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## **New Vice-Chancellor announced**

Sir Alan Langlands has been appointed the University's next Vice-Chancellor.

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## **Bragg Centenary celebrations**

Pioneering work in X-ray crystal structural analysis is being marked by a series of events.

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## **Everyone included, everyone involved**

Colleagues are being asked to have their say on Equality and Inclusion.

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## **Festival sparks enthusiasm for science**

School students and members of the public took part in a wide variety of exciting events during the 2013 Leeds Festival of Science.

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## Leader column

# A shared ambition for world-class academic excellence

**I must begin by reiterating how delighted I am that Sir Alan Langlands is to be the University's next Vice-Chancellor. It truly is an excellent appointment and I'm absolutely sure he will be a huge asset to the University in these challenging times.**

The fact that Alan wanted to come to Leeds says an enormous amount about how far the University has come and how much we have all achieved in the last few years. He regards us as a serious, mature organisation and a key player amongst the UK's research intensive universities and the Russell Group. There is no doubt in my mind that he shares our ambition for world-class academic excellence and a bright future.

Some of our future students and maybe even academics will have been amongst the thousands of schoolchildren, young people and members of the public who visited campus for this year's Leeds Festival of Science. I was especially pleased that Les Ebdon, Director of the Office for Fair Access, also visited us during the Festival and could see all the effort we are putting into widening participation (WP) activities and engaging schools and the public with science. Les was genuinely impressed with how seriously we take WP and it was a friendly, positive and constructive meeting. (More about the Festival and Les Ebdon's visit can be found on pages 10-11.)

The percentage of our first year entry students from lower socio-economic groups has gone up this year from 20% to 22% – and that's at a time when £9K fees have been introduced. It's important to note that this is a ratio, so in part, it increased because we had fewer students from higher socio-economic groups. However, we've managed to keep the number of people coming from lower socio-economic backgrounds high at a time when overall recruitment is dipping, so I'm delighted by that and I thank everyone involved for a great team effort in achieving this important result.

Looking at recruitment, our competitors are trying some unusual tactics, not least Birmingham's move which was reported in the press as making unconditional offers to students predicted to achieve good grades. We have evidence – because prospective students have contacted us – that Birmingham made initial offers that were conditional, but later wrote directly to the same students and, for whatever reason, changed their offer to unconditional.

I don't like this approach because it's not the right thing for students and in some cases it has definitely caused confusion; many may have already decided to go to another institution, but this secondary offer tempts them to reconsider just at a time when they should be focused on their A-level, or other, work and examinations. It could easily make for both unhappy students and concerned parents. I also don't buy the line that such unconditional offers take the pressure off students with regard to A-level outcomes. Most three-A students will still want to push hard to get the best A-level results they can achieve. This is important because later on in life their A-level results will still be scrutinised by graduate employers and the grades can be critical. If you're a three-A student and you take your foot off the gas and end up with three Bs or lower, you might end up regretting it for the rest of your life.

Finally, if you imagine this happening all over the country, it would just be unworkable. I've spoken to HEFCE, in light of their new role in protecting the collective interest of students, expressing our concern about this practice of secondary, direct unconditional offers and have asked them to consider appropriate action. In the meantime, our answer is to play it straight. We have a good reputation, we're confident and we're very proud of the way we behave in all our interactions with prospective students, their advisers and parents. Leeds is the right university for lots of students, so let's get them here for the right reasons – it is, after all, a lifelong relationship and it is really important that it starts well.



As ever, I was delighted to see the entertainment during the LUU elections. I saw all sorts of people standing on soap boxes or walls, people with loud hailer, people dressed up in various uniforms, creating a carnival atmosphere on campus. Over 11,000 people voted – more than 30% of the student population, and the most votes ever recorded in student union officer elections by any university. The turnout is a wonderful example of the energetic culture at Leeds and the huge positive contribution it makes to our students' experience.

Our fundraising campaign has been given another substantial boost, with a £1.75m gift from the Clothworkers' Foundation to establish the Clothworkers' Centre for Textile Materials Innovation for Healthcare. You can read all the details on page 4, but the grant has enabled the appointment of Professor Chris Carr as Chair of Textile Technology and will fund new research equipment and support postgraduate students. It means we have one of the UK's premier technical textiles groups carrying out extremely high-quality research in a hugely important area which offers great opportunities for growth. Overall, our fundraising campaign is progressing extremely well – even in its 'quiet' phase! – and I'm looking forward to a trip to the US next month to meet the North American Foundation for the University of Leeds and some members of our Campaign Board.



## News

# New Vice-Chancellor announced



**Sir Alan Langlands has been appointed the University's next Vice-Chancellor, to succeed Professor Michael Arthur, who is leaving Leeds at the end of August to take up appointment as President and Provost of University College London.**

Sir Alan is currently Chief Executive of the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), a post he has held since 2009. He was previously Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dundee (2000-2009), and Chair of UK Biobank Ltd (2004-2012).

Before entering the higher education sector, Alan had a career in health service management, culminating in six years as

Chief Executive of the NHS (1994-2000). He was knighted in 1998 for his services to the NHS, and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and an Honorary Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

The University Pro-Chancellor, Mrs Linda Pollard, commented: "I am absolutely delighted at Alan's appointment. This is a real coup for Leeds, and a very exciting moment for the institution. Alan has an unrivalled knowledge of the sector, fantastic strategic grip and great wisdom; he shares our ambition for Leeds, and I know that he is the right person to lead the University forward, continuing the momentum we have built up under Michael Arthur."

Echoing those sentiments, the Pro-Chancellor-elect, Mr David Gray, said: "Alan will bring to Leeds not only the strategic acumen and leadership talent that is evident throughout his CV but also a rare humanity. It is no surprise that the appointing committee was unanimous in its choice."

Sir Alan said: "I feel very privileged to be the next Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leeds. I am attracted by the University's heritage, values and distinctive ability to integrate world-class research, scholarship and education and I am looking forward to meeting the students and staff at the beginning of the academic year."

Sir Alan will take up his appointment on 1 October 2013.

## News

## Shwopping success

As part of our partnership with M&S, the University has embarked on a mission to make recycling clothes easier for staff and students by introducing the 'Shwop at Work' scheme.

The launch day involved Shwop Drops being placed around campus in which staff and students could deposit unwanted clothes. These were then given to Oxfam to re-sell, re-use or recycle – with nothing going to landfill – helping to raise funds for its work to alleviate poverty.

Nearly 50 bags were shwopped in just three hours, the equivalent of one week's worth of

donations via Oxfam clothing banks, and a new shwopping record.



Top shwop: Vice-Chancellor Michael Arthur (third from left) joins colleagues to shwop.

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## About the Reporter

The *Reporter* is the University of Leeds' staff magazine, produced eight times a year. Over 8,500 copies are distributed to our staff and stakeholders. The *Reporter* is produced by the Communications team.

If you have an idea for a story, have any comments about this edition or would like to voice your opinion about University matters, please get in touch:

Email: [the.reporter@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:the.reporter@leeds.ac.uk)  
Tel: (0113) 343 6699  
Web: <http://reporter.leeds.ac.uk>

**Front cover** shows Lance Penketh (Plant Growth Facility manager, School of Biology) with young visitors to the Festival of Science.

## Research and Innovation

# Clothworkers' support is woven into the fabric of Leeds

**A £1.75m grant from the Clothworkers' Foundation will help create a new generation of healthcare products and reaffirms a tradition of support which stretches back to Victorian times.**

The grant has funded new equipment, support for postgraduates and enabled the appointment of a Chair of Textile Technology.

Textiles have long been a feature of the University. The Yorkshire College of Science was founded in 1874 amid concerns that emergent technologies in Europe posed a threat to the local wool trade. The College was one of a number which joined forces ultimately to found the University in 1904.

The Clothworkers Company and its associated charity have made more than £10m of grants to the University. The red-brick Clothworkers Court and magnificent Clothworkers' Centenary Concert Hall recall earlier donations.

Though cloth is no longer central to the Yorkshire economy, University spinout the Nonwovens Innovation and Research Institute has product development expertise unrivalled in the UK.

The latest gift establishes the Clothworkers' Centre for Textile Materials Innovation for Healthcare, and has enabled the appointment of Professor Chris Carr, who has moved from the University of Manchester.

Professor Carr says Leeds is a natural home for this work: "The facilities and expertise here allow us to create nonwoven fabrics containing fibres just 50 nanometres across.



Professor Chris Carr.

"These permeable, breathable fabrics can provide an antimicrobial surface in contact with the skin, or deliver chemistry to tackle really difficult deep sores, creating the right interface for tissue repair."

Nonwovens also have the capability to "capture" biological fluid and counteract odour, making for effective products to help sufferers overcome the social withdrawal associated with incontinence.

Professor Carr adds that the close working relationship with colleagues in medicine and healthcare gives Leeds a serious head-start in developing the products and bringing them to market: "What really excites me is that there is this two-way flow of information. Clinicians here work with patients on a daily basis and tell us exactly what patients need."

Steve Russell, Professor of Textile Materials and Technology, added: "I've known Chris for some time and it is quite a coup to bring him here. His work in surface chemistry and fibre properties complements what we are doing and I am so grateful to the Clothworkers' Company for making this possible."

**"The facilities and expertise here allow us to create nonwoven fabrics containing fibres just 50 nanometres across. These permeable, breathable fabrics can provide an antimicrobial surface in contact with the skin, or deliver chemistry to tackle really difficult deep sores, creating the right interface for tissue repair."**



## Research and Innovation

# Bragg Centenary 2013 - celebrating a great British innovation

**The pioneering work undertaken by William Henry Bragg and his son William Lawrence Bragg, which helped to develop X-ray crystal structural analysis, is being celebrated in a series of events to mark the centenary of their breakthrough.**

In 1912-13 physicists William Bragg (1862-1942) and his son Lawrence (1890-1971) worked out a formula that linked the X-ray diffraction pattern with a crystal's atomic structure. In a series of experiments at the University of Leeds the next year, they used their new X-ray spectrometer to produce molecular analyses of the materials including diamond and rock salt. Their discovery, known as X-ray crystallography, is still the most accurate technique to determine the structure of materials at the atomic level. For this, the Braggs won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1915. To date, William Lawrence Bragg remains the youngest Nobel Laureate.

The X-ray crystallography technique they developed has been enormously significant, both in academic research and more widely in industry. Although scientists before the Braggs had known that molecules were made up of atoms, they previously had no way of knowing how, exactly, those atoms were arranged in space. The Braggs showed that X-rays – still relatively new to science – held the key.

The Braggs' research has impacted across science, engineering and societal boundaries. It is one of the most widely used analytical techniques in science and engineering and has been fundamental to the development of various scientific fields within industry, including microelectronics, pharmaceuticals, aerospace and power generation.

The University has developed a programme of events to commemorate the centenary of this remarkable achievement of which the details can be found at [www.leeds.ac.uk/bragg100](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/bragg100)



WH Bragg with his X-ray Spectrometer.

Professor David Hogg, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation said: "The Braggs exhibited a deep appreciation and enthusiasm for the application of academic science to industrial problems, something which resonates greatly today with the increasing focus on demonstrating impact. They made immense contributions to our knowledge of chemical structure and were remarkably perceptive of the potential future applications of X-ray crystallography.

"From understanding the molecular basis of life in the pioneering work of the Astbury Centre, to examining the properties of myriad materials in the School of Process, Environmental and Materials Engineering (SPEME), where X-ray diffraction is used on a daily basis, their influence and impact continues to be felt deeply across the University and beyond."

Dr Claire Jones, Director of the Museum of the History of Science, Technology and Medicine at the University, is also supporting the Centenary: "As part of National Science and Engineering Week and the Leeds Festival of Science we ran a day of lectures, science demonstrations, art workshops, object handling and lab tours to celebrate the Bragg legacy here at Leeds. We managed to engage a really diverse audience.

"Our Bragg zone helped visitors to learn more about diffraction in a really hands on way, from patterns making a symmetrical shape to getting DNA from a strawberry! Audiences also had the chance to see and learn about the kind of objects Bragg and Astbury would have used in their work, including an X-ray spectrometer. "

In a recent poll to find Britain's most important innovation of the past 100 years X-ray crystallography came in third, polling over 5,000 votes. The results of the Great British Innovations Survey can be found at [www.topbritishinnovations.org](http://www.topbritishinnovations.org)

## Research and Innovation

# Look and like?

**When it comes to judging art, beauty may not just be in the eye of the beholder, according to a study carried out in the School of Philosophy, Religion and the History of Science.**

The research challenges the idea that what people value in art is largely what they are used to, or that people will come to like any image if they see it enough times. Instead, the study's findings suggest that increased exposure to artworks does not necessarily make people like them more and that the quality of an artwork remains at the heart of evaluation.

Dr Aaron Meskin, who co-led the study, explains: "People have always questioned how curators and critics judge artwork or arrive at a consensus about masterpieces. We wanted to see if it's true that the more times someone is exposed to artwork, the more they prefer it, and that people will come to like whatever images they are exposed to, good or bad."

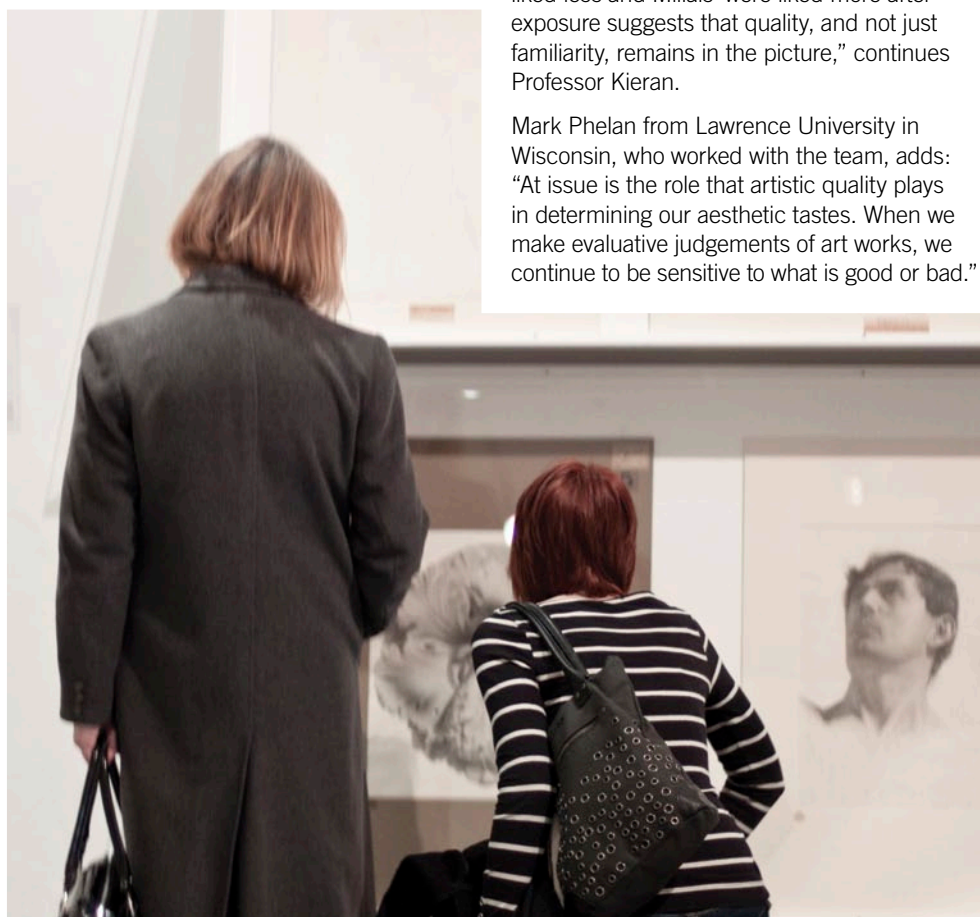
Over 100 students took part in the experiment. An experimental group was shown images of paintings – some once, some four or five times – whereas a control group was not. During a ratings phase, both groups were shown all images and asked to express how much they liked each painting.

The works under the spotlight were landscapes by English Pre-Raphaelite painter, John Everett Millais, and American painter, Thomas Kinkade. Co-lead author Professor Matthew Kieran, said: "The choice made for a natural contrast, with Millais' work representing 'good art' having previously been described as 'misty evocations', whereas Kinkade's work, which one reviewer dubbed 'a kitsch crime against aesthetics', represents 'bad art'."

The findings revealed that people responded differently to Kinkade's paintings than to Millais' paintings when faced with varying levels of exposure.

"The fact that Kinkade's paintings were liked less and Millais' were liked more after exposure suggests that quality, and not just familiarity, remains in the picture," continues Professor Kieran.

Mark Phelan from Lawrence University in Wisconsin, who worked with the team, adds: "At issue is the role that artistic quality plays in determining our aesthetic tastes. When we make evaluative judgements of art works, we continue to be sensitive to what is good or bad."



## Surveys open for researchers

Researchers are being encouraged to give their views about their career experiences and development at Leeds, in one of two national, online surveys – one aimed at research staff, the other at Principal Investigators.

The Careers in Research Online Survey (CROS) is a national survey open to all the University's 800 researchers. Questions are divided into six categories, including 'Recognition and Value' and 'Support and Career Development', and the survey will take around 15 minutes to complete.

"CROS has two main purposes: firstly, it tells us what our researchers think of the professional support the University provides and, secondly, it highlights areas where we can make improvements or alterations to enhance that support," explains Dr Victoria Willett, Staff and Departmental Development Unit (SDDU).

"CROS has been running since 2002 and over the years the results have enabled us to make some really positive changes to employment conditions for our research staff. We are fully committed to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers, and as a result have been awarded the European Commission's 'HR Excellence in Research' badge."

The second survey – the Principal Investigators and Research Leaders Survey (PIRLS) – aims to gather the anonymous views and experiences of research leaders in UK higher education.

"We have more than 700 academics at the University who are eligible to take part in PIRLS," says SDDU's Dr Jim Baxter. "It's a national survey and provides a good snapshot of the UK's research leaders in terms of their capabilities, the support they have and their views about what's important to help develop future research leaders. The findings also help the University to tailor our training and development provision for researchers who want to develop or maybe change their careers."

Both surveys are open until mid-May and if eligible, colleagues will receive an email inviting them to take part. If you have any queries about PIRLS please email [j.e.baxter@adm.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:j.e.baxter@adm.leeds.ac.uk) or, if your query is about CROS, [v.willett@adm.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:v.willett@adm.leeds.ac.uk)



## Sustainability

# Green goodbye to Bodington

**Bodington Hall residences have now passed into new ownership, but preparations for closure and handover involved the largest, most comprehensive 'reuse and recycle' programme ever undertaken by the University.**

Once home to over 1,100 students, the 15 buildings that comprised Bodington were opened in 1963. However, with students preferring to live closer to campus and the accommodation in need of refurbishment, the decision was made to sell the site for development.

"We decided very early in the planning process to reuse as much as possible from site, especially as initial surveys showed it housed



Deskasaurus attacks: Sophie Shand, Mike Howroyd and David Oldroyd do battle with a dinosaur made from recycled furniture from Bodington. The dinosaurs are now in great demand.

around 40,000 items of furniture," says the Sustainability team's Mike Howroyd. "David Owen and Sophie Shand from Residences and I worked closely with David Oldroyd from the Aspect 4 consultancy and recycling specialists Over2Hills, to plan and carry out the gradual removal of the Bodington furniture and fittings.

"Around £88,000 worth of items were reused and relocated to other University-managed residential sites. The carbon value of the furniture element alone equated to 41.3t savings. We also sent items worth £44,000

to local charities, including the Otley Citizens Advice Bureau, Kids Academy, Shri Baba Vishvakarma Sabha and Leeds City Council, who used the much-needed furniture in a variety of areas of Leeds.

"Reuse is generally accepted as only workable on a small scale, but this project shows what can be achieved with a committed team, good communication and involvement of key stakeholders early in the planning process. I'm currently putting together a case-study that can be used across the sector, showing how reuse can work on a large scale."

## Sustainability

# Climate Week draws the crowds

The University celebrated this year's Climate Week – Britain's biggest annual climate change campaign, designed to inspire action to create a sustainable future – by focusing on the depth and breadth of sustainability across campus.

A series of display boards were produced with input from colleagues throughout the University to showcase sustainability in teaching, research and operations. A marquee in University Square encouraged staff and students to get involved with a variety of activities, including a car-share breakfast, careers advice and support, the UTravelActive festival, a 'meet the team' networking session, bug hotel building, documentaries, lectures, celebrating International Women's Day and a research exhibition from the Low Carbon Doctoral Training Centre.

Each activity promoted a different way to become involved with sustainability at the University.

"There was great interest from staff and students during the week," says the Sustainability Team's Sam McCarthy. "Thanks to all who were involved for making it a week of fantastic opportunities to access sustainability on campus."



## Bird survey takes flight

Our campus and residential sites should be alive with the sound of birdsong this spring if the results of the University's third Bird Survey are anything to go by.

Some 27 different species were identified, with colleagues recording over 900 sightings covering 20 separate areas of campus.

"We had reports of both a goldcrest and treecreeper in St George's Field, over 40 sightings of long-tailed tits and nearly 100 sightings of redwings," says the Sustainability team's Sam McCarthy. "The pre-Bird Watch skills sessions proved really popular, attracting more than 50 colleagues and students.

"Participation in the survey is increasing annually and we've noticed that the report quality is also improving. It is providing us with a really useful snapshot of the variety and number of birds that are living in and around campus."

## Valuing our people

# Team Talk – Sustainability Network

### What does the network do?

The wider sustainability network is what makes sustainability really work in practice and help change be realised by doing amazing work to support the Sustainability Team.

The sustainability network consists of a wide, varied bunch of people, including academics in faculties and staff in services. It works in formal and informal ways with the Sustainable Development Steering Group (SDSG), providing high-level decision-making and official reporting to the Vice-Chancellor's Executive Group (VCEG), and daily activities driven through projects, environmental co-ordinators and Green Impact teams.

The SDSG has representatives from VCEG and Deans, the Curriculum Enhancement Project, ISS, Wellbeing, Health and Safety, LUU, Procurement, and Facilities Directorate.

There are several cross-faculty and cross-service initiatives; for example, through the biodiversity project, the Faculty of Environment, Grounds Team, Sustainability Team and Residential Services work together. Similar project groups include Sustainable IT, Sustainable Procurement, Energy, Waste, and the Commercial Services Sustainability Steering group.

Sustainability has grown from looking at environmental issues, largely related to estate and operations, to embrace sustainability in the wider sense. We now look at our social, environmental and economic impacts and responsibilities as a whole University,

which is why it's important to acknowledge the work of all of the people and teams within the sustainability network.

### Tell us about some of the current sustainability projects.

We have several on the go, including renewing waste communications, establishing biodiversity objectives for the next three years, looking at local level energy-saving mechanisms, and working with the Energy Team to look at larger infrastructure projects to help save energy.

### What's coming up in 2013?

2013 is an exciting year for sustainability at Leeds. We'll build on great work that's been done and pull it together into an integrated approach. This includes developing an integrated sustainability strategy to encourage and support parts of the University to work together to achieve great results.

For environmental and financial reasons we need to look at consumption and make reductions whilst ensuring that our core activities of research and student education continue to be world class.

We'll work with the Creating Sustainable Futures curriculum enhancement strand to seek to embed sustainability throughout our student education. We hope to use our own practice as case studies and involve students in our work, enhancing their skill profile as well as their knowledge.

### What are the most rewarding things about being in the network?

The collaborative nature and diversity of our work means we meet a wide range of people around campus and externally, so two days are never the same. We also eat lots of great cakes!



Front row (l-r): Louise Ellis & Alexis Fennell. 2nd row (l-r): Jessica Martin, Emma Lawes & Jennie Hibbard. 3rd row (l-r): Sam McCarthy, Conor Walsh, Jo Moran & James McKay. 4th row (l-r): Ellie Barham, Tim Brannon, Silvana Cannarile & Lisa Brannan. Back row (l-r): Janet Willis, Dennis Hopper & Ben Plumpton.

## How can people find out more?

[www.leeds.ac.uk/sustainability](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/sustainability);  
Twitter: @UoL\_Sus;  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/UoLSustainability](http://www.facebook.com/UoLSustainability); or email:  
[sustainability@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:sustainability@leeds.ac.uk)



## International

# Bringing Italy to Yorkshire

**LivItaly is an exciting project and series of public events that is helping to bring together diverse groups of people with a shared interest in contemporary Italy by combining its unique culture with that of Leeds, Yorkshire and the North of England.**

"By collaborating with international partners including universities and cultural institutions, staff and students at the Italian unit at the University aim to showcase and raise interest in contemporary Italian culture in Leeds and its surrounding areas, as well as acquainting Italian artists, intellectuals and public figures with our lively community," says Dr Gigliola Sulis (School of Modern Languages).

As part of the project, acclaimed Italian singer-songwriter Vinicio Capossela took to the stage at the Howard Assembly Room in Leeds – his first performance outside London. Before the concert, organised in collaboration with Opera North, he talked to the public, interviewed by Dr Sulis and by the Italian journalist Stefano Salis. The video of the talk will soon be available on the project's website, with English subtitles. PhD student Silvia Bergamini and visiting post-doctoral researcher Ilaria Puggioni, who are both members of the LivItaly team, said: "Our non-Italian speaking housemates and friends came along to the concert with us and really enjoyed it, which I think shows how the event worked both for students and staff of Italian studies, and more generally as a cultural event of interest to anybody living in Leeds."

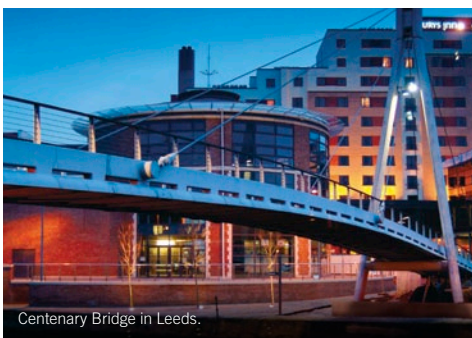
The next event is the talk by Italian crime fiction writer Massimo Carlotto, who set at the University of Leeds parts of his latest novel, *Respiro corto*. In 2013/14, another recent Italian novel set in Leeds, *70% Acrylic, 30% Wool* will be presented by the author, Viola Di Grado; the collaboration with Opera North will also be expanded, with talks and events on occasion of the production and staging of Italian operas.

The project aims to bring together all kinds of people, creating links between academic expertise in the field of Italian studies and the wider community, from local schools and colleges to Italian groups in the local area.

For more information on the LivItaly project, visit [www.leeds.ac.uk/arts/livitaly](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/arts/livitaly), or email [LivItaly@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:LivItaly@leeds.ac.uk)



The Grand Canal in Venice.



Centenary Bridge in Leeds.



Dr Sulis, Vinicio Capossela and Stefano Salis in discussion.  
Image by: Giulia Naitza.

## Valuing our people

# Make more of your money

Sign up to the Wider Wallet – the University's new employee benefits website – and start making some great savings.

The Wider Wallet website brings together a wide range of national and local offers, along with clear information on your other employee benefits. Once you've signed up, you can save money at high street stores, enjoy discounts on your supermarket shopping and eating out, get great travel offers and many more special benefits.

Visit [www.uol.widerwallet.com](http://www.uol.widerwallet.com) and register using the access code **S841547U**.

If you don't have access to a computer you can still sign up by contacting the Wider Wallet Team on **0800 612 7220** between 8am to 6pm on weekdays.

If you have any questions or if you would like to provide feedback or suggestions, please call us on **0800 612 7220** or email [info@widerwallet.com](mailto:info@widerwallet.com)



## Inspire our students

# Access all areas – showcasing our outreach work



Professor Ebdon taking part in an experiment in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) discovery zone, part of the Leeds Festival of Science.

**University-led initiatives to help the brightest students enjoy a world-class education, regardless of background, received a stamp of approval when Director of Fair Access to Higher Education, Professor Les Ebdon, visited us during the Leeds Festival of Science.**

Professor Ebdon saw first-hand how events like the Festival are helping raise the aspirations of young people and encouraging talented students to consider higher education. The visit provided the opportunity to showcase the range of initiatives Leeds has in place to support young people, including school outreach initiatives and student talent spotting

programmes, through to flexible admission policies, generous scholarships and student support networks.

Professor Ebdon said: “We have been calling on universities to step up the work they do in reaching out to schools and communities where few progress to higher education, and there is no doubt that the University of Leeds has achieved some outstanding work in this area and is leading the way.”

Professor Ebdon met with Vice-Chancellor Michael Arthur and current students who gained a place to study through Access to Leeds, an alternative admissions scheme aimed at helping students who have little or no experience of higher education, or who may not be able to demonstrate their talents through grades alone.

## Inspire our students

# Changing Futures report now out

The University's fifth *Changing Futures Education Engagement Annual Report* is now available to staff\*.

It shows that during 2011/12 we worked with over 46,000 young people through widening participation (WP) initiatives and a further 32,000 through school liaison work to raise aspirations, achievement and awareness of higher education (HE) and the University. In addition we worked with almost 1,500 adults returning to learning, supported 669 teachers/careers advisers through conferences, seminars and information sessions and a further 1,960 parents through focused events on student finance, application and admissions and the benefits of HE.

“We're extremely proud of our progress to date and are determined to remain committed to WP and fair access, establishing the Education Engagement Strategy to advance our work with schools and young learners and the Adult Education Engagement Strategy for mature entrants,” says Louise Banahene, Education Outreach Manager.

“These are essential to deliver our Access Agreement aims of ensuring our programmes are available and accessible to people who can benefit, regardless of their background or personal circumstances. The need to continually improve our efforts and celebrate our achievements through the *Changing Futures* report remains as crucial as ever.”

To discuss how you can get involved in future education outreach activity or for further information contact [h.c.darley@adm.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:h.c.darley@adm.leeds.ac.uk)

\*The report can be downloaded at <http://goo.gl/UbR7e>



## Inspire our students

# Festival sparks enthusiasm for science

Thousands of school students and members of the public took part in a wide variety of exciting and fun events at the University campus and at venues around the city as part of this year's Leeds Festival of Science.

Over 4,000 festival places were taken up by young people from institutions which ranged from primary schools to further education colleges. Pupils from Yorkshire and as far afield as Darlington and Bury took part in Festival activities which were delivered over a two-week period that coincided with National Science and Engineering Week. Many events on campus and in the city were also open to the general public.

"The aim of the Festival is to bring science to life and make it exciting for everyone.



This is the third year that we've staged events that are open to all, and they proved incredibly popular," says Access and Community Engagement's Ruth Holland. "Over 1,000 places were open to the public for events on campus. In addition, drop-in events at locations across the city opened up the opportunity for thousands more people to get involved.

"Outstanding support was received from over 100 colleagues from five faculties, so a big



'thank you' to them for helping to make it such a success."

The range of school sessions offered included analysing blood to diagnose disease, touring a low carbon 'energy factory', searching for life on Mars, investigating the maths that makes the modern world, and learning about the Nobel prize-winning pioneers of crystallography, William and Lawrence Bragg. The reaction from teachers and students was very positive: one teacher said it was, "so valuable [for the students] to use specialist equipment not available in school"; another felt that their visit gave "a good insight into University education style and teaching methods". The Discovery Zone offered a range of activities that "fascinated" pupils and succeeded in "increasing enthusiasm and engagement for science". Teachers said the sessions allowed pupils to apply their scientific knowledge to real life and current issues.

The celebrations also covered a range of science related subject matters. Highlights included a tour of the internationally recognised Leeds Cancer Research UK Centre, a day of public lectures celebrating 100 years of X-ray crystallography, an evening with stand-up mathematician Matt Parker, and a hands-on session uncovering the chemistry behind the M&S 'melt in the middle' chocolate pudding.

City-wide events saw the Maths Busking team entertaining shoppers in the new Trinity Leeds centre and a science fair at the Leeds City Museum. A number of self-led walking trails were part of the Festival including a Leeds City Centre maths trail, and geology trails in Leeds, Otley Chevin and Roundhay. Trails are available for download at [www.leeds.ac.uk/festivalofscience/public](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/festivalofscience/public)

## Inspire our students

# Students break record in Leadership Race

A record breaking number of students had their say in the Leadership Race last month to elect six executive officers and a Leeds Student editor to represent them in the next academic year.

The lead-up to the vote saw campus covered with campaign posters and buzzing with activity as 50 students put themselves forward.

The four-day period of voting saw an astonishing 11,383 students vote, breaking the previous record – already held and broken by Leeds in the last two years – for the largest number of votes cast in a student election in the UK.

Professor Vivien Jones, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Student Education, said: "We have a great relationship with Leeds University Union and it's fantastic to see that, yet again, students at Leeds have broken the British record for turnout in their election."

The winners are:

**Union Affairs Officer** – Bradley Escorcio  
**Equality & Diversity Officer** – Emma Friend  
**Community Officer** – Frankie O'Byrne  
**Welfare Officer** – Charlotte Warner  
**Education Officer** – Alice Smart  
**Activities Officer** – Greg Sturge  
**Leeds Student Editor** – Rehema Figueiredo

## In the news

Professor Jane Francis, Dean of the Faculty of Environment, joined climate scientists from the Universities of Oxford and Cardiff for a discussion about the impact of **ice ages** on our planet, led by Melvyn Bragg on BBC Radio 4's *In Our Time* programme.

Where do **cosmic rays**, subatomic particles with the highest known energies in the entire Universe, come from? This was one of the questions discussed by Professor Alan Watson (School of Physics and Astronomy) when he talked about his life and career to Jim Al-Khalili for BBC Radio 4's *The Life Scientific* programme. The programme covered Professor Watson's work studying cosmic rays in the UK, at the South Pole, and in Argentina, where he has been instrumental in creating the world's largest ever cosmic ray detector.

*News Track India* reported on pioneering research led by Professor Arun Holden and Dr Eleftheria Pervolaraki (School of Biomedical Sciences) into the **development of the human heart** using observations of living foetal hearts.



News of a revolutionary, **liquid-cooled computer server** being developed and tested at Leeds by a team led by Dr Jonathan Summers (School of Mechanical Engineering) was given widespread coverage by the computer industry and technical press as well as by the *Toronto Telegraph*, *The Register*, the *New Zealand Herald*, and *Deutsche Welle*. The 'Iceotope' server has the potential to dramatically cut the carbon footprint of the internet.

*Telegraph* journalist Beverley Turner took part in an experiment using the University's driving simulator, carried out for a Channel 4 series, *Bedtime Live*, to show the **effects of over-tiredness on driving ability**. In the experiment, a tired driver who had had five to six hours of sleep performed worse than a driver who had drunk one and a half times more than the legal alcohol limit.



A report co-authored by Dr David Galbraith (School of Geography), which suggests that the world's **rainforests** may be more resilient to **global warming** than had previously been thought, aroused interest around the world. The report received coverage in the *Chicago Tribune*, *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Yahoo! News (India)*. Dr Galbraith warned, however, that, "It is important to remember that other factors not included in this study, such as fire and deforestation, will also affect the carbon stored in tropical forests."

Professor Giuseppe Fontana (Leeds University Business School) was called upon by BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, by BBC *Radio5Live*, and by the *Financial Times* to explain the potential economic impact of the February **parliamentary elections in Italy**, in which the electorate demonstrated the unpopularity of austerity measures.

*BBC News*, the *Telegraph*, *Daily Mail*, *Yahoo! News*, and local press and radio reported on the discovery of a possible **genetic link between obesity and skin cancer**. The research was led by Dr Mark Iles (Leeds Institute of Cancer Studies and Pathology, School of Medicine).

India's *Education Times* featured an interview with Professor Barry Clarke (School of Civil Engineering) about the **developmental role of engineering** in India's economy, infrastructure and education.

Aidan Foster-Carter (School of Sociology and Social Policy) and Professor Christoph Bluth (School of Politics and International Studies) have both again been consulted by the media wanting expert commentary on the escalating **threats emanating from North Korea**. They have been quoted by the *Guardian*, *Washington Post*, *NPR (USA)*, BBC Radio 4's *Saturday PM* programme (Mr Foster-Carter) and the *Mirror* (Professor Bluth).

The possible benefits of **eating more fibre** in **decreasing risk of a stroke**, discovered by Dr Victoria Burley and Diane Threapleton (School of Food Science and Nutrition) was reported by *CTV News (Canada)*, the *New York Times*, *Times of India*, *Huffington Post*, *El Economista (Spain)*, as well as the *Express*, *Guardian*, *Times*, *Daily Mail*, *Telegraph*, and *Sun* in the UK.



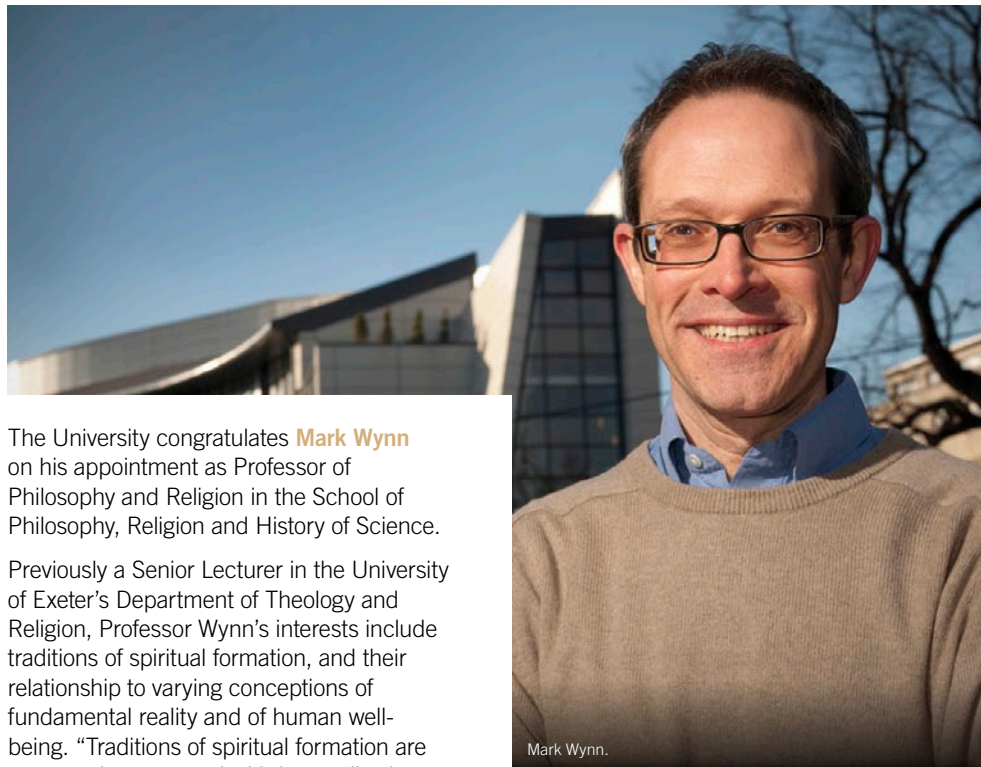
Professor Matthew Seymour (School of Medicine and director of the National Cancer Research Network) commented on a Cancer Research UK study which has shown that the rate of **bowel cancer in men** has risen far more than expected in the last 35 years. His comments were reported by the BBC Radio 4 *Today* programme, the *Guardian*, *i/Independent*, *BBC News*, *London Evening Standard*, *Sky News*, *Daily Mail*, *Mirror* and *Express*.

The *New Scientist* magazine featured research led by Dr Terry Kee (School of Chemistry) that showed that meteorites may have brought the ingredients to create the energy-storing molecules that started **life on Earth**.

PhD student Philippa Hardy (School of Process, Environmental and Materials Engineering) spoke to BBC Radio Leeds' *Drivetime* programme about why consumer **energy bills** are set to increase and the importance of investing time and money in broadening the UK's energy supplies.



## Our people / Honours



The University congratulates **Mark Wynn** on his appointment as Professor of Philosophy and Religion in the School of Philosophy, Religion and History of Science.

Previously a Senior Lecturer in the University of Exeter's Department of Theology and Religion, Professor Wynn's interests include traditions of spiritual formation, and their relationship to varying conceptions of fundamental reality and of human well-being. "Traditions of spiritual formation are very much concerned with how to live here and now," he explains. "And I'm especially interested in how they equip people to experience the everyday sensory world differently, with the result that they are able to act differently, here and now."

"We can think of spiritual and religious traditions as historically extended experiments in human possibilities. Philosophers, scholars of religion, and theologians all have a part to play in making this accumulated wisdom concerning human nature and its potentialities accessible to, and of interest to, a contemporary readership comprising secular as well as religiously committed people. In this way, these traditions can be made part of our common human inheritance."

Professor Wynn's book *Renewing the Senses: A Study of the Philosophy and Theology of the Spiritual Life* has just been published by Oxford University Press.

**Professor Sheena Radford** (School of Molecular and Cellular Biology) received the Carl Brändén Award, sponsored by Rigaku Corporation. The award was presented to Dr Radford for her impressive body of multidisciplinary research that demonstrates the efficacy of a multifaceted approach in unravelling the process of protein folding and misfolding in human disease. She is widely acknowledged for her mentorship and overall service to the scientific community.

The achievements of **Professor Eileen Ingham** (Faculty of Biological Sciences) and 11 other leading women in engineering and the physical sciences related to medicine were celebrated during Suffrage Science, an event focusing on leading women in science. The evening was hosted by the Medical Research Council's Clinical Sciences Centre and saw the launch of a keepsake publication <http://goo.gl/GvRhQ>

**Professor John Young and Sean Duffy** (both School of Medicine), have been appointed National Clinical Directors (NCD) to spearhead change in healthcare delivery in the NHS. Their role is to drive change by working closely with policy and delivery teams, clinical networks and the NHS management community.

Professor Young has been appointed NCD for Integration and the Frail Elderly. He is Professor of Elderly Care Medicine and Head of the Academic Unit of Elderly Care and Rehabilitation. John is based in Bradford where he is a Consultant at Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Mr Duffy has been appointed NCD for Cancer. He is a Senior Lecturer (Consultant) in the Section of Pathology and Tumour Biology and a consultant at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust in Gynaecology.

**Dr Stella Butler**, the University Librarian and Keeper of the Brotherton Collection, has been elected as Chair of Research Libraries UK. Dr Butler said: "I am delighted to have been elected Chair of the RLUK Board. This is a pivotal time for higher education and our libraries face many changes and challenges including the increasing dominance of the electronic environment, the open access agenda, the management and curation of research data as well as the exploitation of the vast riches in our special collections. I look forward to working with board members and the RLUK executive team whose collective experience and expertise will enable RLUK to drive, develop and shape the agenda for libraries and scholarly information in the UK."



The University's **Careers Centre** was highly commended for its Professional Services Scheme in the Best Public Sector Placement category at the annual National Council of Work Experience Awards. The Careers Centre nominated social enterprise 'A View from a Hill' (part of the company Biskit) for 'Work Placement of the Year – as Nominated by a Careers Adviser, Jobshop or Placement Tutor' which went on to win their category. The awards recognise UK employers who offer outstanding placement opportunities and encourage work experience and graduate internship opportunities.

**AMENDMENT** Dr Jane Cahill has been appointed Athena SWAN Manager, not Athena SWAN Project Officer as previously reported.

## Valuing our people

# 'Everyone included, everyone involved'

### Have your say on equality and inclusion (E&I) – workshops booking now!

The E&I strategy demonstrates how we aim to translate our value of inclusiveness throughout our business and day-to-day organisational practice. Our mission is to be a beacon of excellence in the sector, promoting a culture of inclusion, respect and equality of opportunity for all by:

- demonstrating visible leadership and accountability at all levels
- embedding equality into all aspects of University life
- providing a sustainable environment which enables all staff and students to thrive
- working in partnership with our staff, students, Unions and wider

Be included, get involved: we now want to share the strategy with staff and students to develop action plans that will shape our equality priorities and targeted activities over the next five years.

Your views are important and we want to hear them. A series of workshops is being held and there's still time to take part in those being held on 24 and 25 April.

These will provide an opportunity for you to find out more about what's going on, share your ideas and shape the development of the action plans.

Book your place now by going to the For Staff webpage 'Have your say on equality and inclusion – workshops booking now!' or email [equality@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:equality@leeds.ac.uk)

If you can't make the workshops or want further information, leave your comments on the online feedback questionnaire or email [equality@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:equality@leeds.ac.uk)



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## Events

# Leeds goes medieval

**Details of public events that will take place at this year's International Medieval Congress are now available to view online.**

The University campus will receive a medieval transformation between Sunday 30 June and Friday 5 July, when members of the public can embark on a number of historical excursions, peruse a medieval craft fair, and indulge in historical music and dance, amongst a host of other activities.

For more information, please see [www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/oncampus](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/oncampus) or [www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/publicevents](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/publicevents)

### Healthy Week – 22-28 April

Healthy Week is a University of Leeds and LUU initiative, aiming to encourage both staff and students to discover new ways of improving and maintaining a healthy lifestyle and state of mind.

This year's Healthy Week is all about making a promise to improve your health. You might wish to sleep better, lose weight, learn to swim, feel energised, run 5km, do a triathlon, eat less fat...

Come along to the Healthy Week launch event on 18 April in the LUU foyer from 12-2pm. Students and staff can find out how to use the expertise and services within the University to set and reach their health promises. Throughout the week there will be workshops, events and activities to help you.

Details can be found at <http://goo.gl/fOFtN>

### Make Your Mark – M&S lecture

The hugely popular Make Your Mark Networking Series addressed a full house of business leaders, staff and students earlier this year as M&S Director of Plan A, CSR and Sustainability Richard Gillies outlined how organisations need to address the challenges arising from increasing populations consuming finite resources. The Make Your Mark Networking Series brings together senior leaders from Marks & Spencer and academics from the University of Leeds to engage with a diverse audience through focused discussion around issues of topical interest.



Kirkstall Abbey in Leeds.

With the recent opening of the Trinity Centre in Leeds demonstrating the continuing importance of retail and business to the region, the next event in the series will see Nayna McIntosh, Director of Store Environment & Product Presentation at M&S speaking on the changing face of the modern retail environment.

The event takes place at 12 noon on Friday 10 May at [stage@leeds](mailto:stage@leeds). Admission is free, but you will need to reserve your place at [makeyourmark@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:makeyourmark@leeds.ac.uk)



Richard Gillies of M&S during his talk at the University.

### From glass plate to pixels: a digital journey through Godfrey Bingley's Yorkshire

Godfrey Bingley, a former foundry owner, took up photography after his retirement and took thousands of photographs from 1884-1913. In 1913, when his eyesight failed, he donated his entire collection of glass plate and film slides, as well as accompanying notebooks, to the University. These amazing images include settings such as Kirkstall Abbey, Fountains Abbey, Headingley, Bolton Abbey and Scarborough, giving a unique insight into Victorian and Edwardian Leeds and Yorkshire.

On Saturday 4 May, to mark the centenary of the archive coming to the University, the Library's digitisation team will be working with Leeds City Museum staff to re-create some of Bingley's original photographs of Kirkstall Abbey.

Bingley's notebooks gave details of the date and time when each photograph was taken, and these will be used to re-photograph the scenes exactly 125 years on.

On the same day, in the afternoon, the Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery will host a family-friendly art workshop about the Bingley slides. You can be part of the team's activities at Kirkstall Abbey in the morning and join the Gallery's fun workshop in the afternoon.

Details of the event are at <http://library.leeds.ac.uk/art-gallery-events>

### Jewish Artists in Yorkshire

Forming part of the ongoing celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the Leeds Jewish Community, a new exhibition – Jewish Artists in Yorkshire – is now open at the Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery until 20 July.

Bringing together different themes, genres and media, the exhibition is based around the major Jewish artists in the University's Art Collection, including Jacob Kramer and Philip Naviasky. Loans from other public and private collections include works by Joash Woodrow, and contemporary artists are also represented by the likes of Lydia Bauman and Gillian Singer.

The gallery is open Monday-Saturday, 10-5pm and admission is free.



The Jew by Jacob Kramer.

## FAQs

# Susan Deuchars

**Reader in Neuroscience and  
Discovery Zone co-ordinator,  
School of Biomedical Sciences**

### Tell us about your job.

I am a Reader in Neuroscience which means that I am an academic juggling research, teaching and various internal and external administrative roles. This also means I am never bored, spending time grant and paper writing, lecturing, or trying to evaluate manuscripts that have been submitted to the journal for which I am an associate editor. Sometimes, I even get to spend time on my beloved electrophysiology rig, recording from a neurone. The Discovery Zone is one of the things that I do 'on the side', as my effort to inspire children to study science.

### What's the best thing about working on the Discovery Zone for the Festival of Science?

I have been running the Discovery Zone for about five years now and the best thing about it is the excitement of the schoolchildren who attend this. I love it when they first enter the Sports Hall, which is full of stalls offering a different scientific activity or focus, since often their first response is "Wow, this is really cool". I guess that this is not something that many pupils associate with science, so we've got the magic right!

### What do visitors find the most interesting?

All pupils are different – many love seeing and touching the real hearts and brains, others are fascinated by how biochemical reactions occur – these are usually some of the more spectacular ones that involve noises or lots of froth! Every stall makes such an effort to ensure their particular focus of science is interesting, so overall it is impossible for a pupil to come away bored.



### Tell us about your own research and how you became interested in it.

I am interested in the circuitry of the spinal cord – how different neurones speak to each other to enable an appropriate and co-ordinated response. The real excitement comes when you realise that you're probably one of the first people ever to record from a particular type of neurone. I have been interested in this since I started my PhD many years ago and will still be trying to understand these complex circuits when I am in my dotage.

### Tell us one of the most interesting scientific facts you've come across throughout your academic career.

One of my favourite facts that I tell the students is that if you learn a second language when you're very young, you are likely to use one side of your brain more than the other when speaking that language, but if you learn a new language at an older age, you use both sides of your brain. I find such plasticity in your brain circuits fascinating.

### What's your most frequently asked question?

You mean, apart from the "Aren't you on holiday?" question from friends when the students are away, which is actually when we are at our busiest!

Probably the most frequently asked question is when I talk about my research and people ask "Can you really record from a single neurone?" The idea that I can stick a glass electrode into a single cell which is still alive and record its electrical activity tends to produce disbelief.

### What are your main interests outside of work?

My family and friends are really important to me – I love our life outside work, walking, eating, sport and a bit of culture. We have two boys who are total sports addicts, so a lot of my time is spent watching rugby and cricket. I have also been doing British Military Fitness in the park which is brilliant fun – I was one of the 'nutters' out at 6.45 am in a snow blizzard recently but I felt great afterwards.... I think.

### Who would be in your 'super group'?

Lead singer has to be my singing hero, Phil Lynott from Thin Lizzy. I would also like Roger Waters for song writing but that would mean two bass players – maybe I should swap to Dave Gilmour from Pink Floyd for his superb guitar playing. I would like Emily Sande as the female singer and pianist (she has a neuroscience degree, too, so has great taste in science!) and I would have Nick Hodgson, formerly from the Kaiser Chiefs as my drummer – a good Leeds connection.