



# Reporter

Issue 589  
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## Transforming admissions

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The University is introducing a new, simplified admissions process.

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## Eye on Asia 2015

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A wealth of different sights and images of Asia were on display to visitors, students and staff in Parkinson Court at this year's annual Eye on Asia exhibition and competition.

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## Double success for northern partnership

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Two new awards underline the power of research collaboration.

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## World Unite-d Festival!

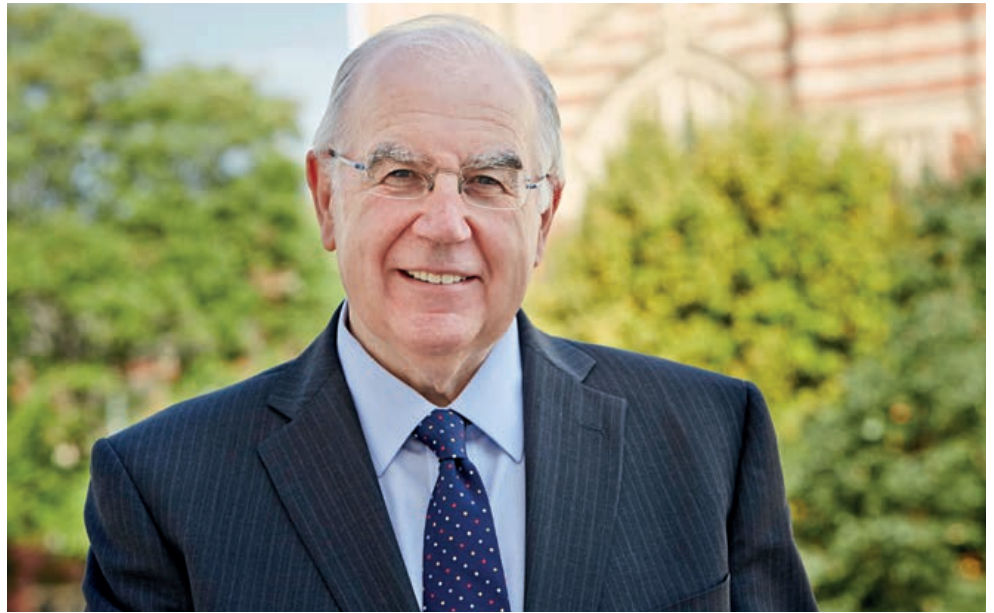
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Over 4,000 visitors attended this year's World Unite Festival, organised by Leeds University Union and the Global Community team.

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## Leader column

# Election uncertainty but Leeds is prepared for the future



**We normally associate Spring and early Summer with the joys of Celebrate Week, the trials and tribulations of exam time and the anticipation of graduation...this year we also face the uncertainties of one of the most hotly contested General Elections in history...**

The outcome of May's UK General Election could have far-reaching consequences for higher education. Conservative plans include significant savings in public spending, estimated at £30 billion, including £13 billion in cuts from departmental budgets, as set out in the most recent budget. The Labour Party has announced plans to reduce the cap on home/EU undergraduate student tuition fees from £9,000 to £6,000 if elected to government. The party has given assurances that universities would not be financially disadvantaged by the change in fee structure: it says that the annual teaching grant that is awarded to universities would be increased by £2.7 billion to make up the expected shortfall in income.

The proposed reduction in tuition fees underlines the uncertainty facing the sector. The present government's decision to lift the cap on tuition fees to £9,000 in 2012 was contentious at that time, and, while many still hold serious reservations about the increase, it did nevertheless give universities some autonomy over a key source of income. Universities UK has welcomed the assurances that the teaching grant would rise to compensate for the fall in fee income if Labour is elected. However, most commentators have also expressed concern that the change could lead to pressure being placed on funding which is currently allocated to universities through Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) funding for research, innovation, STEM subjects and social mobility.

Politics aside, it is clear that the underlying weakness in the public finances and the requirement for a sensible fiscal response will be one of the most difficult issues in the in-tray of the new government. University funding will therefore be subject to intense scrutiny in the post-election comprehensive spending review,

and it is imperative that our negotiators put forward positive arguments based on the well-evidenced social benefits of higher education. Our sector must surely be seen as part of the growth story and not the austerity story.

No matter what the outcome of these political and funding machinations, the University will hold fast to its strategic plan – delivering outstanding education, opportunities for all-round personal growth, and world-class research and innovation across a wide range of academic disciplines. We will also continue to invest in the expertise and professionalism of our staff and the energy, enthusiasm and talent of our students. However, in a more challenging financial environment, and given some disappointment with the recent REF results, we must also accept that long-term success will require determined action to increase academic quality and power even further. This means that we will have to realise the benefits from our current investments, increase the proportion of staff submitted in REF2020 with 3 and 4\* publications, grow international and postgraduate education, and continue to improve graduate employability.

Our recent achievements give me confidence that all of this is possible. The recent launch of the Leeds Curriculum is an important landmark, building on research-based learning and the tradition of final year projects; the core threads of global and cultural insight, ethics and responsibility, and employability; and the development of the 10 new interdisciplinary Discovery Themes. Our investment, too, in a new, admissions process to be launched shortly, is a major step towards transforming the way the University builds and maintains relationships with prospective, current and former students.\*

With 16 students participating in the British Conference of Research – with projects as varied as 'Clouds : Analysing CMIPS model reliability and quantifying the effects on radioactive forcing' and 'Trafficking the "exotic": damaging representations of women of colour in the sex industry' – and great success in recent national competitions for Chinese and Japanese language, Leeds students are up for change and challenge.

Through the N8 Agri-Food Resilience Programme, Leeds researchers have played a key role in the successful £16 million (£8 million from HEFCE and £8 million from N8 partners) catalyst grant to promote research and innovation in food security. This programme fits with key research council and Innovate UK strategies and should lever additional research funding from these sources and from industry partners. (See the article on page 8 for more details of this and another key N8 grant.)

The General Election may be casting a shadow of uncertainty for the moment but Leeds students and staff know how to lift the mood. With your inspiration and backing we can find a path through the next five-year fixed term Parliament without breaking stride.

Alan Langlands

\*See the article opposite for more information.

## News

# Transforming applicant admissions

**A new, simplified admissions process will be a major step towards transforming the way the University builds and maintains relationships with prospective, current and former students.**

Preparations are underway to launch the first phase of the new admissions process in September. The new system supporting admissions (Microsoft Dynamics CRM) will go live for postgraduate taught applications and admissions in September this year, and next year it will come on stream for postgraduate research applications and undergraduates.

“The CRM will give our applicants a simpler, swifter process that’s consistent right across the University’s nine faculties,” says Professor Vivien Jones, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Student Education. “It will help us to keep in touch with prospective students, and send them relevant, timely information to help them make an informed decision about where they would like to study – which of course we hope will be Leeds.

“An underpinning principle of the Student Education Service (SES) is to give an equitable experience to all our students and the implementation of the CRM is fundamental in helping us do that. Eventually, it will allow us to manage our relationship with students, from their first contact with us, through their learning journey, and even after they graduate and become alumni. Whether it’s prospective students accessing the University for the first time, existing students checking on administrative processes or getting in

touch with us to solve a problem, or alumni contacting us after graduation, they’ll all experience the same online interface.”

During the spring and summer months, training will be given to support both Student Education Service and academic staff, familiarising them with the system in readiness for processing next year’s postgraduate taught applications. Implementation teams in each faculty are also meeting frequently to work out exactly how the system can be introduced as smoothly as possible.

“It’s a big and complex project and staff from across the University have already put in a lot of hard work and energy because they can see the benefits of having a much more straightforward, effective way of managing applications,” says Dr Luke Windsor, Pro-Dean for Student Education in the Faculty of Performance, Visual Arts and Communications. “We recognise that it’s a new system and a new way of working, so we’re making sure that excellent training and ongoing support is available for our staff before, during and after we go live. We’ll also be giving colleagues regular updates and, of course, Heads of Service or Faculty Education Service Managers are always happy to explain what’s happening and will be keeping their teams informed and up to date.”



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## About the Reporter

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

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

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Web: [www.leeds.ac.uk/forstaff/reporter](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/forstaff/reporter)

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

The front cover shows dancers from the Polish Society performing at the One World Show, part of this year’s World Unite Festival.

## News

# Suffrage Science Awards for Leeds academics



(l-r): Professor Ruth Wilcox, Dr Lorna Dougan and Professor Anne Neville

### Three University of Leeds academics have been honoured with Suffrage Science Awards, supported by the Medical Research Council and the Royal Society.

Professor Anne Neville (School of Mechanical Engineering), Professor Ruth Wilcox (Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering) and Dr Lorna Dougan (School of Physics and Astronomy) have all been selected by current MRC Suffrage Award holders as outstanding researchers in science and engineering.

As part of the award, the winners receive jewellery which is passed down from one generation of leading female scientists to the next. The heirlooms were hand-crafted and designed by Central Saint Martins college of art and design, and are inspired by the jewellery awarded to women of the Suffrage movement in recognition of their campaign for equal voting rights.

Professor Neville was nominated by Dame Julia Higgins, Professor of Polymer Science at Imperial College, who says: "I chose to pass my jewellery to Anne because I have been constantly amazed by her innovative science. She draws inspiration

from the natural world to provide engineering solutions to a wide range of problems ranging from the oil industry to medicine."

Fellow Leeds academic and previous holder of the Award, Professor Eileen Ingham, nominated Professor Wilcox, saying: "Ruth leads a large group of both theoretical and experimental researchers and has a passion for cross-disciplinary working. Her high intellect, vitality and enthusiasm for research, together with her straightforward, considerate nature, is an inspiration to all who work with her."

Dr Dougan was nominated by Professor Dame Athene Donald, DBE, FRS, Professor of Experimental Physics at the University of Cambridge, who says: "Lorna is a deep thinker with a hugely positive attitude towards her science – and others working around her."

More information about the awards can be found at [goo.gl/qn5kDE](http://goo.gl/qn5kDE)

## We're backing the Capital of Culture bid

The University is backing a bid for Leeds to be the 2023 European Capital of Culture which, if successful, will see the city host an exciting year-long programme of cultural events.

Even the process of bidding itself will help build an international image of 21st century Leeds in

Europe and beyond: a vital, creative, 'can-do' city for future generations, with an associated increase in jobs, skills, technological and business capacity.

"We'll do all that we can to support Leeds' bid to secure European Capital of Culture status for 2023," says Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands. "Success would mean a huge boost to the outstanding cultural and artistic activities our city already enjoys.

## Library building works

The stunning new Laidlaw Library on Woodhouse Lane is nearing completion. At the time of going to print, the exact date for the opening was still being finalised, but it will be during the summer term.

Work also begins shortly on the refurbishment of the Edward Boyle Library (EBL), and it will close for the summer vacation from Friday 5 June. Core texts and high-demand texts will move to the Laidlaw Library, and a retrieval service will run for the remaining science and engineering main collection texts. Current print copies of science and engineering journals are now in the Brotherton Library West Building. The EBL will partially reopen in late September, with 1,000 study seats in the south side of the building, and full access to science and engineering texts. Refurbishment work will then continue on the rest of the building.

Work has also started on the 'Treasures of the Brotherton: Leeds University Library Gallery' exhibition space in Parkinson Court. This Heritage Lottery-funded project will open up the Library's Special Collections, making them accessible to a wide audience through exhibitions, workshops, events and school and family activities.

Up-to-date information can be found at [library.leeds.ac.uk/](http://library.leeds.ac.uk/) and For Staff.

"It would also bring wider economic benefits and significant new opportunities for our staff and students who already work closely with the cultural and creative industries. The University plays an important part in the cultural life of the city and we are proud to be the principal academic partner in this bid."

The city will have to declare its intention to bid by December 2016. The successful city will be announced in October 2018.

## News

# Eye on Asia 2015

**A wealth of different sights and images of Asia were on display to visitors, students and staff in Parkinson Court at this year's annual Eye on Asia exhibition and competition.**

The photographs show locations all over Asia, with many taken in Thailand, China and Japan – popular Study Abroad and tourist destinations. There were 150 submissions, with just 40 chosen to be exhibited to the public before a panel of judges chose the finalists. The judges were Dr Bo Wang (Business Confucius Institute), Dr Alison Hardie, (Chinese Studies) and photography student Niamh O'Donnell.

More celebrations were in order for four East Asian Studies students who won prizes in the 14th 'Chinese Bridge' Language Proficiency Competition; the first time in the competition's history that four entrants from the same institution have won prizes.

Thirty students gathered at the British Library for the competition and delivered short speeches demonstrating their Chinese language proficiency and knowledge of China before a three-minute artistic performance to showcase their individual talents. The four Leeds students sang, performed a Chinese dance and played the violin. Tania Yeromiyana, Alice Heales and Matthew O'Dowd shared third prize while Christy O'Driscoll won the prize for most eloquent speech.

The students were trained by Dr Ning Yi from East Asian Studies (EAST) and Ms Zhou Bei, Ms Wang Yu, Ms Liang Weicong and Ms Chen Kexuan from the Business Confucius Institute (BCIUL).



*Clash by Andy Ly*



*An Arm and a Leg by Aime Hunter*



*Man Mo Temple, Francesca Martin*



*Having Fun by Amy Sharp*

**First:** *Clash* by Andy Ly (Japanese and Linguistics) taken at Suwon Fortress, Republic of Korea

**Second:** *An Arm and a Leg* by Aime Hunter (Geography) taken in Mumbai, India

**Third:** *Man Mo Temple*, Francesca Martin (History) taken in Hong Kong

**Fourth:** *Having Fun* by Amy Sharp (Chinese) taken at the Yuanyang Rice Terraces in Yunnan, China

## News in brief

### Liberty lecture explores idea of privacy

Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty, the UK's leading civil liberties organisation, delivered the School of Law's Annual Liberty Lecture to an audience of students, staff, alumni and guests. Her wide-ranging lecture 'On Liberty' – gave an overview of Liberty's work from its conception as the National Council of Civil Liberties, through to its work today in lobbying, building community coalitions and providing specialist advice and information. Ms Chakrabarti also discussed fundamental rights and freedoms as defined in the European Convention on Human Rights, a crisis in trust of institutions in the UK, and the concept of privacy.

### Postgraduate Research Experience Survey

The Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) is now open and inviting postgraduate researchers to take part. The PRES is the only national survey of postgraduate research students' experience of their programme and at least 114 institutions across the UK will participate. The results give rich information on our students' experience (including comparisons internally and against the sector), which allow us to make changes to better meet student needs. All eligible students have been emailed details of the survey, or it can be accessed through the Portal. It takes about 15 minutes to complete and is open until 14 May.

### Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council – reminder to grant holders

Colleagues holding grants from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) are reminded of new expectations for research data and the forthcoming compliance deadline of 1 May. To find out more and get support visit [goo.gl/SqMfsp](http://goo.gl/SqMfsp) or email the Research Data Management Service at [researchdataenquiries@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:researchdataenquiries@leeds.ac.uk)

## Infrastructure and sustainability

# Sharp-eyed visitors settle in

Two peregrine falcons have been spotted nesting on the Parkinson Tower. Peregrines are blue-grey, with a blackish head and a white face, long wings and a short tail. These large, powerful birds can be spotted all year round and usually nest on cliff-ledges, quarry faces or sea-cliffs. More recently, however, they have been known to nest on tall buildings. The pair can be seen on the right-hand ledge

of the tower when viewing from the bottom of Parkinson steps.

Mike Howroyd from Sustainability says: "It's great to see peregrines on campus and that they have chosen the Parkinson Tower as a nesting site. This is a nice, undisturbed location and now that they have found a suitable place, they should continue to return every year."



## New on-campus, catered accommodation!

**With the annual return of ducks to the Roger Stevens Building pond, the Facilities Directorate has been working to ensure they remain and that their young have a chance to grow.**

Last year, due to foxes in the area, many ducklings were lost. A new duck house has been installed with a feeding area in a safe location next to the pond. Five mallards currently reside by the pond and are being fed a special diet. Estates have also agreed not to drain the pond for cleaning until after the breeding season.

## Hive in the sky

The first beehive to be sited on a roof space on campus has been placed on the new Laidlaw Library by the University's new Hive Network.

The Network, a collaborative project between the School of Earth and Environment's Sustainability Action Group and the Facilities Directorate, successfully transported the colony to its new home, which has been designed to form a beautiful garden space which will eventually have three beehives.

Each hive will be linked with sensors that show how they are performing, measuring hive acoustics, bee activity, humidity and temperature. This information can be accessed via the internet and will allow anybody to see how our hives are performing in real time. Although the hives will still rely on the Network's beekeepers to provide regular checks, this technology will give people an interesting insight into the hives and also create future research opportunities for the University. To find out more email [sustainability@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:sustainability@leeds.ac.uk)

## Car parking – survey update

**Responses to the recent car parking questionnaire are currently being analysed and will be shared with staff during the next few weeks.**

The results of the survey will be used to review the existing car parking policy and practice, with the aim of making them fairer and financially sustainable. The University's car parks have operated for a number of years with little change; the last significant change was the introduction of car parking enforcement in December 2013.

The questionnaire, which attracted some 2,350 responses from across the University, from both

car park users and non-car users, was carried out ahead of the completion of the new multi-storey car park, which is expected to take place later this year.

The new car parking policy will be guided by the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) framework to ensure it meets the University's equality mission and promotes a culture of inclusion, respect and equality of opportunity.



## Opportunities for students

# World Unite-d Festival!

Over 4,000 visitors attended this year's World Unite Festival, organised by Leeds University Union and the Global Community team.



Students pictured with Angklungs, traditional Indonesian musical instruments



Dancers from the Fusion Bollywood Show performed by Leeds South Asian Society

The week featured 135 events organised by staff, student societies and the Intercultural Ambassadors programme, with representatives from 52 nations. Visitors could attend events including 'how to flirt with a Pole' and a traditional Gaelic cellidh, or listen to debates on current global issues in the regular TALK series.

This year saw an increase in postgraduate students attending the Festival, according to an official evaluation report. The report also found that the Bollywood Dance Show, hosted by the Leeds South Asian Society, the Indonesian Fair and World Food Kitchen were the highest attended events, all attracting between 150 and 300 visitors each.

Alongside the wealth of events, there were fairs, and stalls ran all week inside the Students' Union. A Laughter Booth was set up in the Union Foyer where students shared their favourite jokes on camera.

Planning has already begun for World Unite 2016 and next year they want to make it even better! Colleagues with ideas or suggestions for events – such as cultural performances, global experience workshops or a topic for the next TALK series – can contact Sarah Plumb at [s.plumb@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:s.plumb@leeds.ac.uk)



Fans sold at the Indonesian Day fair

## The Yorkshire Graduate Recruitment Fair

This year's Yorkshire Graduate Recruitment Fair will be happening on Monday 8 June 2015 between 11am and 2.30pm at The Edge.

The Fair will be attended by over 110 local, national and international organisations, offering a variety of opportunities for new or recent graduates. They will have the chance to meet organisations and talk directly to their representatives, as well as attend employability workshops. There is also the unique opportunity for organisations to hold interviews with graduates on the day. Career consultants will be on hand throughout the day offering expert advice and running CV clinics.

Even though this is a graduate fair, students from all years can attend. For further information, direct students/graduates to the event on the Fair website at <http://careerweb.leeds.ac.uk/ygrf>

## New Union Executive elected

With 8,488 student votes cast this year, six candidates have been chosen to lead the next Leeds University Union Executive, and a new editor for *The Gryphon* newspaper has been elected. The results are as follows:

**Union Affairs:** Toke Dahler-Larsen

**Activities:** Piers Cottee-Jones

**Education:** Melissa Owusu

**Community:** Jonny Foster

**Equality and Diversity:** Gemma Turner re-elected

**Welfare:** Freya Govus re-elected

**The Gryphon editor:** Ben Cook

The elected students will take up their positions from July and run for an entire academic year.

## Research and innovation

# Double success for northern partnership

**Two new awards with a joint value of more than £10m from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to the N8 Research Partnership – which brings together eight northern universities\* – have underlined the power of research collaboration in priority areas.**

Initial funding of £16m will enable the N8 to investigate and drive innovation in food security. HEFCE is awarding £8m to the Agri-Food Resilience Programme\*\*, to be matched by the N8.

With a growing global population, providing access to affordable, safe and nutritious food is one of the greatest challenges to society. The five-year research programme will examine three key areas – sustainable food production, resilient food supply chains, and the need for improved nutrition and greater understanding of consumer behaviour.

Professor Tim Benton (Biology), the UK's Global Food Security Programme Champion, explains: "The challenge is to feed nine billion people by

2050, yet all around us is uncertainty, whether this involves the drivers of consumer choice, unstable climates, new pests and diseases, the need for healthier, functional nutrition, or increased competition for land, water and energy."

Professor Louise Dye (Psychology) adds: "If we're going to make any inroads into changing consumption patterns, we need to understand how and why people make the decisions they do about the food they consume. This means understanding the impact of food consumption and waste, raising awareness of the effects of food on nutrition and health, and helping people change their habitual dietary patterns to promote better health."

A second HEFCE grant of £3m\*\*\* will enable academics and the police, working as the N8 Policing Research Partnership (N8 PRP), to take a major step forward in developing and testing innovative approaches to policing and crime reduction.

Led by the University, the programme brings together researchers from a variety of disciplines, the police and partner organisations to generate new insights with practical relevance. Priorities are research co-production, innovation in policing strategies, mobilising human and data resources to understand crime patterns, and citizen engagement to assess public reception of new technologies, policing practices and change. It's anticipated the five-year project will make an important contribution



to innovation and the use of research to advance the professionalisation of policing.

Professor Adam Crawford (Law), Director of the N8 PRP, explains: "We want to transform the relationship between police users and academic researchers so that we co-produce knowledge that will inform and improve the policing strategies of the future."

The Innovation and the Application of Knowledge for More Effective Policing programme will bring researchers and practitioners together to design and undertake research that focuses specifically on new and emerging challenges for policing.

\* Durham, Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Sheffield and York.  
 \*\* Hosted by the University of York on behalf of the N8.  
 \*\*\* To be supplemented by a further £3.686m from policing partners and other universities.



## Researcher survey now open

**The Careers in Research Online Survey 2015 (CROS) is now open to all members of research staff in UK higher education institutions – including those sustaining research while on teaching contracts – to gather views about their experiences, career aspirations and career development opportunities.**

Research staff at Leeds received a personal invitation to participate from Professor David Hogg, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation, and Linda Mortimer-Pine, Acting Director of Human Resources.

Survey organiser, Patricia Gray of the Staff and Departmental Development Unit, says: "It is very important to the University as an employer that our researchers take part in CROS 2015 as it informs us how well we support them as current members of staff.

"CROS has been run at the University since 2003. This year's results will be used to help progress our Concordat to Support the Development of Researchers\* strategy and four-year action plan 2015-18. As CROS is a national survey, the results will also be used by research funding bodies to help further understand researcher careers. In previous years, this has led to additional funding being given to institutions for research staff development, as well as significantly raising the profile of research staff in their institutions

and nationally. I warmly encourage all our researchers to contribute their views."

The survey closes on 31 May 2015. Participant answers will be completely anonymised and confidential, so it will not be possible to 'work back' from survey summaries to ascertain the views of individuals. Relevant findings will be disseminated to schools and faculties during the summer.

\* See [tinyurl.com/megyw4I](http://tinyurl.com/megyw4I) for further information.





## International and community

# Festive Fortnight proves a huge hit

**The 10th annual Leeds Festival of Science offered a packed fortnight of exciting and inspiring activities for schoolchildren and the public.**

The Festival – which runs alongside British Science Week – saw around 3,500 young people get hands-on with science, technology, engineering and mathematics, both on campus and in schools. This year's public programme was also bigger than ever, attracting over 3,000 visitors, with everything from a lecture with a zombiologist to a Science Ceilidh!

One of the highlights of the Festival was the University's first 'Science Slam' held at the Carriageworks Theatre. This competitive science and comedy show brought together local 11-13 year-old performing arts students and undergraduates from the Faculties of Biological Sciences and Maths and Physical Sciences. Participants worked in teams to share knowledge, increase their confidence and explore how to communicate science creatively. The audience – who acted as judges – left great feedback on the performances and rated the event very highly.

The Festival saw Jim McQuaid (School of Earth and Environment) captivate audiences with a fascinating talk about his travels across the US in the world's largest airship for the BBC series *Operation Cloud Lab: Secrets*

*of the Skies*. Author Simon Singh was also welcomed to campus to inspire an audience of sixth formers with his lecture 'The Simpsons and their Mathematical Secrets'. Simon was interviewed by the *Yorkshire Evening Post* for a feature on this year's Festival. The paper also featured pictures of budding scientists taking part in the Discovery Zone – a biosciences fair for Key Stage 2 and 3 students. In other media coverage, eight-year-old Ruby spoke to Chris Evans on the BBC Radio 2 *Breakfast Show* about her visit to the Discovery Zone. She scored it a very impressive "billion out of 10!"

The Engineering Experience provided an exciting market-style opportunity for people of all ages to engage with different areas of engineering. From testing the strength of replacement joints to seeing how tall a giant tetrahedron could be built, it was definitely a hands-on experience for visitors.

"The Festival was a fantastic success, and we'd like to thank all the helpers, volunteers and presenters who put so much time, effort and enthusiasm into it," says Educational Engagement's Ruth Holland.

For further information about this year's event or how to get involved in next year's Festival visit [www.leeds.ac.uk/festivalofscience](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/festivalofscience) You can also follow @STEMatLeeds or search #LeedsFestivalofScience



Young visitors had the chance to find out more about the sciences



## Collaboration and enterprise

# Encouraging student enterprise

**Enterprising students and graduates are putting their ideas into practice thanks to the generous support of Harrogate-based technology group InTechnology plc, which has funded a new enterprise incubator at the University.**

The InTechnology Enterprise Incubator gives practical support and financial assistance to new graduates looking to set up in business, provides office space on campus and access to specialist business advice – creating the perfect breeding ground for success.

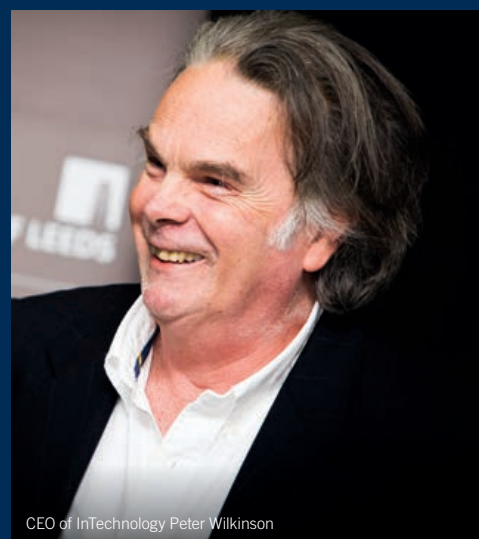
InTechnology is also providing four enterprise scholarships a year for the next five years, giving current students and postgraduates the chance to develop their business ideas alongside their studies.

In addition, the University supports student entrepreneurs with enterprise scholarships, a 'Year in Enterprise' programme and our

nationally acclaimed student business start-up service SPARK. These schemes are only available to current students, but the InTechnology Enterprise Incubator will support student businesses beyond graduation.

The InTechnology group has a proven track-record of launching successful start-ups and hopes that its support will provide new businesses with the help they need to get off the ground, and bring many new successful organisations to the North.

"I'm extremely excited about this project," says Peter Wilkinson, CEO of InTechnology plc. "When I visited the University I saw more



CEO of InTechnology Peter Wilkinson

innovation in two hours than I'd seen anywhere else in the past two years. By giving these young entrepreneurs the support they need, we'll be able to help them turn their ideas into reality. Programmes like this have the potential to turn Leeds, Yorkshire, and the whole of the North, into the economic hub it should be."

## Valuing our people

### New policy on shared parental leave and pay



**Parents wishing to share childcare responsibilities during maternity or adoption leave now have more flexibility and choice about when and how they take leave as a result of a new policy which came into effect on 5 April.**

Under the terms of the Shared Parental Leave policy, primary carers take two weeks' leave following the birth or adoption of a child. They can then share with their partner the remaining 50 weeks' leave from the birth or placement of the child up to its first birthday or during the first year of placement.

Time off can be taken together, separately or as a combination of both, and leave can be booked in single continuous blocks. Leave can also be requested in discontinuous blocks, with a return to work in between periods of leave.

Staff with 52 weeks' or more continuous service are eligible for University Shared Parental Pay (USSP) of up to 14 weeks' full pay or up to six weeks' full pay and 16 weeks' half pay. They can also share 37 weeks' Statutory Shared Parental pay (SSPP) depending on earnings. SSPP will be included in full pay; for people on half pay, it will be on top of the amount paid.

Staff who don't qualify for USPP will be given up to 37 weeks' SSPP depending on earnings. They can choose to take the remaining 13 weeks of shared parental leave without pay.

### Streamlined websites suit all devices

Over 20,000 users have visited the new Student Education Service websites in the first month following their launch.

The new sites bring together information covering the student experience from registration to graduation, and replace a range of different sites previously held by individual services.

Designed and developed in-house by the IT web team, with input at critical stages from students and staff, the sites have been built to take account of the increasing trend to browse the web on mobile devices.

A rigorous content audit has trimmed around 8,500 pages held on 16 different sites down to approximately 600 across the two sites, within a single University-approved content management system. The launch in February was the first stage in the development and more work is planned over the coming months to develop content further.

The first month saw over 3,000 users visiting the staff site, with timetables and room bookings the most popular pages. On the student site, there have been over 19,000 users, with exams, assessment and graduation the most commonly accessed content; 30% of new users were accessing pages on mobile phones or tablets.

Visit [ses.leeds.ac.uk](http://ses.leeds.ac.uk) for staff and [students.leeds.ac.uk](http://students.leeds.ac.uk) for students.

## USS pension changes – find out more and have your say

**There's still time to attend one of the information sessions the University is holding to explain proposed changes to the USS pension scheme and take part in the ongoing consultation.**

Sessions are being run by the University Pensions team, together with a pensions expert from outside the University on:

**Wednesday 29 April – 12.00-1.00pm**  
Worsley SR (9.57)

**Friday 1 May – 1.00-2.00pm**  
EC Stoner SR (9.90)

**Tuesday 5 May – 12.00-1.00pm**  
CSB Lecture Theatre, St James's

**Friday 8 May – 12.00-1.00pm**  
Michael Sadler SR (LG.19)

Please contact [pensions@adm.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:pensions@adm.leeds.ac.uk) to

book one of the sessions. The University will not be able to provide individual financial advice in these sessions. If you need to take independent financial advice consult [www.unbiased.co.uk](http://www.unbiased.co.uk)

The Trustee Board of the USS pension is also consulting the scheme's members about proposed changes. Members, or those eligible to join the scheme, should already have received an information leaflet about the proposals and the consultation process. More information is available on the USS Consultation website – [www.ussconsultation.co.uk/members](http://www.ussconsultation.co.uk/members) – which features:

- a summary of the proposed changes
- answers to some FAQs about the changes
- an explanatory video
- a benefit modeller
- consultation documents, including a response form.



## Valuing our people

# Team talk – Conference team, MEETinLEEDS

### Who is in the team?

Two halves make a whole where the University's Conference team, MEETinLEEDS, is concerned. Harriet Boatwright, Lisa Wood and Emma Broadhurst represent the sales function, with Ros Bates, Anthony Lowe, Natasha Rahanu, Susan Tattersall, Corin Nanton and Katrina Dickens as our event managers. We are masterfully headed up by Head of Catering, Conferencing and Events, Beverley Kenny.

### What do your roles involve?

In very simple terms we promote, sell and manage events, from both internal and external sources, within University facilities. We have year-round venues such as Devonshire Hall and University House, as well as year-round accommodation at Storm Jameson Court. We also manage core central teaching venues over the vacation period, and around 3,000 bedrooms, hosting internal and external conference business.

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

We are just coming to the end of a very successful Easter conference season. We welcomed the Institute of Physics and their Magnetism Conference, and Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges' Annual Conference, as well as GISRUK 2015 headed up by the School of Geography, and the EPS Conference 2015 led by the School of Psychology. We are now gearing up for an incredibly busy summer season, managing events on behalf of the School of Earth and Environment and the School of Physics and Astronomy among others. The International Medieval Congress (IMC) and Teach First will both be returning, and we'll be welcoming new clients such as the British Society for Population Studies.

### What are your strengths?

Would it be facetious to say event management?! As the University's very own Conference team, we know our venues and ancillary services better than our own houses! We have a large network of support from our internal services to make any University event a successful one. We're here to raise the University profile and to use that to generate revenue to reinvest in the University for improvements and new ventures. We are very proud to be the University's own Conference team.

### How long has the team been together?

The University has had a committed conference office for over 25 years. The longest serving member is Beverley Kenny, currently clocking in at 27 years at the University – 19 of these in the

Conference and Catering Service – right down to our new starter Emma Broadhurst who has been with us around three months.

### How many events do you organise per month?

Gosh, which month and in which year! We have year-round venues for events welcoming up to 100 people, but the big numbers come in over Christmas, Easter and summer when the larger central teaching venues become available. This summer we'll be welcoming more than 15,000 visitors onto campus, at over 142 different events, ranging from four delegates up to 2,000.

### What does the team get the most satisfaction from?

Delivering on a client's objectives is really important to the team. As a customer-centric service it's important to understand our clients' objectives for a conference in order to help deliver them. We are proud to be the face of the University in the external conference market and take this responsibility very seriously, exhibiting

at shows in London and Leeds and visiting clients. The delegate and organiser experience is key to us delivering successfully, and we try to add value to this where we can. It's important that people arrive and leave the University with the best impression of us as an organisation and as a service.

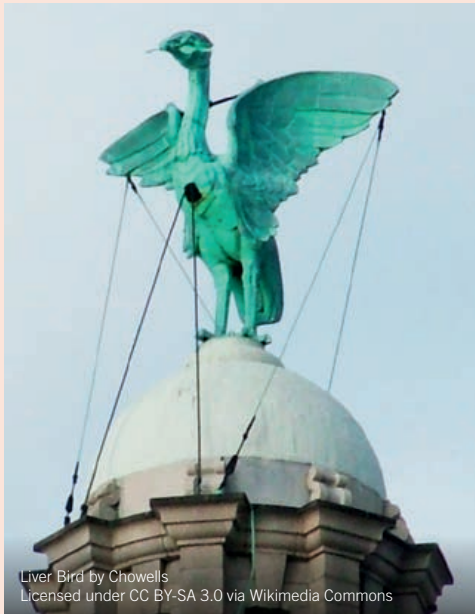
### What's next for the team?

We are a support service to our colleagues around the University and are looking to re-launch our Team on Tour campaign over the summer. Team on Tour was engendered a few years ago and was about ensuring that we keep and attract business to campus. We go to key areas around the University to discuss with academics and support staff the services available to them through the conference office. The re-launch will build on the existing success of this campaign, and we'll be seeking to work more closely with departments to communicate clearly what services are available via the conference office and how we can help add value to their work.



Meet the team: (back row) Katrina Dickens, Emma Broadhurst; (middle row) Susan Tattersall, Natasha Rahanu (front row) Ros Bates, Lisa Wood, Harriet Boatwright and Anthony Lowe

## In the news



Liver Bird by Chowells  
Licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0 via Wikimedia Commons

Research led by Dr Alison Dunn (School of Biology) found that parasites can play an important role in driving **cannibalism**. The study, which involved researchers from Queen's University Belfast and Stellenbosch University in South Africa, looked at cannibalism in freshwater shrimp in Northern Ireland. The story was widely covered in the media including *Mail Online*, *Discovery News*, *NBC News online* and *ABC News online*.

Dr Victoria Honeyman (School of Politics and International Studies) was interviewed live on the BBC *Breakfast* sofa about the **TV election debate** involving David Cameron and Ed Miliband, who were both quizzed by interviewer Jeremy Paxman. She was interviewed again by BBC *Breakfast* after the second TV debate, which saw leaders from seven parties go head-to-head in front of a studio audience.

Professor Tony Crowley (School of English) contributed to a BBC Radio 4 *Archive on 4* programme called **Lern Yerself Scouse**, where he spoke about the Merseyside accent.

Dr Stephen Wright (School of Chemical and Process Engineering) was interviewed by various broadcasters including BBC Radio 4's *PM* programme, BBC World Service, BBC Radio Wales and BBC Radio Scotland about the tragic **Germanwings** plane crash. His expert comment was also included in publications such as *The Scotsman*, *The Telegraph*, *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *Daily Express*.

Dr Simon Warner (School of Music) spoke to Jason Mohammad on BBC Radio Wales about the US ruling that the 2013 hit '**Blurred Lines**' by Pharrell Williams and Robin Thicke had copied the 1977 track 'Got to Give it Up' by Marvin Gaye.

Professor Stephen Coleman (School of Media and Communication) joined a debate about the significance of the **political campaign poster** in the new digital age on BBC Radio 4's *The World Tonight*.

A team of researchers led by Professor David Beech (School of Medicine) found why the rare African bush **Phyllanthus engleri** could hold a key to killing renal (kidney) cancer cells. The research, which was published in the chemistry journal *Angewandte Chemie*, was featured by *The Sun*, *The Yorkshire Post*, *Made in Leeds* and *Radio Aire*.

Professor John Turner, Emeritus Professor in the University's School of Biology, found that the **gold swift moth** (*Phymatopus hecta*) had one of the most complex sex lives in the insect world. The research, which was published in *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society* received media coverage in *The Sunday Times (Scotland)*, *The Charlotte Observer* and *Cult Noise Magazine*. (This is a correction from the last edition of the *Reporter*.)

Students and staff from the Schools of English and Music joined together in a city centre pub to sing 'The Root of the Boot', a song taken from a new collection of letters, songs, poems and prose by *The Hobbit* author JRR Tolkien, which was acquired by the University's Special Collections. The event was covered in various local newspapers including *The Yorkshire Post* and *Yorkshire Evening Post* as well as being featured by BBC Radio 3's *In Tune*.



Amazon canopy at dawn, Brazil - Credit: Peter van der Sleen

Research by Dr Roel Brienen and Professor Oliver Phillips from the School of Geography found that the **Amazon** was losing its capacity to absorb carbon from the atmosphere. The study, which is the most extensive land-based study of the Amazon to date, was published in the journal *Nature* and received wide media coverage. The story was featured by *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *Le Monde*, *The Independent*, *Mail Online* and *The Guardian*.

Research by Professor Nick Wilson (Leeds University Business School) found that smaller companies were nearly three times more likely to have female **directors** than larger companies. The study, which looked at 5.1 million directors, found that women have 33% of active company directorships in the UK, yet in larger and listed companies, women held only 12% of directorships. The research was covered by the *Financial Times*.



## Our people/honours

The AMMA Radiosonde team led by **Professor Doug Parker** (School of Earth and Environment) has been awarded the 2014 Vaisala Award for Weather Observing and Instrumentation. The award was given for the team's outstanding contribution to observational meteorology in West Africa, and will be presented following the Royal Meteorological Society's Annual General Meeting in May.

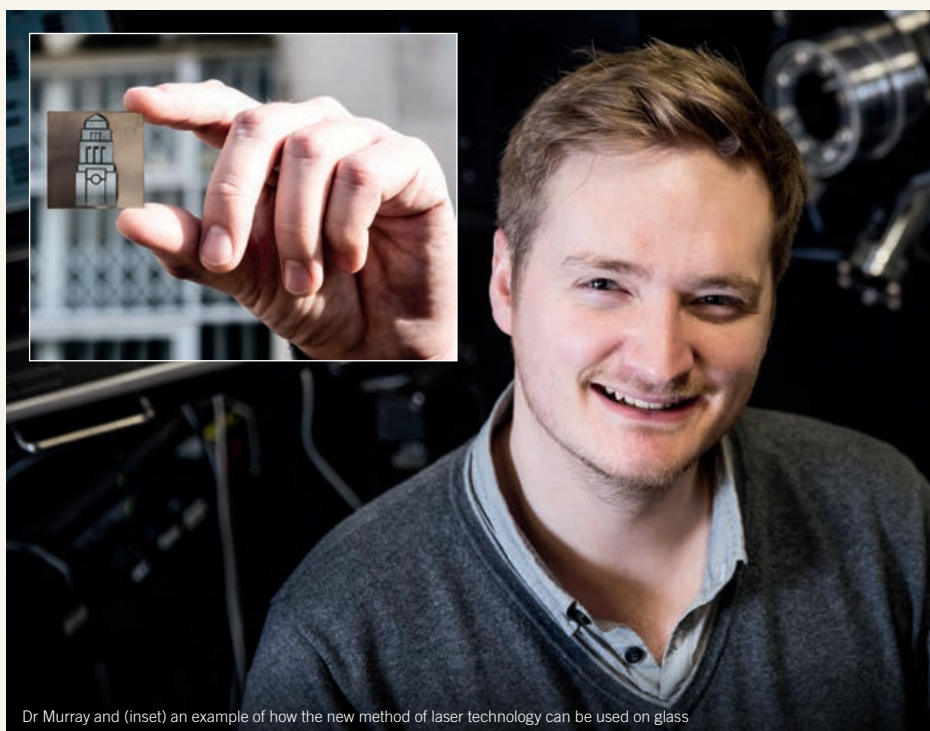
**Leeds University Business School** confirmed its place among the elite after receiving accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). This marks the final step for the School in achieving 'triple accreditation' from the world's most recognised accreditation bodies: AACSB; the Association of MBAs (AMBA); and EQUIS, the European Quality Improvement System.

The accreditation follows a rigorous assessment of the Business School's activities, including the quality of teaching, curriculum, degree programmes, student admissions and academic staff. Also taken into account were the institution's financial strategies and resources, academic and professional engagement, and graduates' progression and career development.

All 10 of the **University's accredited conference sites** have now achieved the Gold standard in the national Green Tourism Business Scheme.

Conference sites were first accredited in 2011 when Dobree House, Storm Jameson Court, and Whetton House all achieved Gold. Subsequently, seven further sites have been audited under the scheme, and now Devonshire Hall, Eilerslie Hall, Lyddon Hall, Oxley Residences and the conference/meeting venue of University House have achieved the same standard. The result is a testament to the hard work and enthusiasm of the staff.

**Dr Joslin McKinney**, Associate Professor in Scenography in the School of Performance and Cultural Industries, has been appointed as an international judge at The Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space. It is the most important event in the scenography calendar and will be held in June. Staged every four years, it is a major festival of performance and international exhibition of scenography and architecture. Joslin McKinney's appointment represents a major recognition of her international standing.



Dr Murray and (inset) an example of how the new method of laser technology can be used on glass

**Dr Matthew Murray** (Institute for Materials Research, School of Chemical and Process Engineering) has won the Royal Academy of Engineering-ERA Foundation Entrepreneur award. This prestigious award seeks to identify, encourage and reward entrepreneurial engineering researchers working in UK universities in a field involving electro-technology. Entries are judged on: quality and vision of the applicant(s) including entrepreneurial potential and business awareness; effectiveness and innovativeness of technology, product or service; market potential; and commercial credibility of the business.

Dr Murray was selected for his application describing technology which could play a major role in tackling counterfeit goods in sectors that rely on glass containers, such as pharmaceuticals, alcohol and perfumes and for the business Ultramatis Ltd, which was recently spun out from the University. As well as receiving a personal prize and an additional sum to invest in the development of their idea, winners also become members of the Enterprise Hub where they receive ongoing support and business mentoring from the Academy's Fellowship.

Details on the ERA foundation are available at [www.erafoundation.org](http://www.erafoundation.org)

**Dr Chris Hammond**, Life Fellow in Materials Science (Engineering), has been awarded the Royal Microscopical Society President's Medal for his exceptional contribution to the work of the RMS through his voluntary roles as Executive Honorary Secretary, Archivist and an Outreach Committee Member. Amongst his contributions are the co-founding of the 'A Microscope For Every School' scheme, organisation of the Light Microscopy Course, authorship of an RMS Handbook – *Introduction to Crystallography* – and refurbishment of microscopes. His unfaltering enthusiasm and motivation have inspired and helped many of the newest generation of microscopists.

**The Faculty of Engineering** was a finalist in this year's National Undergraduate Employability Awards in the Most Improved Commitment to Employability category. The award celebrates the improved efforts and services provided by a university department, placement or careers service in helping students apply and maximise their work experience opportunities.

Our **Commercial Services team** was awarded silver in two categories in the UK Employee Experience Awards. The award in the Business Change or Transformation category recognised our investment in staff, encouraging them to take new leadership roles and manage new projects. The award in the Delivering Customer Experience category recognised the team for delivering an excellent customer experience across Sport & Physical Activity, Catering and Conferencing, the Print and Copy Bureau and Facility Support Services.

The **PURPOSE Risk Assessment Project Team** in the Clinical Trials Research Unit were awarded a *Journal of Wound Care* award in the 'Wound Assessment and Diagnostics' category for their work which developed a new evidence-based decision tool for pressure ulcer prevention.

## News

# IT service improvements



Back row (l-r): Richard Vickers, Daniel Latibeaudiere, Paul Webb, Angus Cunningham, Carl Pearson.  
Front row (l-r): Antonia Jones, Sally Bogg, Tim Walker

## Further improvements to the University's IT support for staff and students have been introduced with the rollout of a new software tool – ServiceNow – and the relocation and upgrade of the IT Service Desk.

ServiceNow provides a single, consistent and efficient response to requests for IT service and fault logging, allowing service requests and incidents to be logged through integrated multiple channels – phone, email, face-to-face, web. Together with the introduction of industry best practice processes, it is a key part of the IT Service Management (ITSM) project in the One IT programme.

You may notice some changes as the system is rolled out and we move to a single, consistent system, but the transition shouldn't be disruptive. Rollout of ServiceNow has already begun in faculties and services, and will be fully developed and embedded by autumn this year. Feedback so far has been positive.

If you've got any IT-related queries and problems you can contact the IT Service Desk on 33333 or [itservicedesk@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:itservicedesk@leeds.ac.uk), or come along to their new office space which has just opened on Red Route, Level 10 of the EC Stoner Building (near the Maths coffee bar).

Service Desk colleagues were recently commended in the Universities and Colleges Information Systems Association's Best Practice awards, and have also been recognised by the Service Desk Institute for the excellent levels of support and expertise they provide.

"Service Desk colleagues have done remarkably well against robust external standards," says IT Director Rhys Davies. "Both the new system and the relocation are part of the drive to make the services provided by IT more effective, transparent and measurable. They are a key part of the One IT programme and will provide a platform for the delivery of consistent services and support across the University.

"Please continue to provide your valuable feedback which is key to our continual service improvement."

## Small ads

### Professional services

#### COUNSELLING AND PSYCHOTHERAPY

Confidential individual therapy with qualified, experienced practitioner. Discount for new clients. Wakefield city centre.  
susan.mcburney@outlook.com  
www.susanmcburneycounselling.co.uk

### House for Sale

**TWO-BEDROOM TOWN HOUSE** with garage. Formerly three bedrooms. Quiet area of Yeadon. Offers IRO £150,000.

Amanda Jeffery 0796 236 5226  
a.j.jeffery@leeds.ac.uk

### House/flat/room to let

#### LOVELY HOUSE FOR RENT

Furnished 3 bedroom semi with garden/hot tub. LS7. September-December 2015. £750 pcm including bills.  
c.n.davies@leeds.ac.uk

**SUBLET/FURNISHED/HOUSE/FLAT** August-January for visiting Chilean Professor at Uni Leeds and his family. UK references on request.

Angelo Guevara +5697 996 9330  
aguevara@uandes.cl

#### COTTAGE TO LET IN A PARK

Charming newly refurbished 2 bedroom cottage with wood burning stove in delightful parkland with easy access to the University for rent £800pcm. Call for appointment.

Gillian Tober 0793 030 0998  
gilliantober@yahoo.co.uk

#### ENSUITE ROOM MON-FRI

Ensuite room Mon-Fri in lecturer's house, Leeds 8. Gas c/h, wi-fi, shared kitchen. £280 pcm including bills.

Kathleen Mckay 07709 764858  
k.mckay3@ntlworld.com

### Other

#### KIDS DANCE CLASS

Saturday breakdancing 1-2pm. Woodhouse Community Centre, £2. LS6 2NY.

M'shell Karim 32269  
m.karim@leeds.ac.uk

#### WANT TO LOWER CHOLESTEROL?

Our research could help. Eat 2 pancakes every day for 4 weeks. £20 voucher on completion. Ethics MEEC 14-017 CP14/11315.

Sam food27@leeds.ac.uk  
www.food.leeds.ac.uk/pathway-27

#### LANGUAGE TUTOR SEEKS LODGINGS

Friendly, reliable, female. Long term. Cycling distance to university.

Carolyn Edwards 0758 350 4335  
c.l.edwards@leeds.ac.uk

#### WANTED - CARS-SPRING CASH

Old wrecks welcome! Also aircraft, motorbikes, parts of...

Jonathan 0775 393 1874 / 0113 345 5859  
skyhighdesigner@yahoo.co.uk

Small ads can be submitted online at

<http://smallads.leeds.ac.uk> The charge is £7 for 10 words or part thereof (University members) or £10 (general public). The deadline for the next issue is 20 May at 12 noon. Advertisers are independent of the University. The University makes no warranty or representation as to (a) the accuracy of ads or (b) the quality of goods or services advertised. To the full extent allowed by the law the University excludes all liability. Contact the Reporter on 0113 343 6699 or [the.reporter@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:the.reporter@leeds.ac.uk)

## Events

# Save the Date

## Staff Festival 2015 – Friday 3 July

While spring is a warm welcome after a chilly winter, the organisers of the Staff Festival are already making plans for summertime. ‘Here Comes Summer!’ is the theme of the event’s eighth instalment, this year featuring food and drink favourites, fun activities and creative competitions to bring the beach on campus.

All University staff members are invited to the Festival, along with family and friends, as thank you for their daily contributions to the University. With opportunities to relax over a cool beverage and get involved with activities such as kite making and postcard design, visitors of all ages are welcome.

Festival attendees will also have the opportunity to donate to a charity nominated and voted for by staff.

The event takes place on Friday 3 July in and around the Refectory. The main event begins at 3pm, although from 1pm onwards staff on a lunch break can get a ‘Taste of the Fest’ at the food vendors and stalls.

The programme ends with atmospheric live music in the Terrace Bar at 7pm.

More information on accessibility, transport and other facilities can be found at [staff-festival.leeds.ac.uk](http://staff-festival.leeds.ac.uk)



### Conference – A Widening War: problems without answers

#### Weetwood Hall, 2–7 August 2015

Following on from last year’s successful World War One conference, Weetwood Hall is hosting a further conference in August – A Widening War: problems without answers. It will cover a wide range of topics from Britain and the Ottoman Empire, the Dardanelles/Gallipoli Campaign, and the impact of the Great War on Adolf Hitler.

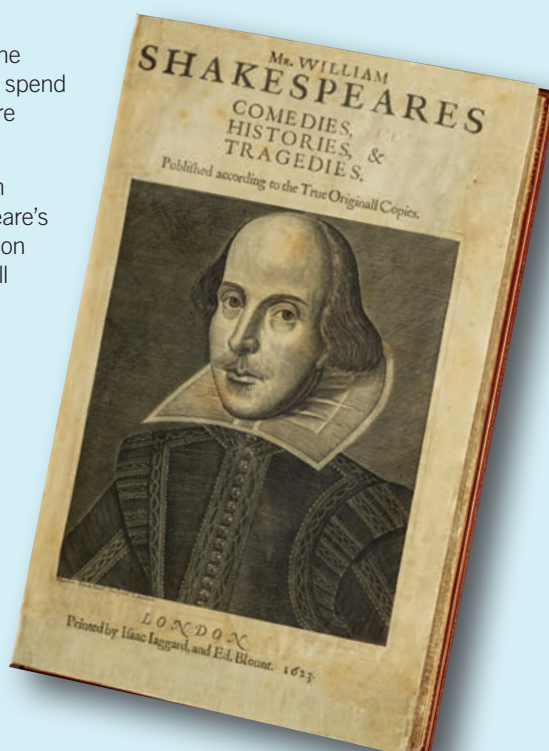
Full details can be found at [www.weetwood.co.uk/ww1conference](http://www.weetwood.co.uk/ww1conference)

### University’s Shakespeare First Folio on show in York

The Shakespeare First Folio from the University’s Special Collections will spend the summer on loan to the Yorkshire Museum in York.

The First Folio – which appeared in 1623 and contains 18 of Shakespeare’s plays – forms part of a new exhibition ‘Richard III: Man & Myth’ which will run until the beginning of October. The exhibition marks the recent re-interment of King Richard III and draws together treasures from across Yorkshire to celebrate his connections to York.

Only 44 copies of the Folio remain in the UK, with just six belonging to universities. The Leeds copy, which was purchased by Lord Brotherton in 1924, is acknowledged to be in unusually good condition.



### Sky Ride event – Sunday 14 June

Once again the Leeds Sky Ride will bring thousands of cyclists through campus as they take part in the mass participation, free cycling event.

Sky Ride will take cyclists around a predominantly traffic-free loop of approximately 5km. Now in its third year, the event is a great day out for all the family, with street performers and entertainment along the route.

The route will pass through campus, with University Square a designated stop-off point featuring a refreshments marquee, stalls and teams from the University on hand to greet and help visitors.

Sky Ride is not competitive, and people wishing to take part can register on [www.goskyride.com](http://www.goskyride.com). The ride will take place from 10am-4pm, and participants can join the cycle at any point during the day.

There may be access restrictions to campus on the day of the Sky Ride; further details, together with full details of the route, will be made available nearer the date.

## FAQs

# Terry Owens Faculty Education Service Manager, Faculty of Medicine and Health

## What does your job involve?

As the Faculty Education Service Manager (FESM) for the Faculty of Medicine & Health my primary role has been to develop the Student Education Service (SES) within my faculty and to lead on significant service projects. FESMs have been instrumental in developing a shared University SES Framework, which in turn has allowed the SES Management Team to tackle complex institutional and faculty service issues in an effective way.

I'm really enthusiastic about what I do! My job is all about change, and I love it because I have to be flexible, resourceful, and know how to get things done.

## Does your Faculty face particular challenges?

As well as being the biggest faculty and one of the most complex, one of our primary stakeholders is the NHS. In developing the service the University might want to go in one direction but the NHS and bodies such as the General Medical Council may require other things. Some are negotiable, others less so, but I try to make sure all opinions and options are considered when developing the service. It's always challenging, although most things are achievable.

## The FESMs are involved in ensuring the smooth introduction of the new admissions process – the CRM\*. What have you been doing?

I didn't want my Faculty staff to miss an ideal opportunity to engage with the development of the CRM, so I have organised over 50 stakeholder engagement activities across the Faculty explaining what it will do, why it's being introduced, and the benefits it will bring for SES staff, academics and students. We plan to go live with the taught postgraduate admissions section of the CRM in September 2015 and these activities have been key in preparing staff for implementation of the system.



## What are the main benefits of the CRM?

In itself, CRM isn't a solution – it's an enabler that will allow us to deliver a service that is more effective, responsive and agile. It will provide a common system across the University which should enable us to work more collaboratively across schools, faculties and the whole Student Education Service, and give us more time and capacity to further enhance the student experience.

## Tell us how you came to be at the University?

I went to universities in Dundee and then Glasgow, studying Business and then Human Resource Management and Development. Around 12 years ago I came to Yorkshire to be an academic support officer and a part-time lecturer in HR Management and Development at another university, moving here to lead student education teams – first in Dentistry, then in Medicine – before becoming a FESM.

## What's your most frequently asked question?

"What's the deadline?" – I've have been asked that nearly every day for three years!

## What's your favourite place on campus?

Probably the Parkinson Building. My first experience of the building was when I helped on an Open Day and I thought it was spectacular. I live in the countryside but can still see the Parkinson Tower from my house.

I also like The Edge – it offers such great facilities for a bargain price. I actively manage my work-life balance, so it's definitely my favourite 'non work' building on campus.

## What do you get up to in your spare time?

I love to travel and I travel *everywhere*. My annual leave allowance comes in on 1 October and it's all booked by 2 October! This year I've been to Thailand and have got trips planned to Portugal and Barcelona. I really enjoy my time off – when I go away, I switch off completely and come back charged up and full of energy.

## What's your desert island book, piece of music, and TV programme?

If I was on a desert island I wouldn't read a book – I'd be off doing things instead – but I do like anything that makes me laugh, such as Clive James' *Unreliable Memoirs*.

I love all different kinds of music but if I'm somewhere warm, one that always comes back on my iPhone is Grace Jones' *Island Life*.

Work's serious enough, so I like something relaxing. It would either be comedy – I love the *Vicar of Dibley* – or sci-fi. I'm a closet anorak about sci-fi – anything with *Star Trek* in the title and I'm there!

\*See page 3 for more details.



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