



A step-change in working with business

Our Business Engagement Framework is here to help colleagues drive even more innovation and collaboration with business.

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Training the next generation of scientists and engineers

More than 150 new fully-funded PhD researcher places are being created in Leeds after we secured a £15m funding boost.

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water@leeds is making a splash

Help tackle some of the biggest global issues affecting humanity by supporting a series of pioneering new research projects.

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Brave New World for Be Curious

Find out how you can order some sweets from a robot, discover details about an alien invasion and play a giant game of Operation!

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Leader Column

Embracing new ways of working

In this season of transition and renewal, there is a collective intake of breath – within the higher education sector and the wider community – as we brace ourselves for the outcome of eleventh-hour Brexit negotiations.

Friday 29 March represents a critical moment in our history*. But even as I write, there is still a great deal of uncertainty in this long drawn-out process.

As we leave the EU, we will ensure the University faces any new challenges this might pose with clarity of purpose and confidence. The possible implications for staff – particularly those from other EU countries – and students will of course be our prime concern.

Throughout this uncertain period, we will stick resolutely to our core mission – to create knowledge and opportunity through sector-leading education and globally-recognised research and innovation; and to extend our international reach, welcoming international staff and students to Leeds and working in partnership with universities around the world.

Away from the political uncertainty, for the University, spring signals two exciting new initiatives – the unveiling of Nexus, our new innovation centre (see pages 8 and 9), and Council approval of funding for the Student Lifecycle Programme (see page 11).

Nexus will bring together a vibrant community of entrepreneurs, start-ups and early stage companies and innovators with our researchers, professional partners and emerging student and graduate talent, to form new and valuable collaborations that will deliver breakthrough solutions to real world problems and economic growth for the Leeds City Region and beyond.

The Student Lifecycle Programme (SLP) is a four-year transformation project aimed at improving the processes, systems and ways of working we use to enhance the student experience.

One aspect of the programme is calling for ‘change champions’ among colleagues, to provide insight

and expertise to help shape the direction of this initiative. Open communications and the careful implementation of change will be increasingly important to us all as we face the many challenges emerging in higher education.

Student education

Outstanding research-led education equips our students to succeed in a competitive global employment market.

Funding for the SLP will build on a forward-looking curriculum, an exciting range of co-curricular activities and a sector-leading partnership between students and staff.

Our many achievements in education are reflected, in part, by the annual High Fliers Research survey, which confirms we are one of the top ten UK universities most targeted for recruitment by leading employers.

Student education has been further boosted with two key appointments. Professor Tina Overton is the new Director of Leeds Institute of Teaching Excellence (LITE), while Dr Christina Edgar has been recruited as Director of Student Opportunity. Their combined expertise will strengthen the University as we tackle the impact of the post-18 funding review and ensure students remain front and centre in our post-2020 strategy.

Research and Innovation

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) announced last month that Leeds will receive more than £15m to fund three Centres for Doctoral Training, creating more than 150 new PhD researcher places (see page 3). This new generation of scientists and engineers will work in three key areas: Molecules to Products, led by Professor Elaine Martin; Fluid Dynamics, led by Professor Peter Jimack; and Water and Waste Infrastructure Systems, led by Professor Barbara Evans.

It has been confirmed that Leeds received more than €19m in funding from the prestigious and highly selective European Research Council (ERC) during 2018, placing us in the top 10 recipients of ERC funding among UK universities for the first time (see page 5).

Leeds also retains its position in the top 10 of UK universities for research council funding, according to latest figures from Times Higher Education (THE), with particular progress made in the Faculties of Arts, Humanities and Cultures, and Engineering.

In addition, the University is growing and diversifying its research funding, securing awards from a range of national and international partners, including industry, charities and other UK Government funding streams. One such example is the combined £4.5m awarded this year by Cancer Research UK, enabling researchers to investigate potential new treatments for bowel cancer and also leading to the creation of a new Leeds Clinical Trials Unit, which will allow doctors and scientists to continue researching and testing better treatments for patients.

Another first for Leeds is a substantial Wellcome Humanities and Social Sciences Collaborative grant on ‘Imagining Technologies for Disability Futures’, awarded to Professor Stuart Murray and colleagues.

International

As part of our preparations for the UK exiting the EU, delegations to high-ranking institutions in Europe and further afield have strengthened existing research and student exchange agreements.

An example is in the field of artificial intelligence (AI). The White Rose Partnership – comprising the universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York – held an event at the European Parliament, with leading northern robotics and AI researchers, MEPs and representatives of other bodies, to share their expertise in this field.

The meeting was chaired by Professor Hai-Sui Yu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: International at Leeds. Professors Pietro Valdastri and Rob Richardson, from Leeds, led discussions on the impact robotics innovation can have on consumers. It has also been confirmed by the EPSRC that Professor David Hogg will lead a Centre for Doctoral Training (with 50 fully-funded PhD students) to unlock the potential of AI in medical diagnosis and care.

A civic university

Leeds is a University intent on making a difference. We are proud of our track record of economic, social, cultural and environmental development. It is embedded in the very fabric of what we do and who we are.

A great example is the 10th anniversary celebrations for water@leeds – one of the leading interdisciplinary centres for water research in the world. The team here is surveying the global sector to find and prioritise the most significant research questions for the future, helping to direct research, policy and resources towards addressing major water challenges – locally, nationally and internationally (see page 4).

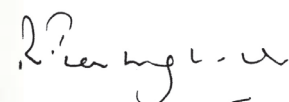
Looking to the future

These successes, and other plans already underway to expand the Business School, develop the Sir William Henry Bragg Building as a hub for Engineering and Physical Sciences, refurbish the Faculty of Biological Sciences and to create a site on the outskirts of Leeds for high speed rail and other engineering projects, are the product of our 2015-20 Strategic Plan. This has seen investment of £520m in capital developments for education and research, and £150m in academic staff. But, above all, these successes speak to the excellence, creativity, determination and sheer hard work of staff and students.

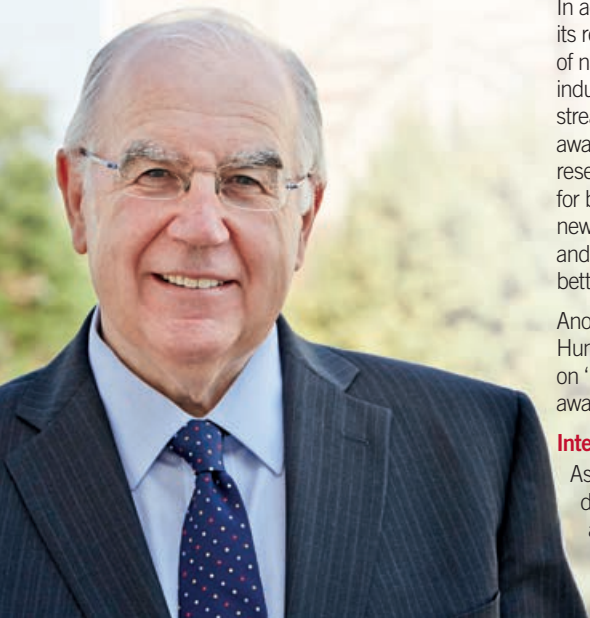
Strategic ambition can only be built on a strong base of academic and financial sustainability. If we are to maintain this sort of momentum deep into the 2020s, as we develop our next strategic plan, we will have to tackle the combined financial impacts of Brexit, the post-18 funding review, the additional costs of pensions and the possible effect of immigration policy on international student recruitment – and do so alongside internal challenges, including the need to balance home and international student recruitment and to address the cumbersome nature of some of our processes and systems and the complexity of our educational portfolio. We will need to do this in a systematic way by streamlining systems, reducing costs, maximising income and embracing new ways of working.

This is the stuff of the 2019 Integrated Planning Exercise (IPE) and will be discussed fully with staff and students as more information becomes available in the coming weeks. A considered approach to change will consolidate progress made in recent years and provide a stable financial platform for the post-2020 strategy.

* Please note this article was written on 11 March.



Vice-Chancellor, Sir Alan Langlands





Training the next generation of scientists and engineers

More than 150 new fully-funded PhD researcher places are being created in Leeds after we secured funding to train the next generation of scientists and engineers.

Leeds will lead three Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) Centres for Doctoral Training, bringing more than £15m in postgraduate research funding to campus. They will also benefit from funding by the University, together with our industry and external partners.

The centres launched in February with the first cohort joining us in September. They will all be cross-disciplinary, building upon strengths across our faculties of Engineering, Environment, Mathematics and Physical Sciences and beyond.

We are also collaborating with three further centres.

The centres are supported by partnerships with 57 external organisations, ranging from industry to the NHS, the Met Office and charities.

Professor Lisa Roberts, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation, said: “This investment in doctoral training centres at Leeds is welcome confirmation of our academic expertise and

leadership in three high-profile areas of interdisciplinary research, which are essential to both the UK and the wider world.

“We’re proud to host them, and look forward to new PhD researchers learning from, and collaborating with, our academic staff and external partners and having access to some of the best facilities in the country to build their careers.”

The EPSRC Centres for Doctoral Training are in:

- Molecules to Products, led by Professor Elaine Martin
- Water and Waste Infrastructure Systems Engineered for Resilience (Water-WISER), led by Professor Barbara Evans, in partnership with Cranfield University and Loughborough University (see page 4); and
- Fluid Dynamics, led by Professor Peter Jimack.

Leeds is now inviting expressions of interest from the brightest junior researchers in the UK and European Union to join the three centres. Visit www.leeds.ac.uk/CDT for further information.

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About the Reporter

The *Reporter* is the University’s colleague magazine, produced by the Internal Communications team.

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

The front cover shows Nexus, our new innovation hub – one of the most visible elements of our Business Engagement Framework (see pages 8/9 for the full story).

Showcasing our digital expertise

We will have a strong presence once more at this year’s instalment of Leeds Digital Festival (LDF).

In addition to sponsoring the Festival, which attracted an estimated 20,000 people across the city in 2018, our experts will be hosting a number of events, as part of the packed programme, alongside our University Showcase day.

Now in its second year, this is a day-long exhibition, where delegates present the use of digital technology in practice or promote workshops they have organised as part of LDF.

Nexus – the University’s new innovation hub – has provided space and programmed a number of events as part of the Festival (see the centrespread for more details).

LDF runs from Tuesday 23 April to Friday 3 May. See www.leedsdigitalfestival.org for further information.

Stay up to date with University news and events:

- [universityofleeds](https://www.facebook.com/universityofleeds)
- [@UniLeedsStaff](https://twitter.com/UniLeedsStaff)
- [universityofleeds](https://www.instagram.com/universityofleeds)
- [University of Leeds](https://www.linkedin.com/company/universityofleeds)
- leeds.ac.uk/forstaff



Making a splash

Colleagues across campus are invited to help tackle some of the biggest global issues affecting humanity through a series of pioneering new projects.

water@leeds marks its 10th anniversary by launching a survey to find and prioritise the most significant water-based research questions for the future.

Since its launch in 2009, water@leeds has grown to become the largest interdisciplinary centre for water-based research and training in any university in the world.

Building on its reputation of collaborative research and industry partnerships, the centre's survey offers the opportunity for input from across disciplines to direct research, policy and resources towards addressing major global water challenges.

Dr Gabriela Lopez-Gonzalez, water@leeds Co-ordinator, said: "When water@leeds launched, we closely worked with external non-academic partners to find out their needs, and this has helped make sure that during the past decade we have been able to deliver high quality, applied research with economical and societal impact.

"This new survey will enable us to refresh our focus and connect our research to global partners, unlocking new routes to success and ensuring we continue to make a difference to people's lives."

The survey, which runs until Friday 26 July, is one of several activities water@leeds has planned to celebrate its landmark anniversary.

Nexus – the University's new innovation centre – will host several water-themed events between April and December, giving entrepreneurs and water-related start-ups the opportunity to meet academics and technical specialists from Leeds and learn about the new technologies in their sector.

These events will complement the biggest research showcase water@leeds has ever held on campus, due to take place in September, as well as the publication of the second edition of its interdisciplinary textbook and a series of charity fundraising events being held for international and regional water charities.

Visit www.water.leeds.ac.uk/10th-anniversary for further information about the 10th anniversary events.

Since its inception, water@leeds members from all faculties at Leeds have aimed to answer major questions about water and its future security.

About 80% of the world's population lives in areas threatened by water security, made worse by pressures such as pollution, urbanisation and land degradation, while about one billion people are exposed to flooding, mainly in Asia and Africa.

water@leeds researchers are key partners in

the £17.7m Water Security and Sustainable Development Hub – an ambitious new initiative established by UK Research and Innovation, as part of the Global Challenges Research Fund.

The hub is an international partnership of 55 organisations from 12 countries, and will collect scientific data and engage with stakeholders – from local communities to government ministries – to improve water security across the planet.

water@leeds also has a significant role in training the next generation of water-focussed scientists and engineers.

The new Leeds-hosted Centre for Doctoral Training in Water and Waste Infrastructure Systems Engineered for Resilience (Water-WISER) aims to contribute to knowledge about sustainable water, sanitation and waste management services. This information will be used to improve infrastructure and services for the poorest and most marginalised members of global society.

The centre is led by Professor Barbara Evans, from the School of Civil Engineering and water@leeds. Funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, Water-WISER is operated in partnership with Cranfield and Loughborough Universities.

For questions relating to the survey, contact Dr Lopez-Gonzalez at g.lopez-gonzalez@leeds.ac.uk, or email water@leeds.ac.uk for details of how you can get involved in water@leeds events.

Making your changes stick

The path to implementing changes doesn't always run smooth, but the new Principles for Delivering Change could help you.

If you've ever tried to establish a new way of working, or launch a new initiative, you've probably come up against some challenges along the way. You may have struggled to ascertain how your piece of work fits into the big picture, or which direction to take when decisions are needed.

A newly launched set of principles could help. The Principles for Delivering Change is a single page summary of the way we want to implement changes at Leeds. Further information is available at www.leeds.ac.uk/deliveringchange.

Learning a new language for free

Have you always wanted to learn a new language? If so, why not try it out first on Rosetta Stone?

Rosetta Stone allows you to learn a wide range of languages – from beginner to intermediate level – on-the-go and from anywhere in the world. And it's free for all University staff.

You can choose from any of the 30 languages available. Courses can be accessed online at your own convenience using a PC, tablet or mobile device, making learning a language fast and easy.

Visit www.leeds.ac.uk/rosettastone for further information.

Have your say on campus services

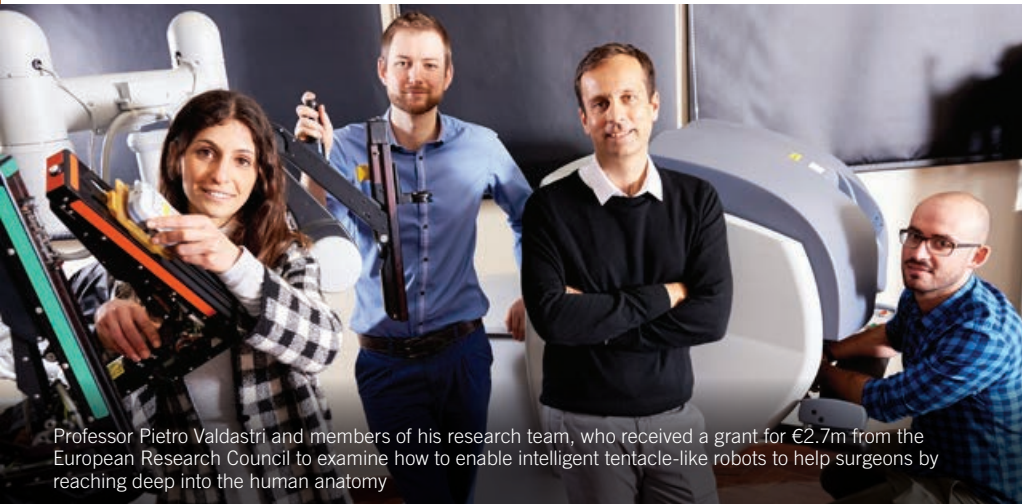
Tell us what you think about the services provided by our Security Team, Cleaning Team, Print and Copy Bureau, University Mailroom and Facilities Support Services Team, which provides and looks after our teaching spaces.

The Campus Support Services Survey is designed to ensure we deliver the best service possible at all times.

Complete it by Friday 5 April for the chance to win a cash prize!

Visit www.leeds.ac.uk/campusservices for more details and to take part.

Research and Innovation



Professor Pietro Valdastri and members of his research team, who received a grant for €2.7m from the European Research Council to examine how to enable intelligent tentacle-like robots to help surgeons by reaching deep into the human anatomy

Europe's financial backing for our research leadership

Robotic tentacles to help surgeons operate inside the body and understanding what characterises the will of the people are among new research programmes at Leeds supported by European funding.

We received more than €19m in funding from the prestigious and highly selective European Research Council (ERC) during 2018. The figure places Leeds in the top 10 recipients of ERC funding among UK universities for the first time.

Since the referendum when the country voted to leave the EU, Leeds has actually risen from 12th to seventh place in the ranking, produced by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

In addition to the ERC funding, in January the European Commission supported two substantial PhD training networks led by Dr Paolo Actis from the School of Electronic and Electrical Engineering (SENTINEL) and Dr Bruce Turnbull from the School of Chemistry (SynBioCarb), worth more than €8m. They are aimed at building skills among postgraduate researchers and sharing knowledge across boundaries.

Together, funding for the programmes demonstrates European confidence in our depth of experience in interdisciplinary research and the breadth of our expertise.

Professor Lisa Roberts, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation, said: "Leeds has a proven strength in our ability to organise, lead and deliver major research and training programmes that make a real and telling difference to the world around us, while driving forward the advancement of science and critical thought."

"It is very pleasing to see that even amid the Brexit politics, we are continuing to collaborate with major European institutions. By continuing to work together and pushing at the edges of our collective knowledge, we can conduct research that saves lives, creates new technologies and helps us improve the complex world we live in."

New focus for materials research

A new centre for research into the analysis and development of advanced materials has launched at Leeds.

The Bragg Centre for Materials Research will work closely with leading researchers and industry to develop new and innovative solutions to real-world materials challenges.

The launch took place at the centre's inaugural research symposium earlier this year. The event, attended by more than 150 people from across campus engaged with materials research, showcased the breadth and quality of academic activity carried out at the Bragg centre's.

See www.leeds.ac.uk/braggcentrelaunch for the full story.

Festival of Ideas

The Festival of Ideas is an annual event held on campus, bringing together academia and industry for a day of thought-provoking talks and discussion.

Leeds University Business School (LUBS) academics will share their expertise on Monday 8 April, highlighting where they see potential for collaboration with other Faculties, graphic designers, computer scientists, health charities, HR specialists, car manufacturers, policymakers and more.

For 2019, the Festival will be delivered in partnership with Nexus, our new innovation centre, enabling businesses from all sectors to connect with the expertise, talent and facilities at Leeds.

Visit www.business.leeds.ac.uk/festival-of-ideas for further information and to register.

Research funding success

TOP 10 for Leeds

Leeds retains its position in the top 10 of UK universities for research council funding, according to the latest figures from Times Higher Education (THE).

Gathering data from the UK's research councils, THE ranks UK universities according to the value of open-call funding, as well as success rates for grant applications.

Leeds is 10th in the UK, according to the total value of grants.

Professor Lisa Roberts, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation, said: "We have truly outstanding researchers, who make a real difference to the world."

"Our continued success in attracting research council funding reflects the fantastic expertise and effort of our research teams at Leeds."

"I'd like to extend my thanks and congratulations to everyone who has been working hard to secure this funding, which will undoubtedly lead to quality outputs and impact."

“

We have truly outstanding researchers, who make a real difference to the world.

Professor Lisa Roberts, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation

Sustainability

Sustainable theatre plans unveiled

Plans are being explored to create a sustainable theatre on campus.

Earmarked for land between stage@leeds, the School of Performance and Cultural Industries (PCI) and the School of Earth and Environment, the initiative is also backed by the University's Sustainability Service Living Lab project.

Although in the early stages of development, key objectives of the Sustainable Theatre Living Lab are to develop a venue that provides an innovative performance and installation space and to design an accessible, low-maintenance landscape that retains, improves and diversifies recreational areas for staff, students and the wider community.

A capital funding bid is being drafted to ensure the project promotes sustainable innovation and resource efficiency, harnessing natural energy sources to power lights and other electrical equipment. See the full story at www.leeds.ac.uk/sustainabletheatre.

Supporting our local community

Help support the local community through Positive Impact Partners (PIP) – our flagship programme designed to increase collaboration with the Third Sector.

PIP connects staff with local charitable organisations to provide expertise and help them succeed. In return, PIP enhances staff skills and creates new research and curriculum projects.

Email Sustainability Services at sustainability@leeds.ac.uk or visit www.leeds.ac.uk/positiveimpactpartners to sign up to the scheme.

Start your school governor story

Staff and alumni have been sharing their stories one year on from the the launch of our School Governors Programme.

No two school governors are the same but what unites them is their passion and desire to make a difference to children's education.

Visit www.leeds.ac.uk/schoolgovernorsstories to find out what the programme means to each volunteer and why there's a call for more colleagues to sign up.

Chancellor's keynote speech

Our Chancellor – Professor Dame Jane Francis – will deliver the keynote speech at our annual Student Sustainability Research Conference 2019.

You can attend this free event in the Great Hall on Friday 29 March by registering through Eventbrite at uolssrc.eventbrite.co.uk. Spaces are limited, so don't delay!



Bid for funds to remove single-use plastics

Funding is now available to help remove single-use plastics from offices and workspaces across campus.

It was announced in November 2018 that we have teamed up with Leeds University Union (LUU) in pledging to become single-use plastic-free by 2023. Single-use plastic items are designed to be used only once before they are thrown away or recycled.

There has already been a fantastic response to the Single Out: 2023PlasticFree campaign. Cross-departmental working groups have been established, audits of plastic use are underway and activity is being driven by colleagues at all levels across campus.

Now, the Sustainability Service is offering individual offices and workspaces the opportunity to apply for up to £200 in funding to help them on their journey towards being single-use plastic-free.

Dr Louise Ellis, Director of Sustainability, said: "We know there are a lot of offices and workspaces around campus that are keen to get on board with the campaign that could use some support with making the switch. We hope that by offering this funding, we can help kick-start this activity."

Examples of how the funding could be spent include purchasing glasses or reusable cups to replace single-use plastic alternatives.



We know there are a lot of offices and workspaces around campus that are keen to get on board with the campaign that could use some support with making the switch. We hope that by offering this funding, we can help kick-start this activity.

Dr Louise Ellis, Director of Sustainability

Funding will be available on a 'first come, first served' basis until August 2019. Download the application form from www.sustainability.leeds.ac.uk/plasticfree and fill in the required details before emailing it to plasticfree@leeds.ac.uk.

Using current procurement routes would be preferred – support is available for this from the Sustainability Service.

Public Engagement

Brave New World for Be Curious



Marty Jopson, resident scientist for the BBC's *One Show*, will be entertaining the crowds at Be Curious 2019

Where can you order some sweets from a robot, discover details about an alien invasion or play a giant game of Operation?

These and other fascinating questions will be answered in the fourth annual instalment of the hugely popular Be Curious research open day.

This year's theme is 'Brave New World' as we once again seek to engage the public in the pioneering studies undertaken at Leeds by showcasing some of our world-leading research in an easily accessible format.

More than 40 exciting activities will be on offer on Saturday 30 March across several locations on campus, including Parkinson Court and the School of Music, where visitors will be given the rare chance to play a Steinway piano.

Free, interactive, family-friendly fun is the order of the day, with stalls for all ages running from 10am to 4pm. Children can also take part in a sticker trail.

One of the highlights is a performance of *Invisible Worlds* with TV's Marty Jopson, from 1pm in the Rupert Beckett Theatre. Take a journey from everyday life, down into the realm of microscopic wonders with the BBC *One Show*'s resident scientist.

Be Curious has become a favourite way for many researchers to share a flavour of their work with the wider community, while others see it as the perfect opportunity to take their first steps in Public Engagement (PE).

Dr Charlotte Haigh is Associate Professor in Human Physiology at Leeds and Academic Lead for Public Engagement with Research. She said: "This annual open day goes from strength to strength, with more than 40 stalls this year allowing everyone to 'have a go'. It's a great opportunity to find out more about the research being undertaken here at Leeds

"And we're really excited to be joined by Marty Jopson."

A full list of attractions is available at www.leeds.ac.uk/becuriouswebsite, together with a link to download the programme and a map of events. You can also access the latest updates on Facebook. A limited number of tickets for the *Invisible Worlds* show will be available on the day, on a 'first come, first served' basis.

Refreshments can be bought at the cafés in Parkinson Court and the Laidlaw Library.

Parking is available in the multi-story car park, payable by debit or credit card on exiting (free to staff if your car is registered at www.carparking.leeds.ac.uk). Bus routes, including 1, 6, 28 and 97, all stop outside the Parkinson Building from the H10 stop on The Headrow in the city centre.

So, why not step into a Brave New World by taking your family and friends along to visit Be Curious 2019?

Leading lights have papers published

Two leading advocates of Public Engagement (PE) have had their papers published in a prestigious journal.

Dr Lou Harvey and Dr Georgina Binnie – both previous Engagement Excellence Fellows and winners of our Public Engagement award – have had their PE activities-based work featured in *Research for All*.

Theatrical performance as a public pedagogy of solidarity for intercultural learning – led by Dr Harvey – is a theorised reflection of a PE event by theatre company, Cap-a-Pie and Associates, based on her research into UK-based international students' experiences of learning English.

Dr Binnie's paper – *Loneliness and the letter: Co-developing cross-generational letter writing with higher education students and older people* – is based on the award-winning Writing Back project she established in 2014, which pairs students with older Yorkshire residents to tackle loneliness and social isolation.

Research for All is a high-quality, open-access journal, publishing on engaged research from authors within and outside higher education. Visit www.ucl-ioe-press.com/research-for-all/ if you have a PE project you would like to write about.

A step-change in wo

Commercialisation Team commercialisation@leeds.ac.uk

Manages commercialisation of intellectual property (IP) arising from University research to establish licences with existing businesses or create new spin-out companies. This involves identifying opportunities, developing these in to commercial propositions and establishing IP management strategies.



Andy Duley

Contracts Team commercialisation@leeds.ac.uk

Oversees research and innovation contractual matters, checking and approving funder terms and drafting and reviewing all non-standard R&I contracts.

Corporate Relationships Team corporates@leeds.ac.uk

Oversees relationships with large corporates and elevates discussions to the most senior levels within these organisations, listening to their strategic needs and translating them with the academic community into research opportunities.



Ian Shortland

Major Research Initiatives Team corporates@leeds.ac.uk

Works with academic leads to build, test and deliver multi-million pound research initiatives with industry partners that transcend faculty boundaries and are strategically significant to the University e.g. the £65m Institute for High Speed Rail and System Integration.

Research & Innovation Development Team

Helps academics and businesses to collaborate to develop longer, larger, user-informed research and innovation proposals that are focused on faculty-defined priorities and more likely to be funded e.g. via UKRI and the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund.



Ceri Williams

Nexus Team nexus@leeds.ac.uk

Provides seamless access to research expertise, talent and facilities across the University. The team facilitates productive relationships between entrepreneurs, start-ups and SMEs with our academic community to develop the right partnerships to drive economic and societal impact. The Nexus team can act as a first point of contact for academics or businesses who do not know which team(s) they need to work with.



Martin Stow

Meet the Nexus Team: see www.leeds.ac.uk/forstaff/nexus

Our University has a strong record of working with external partners to translate research and innovation into economic and societal benefit. Never has this been more important, with the Government's Industrial Strategy highlighting that the UK needs its universities "to turn their ideas into products and services". With this in mind, we explore how our Business Engagement Framework at Leeds is boosting the support for academics to develop collaborative research and innovation opportunities.

Successful innovation is nothing new to our University; we are renowned for our world-leading research and innovation and were ranked top 10 for research power and impact in the last REF exercise (Research Excellence Framework, 2014). We also have more AIM-listed spinouts than any other university in the UK.

What is relatively new, however, is the increased level of research funding aligned to the UK Government's *Industrial Strategy: building a Britain fit for the future* through UK Research & Innovation (UKRI), the body which brings together seven Research Councils, Innovate UK and Research England.

The introduction of 'impact' to the 2014 REF has also recognised the economic and societal impact of university research and the importance of collaboration.

As Professor Lisa Roberts, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation, explains, this presents Leeds with an opportunity: "When I launched our Research and Innovation Strategic Delivery Plan in 2017, it was clear that there was an opportunity to provide even greater support for our researchers to work with businesses and for businesses to connect to our world-leading expertise and capabilities.

"I'm delighted that, in support of that strategic plan, we now have a Business Engagement Framework

Making it easy to work with us

For businesses, the aim of the Business Engagement Framework (BEF) is to make it as easy as possible for them to work with the University to help them thrive, grow and innovate.

The University's website www.leeds.ac.uk/business now directs businesses to contact Nexus initially as their way into the University, unless they already understand which element of our business framework they wish to access. Of course, there are multiple business collaborations that already exist across the University in individual academic teams and the new BEF will not replace



Working with business

that integrates and boosts the teams focused on supporting our academic community to nurture their relationships with business.”

Depending on the nature of the work, one or more of the teams will work closely with academic leads (see the panel, far left).

Introducing Nexus

One of the most visible elements of this enhanced approach on campus is Nexus, which is preparing to open its doors to tenants and the broader Nexus community of academics, entrepreneurs, start-ups and SMEs soon.

Alongside high-quality, flexible office and lab space, Nexus’ facilities include multiple co-working areas, a

those, but will help provide more support to develop deeper and broader relationships.

- If you have a business referral or query, please do contact the relevant team from the framework. If you are not sure who to contact, please talk to Nexus on 0113 306 1444 or email nexus@leeds.ac.uk
- The Research and Innovation Service has moved in to the Nexus building, with an official launch planned for May.
- Follow news about Nexus on the In Depth section of For Staff at www.leeds.ac.uk/forstaff/nexus

business lounge, café and meeting and events space. These are great spaces to support formal and informal connections between academics and businesses or to drop by for coffee with colleagues. There is also a virtual membership package so that businesses can connect with the University without being Nexus tenants.

Dr Martin Stow, Nexus Director, explains: “Collaboration and innovation go hand-in-hand, and when academia and business work together, great things can happen. By bringing together pools of talent, sharing expertise and collaborating, trusted relationships can be formed and developed between businesses and academics.

“The engagement team based at Nexus helps initiate these connections by brokering initial conversations and understanding businesses’ commercial needs then matching their requirements to the skills and expertise of the University. Through this team, our academic community will have exposure to more targeted research opportunities and access to the facilities and support on offer at Nexus.”

Dr Stow continues: “Universities have a key role to play in the economic development of the UK. We have the opportunity and the resources here at Leeds to become an innovation powerhouse – driving economic, regional and societal change.”

NEXUS
UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS
Leeds University Business School

Festival of Ideas
Monday 8 April
2019

Events at Nexus

Here’s a taster of the ongoing programme of events that Nexus will host to promote our research and innovation strengths and bring businesses together with our academic community. Please refer to the links for details of how to get involved or contact the Nexus team if you have an idea for an event:

Festival of Ideas 8 April

A day of thought-provoking talks and discussion in partnership with Leeds University Business School. See www.leeds.ac.uk/festivalofideas.

Leeds Digital Festival April to May

Three events in support of our sponsorship of Leeds Digital Festival:

- 23 April – The Data Shed and Amazon Web Services (early evening)
- 2 May – Women In Leeds Digital (daytime)
- 3 May – Nexus and LUBS Fintech (early evening).

See www.leedsdigitalfestival.org.

water@leeds

Numerous events to mark water@leeds’ 10th anniversary.

See page 4 for further information.

Bettakultcha 17 April onwards

A series of innovative discussion events with this independent forum for ideas, inventiveness and fun. Visit nexusleeds.co.uk for more details nearer the date.

For other events on campus, see page 15.

NEXUS

Students

New appointments will build on strong foundations

Student education at Leeds has been further boosted with the announcement of two key appointments.

Professor Tina Overton is the new Director of Leeds Institute of Teaching Excellence (LITE), while Dr Christina Edgar has been recruited to the post of Director of Student Opportunity.

Professor Overton has moved from a position as Distinguished Professor of Chemistry Education at Monash University in Australia.

She said: "I'm both delighted and excited in equal measures to be offered the chance to lead LITE into its new phase of development.

"I want to make LITE essential to educators at Leeds – to continue to build this thriving community and enhance its impact on the student experience, as well as the reputation of Leeds for excellence in education in the sector."



Professor Tina Overton and Dr Christina Edgar, who have been appointed Director of LITE and Director of Student Opportunity at Leeds respectively

Dr Edgar moved from her role as Director of Student Recruitment and Admissions at the University of Sheffield.

She said: "I'm delighted to be joining the University.

"I will be focussed on supporting the University with our drive to continually develop the outstanding opportunities available for our students, embedding this within our education offer."

See www.leeds.ac.uk/newappointments for the full story.

New team helping students settle into their University halls

Movie nights, volunteering days and local trips are among initiatives being organised by a new team to help students in University accommodation settle into life in Leeds.

Residence Life – part of Accommodation Services – aims to proactively engage students to create a community within their halls of residence, enabling them to make the most of their university experience.

The team brings together and enhances existing provision of pastoral support, as well as staging social and educational events.

Pastoral support is delivered through teams of Wardens and Subwardens, who are available weekdays between 6pm and 8am, and 24-7 during weekends.

Wardens are members of University staff, who are also responsible for resolving discipline issues at each residence.

Subwardens are students and work under the direction of the Wardens, helping with wellbeing and discipline issues. This can range from answering general questions about living in halls to supporting students through homesickness and the challenges that come with communal living.

Residence Life works in partnership with Leeds University Union in delivering a varied halls social programme. Exciting and engaging events already held this year have ranged from movie and pizza nights to trips to nearby cities, sports events and volunteering opportunities. As part of this, they support the Hall Executive members – a team of student volunteers that live in each residence – to put on events and activities to connect fellow students socially and build community spirit.



Tim Grout (Biochemistry and Food Science 1977) with scholar Ben Kew – who gave a speech thanking donors at the Scholarships Reception – and Vice-Chancellor, Sir Alan Langlands

Reception celebrates supporters' generosity

More than a hundred University donors joined staff and students at the Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships Reception.

Held in the Great Hall, the glittering event is an annual pre-Christmas celebration of everything our donors bring to Leeds, through funding student scholarships, research, outreach and a host of other important projects.

In particular, the event allows scholars to meet the donors who have funded their scholarships, to talk about the difference the support has made to their studies at Leeds and to say a very personal 'thank you'.

The event also acknowledges the valuable work of alumni and other supporters, who volunteer as mentors for our students, offer careers guidance or host internships and placements, and who give of their precious time to support our mission.

Students

Creating a first-class student experience

A major investment in improving the student experience – from enquiry to graduation – has been given the go ahead.

The Student Lifecycle Programme (SLP) – a transformation programme aimed at improving the processes, systems and ways of working we use to manage the student experience – has been granted £46.7m in funding for the next four years by the University's Council.

The programme aims to create a single view of a student, reduce complexity in our systems and processes and create consistency across the University, so staff spend less time on transactional activity and more time enhancing the student experience.

The programme is also looking at how any new systems help us meet our data reporting requirements, and how we can protect and enhance our reputation as a world-class organisation.

The programme is being overseen by a team of more than 45 project managers, business analysts, process improvement specialists and subject matter experts, recruited from both inside and outside the University. It is led by Programme Director, Sarah Lund, and is sponsored by Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Student

Education, Professor Tom Ward.

The programme is expected to last four years, with the first 12-month 'readiness' phase dedicated to further exploring requirements and business needs, before a three-year delivery period begins.

Commenting on the award of funding, Professor Ward said: "The approval of the full business case is a significant step, and the next few years will see exciting developments.

"I'd like to thank the many people who have already contributed so much to the SLP, often alongside already busy lives.

"I'd also like to look back and forward as we contemplate the next steps. Looking back, we should acknowledge the great creativity and effort that has delivered an excellent student education service through a period of under-investment in systems.

"Looking forward, the most important part of making this a success will be how we collaborate. The SLP needs to access the energy and expertise of everyone involved, and we are determined to make this a genuinely collaborative project."

Want to know more about the SLP and how you can get involved? Email SLP@leeds.ac.uk for further information.

relevant experience and knowledge. This group will also act as a conduit between their teams and the programme, sharing their colleagues' views with the SLP team and ensuring everyone is kept up-to-date on the latest developments.

- **Academic Advisory Group** – a small group of academics, led by a dedicated Chair, who will feed in the views of academics and share SLP messages with their colleagues; and
- **Student Champions** – a panel of current students from a range of departments, who will help inform, test and sense-check any proposed systems, processes and ways of working, with a focus on student experience and expectation.

How you can get involved

Key to the SLP's success will be consultation and engagement with a wide range of stakeholders from across the University.

Not only will colleagues be asked about any issues they face, they'll be actively involved in mapping processes and needs to find effective, standardised solutions, with regular opportunities to shape, test and challenge any decisions the SLP makes. The Programme will be guided by three key groups:

- **Change Champions** – a diverse group of people, from admin and academia, who will be consulted on both broad-ranging and specific issues where they have

National Student Survey 2019 is live

Colleagues are asked to encourage all eligible students to have their say after the National Student Survey (NSS) 2019 went live.

The NSS is an annual student experience survey of undergraduates, normally in their final year, and is open until Tuesday 30 April.

It runs across all publicly-funded Higher Education Institutions in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Its aim is to gather feedback from students on the quality of their educational experience. This feedback is then used internally as part of our ongoing review of our provision, as well as externally to help inform the choices of future applicants to higher education.

Students can access the survey at www.thestudentsurvey.leeds.ac.uk and are offered 100 free printer credits for their participation. Students can also access the survey through Minerva, and it should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete.

Please email h.theakston@leeds.ac.uk for further information.

Admissions scheme wins national award

An admissions scheme helping widen access to Leeds has won a coveted national award.

Access to Leeds guarantees special consideration for students whose circumstances may affect their ability to demonstrate talent through exam grades alone.

The scheme is the largest of its kind in the UK and has helped almost 6,000 students since it began in 2003.

Now, it is celebrating success in the Student Social Mobility Awards, supported by the Social Mobility Commission. It was nominated by final-year student, Melanie Graves, who came to Leeds through the scheme.

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

Leeds in top ten universities targeted by employers

Students at Leeds are in the UK's top 10 universities most targeted by leading employers.

The annual survey, conducted by High Fliers Research, highlights graduate vacancies and starting salaries at the country's 100 leading employers, as featured in The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers. They include Deloitte, the Civil Service Fast Stream, Goldman Sachs, Rolls-Royce, Unilever and the NHS.

Leeds is ninth in this year's survey.

See For Staff for the full story at www.leeds.ac.uk/highfliers.

People



Ian Crawshaw (Security Services); Chief Operating Officer, Dr Tim Peakman; Travis Welsh (Security Services); Suzzi Garnett (Sport and Physical Activity); Lucy Stuart (representing Romain Cames, Sustainability); Vice-Chancellor, Sir Alan Langlands; and David Wilford (Security Services) at the Spotlight Awards 2018

Shining a spotlight on exceptional achievements

Commercial and Campus Support Services staff were recognised at the annual Spotlight Awards for their exceptional work.

The winners were:

Suzzi Garnett, Sport Volunteering Officer, who won the Innovative and Creative title. The award is for the person who has come up with the most innovative idea in Commercial and Campus Support Services, or who has ensured the service is always seeking new improvements and ideas.

Suzzi said: "I am delighted to be recognised by my colleagues in the Spotlight Awards – having only been at the University for just over a year, in a new role, it is great to know I am on the right track and that my work is having an impact."

Mike Kennedy, John Haigh, Travis Welsh, Ian Crawshaw and Willow the dog, from Team C (Security Services), won the Trust and Respect title. The award is for a great person, or team, you can always trust and rely on and who always shows respect to everyone they deal with.

Mike, John, Travis and Ian said: "Our unit's strength comes from its teamwork and collaboration – wonderful things can be achieved, as shown by this award."

David Wilford, Security Officer, won the Helpful and Supportive title. The award is for the person, or team, supporting customers by delivering an excellent service experience.

Romain Cames, Sustainability Bike Hub Co-ordinator, won the Friendly, Fun and Positive Attitude title. The award is for the person, or team, always bringing fun to others at work and who demonstrates a positive attitude in all they do.

Romain said: "It was quite a surprise, to be frank, and I am thrilled to have received this award – but this truly should highlight the hard work of the Bike Hub staff and volunteers and the Sustainability Service, as well as the Hub's partners."

Showcase celebrates Postgraduate Research

The work of our Postgraduate Researchers (PGRs) were recognised at this year's Leeds Doctoral College Showcase.

Even a campus-wide power cut failed to detract from the event, with judges commenting on the high quality of nominees for each of the competitions.

Postgraduate Researcher of the Year 2018

Joint 1st place – Sophy Barber

(Faculty of Medicine and Health)

Adolescent-parent preferences and decision-making in hypodontia care

Joint 1st place – Leon Willis

(Faculty of Biological Sciences)

The effects of flow on therapeutic aggregation

3rd Place – Halina Nortbertczak

(Faculty of Engineering)

Decellularisation processes for the intervertebral disc

Three Minute Thesis (3MT)

Winner – Salah Sharief

(Faculty of Education, Social Sciences and Law)

Drone Warfare and the Dehumanisation of War

2nd place – Kate Cameron

(Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures)

A toolkit to measure the impact of music education

3rd place – Penn Smith

(Faculty of Medicine and Health)

A Picture of Mental Health Recovery

Research Image of the Year

Winner and 2nd place – Ramzi Merabet

(Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures)

The Dock of Interculturality and Let's Blossom respectively



This year's finalists (from left) Halina Nortbertczak, Sophy Barber, Leon Willis, Salah Sharief, Penn Smith and Kate Cameron

Sign up for successful international buddy scheme

More than 40 staff have already signed up for a new international buddy scheme less than three months after it was launched.

And you can still get involved by volunteering for the pioneering project.

The International Team launched the scheme in November 2018, as part of the support offered to international staff as they arrive in Leeds to take up new positions here, helping them settle into their new environment and new roles.

Staff from all faculties and professional services responded positively to the request for buddies, with more than 40 now registered and ready to be matched with a new international colleague.

Professor Hai-Sui Yu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: International, said: "The buddy scheme is a great initiative and will really help our international colleagues settle quickly into life in Leeds and at the University.

"I am really pleased that so many of our colleagues responded to this call, and I

really appreciate your willingness to assist in strengthening the global community here at the University."

The main feature of the scheme is its informality and mutuality. Buddies can be of any nationality, but we will try and match colleagues firstly by faculty/discipline and then by other common factors.

The buddy register remains open.

Email InternationalHR@leeds.ac.uk for further information.

Honours



'Outstanding role model to future scientists'

Professor Helen Gleeson has won the Outstanding Research Supervisor of the Year category in the 2018 Times Higher Education Awards.

An experimental physicist and Head of the School of Physics and Astronomy, Professor Gleeson works in the area of soft matter, primarily liquid crystals – the materials in flat screen displays.

She has supervised 31 PhD researchers during the past 28 years. Her students have gone on to become successful academics, who lead their own research groups, working in research management and support services, as well as in world-leading technology companies.

Professor Gleeson said: "I was speechless my students nominated me for this award and I feel very honoured to have won."

"Supporting students while they learn is a privilege. I work with exceptional students and I'm very proud they have recognised me in this way."

Four of her current PhD students nominated her for the award.

One of them, Dr Devesh Mistry (pictured above with Professor Gleeson), said: "Helen is an inspiring and encouraging supervisor, who has done an incredible job mentoring her many PhD students, allowing them to develop and extract the most out of their PhD experiences."

"Her contagious passion for research, teaching and outreach makes her an outstanding role model to future scientists. I am honoured to have been her PhD student."

New Year Honours celebrated

Important scientific contributions in the field of meteorology have resulted in a University-based academic being recognised in the Queen's New Year Honours.

Professor Stephen Mobbs (right) has been awarded an MBE for services to Atmospheric Sciences, which are concerned with all aspects of how the Earth's atmosphere moves, affecting our weather, climate and redistribution of gases and particles, including pollutants.

Professor Mobbs joined the School of Environment in 1995. He was Head of School from 1996 and, following the merger with Earth Sciences in 2003, became Head of the newly-formed School of Earth and Environment.

In 2005, Professor Mobbs became Director of the National Centre for Atmospheric Science, a world-leading research centre dedicated to the advancement of atmospheric science.

Professor Simon Kay (right), of Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, was awarded an OBE for services to complex reconstructive hand surgery. He is also an Honorary Professor with the University through Leeds Institute of Medical Research at St James's Hospital.



Celebrating staff successes

Here we highlight the achievements of colleagues in a host of awards and honours.

Professor Simon Armitage – Named as the 2018 recipient of the prestigious Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry.

Dr Benjamin Kirby and **Dr William Gamester** – Awarded a Postdoctoral Fellowship from the British Academy.

The Learning Layers project, of which the Leeds Institute of Medical Education is a part of – 2018 European Vocational Education and Training Research award winner.

Dr Erik Thomasson and **Paul Evans** – Awarded Business Fellowships of the Transport Systems Catapult.

Professor Piers Forster – Appointed to the Committee on Climate Change.

The Edge – Education Facility of the Year winner at the National Fitness Awards 2018.

Professor Les Firbank – Appointed Chair of the European Food Safety Authority 'Gene Drive' working group.

Professor Anna Lawson – Appointed first patron of the National Association of Disabled Networks.

Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust's Spondyloarthritis (SpA) Team – Winner of the Best Ankylosing Spondylitis Team at the 2018 National Ankylosing Spondylitis Society Patients' Choice Awards.

Professor Philip Helliwell and **Dr Laura Coates** – Duncan A Gordon Award winners from the *Journal of Rheumatology*.

Jane Campbell – Appointed a Board Director at the Institute of Student Employers.

Dr Jim Brogden – Becomes a Fellow of the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufacturers and Commerce.

Dr Ingo Cornils – Appointed Chair in German Studies at the University.

Dr Kate Marks – Post-Doctoral Plenary Competition winner at the 2018 Academy of Medical Sciences' Clinical Academics in Training Annual Conference.

Professor Stuart Egginton – Co-authored a research paper that received the Outstanding Paper Prize 2018 from the *Journal of Experimental Biology*.

Professor David Hodgson – British Sedimentological Research Group Perce Allen Award winner.

Dr Una Adderley and **Kathryn Waldegrave** – Awarded the title of Queen's Nurse.

Dr Timothy Craig – 2019 Royal Astronomical Society Geophysics Winton Capital Prize winner.

Dr Raoul Guizon – Awarded a UK Intelligence Community Postdoctoral Research Fellowship.

Email internalcomms@leeds.ac.uk if you or one of your colleagues would like to be featured in Reporter or the monthly For Staff spotlight.

In the News



Professor Julia Newton-Bishop (LIMR – Medicine and Health) has led research which found **melanoma patients with a history of smoking cigarettes are 40 per cent less likely to survive their skin cancer than people who have never smoked**. The study, funded by Cancer Research UK, suggests smoking may blight the immune response against melanoma and thereby reduce survival. The research received coverage in *The Times*, *The Daily Telegraph* and many more.

Dr Chris Gale (LICMM) has led research showing **more women in England and Wales could have survived their heart attacks had they been given the same quality of treatment as men**. The research received wide media coverage, including in *The Times*, *Huffington Post*, *CNN* and more.

Dr Sam Smith (LIHS – Medicine and Health) has led research looking at the **reasons why women at high risk of breast cancer decide not to take the preventative drug tamoxifen**. They discovered there were concerns about the side-effects and long-term effects of the drug. This was featured widely across radio bulletins and print titles, including the *Daily Mail* and *The Sun*.

Dr Richard Blackburn, PhD researcher Philippa Hill and Dr Mark Taylor (all Design – AHC) co-authored a paper with colleagues in Sweden showing that **most waterproof clothing is over-engineered with harmful chemicals**. But their use in protective clothing used by medical and emergency services personnel can't currently be replaced with greener alternatives. This was featured in *The Guardian* and *Yahoo News*.



Dr Jianhua Wu (Dentistry – Medicine and Health), Dr Chris Wilkinson (LIHS – Medicine and Health) and colleagues have published research featured in the *Yorkshire Post*, which found that **admission to hospital with a heart attack out of normal working hours does not appear to increase a patient's chance of dying in hospital**. The study of more than 600,000 patient cases suggests that fears about potential differences in outcomes depending on the time of hospital admission may be unfounded.

Professor Mark Mon-Williams (Psychology) is the University's lead on **a new trial, which aims to ensure primary school pupils get the glasses they need in order to improve their educational experience**. Pupils in more than 100 schools across England will take part in the Glasses for Classes programme, which is being conducted in partnership with the Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the Born in Bradford project. This was featured on *BBC One Yorkshire* and in the *Yorkshire Post*.



Kate Sambrook (Earth and Environment) and Professor Piers Forster (Priestley Centre – Environment) contributed climate analysis to a report that found **an increase in extreme weather due to climate change is damaging fruit and vegetable growing**. This was featured in *The Guardian*, *Bloomberg* and other outlets.

Dr John Ilee (Physics and Astronomy – MAPS) led astronomers that have discovered a **young star forming in the same way a planet does**. The mass of the newly spotted star is more than half the mass of our Sun. But the mass of the star it is orbiting is roughly 80 times bigger and is one of the clearest examples of a massive young star ever observed. This was featured in the *New York Post*, the *Daily Mail* and many more.



Credit: Nadine Mitschunas

Dr Mark Goddard (Earth and Environment) and Professor Bill Kunin and Kirsty Robertson (both Biology – FBS) were involved in research showing **the importance of urban environments for the conservation of pollinators**. It has revealed that urban gardens and allotments are good for pollinators, while lavender and borage are important garden plants that pollinators use as food sources. This was picked up in *The Guardian* and the *Daily Mail*.

Dr Mark Sumner (Design – AHC) discusses on BBC Radio 4 a study he's leading on how **cheap clothes can last as long as designer items**, with many reasonably-priced garments offering better quality than pricier ones. This study was also covered in *The Sunday Telegraph* and *The Guardian*.

Dr Jose Pina-Sánchez (Law – ESSL) has led research piecing together data to investigate **the extent of prison sentence discrimination against Muslims in the UK**. They found no evidence of discrimination, but say the data they acquired is not substantial enough to provide a complete picture and greater transparency is needed in the legal system. This research was featured in *The Guardian* and *Yahoo! UK*.

Dr Chris Smith (Earth and Environment) led research suggesting there would be a **64% chance of limiting the increase in global average temperatures to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels if fossil fuel infrastructure was phased out immediately**. In the study's scenario, fossil fuel power plants, cars, aircraft, ships and industrial infrastructure are replaced with zero-carbon alternatives at the end of their design lifetime. The research was featured in *The Guardian*, *CNN* and more.

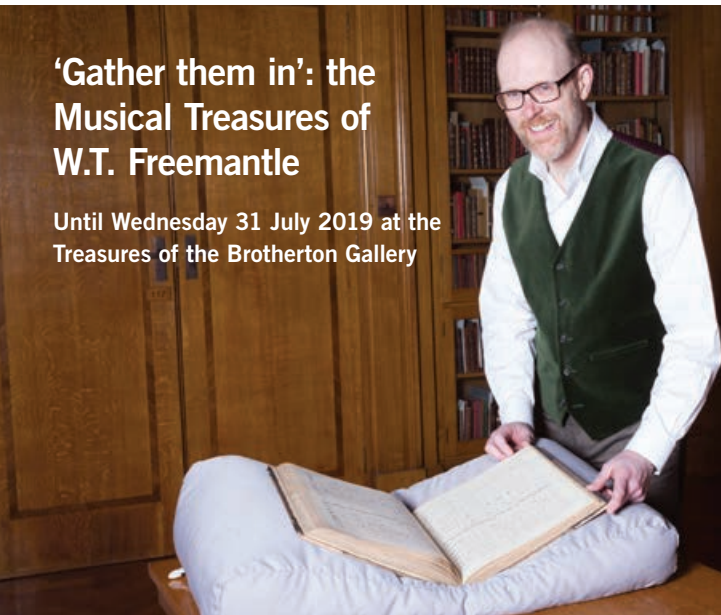


Credit: Michael Gaida

Events

‘Gather them in’: the Musical Treasures of W.T. Freemantle

Until Wednesday 31 July 2019 at the Treasures of the Brotherton Gallery



Curator Dr Bryan White with a copy of Mendelssohn’s *Elijah*. Inset: Portrait of W.T. Freemantle. Image credits: Special Collections, University of Leeds



How did a church organist from Sheffield amass the largest private collection of Mendelssohn material in Europe?

Guest-curated by Dr Bryan White from the School of Music, the exhibition tells the untold story of W.T. Freemantle’s significant musical collection and reveals the true extent of his achievements.

Dr White said: “It was a revelation to learn that Freemantle’s love for collecting was spurred by a visit to the market in Sheffield, where he unwittingly bought his first Mendelssohn manuscript. His passion became so strong that he said he would ‘endure martyrdom in Siberia’ if it would get him collectables he most desired.”

Features of the exhibition include:

The man behind the music

On display are previously unseen musical manuscripts and personal letters of Felix

Mendelssohn, a German composer of the early romantic period, who is still popular with music-lovers today. A child prodigy, who produced one of his most famous works – the overture to *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* – aged just 17, Mendelssohn is also well-known for his works *The Hebrides* overture and the oratorio *Elijah*.

The forgotten Mendelssohn

The overlooked and forgotten Mendelssohn, Felix’s sister Fanny. Fanny was an accomplished and prolific composer in her own right, composing more than 460 pieces of music. A copy of Fanny’s last composition, the song *Bergeslust*, written the day before her death in 1847, also forms part of the exhibition.

Entry to the exhibition is free. Visit www.leeds.ac.uk/galleries for further information and opening times.

Staff Benefits Fair

Visit the Staff Benefits Fair to find out more about the range of benefits and savings available.

These include TOTUM Cards, discounted bus tickets, rail loans, free eye tests, Quit Smoking support, the Cycle to Work scheme and bike maintenance/hire.

There are also savings at restaurants, shops

and health and fitness venues.

There will be prize draws, raffles and free tea and coffee at the event, which runs from 10.30am to 2pm on Tuesday 2 April in The Refectory.

Contact the Staff Benefits Team on 0113 3433966 for further information.

A full range of staff benefits can be found on the HR website at www.hr.leeds.ac.uk/benefits.

Prestigious lecture programme

Leeds will host two prestigious lectures to mark Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society’s bicentenary, recognising its contribution to the formation of the University and our subsequent close ties.

Founded in 1819, the Society is a registered charity dedicated to promoting the advancement of science, literature and the

arts in the city. It makes grants and provides a range of lectures and other cultural activities.

Highlights of the bicentenary programme include talks by two significant former Leeds academics:

- Alan Watson FRS – Emeritus Professor and Visiting Professor of Physics in the School of Physics and Astronomy – will talk about *The Growth of Large Collaborations in Science* on

M&S Company Archive

Archivist’s Talk – Food and Everyday Life 12.30 to 1.30pm on Thursday 16 May

Drawing on new research findings from a collaborative project with the University of York, this talk will look at how our food habits have changed over the decades.

From wartime food rationing to the latest developments in convenience foods, discover the role of M&S in pioneering new foods.



Discover the Proof of the Pudding! 12.30 to 1.30pm on Thursday 11 July

The Melting Middle Chocolate Pudding is 15 years old. Come and help us celebrate!

Take part in our interactive workshop and find out more about this best-selling favourite. There will be mini-experiments, pudding-invention and, of course, some tasting!

Both events are free. Booking is essential at marksintime.marksandspencer.com.



Thursday 19 September; and

- Simon Phillips – Visiting Professor of Biophysics and formerly Director of the Research Complex at Harwell – will talk about *Why Grass is Green and Blood is Red: What are we and the things around us made of?* on Thursday 24 October.

Times, venues and booking details will appear on For Staff nearer the time.

FAQs

Jo Westerman MBE

LOGIK Centre Manager and Staff Festival Project Manager



Tell us a bit about yourself?

I'm a Leeds lass, child of 'Windrush Generation' parents from Jamaica, born and raised in Hyde Park. I was one of the last generation of kids to take the 11+ exams and went to Leeds Girls High grammar school. I was always interested in experimenting and chose a career in science in early life. I came to the University to continue my education whilst working, completing my Graduate of the Royal Society of Chemistry and Master of Philosophy qualifications via day release. My own life experiences have given me a real interest in lifelong learning and a passion to help others develop their skills and potential.

How long have you been at the University?

I've been here for more than 35 years, working in several departments as a technician for 20 years. I had the opportunity to be seconded to work for the Unite trade union as a Regional Learning Organiser, which led me to apply for funding to create the LOGIK Centre – a learning centre for all staff.

What does your job entail?

My job is varied and rewarding and I enjoy it very much. I help ensure the LOGIK Centre offers a diverse programme of personal and professional development opportunities for staff to access, managing the facility to make best use of the space. This is a warm and welcoming place where staff can come to relax away from their work.

How has the LOGIK Centre changed over the years?

It has developed from being a centre for courses to encourage staff to rekindle their

enjoyment of learning, to also become a social facility, offering respite from the working day. In addition to our courses, we provide services to staff ranging from access to a chiropractor to wellbeing treatments, such as massage and relaxation sessions.

What were you awarded the MBE for?

I received an MBE in the 2010 Queen's Birthday Honours for Services to the University of Leeds and Higher Education.

What's the next big project you're working on?

As part of my role, I'm responsible for planning, managing and delivering the annual Staff Festival with a small team of volunteers. This is one of the highlights of my job and I love being part of the team. We're currently working on organising the 12th instalment of the Festival, being held on Friday 28 June.

How did you get involved with this?

I volunteered to help with the very first one because I was interested in staff wellbeing and thought the idea of a celebratory 'thank you' to the University's workforce was an excellent suggestion. As I'd been here for a long time and was known by many colleagues, I was asked to act as the compere for staff performances in the Refectory. It was such a good day, showcasing all the different talents of our staff. Just seeing them have fun together for the first time en masse, I wanted to help ensure it continued.

What do you most like about it?

I enjoy working with volunteers from different

parts of the University on planning and delivering the Staff Festival. It's hard work and sometimes stressful, but every year, when the day arrives, all issues and headaches disappear once I see the smiling faces of colleagues enjoying themselves with their family and friends.

Why is it so important for staff to attend?

Staff should be encouraged to attend by their departments as this is a 'thank you' to all of us who have worked tirelessly for the University throughout the year. This is a great opportunity to socialise with colleagues on campus on a Friday afternoon of celebration, with workshops, activities, food, drink and lots of fun. And I can reveal the dodgems are back this year, so why not see who you can bump into!

In your role, what is your most frequently asked question?

I haven't heard of you before – what does the LOGIK Centre do?

It sounds like you lead a hectic life, so how do you relax away from work?

I love to travel, usually to spend time with my family and friends. My favourite place to relax is in Iceland, where I can experience the beauty of nature and replenish my stocks of Icelandic wool to indulge my passion for knitting! I enjoy dancing and I'm currently learning to Salsa. I like the idea of learning a second language and I've been struggling with Mandarin for the past couple of years!



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