowing, orienteering, canoeing and climbing. This project has allowed us to recruit an additional eight members of staff to support its delivery. We've appointed two new full-time head coaches in hockey and rugby and are seeking to recruit a new full-time head of rowing. We celebrated the Leeds Varsity's tenth birthday this year with over 13,000 spectators at the rugby union finale at Headingley Stadium. Sport at Leeds will have a new name, a new brand and a new website very soon.

### What gives people in the team the most job satisfaction?

The nature of our team and the breadth of our sporting offer means that we get satisfaction from different things. It may be supporting

an Olympic athlete to balance the demands of their study, training and competition by working with academic departments; providing an opportunity for a student to engage in a sporting activity for the very first time; introducing school swimming programmes to engage local primary schools; or working with our sports club committees to understand how much impact their roles have on both the students they are responsible for and their future career prospects. What is consistent in the programmes we deliver is that our participants have the very best experience possible.

### What challenges does the team face in 2014-15?

We've set a target of becoming number one for sport experience in the UK and have developed a robust plan to try to achieve this in the next four years. A key to the realisation of this vision will be how we successfully engage and work with partners to support our work. Recent accomplishments include working with British Rowing and Leeds

City Rowing Club to support the new £1m boathouse and developing partnerships with Grammar School at Leeds, Yorkshire Jets (netball), England Hockey and England Rugby to support full-time coaching positions. We plan to open an indoor tennis centre, indoor cricket centre and closed-loop cycle track, all of which will support the achievement of the new strategy.

### Tell us something surprising about your work

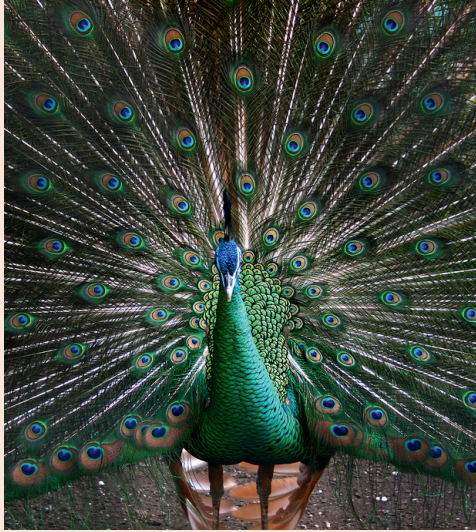
We're a key partner in the Leeds Triathlon Centre, widely regarded as the most successful triathlon training programme in the world. Current University students such as Gordon Benson, Liam Lloyd and Hannah Drewett, recent graduates – including Alastair and Jonny Brownlee and Tom Bishop – and Leeds Connected athletes such as Non Stanford and Lucy Hall have won a total of 17 medals at Olympic, Commonwealth or World Championship events since 2009. The entire USA team has only won eight!



Ready for action (l-r): Ben Mays, Nick Manning, Carl Brown, Kasia Joniec, Patrick Craig, Kate MacKenzie, Emma Mackenzie-Hogg, Safia Zerdazi, David Bond, Natalie McGuire, Greg Hull



## In the news



Research by Dr Graham Askew (School of Biomedical Sciences) discovered that male peacocks, which are renowned for their attractive display feathers, were not significantly affected by the train of feathers when taking off for flight. He observed that the feathers, which weigh around 300g, made no significant difference to their flight performance, even when comparing this to the performance of the same peacocks without their trains. The story was featured by *The Huffington Post* and *Science*.

BBC News online published an article about **Sigmund Freud** 75 years after his death. Dr Nicholas Ray (School of English) commented in the BBC's feature about words and phrases now embedded into our everyday language that were originally popularised by Freud.

Voice of Russia ran a story about Sir Bob Kerslake, the outgoing head of the civil service, who had suggested that there would be five more years of **public sector job spending cuts**. The station interviewed Professor Malcolm Sawyer (Leeds University Business School) on the topic, who argued that, if there was growth in the future, there would be no need to cut public spending in order to get rid of the deficit.

Dr Gail Nicholls, Director of Admissions at the School of Medicine, was interviewed by the *Guardian* about what **admissions staff** are looking for during interviews. Dr Nicholls said that not only are they looking at a student's academic potential but they are also interested in their social awareness and responsibility.

Students from the School of Mechanical Engineering were brought in to help sculptor Fiona Banner create a piece of artwork called **Chinook** for her exhibition at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. A feature about her work and the students' support was posted by the *Telegraph*.

The University teamed up with Marks and Spencer to offer a new **MOOC** *Innovation: the key to business success* which began on 15 September. BBC News online reported the new online course and included a comment from Professor Neil Morris, Director of Digital Learning at the University.



Dr Guy Ziv (School of Geography) co-authored a study which found that a decline in populations of **pollinators** such as wasps and bees could be a threat to the nutrition of many of the world's most poorly fed areas. Dr Ziv spoke to BBC Radio Scotland about the new study; the story was also covered by *Phys.org* and *Bangladesh Today*.

BBC *Breakfast* interviewed Stephen Fyale (School of Dentistry) about **dental health problems in pre-school children** after Public Health England released a report showing that the problem was on the increase.



Dr Jana Javornik (School of Sociology and Social Policy) wrote an article for *The Conversation UK* in which she discussed problems with the UK's **childcare** system, comparing it to Nordic countries where the "approach to universal childcare remains a source of policy inspiration".

BBC One's *Who Do You Think You Are?* visited the University with **Sheridan Smith** to meet Professor Derek Scott (School of Music), who provided historical context to the actress's great-grandfather's banjo playing.

A new £1m **boathouse**, which was set up as a result of a partnership between the University, Leeds University Union, British Rowing and Leeds Rowing Club, opened in September for rowers across Leeds to use. The project was funded by the University of Leeds, British Rowing, Sport England and WREN, and will give rowers access to various facilities including a training and meeting room and easy entry to the canal. The story was featured by BBC News online and *Rowing and Regatta* magazine.





## Our people/honours

**Professor Cath Noakes** (School of Civil Engineering) has been awarded the 2014 Construction and Building Services Division prize by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE).

Professor Noakes leads a research group focusing on building ventilation design and indoor air quality, with a particular focus on engineering control of airborne infection in hospital environments. Her group uses a combination of experimental and computational modelling approaches to explore fundamental questions around how infectious microorganisms are dispersed in buildings and to understand how ventilation design or air cleaning technologies can best be applied to reduce risks. Professor Noakes delivered the annual IMechE lecture at the award ceremony to an audience of students, academics and engineering professionals about her research and the challenges of future research and design.

Publishers Brill of Leiden presented **Emeritus Professor Keith Elliott** (Theology) with a Festschrift entitled *Texts and Traditions*, containing 19 essays from international scholars. The presentation took place during the annual meeting of Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas, the main academic body representing university lecturers in New Testament studies. The editors of *Texts and Traditions* are Peter Doble and Jeffrey Kloha, both former Leeds PhD students.

Undergraduate **Sarah Pearsall** won the Eisenthal Prize for her application to the Biochemical Society's summer studentships. Sarah's application was the highest quality received by the society, and allowed her to take on an eight-week placement with Dr Roman Tuma in the Faculty of Biological Sciences. Sarah and Dr Tuma worked on the project 'Engineering of hexameric helicases to translocate specific RNA molecules'. Following her placement, Sarah has been invited back to round off her research and present a report at a lab meeting.

The **Leeds' Alumni and Development** team has been awarded a Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) award. The International Gold Circle of Excellence award was presented to the team for their Court of Benefactors book.

The book recognises donors who have given money and resources to the University. It details the history of philanthropy at Leeds and recognises the gifts and the differences they have made. Each page is dedicated to a donor such as Dr Arnold Ziff, Frank

**Professor Theo Raynor** (School of Healthcare) has been given a Lifetime Achievement award by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

Professor Raynor has pioneered innovative, patient-centred research in communicating medicines information over the past 35 years. His research has informed significant improvements nationally and internationally in the information supplied by pharmacists to patients.

Theo's research has had an influence worldwide, particularly through his recent research collaboration with the universities of Wisconsin and Sydney. Theo has advised the Commission on Human Medicines, the European Medicines Agency, the European Parliament and the US Food and Drugs Administration. In 2012 he was appointed a Fellow of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and made a member of its Expert Advisory Panel.

He is now focusing on how best to present benefit and harm information – without which he believes patients cannot be truly 'informed' – and is advising European Commission-funded research on how patient information leaflets can be improved.



Professor Theo Raynor

**Dominic O'Key** (School of English) was one of five students from the University shortlisted in the 2014 Undergraduate awards. Dominic was the overall winner of the Media and the Arts category with his paper entitled 'Bela Tarr's The Turin Horse: the (in)visible animal'. Dominic is now studying for his Master's degree in Critical and Cultural Theory.



Dr James Pickering

**Dr James Pickering** has received the Learning Technologist of the Year award from the Association for Learning Technology.

The national award runs across the entire education sector and celebrates excellent practice in the learning technology field. It is awarded to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the use of technology in education. Candidates were judged on four key areas including their impact on the practice and their ability to manage research, support or enable learning through the use of technology.

Dr Pickering says: "I'm immensely proud to have won this prestigious national award in recognition of my use of technology in supporting student education. I have always looked to use technology to support my teaching as it not only enables students at the University to access key resources but students around the world to engage in learning resources that can support them in their education."

Leeds graduate, **Dr Nick Lydon** has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Medicine for his instrumental role in the development of Gleevec, a drug which transformed two previously fatal diseases into treatable conditions. Following his degree ceremony, Dr Lydon gave an audience of around 160 staff and students a lecture on the development of Imatinib and the potential for targeted cancer therapies.

Parkinson and the Clothworkers' Company.

The book was one of 3,000 nominations for the CASE awards. The Circle of Excellence awards programme aims to recognise accomplishments with a lasting impact which demonstrate the highest professionalism and outstanding results.

Kathryn Fisk led the project, and accepted the award with Phil Steele, Simon Jenkins and Frideric Cordingley at the CASE annual conference.



Members of the Alumni and Development team receive their award



## News

# Women of Achievement – nominations open

All colleagues are invited to submit their nominations for the University's Women of Achievement – female members of the University with outstanding achievements such as an external prize or award in their field for exceptional research, teaching, scholarship, technical or professional work since January 2012.

This is the third Women of Achievement programme, which will culminate in March 2015 when the Equality Policy Unit will hold a special celebration event. This will increase the visibility of these inspirational role models and include an exhibition of photographic portraits of the women being honoured.

Previous Women of Achievement include Beverley Kenny (Head of Catering and Conferencing), undergraduate Ella Jakubowska and Professor Anne Neville (School of Mechanical Engineering).

Nominations should be submitted to [AthenaSwan@adm.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:AthenaSwan@adm.leeds.ac.uk) by Wednesday 19 November.



Women of Achievement (clockwise from top left): Rawia El Rashidy, Beverley Kenny, Ella Jakubowska, Professor Liane Benning, Professor Sheena Radford, Jennifer Rodley, Professor Bridgette Bewick, Professor Griselda Pollock

### Athena SWAN update

The Faculty of Biological Sciences has again achieved the Athena SWAN Bronze award. Originally gained in 2009 and renewed in 2013, a team led by Professor Anne King was successful in achieving this award for the faculty in September.

The Athena SWAN Charter ([www.athenaswan.org.uk](http://www.athenaswan.org.uk)) recognises and celebrates good employment practice for women working in science, engineering and technology (SET) in higher education and research.



## Small ads

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Emma Brooksbank 0113 243 2288  
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### House for sale

#### EAST MORTON NEAR BINGLEY

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[v.kendon@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:v.kendon@leeds.ac.uk)

#### HEADINGLEY FLAT FOR SALE

Spacious, two bedroom flat in quiet area of Headingley, only a 5 minute walk to Headingley centre. Ideal for professional person/couple, £120,000, no chain

Alice 0774 330 5342, [a.c.temple@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:a.c.temple@leeds.ac.uk)

### House/flat/room to let

#### SEEKING ONE BEDROOM FLAT

Lecturer at the University of Leeds, I am looking to rent a furnished one bedroom flat or a room in a house to share with other academics/professionals from 1 November 2014.

[sebastien.nobert@cnrs.fr](mailto:sebastien.nobert@cnrs.fr)

#### SEEKING ROOM OR HAVE ROOM TO LET

From Dec 2014 I'll be working half-time (every other week) and am looking to rent a room around city centre/University. Alternatively, I can rent out a room in my current two-bed flat in Whitehall Quay.

Esther Collado – [E.ColladoFernandez@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:E.ColladoFernandez@leeds.ac.uk)

#### ROOM FOR RENT

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## Events



### Professor Sheena Radford lecture – Tuesday 11 November from 4.30pm

The Vice-Chancellor is inviting staff to an event honouring Professor Sheena Radford, who has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society. The recognition is the highest accolade in British science and recognises Sheena's seminal contributions to understanding how proteins fold and function biologically.

In the lecture, Professor Radford will explain how researchers have had to grapple with the dynamics of proteins at a molecular level to understand how proteins fold, and how this knowledge is now beginning to help towards developing therapeutic strategies against diseases of protein misfolding such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's. In this public lecture she will also trace her own personal journey from fundamental science to the fight against protein misfolding diseases and to the award of FRS. The lecture will be aimed at a general audience and will also be an opportunity to explain the work of the University's Astbury Centre for Structural Molecular Biology, one of the world's leading centres of research in the field.

Folding proteins: from Astbury to amyloid and ageing, will be given by Professor Radford on Tuesday 11 November from 4.30pm in the Great Hall. The lecture will be followed by a drinks reception in Parkinson Court North from 5.30pm. The event is free, but places are limited. Register your attendance at <http://sheena-radford.eventbrite.co.uk>

### Pendentif – Thursday 6 November, 7-10pm

One of the most brilliant and fresh bands of the new French Scene, Pendentif, will play at Mine, in the Union, on Thursday 6 November. The five piece, led by singer Cindy, take inspiration from UK bands such as Metronomy and Pulp. The concert starts at 7pm, followed by a French music after-party. Their debut album *Mafia Douce* was released in 2013. The concert is organised by Dr Isabelle Marc and Dr Stuart Green from the European Popular Musics Research Group and Professor David Platten in the School of Languages, Cultures and Societies, with support from CCI Exchange, Ignite Fund and French Bureau Export. Tickets are £4.50 or £2.50 with a valid NUS card.

### The Bolton Lecture 2014 – Cosmic Dust and Comets

12 November. 5.30-6.30pm, Conference Auditorium 1

Professor John Plane (School of Chemistry), member of the Atmospheric and Planetary Chemistry group, will give a lecture on the same day that the European Space Agency's Rosetta Mission attempts to deploy its Philae landing module on the surface of a comet that has recently come from the Oort cloud – the first time such a challenging manoeuvre has been attempted.

The lecture will focus on comets as the source of most of the cosmic dust in the solar system, and the impacts of the roughly 100 tons of this dust entering our atmosphere each day.

Professor Plane studies the chemistry of planetary atmospheres: He directs the Challenger laboratory at the University

which is dedicated to exploring atmospheric processes, many involving the metals which ablate from meteors.

The lecture series is named after Scriven Bolton (1888-1929) whose bequest enables the University to provide an observatory with which undergraduates can learn practical astronomy. Book early to attend this free lecture via <http://goo.gl/NLePwS> Enquiries to Sarah Gardner – [s.m.gardner@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:s.m.gardner@leeds.ac.uk) – or phone 0113 343 3881.



### Stanley and Audrey Burton Gallery – public events in November

November at the Gallery begins with Life Drawing with Robert Oldfield – held on the first Saturday of every month. However, the November session is already sold out, so book now for December to avoid disappointment!

On Saturday 8 November visitors can make and glaze their own ceramic piggy bank or gargoyle with Mark Burns Cassell. All resources and materials are provided. Mark will take the work away at the end of the sessions, and fired pigs and masks will be returned to the gallery for collection.

The workshop is open to all over 11 years of age. A refundable charge of £5 is required on booking, returned on arrival at the workshop. Cancellations within 48 hours of the event will not be eligible for a refund.



Award-winning poet Suzannah Evans returns to the gallery on 15 November to run a creative writing workshop, using creative writing prompts inspired by prints, original works, books and more, focusing on the postwar era.

Visit <http://library.leeds.ac.uk/art-gallery> for details of the full programme.

### The Adventures of Andy Kershaw – Saturday 8 November, Refectory, 8-11pm

Broadcaster Andy Kershaw returns to the University as part of Leeds University Union's 75th anniversary celebrations. *The Adventures of Andy Kershaw* has become a hugely successful highlight of many literary festivals. The two-hour audiovisual presentation treats audience to recollections from a life of rock and roll and on the frontlines of some of the world's most extreme and dangerous countries. Tickets for the event cost £12.50 and can be booked online at <http://goo.gl/fAsPJw>



### Campus Bee Network lectures

The Campus Bee Network has planned a lunchtime lecture series, with local and national speakers covering a variety of topics including bee diseases, campus research and national initiatives. If you

would like to know more or get involved, email [sustainability@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:sustainability@leeds.ac.uk). The monthly lectures will be advertised on the Events pages of the corporate, For Staff and Sustainability websites during the coming weeks.



## FAQs

# Rowland Taylor, Barista in Hugo



### What is Hugo, the Camionnette Cafe?

Camionnette means van in French, and Hugo is a vintage French Citroen HY Van – a coffee shop on wheels where you can get freshly made strong European coffee plus a range of French treats such as croissants, patisseries cakes. We even sell freshly baked baguettes that you can take home for your dinner – just like the French! We do lattes, cappuccinos, Americanos – whatever people want, we can make it.

### How did the idea for Hugo come about?

The idea came from a desire to have a unique catering offer on campus, something a bit different, which became the Hugo. It's very unusual and has actually become a focal point, not just to students but to the people who work here.

### How many people work in Hugo?

Myself and Dan are the main people who work here. Hugo is now open until 7pm, so we alternate split shifts between the morning and the afternoon. We also have people from the Refectory who cover our breaks when needed.

### How long have you worked here?

I've worked at the University for over a year now. I've been involved in Hugo for about six or seven months.

### What's your favourite part about the job?

I like meeting the different people at the University. There are so many different cultures, people who've never even tasted coffee before. It's bizarre. You get to meet some interesting, and sometimes wacky, people. They're all very nice to get on with.

### Why are Great Food at Leeds and Hugo different?

Hugo is an identity to the University. People enjoy sitting outside and relaxing to Hugo's playlists. Great Food at Leeds offers people a warm service and places where they can eat good quality food at reasonable prices. The team try to change the menus and give a bit of a variety. They think of the different people at the University and make sure they can have food that they could get back home, whether it's Chinese, Mexican, Spanish or Italian food. It's catering for different cultures all in one space.

### What's your favourite thing to buy from Hugo?

I enjoy a straight Americano with a croissant or a pain au chocolat.

### What's your favourite thing to do outside of work?

I like watching films and listening to music. My favourite movies are historical films, going

back to Roman and medieval times. My favourite artist is David Bowie – he's a classic artist. You can mention Bowie and talk about all the greats – Brian Eno, Lou Reed, Iggy Pop; he produced and made records for them all.

### Which three people would you invite to a dinner party?

I'd like my parents to be there. And I'd probably invite Queen Elizabeth I. She was so highly thought of during her reign, but also caused a lot of trouble. It would be interesting to get an insight into her ideas.

### Are there any plans to do something more with Hugo?

Hugo can be moved around, so this may be something we will explore in the future, possibly taking him up to Weetwood Sports Park for events held there at the weekend. We will definitely tart him up at Christmas with lights and music, and offer some warming vin chaud. We'll stick the heating on, too, because it gets cold in there!

### What is your most frequently asked question?

'Are you French?' or 'Do you speak French?' Because of the van I get that question a lot!



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