



Making plans

Excitement is building for this year's instalment of the hugely popular Staff Festival. With the theme 'A Festival of Making', a packed programme of entertainment is planned.

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Rising through the ranks

Leeds is celebrating success in three significant league tables, including being among the top 100 in the influential QS World University Rankings 2019.

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Fruit of the loom

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Marriage of ideas

A marriage of biology and physics resulted in two leading University academics being shortlisted for the highly prestigious 2018 European Inventor of the Year awards.

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Leader column

Grasping new opportunities



The University – and the higher education sector as a whole – face a significant period of change in the next few years, much of it unpredictable.

This brings challenges but also a great many opportunities to advance our work in student education and research and innovation. We are well positioned to face these challenges and to grasp new opportunities as they arise.

In the past few months, the Office for Students (OfS) and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) have been established. OfS will regulate universities and other higher education providers on behalf of students and UKRI will embrace the work of the seven research councils, Innovate UK and – through Research England – the research and knowledge exchange functions previously undertaken by the Higher Education Funding Council for England. Despite their different reporting lines to Government, my hope is that both will collaborate to ensure the symbiotic relationship between education and research is maintained.

The University has made strong progress in recent years as we continue to promote outstanding education that attracts, excites and retains high quality students from diverse backgrounds; world-leading research with improvements in quality, income and impact, as well as much greater international reach. Recent investments in PhD studentships and academic staff (circa £50m) and new academic facilities (c£400m) mean we should have the self-confidence and drive to develop further.

The early focus of the OfS on regulation, value for money and improving access and participation is an exacting but essentially narrow agenda, which we should address without breaking stride. This will certainly not distract us from our wider commitment to work in partnership with students and staff to ensure the further development of research-led education designed to expand the intellectual horizons of students – encouraging deep subject knowledge, a wide range of co-curricular opportunities and the skills required to succeed in the global employment market. To do this at scale means we will have to streamline our programme portfolio, develop more flexible patterns of education and assessment, find the right balance between home and overseas students, take full advantage of new learning technologies and radically improve the systems and processes that underpin the student education service. All of these issues are now being addressed in a systematic way, but rapid

progress is required if we are to remain at the forefront of educational development.

In contrast to the OfS, UKRI has published a Strategic Prospectus, which is wide-ranging and ambitious. It proclaims that it “will play a fundamental role in ensuring the UK is able to meet the unprecedented societal and industrial challenges we face, both locally and internationally”. It also talks of attracting and retaining leading talent, providing the best possible environment for research and innovation to flourish and delivering economic, social, environmental and cultural impact. The scale of this ambition is, in no small measure, dependent on the Government meeting its commitment to provide an additional £7bn for research and innovation by 2021-22 and its ability to incentivise an increase in R&D spend across the wider economy to 2.4% of GDP.

There are, of course, some important policy issues to sort out in UKRI, including the research councils’ over-dependence on matched funding, the future of the dual support system and the temptation to invest in large-scale projects across a narrower range of universities. And whilst the threat of Brexit to higher education may be receding, it seems implausible that the current high levels of EU research funding in UK universities can be sustained beyond 2020.

Nonetheless, I am confident Leeds will continue to grow in strength as one of the major research-intensive universities in the UK for the following reasons:

- our track record of delivering interdisciplinary research, which is systems-facing and solution-focused, is well established, ensuring we are well placed to tackle global challenges in key areas of health, water, food, energy, climate, cities, culture and social change
- success in the Global Challenges Research Fund, launched in 2016, has drawn strength from long-established international collaborations, with almost £25m in grants to support research on global questions in low and middle income countries
- we are one of a carefully selected group of universities playing a central role in developing major new national institutes in data science and artificial intelligence (Turing); the physical sciences/life sciences interface (Rosalind Franklin); research and innovation in materials science (Henry Royce); and climate and atmospheric sciences (the Met Office Academic Partnership)

- astute investment in new or updated research platforms – for example, in medical and biological engineering, structural biology, data analytics, robotics, and pre-clinical and clinical imaging. These facilities support skills training for PhD students, encourage interdisciplinary research projects and provide a great foundation for industry partnerships. New initiatives in 3D weaving and textiles innovation, global food and environment, high-speed rail and systems integration, as well as virtual reality, will open up further such opportunities; and
- the excellent progress of our 140 University Academic Fellows, great success in external fellowship schemes and in attracting doctoral training centres, and some excellent new academic appointments are increasing the range, quality and funding for research.

These successes will have an enduring impact on the work of the University, building self-confidence and ambition and opening up new opportunities in education, research and innovation. During the next two years, further investments in the University farm, biological sciences laboratories and the Business School will enhance facilities for staff and students; the Bragg development will accommodate the Schools of Computing and Physics and Astronomy and provide a 21st century environment for research in materials and bionanotechnology; and Nexus will promote innovation by linking businesses, large and small, with world class researchers, leading-edge technologies and highly skilled talent.

Despite the pressures and uncertainties in higher education, I am sure we can continue to build on strong foundations of academic excellence, partnership working and an enthusiasm to play our part in tackling many of the societal and economic challenges that confront people around the world.

And, finally... as we come to the turn of the academic year, we can look forward to the installation of our inspiring new Chancellor, our summer degree ceremonies and the blossoming of our cultural partnerships with Ilkley Literature Festival and the Leeds International Piano Competition. I wish every one of our graduating students all the very best for the future and I thank students and staff for their unfailing contributions to the life and work of the University – all much admired and greatly appreciated.

Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands

All the fun of the fair will be on offer at the Staff Festival

Staff Festival attractions revealed

Excitement is building for this year's instalment of the hugely popular Staff Festival.

With the theme 'A Festival of Making', a packed programme featuring workshops, refreshments, entertainment and competitions suitable for all ages is close to being finalised.

All University staff, their family and friends are invited to join us on campus from 3-7pm on Friday 6 July for an enjoyable afternoon of activities.

Workshops include cocktail making, Chinese calligraphy and card designing, as well as:

- designing fresh flower crowns, under the expert eye of florist Margaret Fiddes
- making dreamcatchers, with a craft specialist
- taking part in a Chinese tea ceremony, with an opportunity to taste the fruits of your labour.

Staff will also be able to enjoy a selection of interesting beers during workshops run by Simon Jenkins from the Alumni and Development team, who is also an author, journalist and a former British Beer Writer of the Year. You will learn more about beers, brewing and pubs – and get the chance to win a splendid case of ales.

Food and drink stalls will be selling a range of mouthwatering tasty treats, including toasties, a hog roast, cakes, pancakes, pretzels, brownies, pies, vegetarian and vegan street food, ice cream, cocktails and beer.

There will be craft and farmers markets as well as a tombola, for which an appeal has been issued for prizes. Brand new and sealed items should be delivered to the LOGIK Centre no later than 26 June. All proceeds will go to this year's chosen charity, Pets As Therapy, which will also be attending on the day.

Jo Westerman, LOGIK Centre Manager and Festival Project Manager, says: "The Staff Festival planning team is keen that 'A Festival of Making' is welcoming, inclusive, educational and, most of all, a fun thank you to staff for all their hard work throughout the year. So, this year, we are offering interactive activities for staff and their families and are inviting you to make Staff Festival 2018 the best one yet."

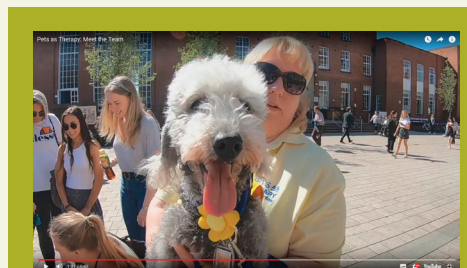
Other attractions include a Ferris wheel, a caricaturist, hook-a-duck, a coconut shy, hoopla, splat-the-rat, mini-steam train, candy floss, 'unclimbable ladder' and pedal karts.

Children's activities include balloon modellers, face painting, a bouncy castle, craft tables and competitions.

Live entertainment will take place on the Festival stage.

LOGIK Centre Administrator and fellow organising committee member, Jenna Hudson, adds: "The Festival is a great way to bring colleagues together in a relaxed, welcoming and friendly atmosphere at the end of a busy academic year."

For the full story, see For Staff at www.leeds.ac.uk/stafffestival2018



Meet the team from Staff Festival charity Pets As Therapy in our video at www.leeds.ac.uk/petsastherapy

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About the Reporter

The *Reporter* is the University's staff magazine and goes out to 7,600 colleagues. It is produced by the Internal Communications team.

If you have an idea for a story or want to comment on this issue, please contact us at the.reporter@leeds.ac.uk or 0113 343 8562.

The front cover shows Eileen Ingham and John Fisher examining a sample of decellularised tissue

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News

Global ranking underlines University's international vision

Leeds is celebrating success in three significant university league tables.

Not only are we among the top 100 in the new QS World University Rankings 2019, but we've also moved into the Guardian University Guide top 10 for the first time and climbed up the Complete University Guide to secure a top 20 position.

The joint position of 93rd in this year's global league table highlights Leeds' growing reputation for research and education.

The University's international strategy, International Leeds, has been led by Professor Hai-Sui Yu, Pro-Vice-Chancellor: International.

He says: "Leeds is a truly global university. We can contribute most effectively to sharing knowledge, innovation and education worldwide by building productive, mutually beneficial relationships with researchers, universities and other organisations in key countries.

"Doing so creates opportunities to widen horizons and bring new perspectives to education, and it generates opportunities for academic staff and students at all levels to collaborate on new frontiers of research. Above all, it ensures Leeds makes a difference to the world we live in."

Of the indicators assessed as part of the influential QS Rankings, the University saw its biggest improvements in two key measures: employer reputation (up 13 places to a global ranking of 62) and academic reputation (up 11 places to 89).

Professor Yu adds: "We have made significant progress towards achieving our ambitious international objectives, thanks to the dedication and hard work of all our staff and students."

An extensive programme of high-level global engagement in recent months has also strengthened international partnerships and increased the University's international standing.

The Guardian Guide uses a wide range of measures to assess universities, including student satisfaction with teaching, spend per student and graduate employment.

Professor Tom Ward, Deputy-Vice-Chancellor: Student Education, says: "I want to thank our students and staff for making Leeds a top 10 university.

"This position is a fantastic tribute to them and highlights the excellence across the board that is on offer at Leeds – in the quality of our teaching, our research, our international focus and the way in which we nurture students by creating a supportive and friendly environment. My sincere congratulations to them."

The University has progressed from 32nd in the Complete University Guide 2014 to 13th this year.

The Guide uses a range of criteria in the rankings, including student satisfaction, graduate prospects and completion, as well as investment in facilities.

Leeds City Region team to reap rewards from MIT leadership programme place

A Leeds City Region team has successfully bid for a place on a prestigious leadership scheme run by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), one of the world's top universities.

The two-year Regional Entrepreneurship Acceleration Programme (REAP) provides expert, evidence-based guidance for teams to bring about significant economic and social change in their region.

The Leeds City team includes leaders from the University, Nexus, the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and West Yorkshire Combined Authority, Leeds City Council, KPMG, Arup and Leeds Academic Health Partnership, as well as entrepreneurs Adam Beaumont and Ben Ziff.

Professor Lisa Roberts, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation at the University, led the Leeds bid and is the team 'champion' for the programme. She says: "This is a significant opportunity for us to come together as a collective force to further develop our ambitious innovation and growth plans.

"We have clear challenges that need to be addressed if we are to help drive economic growth. This includes supporting existing transformational projects, like the University's new innovation centre, Nexus, which could act as a catalyst for developing the Innovation District in Leeds, as well as supporting skills, increasing connectivity, growing business spend on research and development, and boosting productivity and exports.

"Above all, this is also about driving positive social change for the region, and ensuring that innovation and enterprise initiatives support all residents and that everyone benefits and shares in the city's economic success."

Northern Powerhouse Minister, Jake Berry, said: "As a hub for cutting-edge digital technology and financial services, Leeds is set to become a 'Canary North' of the Northern Powerhouse, driving forward innovation and supercharging growth within the region."

Read the full story on For Staff at www.leeds.ac.uk/MITprogramme



Vice-Chancellor, Sir Alan Langlands, signs an MoU with China University of Mining and Technology in Beijing

News

Professors shortlisted for international inventor prize

Eileen Ingham and John Fisher were finalists in the 2018 European Inventor of the Year awards

A marriage of biology and physics resulted in two leading University academics being shortlisted for the highly prestigious 2018 European Inventor of the Year awards.

Husband and wife team Eileen Ingham (Faculty of Biological Sciences) and John Fisher (Medical Engineering) were jointly nominated in two categories for the annual prize, run by the European Patent Office.

Although they narrowly missed out on winning, the award nominations highlighted the huge global impact of their pioneering research.

The professors, who met through their research, were selected for developing the decellularisation technique to wash cells and DNA out of tissue, so it is not rejected when transplanted into humans.

Medical immunologist, Eileen, and John, a medical engineer, are both long-standing senior professors at Leeds. Together, they have developed and expanded the decellularisation technique during the past 20 years.

Since the ground breaking process was first developed and tested in laboratory and clinical studies, it has been used across the world, from supporting soft tissue replacements in knee joint injuries through to the development of a new human heart valve.

Professor Ingham said: "The decellularisation process tackles a really important challenge – how to help tissues regenerate. We hope to see even more medical breakthroughs in the future using the technique, such as replacement tissue for hips and ankles. Our ultimate aim is to help people stay active and provide a new lease of life."

The technique is so successful it has been developed by a spin-out company from the University, called Tissue Regenix, which is now an Alternative Investment Market-listed (AIM) organisation still based in Leeds.

Professor Ingham, who completed her BSc degree and PhD at Leeds and has spent her entire career working in the University's labs, added: "We've always been committed to making a real and telling difference to the world around us. Our decellularisation process has shown how research in universities can have a genuinely positive impact on improving people's lives. It's been wonderful to see the technique evolve across the world."

Professor Lisa Roberts, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation at Leeds, said: "Congratulations to Eileen and John on being shortlisted for the prize; the University as a whole is very proud of their achievement."

Leeds is key partner in new Rosalind Franklin Institute

A £103m initiative to develop new technologies that will revolutionise biology and medicine research and development has been officially launched.

Leeds is one of 11 partners of the Rosalind Franklin Institute, a new national body that will bring together researchers in life sciences, physical sciences and engineering.

Funded by the UK government, the Institute will be home to 150 researchers from academia and industry, working with colleagues at all of the partner universities.

They will harness artificial intelligence, robotics and other systems to improve scientists' understanding of biology, leading to new diagnostics, new drugs and new treatments for millions of patients.

Professor Lisa Roberts, Leeds' Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation, said: "Being a part of the Rosalind Franklin Institute builds on Leeds' strengths in making a real and

telling difference to the world around us, by working across traditional boundaries to find innovative solutions to some of the greatest challenges facing us today."

Professor Adam Nelson, from Leeds' Astbury Centre for Structural Molecular Biology and School of Chemistry, is spearheading a unique project at the Institute, which will pioneer fully automated facilities to streamline future drug discovery.

Professor Nelson said: "This won't be a traditional chemistry lab. It will use robotics and artificial intelligence to automate the discovery process. We aim to increase productivity by five to 10 times.

"But faster processing isn't enough. We also want to find higher quality starting points for

drug discovery to maximise the chances of success at later stages in the pipeline. This will enable the UK to remain globally competitive in bringing new drugs to the market that can meet the needs of patients."

Professor Sheena Radford, Director of the Astbury Centre for Structural Molecular Biology, is also involved in the Institute's structural biology research theme.



Professor Adam Nelson, who is spearheading a project with the Rosalind Franklin Institute

Students

'High-flying' entrepreneurs

An affordable chartered flight company set up by students has won the University's most prestigious prize: the Sir Peter Thompson Enterprise Award, supported by Michael Collins of Goldcrest Land plc.

The JetLink business venture is led by second-year BSc Economics and Finance student, Tim Knickmann (20), together with his friends, Rory Spies (20), a student at the University of Warwick; Henrik Polzer (20), a student at New College of the Humanities, and Thomas Nellingner (32), who was Henrik's pilot instructor.

The team believes it can cut the cost of chartered flight by more than a half, as well as offering a faster and more efficient service than its competitors.

"The chartered aviation industry is inefficient and hasn't kept up with technology advances," explains Tim. "We've addressed both of these issues with JetLink. We don't own the aircraft, so there's no 'dead time' or housing costs

and the aircraft we use are smaller and more fuel efficient than the large aircraft used by competitors."

Tim says the real innovation behind JetLink is a bespoke algorithm that simultaneously checks the availability of pilot, aircraft and airport, automatically calculating the most efficient connection between transport on the ground and in the air for clients. Taxis pick clients up and take them to the waiting aircraft; when they land at the nearest airport to their destination, a taxi is waiting to complete their journey.

The awards are organised by the business start-up service, Spark, at the University's Careers Centre. Leading the judging panel was serial entrepreneur and University benefactor,



Judging panel lead, Michael Collins, and award-winner, Tim Knickmann

Michael Collins. Michael says: "JetLink has identified a problem in private jet hire and created a sustainable solution.

"The team is very driven and I sense it is motivated to do the right thing. This is definitely something investors should consider investing in."

The £5k prize has already been put to good use, allowing the JetLink team to create marketing materials to exhibit at the world's largest aviation fair, Aero2018 in southern Germany.

"It's rare that the term 'high-flying' entrepreneurs is so apt," says Spark's Head of Business Start-up, Kairen Skelley, "but in this case it's true. The JetLink team is a worthy winner and the scale of its ambition is admirable."

Celebrating medals success at Commonwealth Games

Six students and alumni won medals against some of the world's best athletes at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Sports Scholar, Kim Daybell, won a silver medal in the para table tennis for Team England

Eight athletes who studied at the University, mostly with support from sports scholarships, competed across netball, table tennis, triathlon, weightlifting and race walking at the Games in Australia.

Between them they won an impressive one gold, four silvers and one bronze medal.

Medicine student Kim Daybell won a silver medal in the para table tennis for Team England. Kim is a University Sports Scholar, whose particular scholarship is funded by alumni donations, providing him with extra support to allow him to compete at an elite level while in higher education.

Kim is among more than 60 Sports Scholars across the University, each receiving a bespoke package of mentorship, physiotherapy, financial support and coaching, to enable them to excel in both their academic and athletic endeavours.

Alumna Natalie Haythornthwaite won a gold medal playing for the England Roses netball team, beating host nation and favourites Australia 52-51 in a dramatic final.

Natalie graduated in Linguistics and Phonetics in 2014, and was awarded a Sports Scholarship to enable her to study for her degree while playing competitive netball for both the Yorkshire Jets and England.

In the triathlon, a total of seven athletes who train at the University's world-class facilities competed at the Games, including three alumni and one current student.

Alistair and Jonny Brownlee, who are both graduates of the University, won medals in the mixed relay triathlon event. They earned silver alongside teammate Jess Learmonth, who trains with them regularly at The Brownlee Centre and The Edge.

The Brownlees were both hampered by recent injuries and came away from the men's individual triathlon event empty-handed, with Jonny finishing in seventh and Alistair in 10th position.

In the same event, current Sport Science and Physiology student, Tyler Smith, finished in 21st position, competing for Bermuda at his first Commonwealth Games. A couple of places in front, alumnus Tom Bishop finished in 19th for Team England.

The University's Head of Sport, Suzanne Glavin, volunteered for the Press Operations team. Read about her experience at www.leeds.ac.uk/suzanneglavin



Research and innovation

New £9.5m plan to develop Yorkshire medical technology

Solving the challenges that hamper Yorkshire's medical technology experts when they attempt to bring innovative products to market is the focus of a new partnership.

Backed by £9.5m of funding, Grow MedTech will build on the distinctive cluster of medical technologies expertise in the Leeds and Sheffield city regions. It will address issues that can block the process of commercialising products and bringing them from conception to clinical use.

Six northern universities are among more than 20 partners in the three-year project, led by Leeds. Other participants include the local enterprise partnerships serving both city regions, National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) organisations, councils and chambers of commerce.

By supporting and financially backing researchers and developers to take new products through the early stages of commercial development, the partnership expects to bring about 20 potentially life-enhancing devices into everyday use during the next three years.

Dr Josephine Dixon-Hardy, Director of Medical Technologies Innovation at the University, is leading the delivery of the partnership. She said: "We are bringing the best minds in engineering, biological development, design and manufacturing together with industry to

drive products into everyday use to improve the quality of life for people across the world."

Grow MedTech will be supported through Nexus, the University's £40m innovation and enterprise centre, which is due to open in September and will be the gateway for business to access academic expertise and facilities at Leeds.

Organisations, businesses or researchers wishing to find out more about Grow MedTech should see the full story on For Staff at www.leeds.ac.uk/growmedtech

Dr Josephine Dixon-Hardy,
Director of Medical
Technologies Innovation
at the University



Leeds helps launch £9m programme to transform food systems in Africa

A £9.2m University-led research programme focused on improving the productivity of African farming systems and their resilience to shocks caused by climate change has been launched.

The programme, called Agricultural and Food-system Resilience: Increasing Capacity and Advising Policy (AFRICAP), will conduct its research activities in South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Malawi, as well as in the UK.

AFRICAP is led by Leeds, in partnership with the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN), a pan-African policy network, with the aim of generating evidence-based policy to transform agriculture and food systems on the continent. This is critical given agriculture's key role in Africa's economy, contributing about 15% of continental GDP, with smallholdings constituting about 80% of all farms in sub-Saharan Africa and employing about 175 million people

directly, with significant impact on the environment.

AFRICAP will also assess how food, agriculture and natural resources policies can be developed so they support the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Lead researcher, Professor Tim Benton, from Leeds, who is the UK's former Global Food Security Champion, said: "This is about weather, climate, agriculture, economic growth, sustainability, livelihoods. The endgame is to discover how best to design policy for African growth that is climate smart and sustainable."

Funding for the project comes from the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), a £1.5bn UK government programme to support research that addresses critical problems in developing countries across the world.

The partners in AFRICAP launched the programme with a series of meetings in Pretoria, South Africa

Blackcurrants could help end bad (for the planet) hair dyes

Natural dyes extracted from blackcurrant waste created during production of Ribena have for the first time been used in an effective new hair dyeing technology, developed at the University.

Some of the ingredients found in commonly used synthetic hair dyes, which are derived from petrochemicals, are known irritants and can trigger severe allergic reactions. There is also much debate about whether these ingredients also cause cancer.

What is more, it is thought that up to 95% of all dyes end up washed down the drain; their effect on the environment is unknown.

Colour chemist Dr Richard Blackburn and organic chemist Professor Chris Rayner worked together to identify and isolate naturally occurring alternatives – as well as a sustainable process to produce them.

Dr Blackburn, who heads the Sustainable Materials Research Group in the School of Design, said: "Because of issues and concerns around conventional dyes, we wanted to develop biodegradable alternatives that minimise potential risks to health and offer consumers a different option."

Professor Rayner, from Leeds' School of Chemistry, said: "We've made it possible to have great hair colour, and to get it from nature in the most sustainable way possible."

Read more about this story at www.leeds.ac.uk/blackcurrants

People

Success for employability teams celebrated at national awards

Teams from the faculties of Engineering and Mathematics and Physical Sciences were winners at the National Undergraduate Employability (NUE) Awards 2018.

The awards recognise and celebrate excellence in the UK undergraduate recruitment market for employers, universities and students.

'Best University Placement Service'
Faculty of Engineering Employability team

Twice nominated in this category, this award celebrates the invaluable contributions made by a university placement service to help students maximise their work experience opportunities. The team's strong focus on early engagement, breadth of employability interventions and 300% growth in the uptake of placement years was recognised as leading within the sector. This is the second NUE award the Engineering Employability team has won.

'Most Improved Commitment to Employability'

Faculty of Mathematics and Physical Sciences Employability team

This category celebrates services that have shown an increased commitment to helping students apply and maximise their work experience opportunities. The team devised a faculty-wide Employability Lecture Programme, which has been embedded across every UG programme since the team's establishment in 2016. The team was acknowledged for its outstanding efforts in raising awareness of work experience within traditionally non-vocational subjects.



Employability Manager, Emily Timson, and Careers Consultant, Su Maynard, with Employability and Placements Officers Annmarie Rye and Sooze Swift

Kelvin announced as LITE Interim Director

Dr Kelvin Tapley has been appointed Interim Director of the Leeds Institute for Teaching Excellence (LITE).

His brief will be to build on the foundations established by former Director, Dr Raphael Hallett, and to evaluate and refresh LITE's key activities and outputs as they align with University strategy.

Kelvin was Pro Dean for Student Education in MaPS, chaired the Student Education Bulletin and Conference Committee (a role to which he now returns as Interim Director), was heavily involved with the Leeds Curriculum project, and has participated in numerous assessment

and inclusivity projects. He is also a Principal Fellow of the HEA.

Professor Tom Ward, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Student Education, says: "Kelvin brings a wealth of experience in student education leadership, innovation and teaching scholarship.

"I would like to congratulate him on his new appointment and welcome him to his new role."



Antony Butcher plots his route across America for The Road to San Francisco solo cycle challenge

Going solo for major fundraising challenge

Personal experience of major health challenges are the driving force behind a committed charity fundraiser's plan to cycle solo across America.

Antony Butcher, an Education Service Officer in the Schools of Music and Performance and Cultural Industries, has already raised more than £15,000 for a range of good causes.

Now the 28-year-old is aiming to raise a further £20,000 to support people living with multiple sclerosis (MS) and those with mental health challenges.

Antony experienced his own mental health challenge last year when he suffered a bout of depression.

"Talking about my experiences helped me realise I wasn't alone, and I believe it's so important for us to make talking about mental health normal – particularly when you consider that suicide is the biggest killer of men under the age of 45 in the UK."

And there is another personal reason for Antony attempting the ambitious adventure.

He says: "My mum was diagnosed with MS whilst I was at school; since then, the condition has taken its toll on her.

"I've seen first-hand the painful impact MS has, and whilst this bike ride isn't going to magically make my mum better, it will hopefully be a small step towards better support and maybe even a cure."

Antony's route between New York and San Francisco will total nearly 3,500 miles and take more than two months to complete.

Money raised will be split between the MS Society and a range of mental health charities, including the Cellar Trust. Find out how to sponsor Antony at www.leeds.ac.uk/antonybutcher

Campus

3D Weaving Innovation Centre is part of major investment in School of Design

A cutting-edge 3D weaving loom – the only one of its kind in the UK – is at the heart of a new £1.75m textiles innovation centre at the University.

The Centre, which will develop advanced prototypes for a wide range of sectors, from aerospace to healthcare, is part of a wider investment in facilities at the School of Design, cementing its place at the leading edge of both technical research and creativity.

As part of the £4.4m upgrade, new weaving, knitting, digital printing, coloration and colour communication facilities are enhancing the School's world-beating research and development capabilities.

From 3D weaving to innovative inks and digital printing, from exciting developments in colour imaging and lighting to increasing sustainability in clothing, the year-long investment programme has also provided new laboratories, exhibition areas and student spaces.

Professor Chris Carr, Head of the School of Design, said: "The new equipment and facilities are a key part of the University's aim



President of luxury textiles firm DORMEUIL, Dominic DORMEUIL; Head of the School of Design, Professor Chris Carr; and Chair of Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership, Roger Marsh OBE

to invest in knowledge and opportunity – to provide the very best for our researchers and students and to enhance the excellent partnerships we have with the very best designers and industrialists across the region and indeed the world.

"Our investment will also help us continue to enhance productive relationships between design and technology."

Residential Services celebrates achieving international standard for accommodation

Residential Services at Leeds has achieved an international standard for its high-quality services.

The team has successfully gained registration from the British Standards Institution (BSI) for operating a Quality Management System (QMS) compliant with the requirements of ISO 9001:2015 for the provision of accommodation to undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Ian Robertson, Director of Residential Services, said: "BSI registration demonstrates our commitment to the quality of our accommodation and the service we provide to our students.

"Achieving this standard demonstrates that we are able to consistently provide accommodation and services that meet customer and regulatory requirements."

Dennis Hopper, the University's Director of Facilities, added: "As far as I am aware, Residential Services at Leeds is the only university owned and operated accommodation service in the UK that has become compliant with a BSI-registered ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Standard. We should be extremely proud of that achievement".



Team members being awarded their Certificate of Registration



An artist's impression of how the new LUBS building in Cloberry Street will look

New images of multimillion-pound LUBS investment

Artist's impressions have been released to show how the multimillion-pound investment in Leeds University Business School (LUBS) will look when finished.

Phase one of the scheme – the refurbishment of teaching areas in the Charles Thackrah Building, with the addition of a new café – has been successfully completed.

The three-phase scheme commenced early this year and includes the construction of a new building in Mount Preston Street, adjacent to Bright Beginnings childcare centre. This will provide additional central teaching space – specifically, four flat-floor teaching rooms, with capacity for 100 people, and four teaching rooms.

This building, which forms phase two of the development, is expected to be completed in time for the start of the new academic year in October.

The final phase of the scheme will be finished by the summer of 2020, following the construction of a new multistorey teaching facility in Cloberry Street, shared by LUBS, the School of Law, the School of Languages and Central Teaching Space. Prominent features of the building, including a new trading room, teaching areas and behavioural laboratories, will provide more flexible and innovative ways of teaching.

An artist's impression of the site in Mount Preston Street



News

Free breakfast to celebrate National Clean Air Day

Raising awareness of air quality issues will be food for thought for University staff and students this month.

Encouraging more sustainable travel choices will also feature as part of the week-long campaign launching on 18 June, as well as highlighting the research and monitoring work happening on campus as part of the Air Quality Living Labs Project.

Staff and students who take a more sustainable form of travel on their commute will be offered a free breakfast on National Clean Air Day itself (21 June), between 8.30 and 10am at the Precinct outside the Union.

This will be on a first come, first served basis, while supplies last.

Throughout the week, the University is also encouraging people to make a Clean Air Pledge, sharing their commitment with others via Sustainability's social media channels with the hashtag #CleanAirLeeds, as part of the wider campaign.

Tweet Sustainability directly @UoL_Sus and don't forget to keep track of the #CleanAirLeeds hashtag to view pledge videos, facts and blogs that will be posted throughout the week, which runs until 22 June.

Travel Survey 2018 prize draw winners

Prize draw winners have been announced following the Annual Staff and Student Travel Survey in May.



Congratulations to Gintare Jocaite (Administrator/PA – Strategy and Planning), who won the first prize of a £150 Trinity Leeds gift card, and to Amy Kendal Smith (School of Biology) and Miranda Walters (Head of Marketing – Student Recruitment), who each won a runners-up prize of a £50 John Lewis gift card.

The survey is designed to gather detailed information on staff and student travel patterns. Analysis of results is underway and will be used to inform future priorities and initiatives to help reduce the impact of travel across University operations.

Places still available on School Governor Programme

Take part in the University's School Governance Programme, which is already making a significant contribution to the leadership of local state schools and raising school standards.

The growing network of 152 staff and alumni share their workplace skills and experiences to give children the best possible opportunities in life. Collectively, they are contributing the equivalent of more than £6m worth of services and support to schools.

Malcolm Dawson, Security Services Manager, is one of the first staff members to join and benefit from the Programme: "I'm looking forward to becoming a school governor and am delighted to be joining Huntington School, which has just

obtained 'Outstanding' status in a recent Ofsted report. Each governor is asked to join two sub-committees, and I will serve on the Buildings and Grounds Committee and one other."

Find out how to get involved on www.leeds.ac.uk/schoolgovernors

For queries, contact Amanda Jackson on 0113 343 4073 or a.m.jackson@leeds.ac.uk

Progressing campus sustainability plans

The University joins the International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN) as part of our commitment to evolving as a sustainable institution.

The ISCN provides a global forum to support leading colleges, universities and corporate campuses in the exchange of information, ideas and best practices for achieving sustainable campus operations and integrating sustainability in research and teaching.

Vice-Chancellor, Sir Alan Langlands, says: "The University is proud to be an international university, which has sustainability at the heart of what we do. Being part of the ISCN will allow us to further enhance our dialogue and knowledge about best practice in sustainability and to be part of a global education community working to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals."

Read more at www.leeds.ac.uk/ISCN

Chance to become a Positive Impact Partner

Positive Impact Partners (PIP) is the University's flagship programme designed to increase collaboration with the third sector, build capacity and positively contribute to Leeds communities.

The aim is to:

- support and build capacity in the city's diverse and vibrant third sector
- contribute to making Leeds a socially responsive, culturally and environmentally vibrant city
- create a welcoming culture that encourages greater understanding and facilitates collaboration
- provide a formal, structured and supported programme for staff and the third sector to work together and make a difference; and
- share skills, knowledge and resources to increase capacity and capabilities in your role.

Find more information on www.leeds.ac.uk/pip
For PIP queries, contact Amanda Jackson on 0113 343 4073 or email a.m.jackson@leeds.ac.uk



News

Special Collections marks major project completion

Special Collections is celebrating the completion of a Wellcome Trust-funded project to catalogue the University's medical archives.

All the new catalogues are available online, and the archive materials themselves can now be accessed by all in the Special Collections Reading Room.

The two-and-a-half-year project has involved cataloguing 13 archive collections, repackaging hundreds of boxes and digitising 65 manuscripts, while a number of the precious items have undergone conservation treatment.

It was all made possible thanks to a Wellcome Trust grant of £148,505,

part of its Research Resources funding scheme, as well as the hard work of the University's Special Collections team, its volunteers and interns.

Joanne Fitton, Head of Special Collections, said: "We are delighted the fantastic resources, produced as part of this Wellcome Trust-funded project, have made our medical collections accessible to University staff, students and members of the public."

Read the full story at www.leeds.ac.uk/specialcollections

Louise Piffero, Archivist (Medical Collections), with some of the catalogued items

Celebrating groundbreaking online course for businesswomen across the world

Professor Sarah Underwood and Carol Elston helped launch the *10,000 Women* online course

Two leading figures at the University are celebrating their pivotal role in helping design and deliver a groundbreaking online course for female entrepreneurs across the world.

As the owners of small businesses, Professor of Entrepreneurial Practice, Sarah Underwood, and Head of the Digital Education Service, Carol Elston, were well placed to support and lead the bid when Leeds was invited to tender to support the Goldman Sachs Foundation with its *10,000 Women* project.

Introduced through a two-week module, *10,000 Women* helps female entrepreneurs assess their business growth potential.

Professor Underwood, from Leeds University Business School, played a leading role in the design of the curriculum and development of the content, working closely with a team of academics from the UK, US and India.

The contract to design, develop and deliver the online learning modules was awarded to the University's Digital Education Service. Under the project leadership of Carol Elston, a dedicated team of learning and development professionals worked closely with the academics to design an innovative online learning journey, drawing on its experience of developing cutting-edge services.

10,000 Women is being offered in partnership with Coursera, the world's biggest online course provider.

Professor Neil Morris, Director of Digital Learning at Leeds, said: "The Digital Education Service is proud to have a leading role in the creation of this groundbreaking course."

Read the full story at www.leeds.ac.uk/10000women

Leeds to host world-leading academic

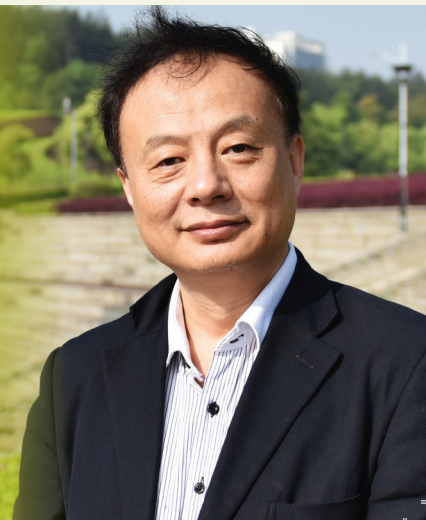
Professor Xinping Guan from Nankai University in China has been awarded a British Academy Visiting Fellowship to spend three months at the School of Languages, Culture and Societies, specifically in East Asian Studies. He will be working on his project, *Inequality and Poverty: Issues and Policy Development in the UK and China*.

This is a comparative project of inequality, poverty and anti-poverty actions in both states, exploring worldwide social problems.

An eminent scholar, Professor Guan is one of the first Chinese academics to research the emerging issues of poverty and inequality in post-reform China, and has a strong research track record.

The visit will engage in, and help promote, international collaboration and exchange between Chinese and UK universities, particularly on the pressing issues and challenges of poverty and inequality.

Read Pro-Vice-Chancellor: International, Professor Hai-Sui Yu's International Strategy: www.leeds.ac.uk/internationalstrategy



In the news



Surgeon Thomas Pike (Medicine and Health) and Dr Faisal Mushtaq (Psychology – Medicine and Health) discussed their research on the BBC World Service, which found that **surgeons progressively ‘warm up’ as they repeat procedures on their operating list**, akin to the way athletes’ performance improves across a competition.

Dr Hannah Ensaff (Food Science and Nutrition – MaPS) led research which found that **children, not their parents, are often the primary decision-makers when it comes to whether or not they will eat a school lunch or a lunch that is packed for them**. This was featured in the *Daily Telegraph* and *Daily Mail*.

Professor Phil Purnell (Civil Engineering) featured on BBC Radio 4 in the two-part *Plastic Fantastic* series about **how and why we fell in love with plastic**, why we’ve ended up with oceans of waste blighting the environment and what science and society can do about it.

Research by Professor Andy Shepherd, Dr Hannes Konrad and Dr Anna Hog (all Earth and Environment) has found that **the base of ice beneath Antarctica is being eroded at an alarming rate in the warming ocean**. The research received wide media coverage, including in the *Daily Telegraph*, *Daily Mail*, *The Sun*, *Daily Mirror*, *Huffington Post UK* and on Channel 4.



Dr Sam Smith (LIHS – Medicine and Health) led research which found that large numbers of **people wrongly believe that dozens of things, including stress, electromagnetic frequencies, GM foods and plastic bottles, can cause cancer**. The research featured on *Sky News*, *BBC News* and *ITV News*, *Daily Telegraph*, and in the *Daily Mail* and more than 150 regional news outlets.

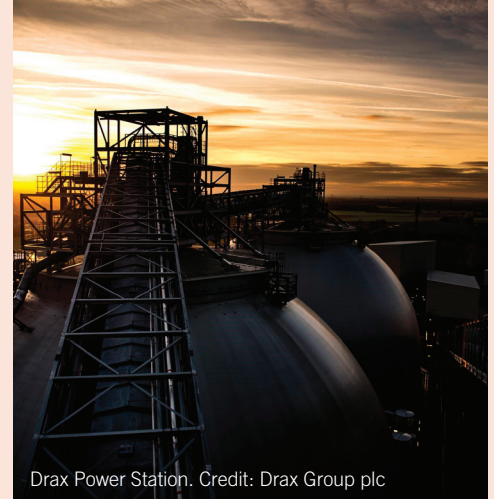
Research led by Yashvee Dunneram and Professor Janet Cade (both Food Science and Nutrition – MAPS) was mentioned on *BBC News* and repeatedly in breakfast news bulletins. The research found that **eating oily fish, peas and beans could delay the menopause**, while eating more rice and pasta could bring it on faster. It also featured in *The Independent*, *Daily Telegraph*, *The Times*, *The New York Times* and other outlets.

Dr Nicola Buckland (now at Sheffield but previously Psychology – Medicine and Health) was on BBC Radio Leeds to discuss her research, which found that **people who followed a diet of low-energy density food, such as vegetables, lean meat and rice, were more likely to feel full and lose weight than those who tried to restrict their calorie intake**. The research was covered in a number of outlets, including *The Sun*, *The Times* and *Daily Mail*.



Dr Mark Sumner (Design – AHC) chatted live on *BBC News* about **New Look, and other retailers, charging more money for plus-sized clothes**. Dr Sumner, along with PhD researchers Lucy Taylor and Lucy Cotton (all Design – AHC), also took part in a live discussion on *BBC Radio 5 Live*.

Dr Antone Larrieu (Biology – FBS) is the co-author of research recently published in *Nature*, which found that gardeners could soon be **growing genetically engineered roses of new sizes, colours and scents**. This follows scientists from Europe and China sequencing the flower’s genome for the first time. The research also featured in *The New York Times*.



Drax Power Station. Credit: Drax Group plc

Professor Chris Rayner (Chemistry – MaPS) is the founder of C-Capture, a company that is partnering Drax Power Station in a pilot scheme attempting to **capture the carbon dioxide produced from burning wood pellets**. The initiative was featured on BBC Radio 4 and *BBC News*, and in *The Guardian* and others.

Professor Piers Forster (Earth and Environment – Priestley Centre) commented on new research in *The Independent*, which he described as “atmospheric detective work at its finest”. This suggests that **there is a new source of ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in East Asia**, despite the decades-old Montreal Protocol banning them altogether. His comments also featured in other media, including *The Guardian*, *Metro* and *Japan Times*.

PhD researcher Jiren Xu, Professor Joseph Holden, Professor Paul Morris (all Geography – Environment) and colleagues have **developed a new global index that identifies water supplied from peatlands as a significant source of drinking water** for the UK and the Republic of Ireland. This was picked up by *The Times* and *Yorkshire Post*.



Chew Reservoir, Peak District, northern England
Credit: Joseph Holden, University of Leeds

Honours



Professor Helen Miller from the Faculty of Biological Sciences has been elected President of the British Society of Animal Science (BSAS). The Professor of Animal Bioscience and Managing Director of the University Farm is known for her work developing feeding systems that enhance animal health, performance and meat quality. Speaking at the BSAS Annual Conference in Dublin, Professor Miller said she was honoured to lead the society during its 75th anniversary year. “My theme for next year is going to be ‘fit for the future.’”

“Over the next 12 months, I want to work with the BSAS team to build momentum to drive the Society and ensure we are prepared for the challenges facing the livestock industry, both now and in the future.”

Professor David Stocker has joined the board of the National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF), which is responsible for managing the distribution of grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The honorary visiting professor was appointed a trustee by the Prime Minister. In addition to his role with the University, Professor Stocker has worked as an archaeologist and architectural historian in the heritage sector since 1978. His interests lie principally with medieval buildings, churches, settlement and landscape, about which he has written many articles and books.

“I’m delighted to be given this opportunity to participate in directing the activity of the HLF/NHMF, and I’m looking forward to the next six years hugely.”



Three Leeds academics have been awarded prestigious funding by the British Academy – the voice of the humanities and social sciences. **Dr Laura Loyola-Hernández** and **Dr Tess Somervell** were awarded Postdoctoral Fellowships, while **Professor Peter Buckley OBE** is to undertake a major research project for the British Academy. Dr Loyola-Hernández, a senior research fellow in the School of Geography, received her award for her work ‘In the margins of the state: the role of emotions in negotiating female political subjecthood in Maya communities in Yucatan’. Dr Tess Somervell, a research fellow in the School of English, was awarded a fellowship for her research entitled ‘Georgic climates: writing the weather in 18th-century poetry’. Meanwhile, Professor Buckley, Founding Director of the Centre for International Business at the University of Leeds (CIBUL), will use his funding to explore whether corporations contribute to civil society through their own volition, and how this can be encouraged.



Dr Laura Loyola-Hernández



Dr Tess Somervell



Peter Buckley OBE, Professor of International Business at Leeds University Business School, has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws at Carleton University. These degrees are awarded for exceptional service to the University or the community as a whole. Professor Buckley says: “I am delighted to be in receipt of an Honorary Doctorate from the Sprott School of Business at Carleton University. Canada has a long tradition of innovative work on foreign direct investment and multinational enterprise, going back to the very inception of the academic study of international business, so it is a particular honour to be given this accolade.”

Dr Nick Malleon, from the School of Geography, has received the Gill Memorial Award from the Royal Geographical Society. He has been recognised for outstanding early-career research in agent-based social geography (geocomputation). Dr Malleon says: “I am extremely honoured to accept this award. My research is multidisciplinary, so relies on good collaboration with other scientists. I have been lucky enough to work with fantastic colleagues and students throughout my career at Leeds, and would like to thank them all for their ideas, support and friendship.”



Professor Martyn Chipperfield, from the School of Earth and Environment, has received the Royal Society of Chemistry John Jayes Award for 2018. The award is given for significant contributions to our understanding of atmospheric chemistry and processes governing its change. Professor Chipperfield receives £2,000 and a medal, and will complete a UK lecture tour.

Professor Adam Nelson, Deputy Director of the Astbury Centre for Structural Molecular Biology at Leeds, will be presented with the European Federation for Medicinal Chemistry’s 2018 UCB-Ehrlich Award for Excellence in Medicinal Chemistry in September. Professor Nelson, who is also theme lead for Next-Generation Chemistry for Medicine and Biology at the Rosalind Franklin Institute, has been recognised for his implementation of a vision for new chemical synthesis methods to align with drug discovery needs. The Rosalind Franklin Institute is a new national organisation, announced in 2017 by the UK government, dedicated to bringing about transformative changes in life science through interdisciplinary research and technology development.



Public engagement

Be Curious: get involved

Inspired by Be Curious 2018? Get ready to take part in the University's biggest public engagement event next year.

Despite adverse weather conditions, 600 visitors were welcomed to 40 family-friendly stalls at Be Curious 2018.

With this year's theme 'We are International', 220 academic staff and researchers showcased the diversity of nationalities and world-class research at the University to the public, with half the visitors being under 18.

For 12% of the visitors, Be Curious was their first visit to the University, and about 30% came from outside the city, some from as far as Manchester and Liverpool.

Professor Lisa Roberts, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation, says: "Something like this isn't just an opportunity to bring the public in; it's a fantastic opportunity to share the wonders of our research with each other."

Visitors' comments

From piano sessions to a life-size, interactive model of a cow, the activities were met with curiosity and excitement:

"Fantastic event – fascinating stalls and engaged, interested researchers and

presenters. Came @ 10am, tried to leave for lunch but the kids wouldn't let us! Stayed till 4pm."

"This was awesome! This was the best place I've ever been to! I really enjoyed it. I feel really happy!" (Annie, aged eight)

"This has made me more excited to start my course in September, as I have found new interests and hobbies I would like to get involved in."

"The enthusiasm on show was amazing – it was really obvious with everyone I saw. They were really engaging with visitors and I could see a lot of interested visitors." (Mystery shopper)

Curious about taking part? Almost 60% of this year's staff participants were new to Be Curious and 80% saw the experience as a stepping stone to other engagement activities.

The next pepnet meeting to discuss activities for festivals will take place between noon and 2pm on 20 June, room 1.06 of the Baines Wing. Register at leeds.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/pepnet-24

A surgery will also take place in July for those who wish to discuss potential ideas for the next Be Curious. Dates to be confirmed.

Look out for details of these events on For Staff or Twitter [@UniLeedsStaff](https://twitter.com/UniLeedsStaff)

Bookmark the PE website – comms.leeds.ac.uk/public-engagement – and if you have questions, contact the PE team at peteam@leeds.ac.uk



Watch the Be Curious video at www.leeds.ac.uk/becuriousvideo

Are you recording all your public engagement (PE) data?

PE data on Symplectic will be needed for the Higher Education Business and Communities Interactions (HE-BCI) survey, which is mandatory for all higher education providers in England and Wales.

Academics can record PE activity at publications.leeds.ac.uk/login at any point in the year. This data will then be extracted

in mid-October and processed to provide information needed for the HE-BCI survey.

To add a new public engagement activity, click on the 'Add' button next to the 'Professional Activities' heading on the home page after logging in.

For larger units that organise activities, such as the Museums, Strategy and Planning will circulate templates to capture the data. If you are part of a service that runs events and think you may have not received an HE-BCI

template before, please get in touch with Rachel Thompson in Strategy and Planning (r.thompson@leeds.ac.uk or 0113 343 6575) so you have it when the data collection window opens.

For the 2017/18 survey, you can record events open to the public that happen between 1 August 2017 and 31 July 2018.

Read more about the events that can be reported, and what information is needed, at www.leeds.ac.uk/hebc

Researchers talk science in Leeds pubs

Pint of Science Leeds was a great success in May, with nearly 40 researchers giving talks across 18 different events in pubs across Leeds city centre.

Organised by a team of dedicated PhD researchers led by Peter Wyatt and Sophie Jones, the events explored topics including conservation, astronomy, neuroscience and volcanology.

These events are a chance for the public to hear directly from researchers about new research findings, and provide a fun and friendly opportunity for them to ask questions about topics of interest.

Pint of Science will be back again next year, so get in touch with the Public Engagement team at peteam@leeds.ac.uk if you would like to get involved with the event as an organiser or speaker.



Events



M&S Company Archive

Uncover more than 130 years of high street memories, with upcoming events showcasing the past of M&S.

Archivist's talk – Dressed in Time: A History of Fashion at M&S

10.30 – 11.30am on Friday 13 July

Looking back at the history of clothing at M&S, this talk traces changing fashions and styles through the decades, from the garments sold at M&S in the 1920s to wartime fashion, miniskirts, power dressing and the latest M&S clothing innovations.

Free. No need to book – just drop in.

Lunchtime talk – M&S During WW2: On the Frontline, on the Home Front

12.30 – 1.30pm on Tuesday 7 August

An introduction to what the Second World War meant for M&S, its customers, colleagues and wider communities. Drawing on the archive collection, this talk explores how the business and store life adapted throughout the challenges of wartime, and uncovers the inspiring and moving stories of M&S employees.

Booking essential at www.leeds.ac.uk/lunchtimetalk

Heritage Open Day 2018

11am – 3pm on Saturday 8 September

Heritage Open Day 2018 celebrates extraordinary women. Join us for a talk on Flora Solomon, who created the groundbreaking M&S Employee Welfare programme in the 1930s. There's also the chance to see behind the scenes where the archive collection is stored.

- Talk at 12.30pm
- Behind-the-scenes tours at 11.30am, noon, 1.30pm and 2pm.

Free – just drop in. Free refreshments.

Visit marksintime.marksandspencer.com for more information about upcoming events.

Sunday 2 September

HSBC UK Let's Ride Leeds (formerly Sky Ride and City Ride) will be returning to Leeds in September following the success of last year's free family event.

Six kilometres of city centre roads – including a section of the University campus – will be closed to motor traffic to give thousands of people the perfect opportunity to explore the city on two wheels.

The event – part of a series being held across the country – seeks to inspire people to get on their bikes to combat some of the societal issues that blight Leeds and other major cities.

Visit www.leeds.ac.uk/letsride for more information

But if you can't wait until September to saddle up, Let's Ride pop-up events are taking place in different locations throughout the summer.

Visit www.letsride.co.uk/rides



Leeds International Piano Competition 2018

Join us this September to experience 24 of the finest young pianists in the world, as they take part in eight days of competition at the University and Leeds Town Hall.

You can attend every session of the Competition for only £150 when you book the lowest price ticket to every session, with tickets for all rounds (including the finals at Leeds Town Hall with the Hallé Orchestra) starting at just £14.

6, 7, 8 September – second round (University of Leeds)

Our 24 pianists will play a solo piano repertoire of their choice in the glorious setting of the Great Hall of the University.

9, 10, 11 September – semi-finals (University of Leeds)

The 10 semi-finalists will perform a solo piano programme, as well as put their chamber music credentials to the test, with a performance with the Elias Quartet, Alexander Sitkovetsky and Björg Lewis.

14 and 15 September – finals (Leeds Town Hall)

Our five finalists will perform across two days with a concerto performance accompanied by the Hallé Orchestra.

Audiences will also be able to go beyond the Competition with a series of masterclasses, discussions and performances that will coincide with the 2018 Competition rounds.

Find more information on how to book at www.leeds.ac.uk/pianocompetition



Smoke-breathing dragons will be roaming the University campus

Sword-bearing knights, falconry and dragons are among entertainment planned for this year's International Medieval Congress (IMC) from 2-5 July.

The largest academic conference of its kind in Europe, the IMC is celebrating its 25th year in 2018.

A wide range of events are also open to University staff and members of the public, including musical performances, the IMC Book Fair and Medieval Craft Fair.

Combat displays, birds of prey and craft demonstrations are among attractions at Making Leeds Medieval on 5 July – and there will even be smoke-breathing dragons roaming University Square!

FAQs

Beth Drury, Footsteps Fund Officer

You seem to have been around here for a while!

True. I'm from east Leeds, but I'd actually never been to campus until I was in the sixth form. I looked at universities further afield, but the Graphic and Communication Design course at Leeds really interested me. I came on open day and fell in love with the place immediately.

Anything in particular?

For me, it was the grass studio in the Clothworkers Building. It's such creative space. And I loved that it's a campus university near the city. In my first year I lived out at Bodington; it was almost as far from campus as my parents' house.

And you just stayed?

In my first year, I got a job with the Footsteps Fund in the Alumni and Development team, working on the call team. I later became a call room supervisor and then took a year-long placement in Alumni and Development through the Leeds Internship programme. It was a great experience and helped me to get a permanent job as Footsteps Fund Officer and – among other things – I now manage a call team of about 100 students.

Oh, you mean those cold callers?

It genuinely isn't that. It's about talking to alumni who already have a warm relationship with the University, which we maintain through our magazine, newsletters and events worldwide. Thousands of our graduates stay involved and maintain a lifelong connection with Leeds.

And they welcome the opportunity to talk?

Definitely. Most conversations our callers have with alumni are absolutely brilliant. They can be on the phone for 40 minutes. You'd be amazed how much our alumni like to reminisce about Leeds – the pubs, their halls of residence and their lecturers.

But don't you ask them for money?

Yes, but these two things are closely connected – particularly at this time of year when we're raising money for scholarships to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Alumni talk about the great experience they had at Leeds – the bands they saw, the relationships they forged here – and for many it was the start of a fruitful and successful career. They genuinely do want to offer that same fantastic experience to someone else and allow today's students to make the most of their time at Leeds. Scholarships enable the brightest and best to study here, whatever their background.

Do we have many scholars?

Not as many as we'd like. Over the years, we've funded about 2,200 scholarships, but that number is limited only by the amount of donations we receive. Last year, for every scholarship we were able to award, there were nine other deserving applicants for whom this support would have made a huge difference to their studies.

What kind of difference?

All kinds. Some students – some of our very brightest students – have overcome the most difficult personal circumstances to come to Leeds. It can be family issues, health problems, disrupted schooling or financial challenges. This support helps to level the playing field so they can benefit from the all-round experience of being at Leeds. They might not be supported by their families, so a scholarship allows them to focus on their studies and not worry too much about rent or living costs. It also means they can get involved in student life, clubs and societies, as well as community volunteering.



So, it gives them a financial leg-up?

It does do that, of course it does, but actually it does a whole lot more. When you speak to scholars, they often say that before coming to Leeds they lacked belief in themselves, particularly if their home life was disrupted or they were the first from their family to go to university. The scholarship shows that someone else believes in them – and gives them the confidence to believe in themselves. Just feeling that sense of self-confidence can be a life-changing experience for some of our scholars.

And you're about to have a life-changing experience, too, I understand.

Well, I'm getting married next year. I met my fiancé, Sam, when we worked at the Hedley Verity pub in Woodhouse Lane. He's now working for Lloyds Bank in town, and we've bought a house in Crossgates, so it looks like we'll be around for a while longer yet!

And what's your most frequently asked question?

Every so often a student caller will say: "The person I was talking to mentioned a hall of residence called Bodington. Where was that?" It makes me feel so old!