



‘Huge honour’ for new Poet Laureate

Simon Armitage, Professor of Poetry at Leeds, has described his appointment as the UK’s 21st Poet Laureate – one of the great high offices of literature – as a “huge honour”.

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All the fun of the fair

Excitement is building for this year’s instalment of the hugely popular Staff Festival, with a packed programme featuring food and drink, fairground rides, stalls, workshops and live music for all ages.

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Major new report unveiled

Advanced data analytics is opening up a ‘new frontier’ for business Research & Development, according to a report from Nexus, our new innovation hub, and the CBI.

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New alliances with Europe

We’ve signed a new partnership agreement with one of Europe’s largest research and educational institutions to develop new academic collaborations and exchange opportunities.

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Leader Column

Not the end of the story

The Vice-Chancellor reflects on the recently published Augar review into post-18 education and funding.

The review of post-18 education and funding (the Augar review), set up by Prime Minister Theresa May in February 2018, was finally published on 30 May, just as she stepped down amid the turmoil of Brexit.

In essence, the review recommends a fee cut to £7,500 for all subjects from 2021/22 and proposes that the Government should replace the lost fee income in full by increasing the teaching grant, leaving the average unit of funding unchanged at sector level.

What happens next is anyone's guess but, as a starting point, the sector needs to be clear that many aspects of the review are flawed, and this cannot be the end of the story. It is not at all clear if or when the Government will be able to guarantee additional public funding for universities and there are a number of policy traps hidden in the report.

Whilst there are positive proposals to invest in further education, the welcome return of maintenance grants for university students from low income households, and more realistic interest rates on student loans during study, there are a number of downsides and a tone which challenges university autonomy.

For example, the proposals on loan repayments are regressive. Lower and middle earning graduates will pay more towards the cost of their degree than under the current arrangements and higher earners will pay less; financial support for foundation years leading to a degree programme will be withdrawn; and resources to fund access and participation schemes in some institutions might be at risk.

The report also refers to "high value" and "strategically important" subjects and "low value" courses, and the implication is that Government and the OfS will be more directive about how funding is used in institutions. In my view, this flies in the face of the principle of university autonomy, which was hard won in the Higher Education and Research Act 2017.

Augar raises as many questions as it answers and the sector must press for a period of consultation to ensure these important questions of policy and funding can be considered carefully.

The starting point in this has to be our students and an approach to learning that combines deep subject knowledge, the ability to carry out research and opportunities for personal development that prepare the next generation for a world of complexity, diversity and change.

This does not come cheaply and, ultimately, there has to be a transparent, long term resolution to the question of how to balance the costs of higher education between the taxpayer and graduates and their families. The review also gives scant regard to international students and the importance of ensuring they receive a warm welcome in the UK and that we meet their needs and aspirations for a high quality education at a reasonable cost.

The current system of limited public funding for teaching and fees supported by loans may appear to be trading one form of public funding for another, but the first is a permanent investment in future generations made by society as a whole, and the second is a loan focused on an individual that attracts a real rate of interest and a very long term repayment schedule. Augar doesn't really shift this balance and, as the economy strengthens, we should not accept that any decision to reduce direct public funding for teaching is fixed for all time.

The implication in the Augar review that public funding should be targeted towards clinical programmes, science, technology, engineering and mathematics fails to understand the crucial importance of sustaining universities with a broad disciplinary mix – universities that value the social, cultural and economic contribution of the arts and humanities and the contribution of social sciences in helping us to think about how we live.

These disciplines contribute to our shared public life, for example by analysing the human and ethical implications of scientific and medical advances and exploring the social and economic impact of global issues, such as climate change and international security.

Fee levels cannot be seen in isolation of university funding as a whole. The research-intensive universities have an important role to play in driving economic recovery, growth and productivity, especially at a time when the country is at an economic crossroads. Reducing fee income, calling for ever more matched funding for major research bids whilst relying heavily on international fee income does not provide a sustainable way forward. Higher level skills and world-leading research and innovation are vital to the country's future and this work needs to be properly funded.

In a statement to the House of Commons on 4 June, the Secretary of State for Education, Damian Hinds MP, said: "The Government will carefully consider the independent panel's recommendations before finalising our approach at the spending review." Sometimes this means cherry picking! He also said that he will "continue to engage with stakeholders on the findings and recommendations of the panel report". It is therefore essential that the sector puts its best foot forward in advance of the spending review, likely to be in the autumn.

Despite the current political divisions and uncertainties, and the apparent inability of Government to take proper control of the domestic agenda and the parliamentary timetable, the University cannot simply ignore the Augar review. Put simply, it could affect our income as early as 2021 and the sentiment of students applying for University in 2019 and 2020. Through the Leeds integrated planning exercise, we are tackling these issues right now by examining our cost structure whilst maintaining the self-confidence to consider important new developments in education, research and professional services.

The pace and complexity of change will intensify during the next five years and we must create an environment in which we can assimilate changes in demography, technology and pedagogy in a way that allows us to achieve continued success in the face of constrained resources.

Finally, as we move towards graduation, I remember reading one of Arthur Hadley's memorable addresses when he was President of Yale in the early part of the 20th century. He told his students:

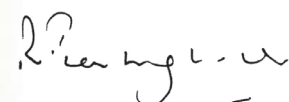
"If you value the world simply for what you can get out of it, be assured that the world will in turn estimate your value by what it can get out of you..."

Let me adjust this for 2019:

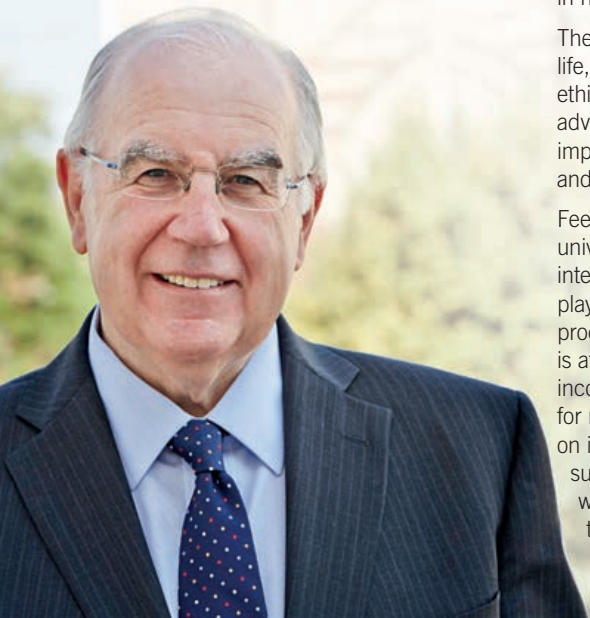
"If we value our students simply for what we can get out of them or what they might earn in the future, be assured that they will in turn estimate our value by what they can get out of us..."

This would be a betrayal of what universities stand for; it would undermine all that we do. We must therefore handle the process of change with sensitivity, professionalism and skill; and use all our experience to maintain a line of sight with all that is good from the past whilst recognising the imperatives and also the opportunities that will arise from changes in policy and funding.

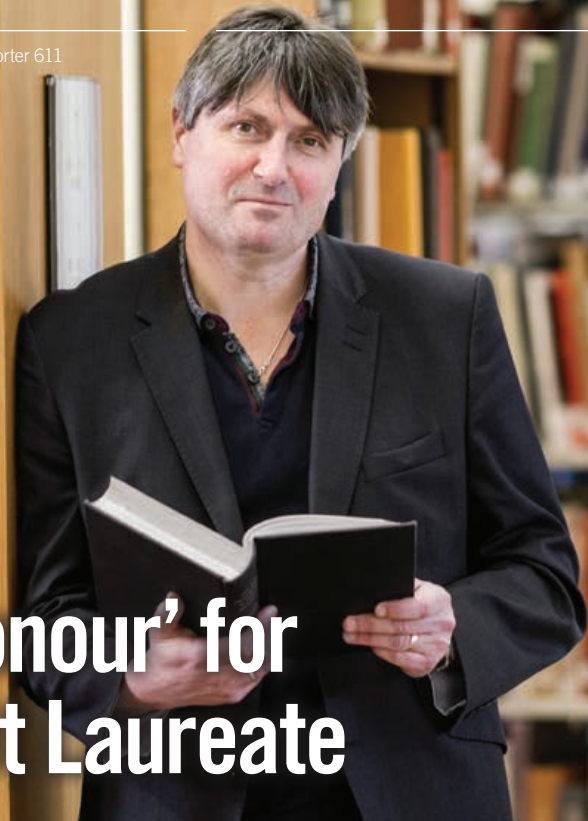
As the academic year draws to a close, all students and staff can look back on a period of real achievement and success, and look ahead to a new set of challenges and opportunities. Universities are highly resilient and, after the summer, we will work together to navigate a safe path through these unpredictable times.



Vice-Chancellor, Sir Alan Langlands



'Huge honour' for new Poet Laureate



Leeds' Professor of Poetry, Simon Armitage, has been appointed the UK's new Poet Laureate.

He succeeds Dame Carol Ann Duffy in the 351-year-old role, becoming the 21st Poet Laureate for a fixed term of ten years.

Professor Armitage said: "It's a huge honour to be appointed Poet Laureate – one of the great high offices of literature.

"Over the past two decades, the laureateship has become a working role, with previous laureates actively involved in the promotion of poetry and in numerous initiatives to identify and encourage talent, especially within education and among younger writers. I hope to build on the work of my predecessors with energy and enthusiasm."

Sir Alan Langlands, Vice-Chancellor at Leeds, said: "We warmly congratulate Simon on this wonderful news. The laureateship is well-deserved and, crucially, has gone to a poet who will be a tireless ambassador for poetry in the public arena.

"As the first Professor of Poetry in our School of English, his contribution to developing the next generation of poets has already been invaluable."

Dr Fiona Becket, Head of the School of English, added: "At a time when poetry is everywhere and is engaging wide and diverse audiences, Simon's voice is central.

"He has long been an enduring and powerful presence, and a shaper of contemporary poetry in so many ways – from encouraging writers at the start of their careers, being supportive of activity that raises the profile of poetry and, in his work, exploring multiple environments for new writing."

Professor Armitage said he is looking forward to combining his Poet Laureate duties with his activities at Leeds, which have ranged from enthusing prospective students at open days to

teaching, lecturing and outreach work in the city and beyond.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed my first 18 months or so as Professor of Poetry at Leeds and I don't want my relationship with it to change," he said, adding he is particularly proud of the School of Night, a fortnightly reading group established on his arrival at Leeds.

Professor Armitage has also been closely involved in the establishment of the Brotherton Poetry Prize, aimed at nurturing emerging talent. Organised by our Poetry Centre, the inaugural recipient is Dane Holt. See www.leeds.ac.uk/brothertonpoetryprize for the full story.



It's a huge honour to be appointed Poet Laureate – one of the great high offices of literature.

Professor Simon Armitage

Professor Armitage, who was born and continues to live in West Yorkshire, is also a translator and broadcaster. He is the recipient of numerous prizes and awards, most recently the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, the recipient of an Ivor Novello Award for song-writing, a BAFTA and a CBE for services to poetry.

In June 2015, the same year he was awarded an honorary degree by Leeds, he was elected as the University of Oxford's Professor of Poetry, a four-year position that comes to an end this summer.

The Library's Special Collections at Leeds have been home to Professor Armitage's literary archive for more than 20 years, with papers stretching back to 1984, when the poet was just 21.

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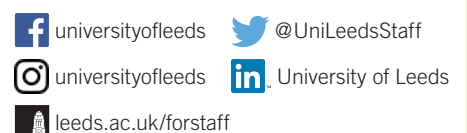
About the Reporter

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 Professor Simon Armitage, who has been appointed the UK's new Poet Laureate, succeeding Dame Carol Ann Duffy.

Stay up to date with University news and events:



News

Success in key university ranking

Leeds features in the top 10 rankings for 23 subjects and is first in the UK for two, according to one of the most influential league tables in the UK.

The Complete University Guide also positions Leeds at 14th overall.

The first place positions have been achieved in Food Science and Medical Technology.

Professor Tom Ward, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Student Education, said: "The talent and commitment of our staff and students is the foundation of our success. As ever, I'd like to thank them for their hard work.

"Alongside the quality of our teaching and our research, Leeds excels in nurturing students through creating a supportive and friendly environment, helping them to make the most of the many opportunities on offer, both within and beyond academic life.

"Leeds continues to evolve as a University of the 21st century, involving students in decisions about their experience, from curriculum design to library provision."

The 2020 guide uses a range of criteria in the ranking, including student satisfaction, graduate prospects and completion, as well as investment in facilities.

Latest Staff Survey results are revealed

Results from the 2018 Staff Survey showed 93% of colleagues who completed it are proud to work at Leeds.

And 86% would recommend it as a great place to work.

We ran a University-wide survey during October and November 2018 to gather views from colleagues on leadership, management, the development of staff and working at Leeds. We asked you to provide us with honest and constructive feedback about your working experience, so we can better understand what we're doing well and where we can improve.

"32% of colleagues responded to the survey and it is pleasing that of those that responded, the majority are proud to work at Leeds and would recommend it as a great place to work," said Francesca Fowler, Director of Human Resources.

"I'd like to thank all those who took the time to share their views, and for their honest and open feedback. It's important to celebrate our successes but it's also important to recognise the challenges we face so that we can address them together."



The dodgems will make a welcome return to this year's Staff Festival!

Staff Festival attractions announced

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

A packed programme is close to being finalised, featuring food and drink, fairground rides, stalls, workshops and live music for all ages.

All colleagues, family and friends are invited to join us on campus from 3-7pm on Friday 28 June for what promises to be a hugely entertaining afternoon of activities and attractions, full details of which will be announced on www.leeds.ac.uk/stafffestival2019.

But a taster of what's in store can now be revealed.

Following feedback from last year's event, we're pleased to announce the dodgems will be making a welcome return alongside the ever-popular Ferris wheel. And among the exciting new attractions for 2019 will be inflatable climbing, a surf simulator, Sumo suits, a gladiator game and a giant version of Hungry Hippos!

Children will be entertained by a miniature railway, ride-on cars, a bouncy castle, face

painters and candyfloss, as well as arts and crafts from the Rocket Mobile Studio.

Workshops include beer tasting, cocktail making, body art, paper quilling and flower buttonhole designs.

Mouth-watering food and drink stalls will be selling a tempting range of tasty treats, including a hog roast, desserts, pancakes, pretzels, brownies, olives, fish and chips, curry, ice cream, cocktails, gin, beer and West African cuisine. Tasty vegetarian and vegan options will also be available.

Live entertainment will take place on the Festival stage, with the full line-up of acts to be confirmed nearer the date.

Jo Westerman, LOGIK Centre manager and Staff Festival project manager, said: "We're keen to ensure this year's Staff Festival is welcoming, inclusive, educational and, most of all, an enjoyable thank you for all the hard work our colleagues do to make Leeds the success it is. So, this year, we're offering even more variety for colleagues and their families and are inviting all of you to make Staff Festival 2019 the best one yet."

Changing channels

When you want to catch up with the latest news and information at the University, where do you turn?

Reporter is just one of a range of channels we currently have at Leeds for colleagues to communicate right across the University.

But the way we engage with established and newer forms of communication is changing. We see this in life generally, with the rise of social media, online news and increasing opportunities for people to share opinions about things which affect them. And in the workplace, people's expectations have changed too.

So, we're now reviewing the internal communications channels on offer at the University. We're looking into how people are interacting with what we currently provide as well as how best to set up University-wide channels to help us all work towards the University's strategic goals.

If you are interested in taking part in this review, please let us know by emailing us at internalcomms@leeds.ac.uk using the subject title 'Changing channels take part'.

Research and Innovation

Nexus partners with CBI to unveil major new report

Advanced data analytics is opening up a 'new frontier' for business Research & Development (R&D), according to a new report from Nexus and the CBI.

The report – *The Changing Nature of R&D* – reveals that businesses are facing unprecedented advances in data-driven technologies and outlines the vital role universities play in helping harness the power of data.

The report was the focus of discussion at the special opening of Nexus, our new innovation hub, where the CBI and Leeds joined forces to present the findings to senior UK business leaders, funders and regional stakeholders.

Professor Lisa Roberts, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation, said: “The CBI/Nexus report shows the extraordinary opportunities for UK businesses to harness data for R&D, as well as the vital role universities have to play in supporting innovation and productivity.

“Unlocking this potential will supercharge R&D and that’s why we’re making a step-change at Leeds in how we work with business.

“This is what Nexus, our innovation hub, is all about – giving businesses seamless access to this support. There has never been a better time for universities and businesses to collaborate.”

Citing the Government’s aim for R&D investment to reach 2.4% of GDP by 2027, the CBI makes a series of recommendations to support businesses in harnessing data.

It calls on the Government to spur R&D growth, suggesting vital research and development spending is more than two decades behind the UK’s growth target.

Beckie Hart, CBI Yorkshire and Humber Regional Director, said: “It’s encouraging to see this region leading the way with the opening of Nexus. Setting up more collaborative initiatives will mean the UK can be at the forefront of harnessing the latest trends in innovation and remain a great place to do business.”

See www.leeds.ac.uk/Nexus/CBIreport for the full story.



This is what Nexus, our innovation hub, is all about – giving businesses seamless access to this support. There has never been a better time for universities and businesses to collaborate.

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

Large-scale research plans get green light

Leeds City Council’s Plans Panel has given the green light to support our application to develop a site on the outskirts of Leeds that will host large-scale research and experimental facilities.

The project will provide space to collaborate with industry on major research initiatives. This includes our new Institute for High Speed Rail and System Integration, providing Leeds City Region with a major hub for high speed rail innovation in track infrastructure and dynamics, rolling stock technology and system integration.

The proposed plans will co-locate the Institute with the confirmed home of the new HS2 depot at Gateway 45, to the east of the city, which will maintain and service the brand new high speed trains.

The site will also include our Centre for Infrastructure Materials, created to support one of the key foundations of the UK’s Industrial Strategy. It will develop and test the long-term impact of changing conditions on the wide range of materials used to construct built environments around the world. And there is further capacity to develop other major research areas on the site, such as robotics.

PhD opportunities to transform healthcare

Leeds has announced 50 fully-funded PhD researcher places to unlock the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) in medical diagnosis and care.

A new centre for doctoral training (CDT) will be created, with a focus on the early detection, diagnosis, treatment and care of cancer.

It follows new Government funding from UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) to train the next generation of AI healthcare pioneers.

David Hogg is leader of the new centre and Professor of Artificial Intelligence at Leeds. He said: “AI has the potential to make a real difference to patients with chronic diseases, such as cancer.

“Early detection is critically important, identifying those at risk of cancer before symptoms appear, as well as identifying lifestyle changes that would reduce long-term risk.

“We can also ensure AI increases the reliability of diagnostic services, through faster and more accurate digital radiology and pathology, and it can provide clinicians with targeted and tailored care for each patient.”

Researchers will work with key national partners, including Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT), the NHS and industry.



Nexus Director, Dr Martin Stow, and Professor Lisa Roberts, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation, in Nexus

International



Karlsruhe Institute of Technology welcomes Professor Hai-Sui Yu, Professor Raul Fuentes, Pro-Dean International (Engineering), and Jane Madeley, Chief Financial Officer

New alliances forged with European partners

Leeds has signed a new partnership agreement with one of Europe's largest research and educational institutions.

The alliance with Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) in Germany will develop new research collaborations and exchange opportunities for undergraduate students, postgraduates and colleagues.

It builds on a longstanding collaboration between Leeds' Institute for Climate and Atmospheric Science and KIT's Institute for Meteorology and Climate Research – two of Europe's renowned research institutes for atmospheric science.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed by Professor Hai-Sui Yu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: International at Leeds.

He said: "We are bringing together two great institutions, with a shared vision of maintaining and building strong relationships between leading UK and European universities.

"This MoU is a symbol of our strong commitment to international collaboration and

of sharing and exchanging ideas, knowledge and opportunities.

"Working with such outstanding international partners helps ensure our research and education makes a difference across the world. No matter how Brexit unfolds, such successful partnerships will remain critically important to us."

The next exchange visit is already planned for July 2019, when future research collaborations will be explored, focusing initially on the fields of climate change, artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics, advanced materials and data analytics.



This MoU is a symbol of our strong commitment to international collaboration and of sharing and exchanging ideas, knowledge and opportunities.

Professor Hai-Sui Yu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: International

Warm welcome for international colleagues

New international colleagues received a warm welcome to Leeds during our inaugural reception event.

Hosted by Professor Hai-Sui Yu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: International, the University House event was designed to welcome new staff to Leeds and offer them the opportunity to learn about our international strategy and vision directly from Professor Yu.

The reception was attended by colleagues from a range of faculties and professional services who have recently joined Leeds from overseas. Presentations were given by the International HR team, the International Office and Research and Innovation.

The next welcome reception is scheduled for October 2019, and will now take place biannually.

Leeds in top 40 most international universities

Leeds has been recognised as one of the world's most international universities.

The *Times Higher Education* ranking shows we have risen for a second consecutive year, and are now in the top 40 in the world.

Professor Hai-Sui Yu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: International, said: "Leeds attracts the brightest international students and scholars, harnessing great minds to bear down on the big, intractable problems facing the world.

"A global perspective is vital if we are to continue our success, and we know that big global problems cannot be solved by researchers from a single discipline or from a single country – tackling global problems requires collaboration and breadth of insight and innovation.

"As well as developing independent, critical thinkers, who make a positive difference to the world around them, we will strive to continue our success in world-changing research."

Robotics experts lead the conversation on AI ethics

Rapid technological innovation is bringing human-robot interaction ever closer to our daily lives, meaning society needs a standard framework to address the ethical and safety issues that arise.

The question of how to develop such a framework was debated by leading northern robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) researchers, MEPs and representatives of other bodies during an event at the European Parliament.

The White Rose Partnership – made up of the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York – held the event to share their research excellence in this field.

Professors Pietro Valdastrì and Rob Richardson, from Leeds, led discussions on the impact robotics innovation can have on consumers.

The event was hosted by then MEP, John Proctor, and chaired by Professor Hai-Sui Yu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: International at Leeds.

He said: "The wave of technological advances in artificial intelligence and robotics is truly exciting, but further work is still needed to address associated ethical challenges.

"There is a need for conversation between researchers and policy-makers across Europe to coherently address the issues this important work raises."



Professors Rob Richardson and Pietro Valdastrì at the European Parliament event

Campus

The £3.1m Wolfson Centre will bring health experts together under one roof



Research fire power brought to bear

‘One of the most exciting academic initiatives in the world’ will open its doors next month.

A partnership between Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the Universities of Leeds and Bradford has led to the development of the £3.1m Wolfson Centre at the Bradford Royal Infirmary site.

The project has been made possible thanks to £1m in funding from national charity the Wolfson Foundation, which awards grants to support and promote excellence in the fields of science, medicine, the arts and humanities, education and health and disability.

Health researchers based at the centre will see their work applied in practice across the city, and by clinical staff on site, to help provide better health, education and social care for people across Yorkshire. The centre will also help connect academics with charities and other organisations.

Professor Mark Mon-Williams (School of Psychology, Leeds) said: “This is one of the most exciting academic initiatives in the world.

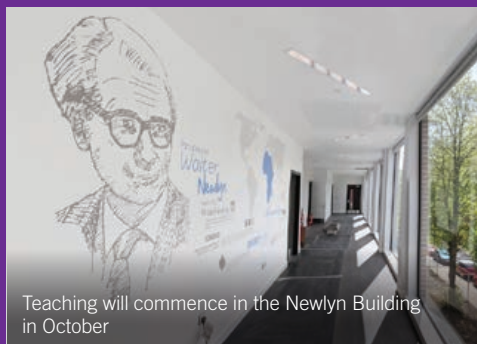
“Bradford has positioned itself as the ‘City of Research’ and is home to an internationally leading longitudinal birth cohort study – Born in Bradford – involving 30,000 people across the city. The Wolfson Centre will allow the two universities and their NHS partner to unite around our shared moral purpose and civic responsibilities. It will enable our academics to bring their research fire power to bear on the most pressing societal concerns of our time.

“The centre will allow the universities to coordinate their efforts to improve health and wellbeing across the region, and ensure our shared learning shapes local and central government policies. Most importantly, it will provide a shared space where we can co-produce research and create a population of citizen scientists committed to understanding how we can improve the health and wellbeing of a city.”

Professor John Wright, Director of Bradford Institute of Health Research (BIHR) and new Director of the centre, said: “During the past ten years, BIHR has been working in close partnership with the Universities of Leeds and Bradford to establish the leading centre for applied health research in the UK.

“Our focus on health issues that matter to our communities and our policy makers, such as ageing, childhood and patient safety, has ensured we are undertaking research that is useful and impactful. The Wolfson Centre takes us to a new level in collaboration and allows us to become an international centre of excellence.”

Talking about the building project itself, Len Wilson, Deputy Director for Estate Services at Leeds, said: “This was an exemplar scheme, both in design and construction. The successful relationship between the three partner organisations has enabled the building to be delivered on time and on budget.”



Teaching will commence in the Newlyn Building in October

Big investment in teaching facilities

The latest phase of the £75m Leeds University Business School (LUBS) and Law transformation programme has been completed.

The Newlyn Building, in Mount Preston Street, provides central teaching space – specifically four teaching rooms with a capacity for 100 people and four with a capacity for 36 people.

Occupation of the building takes place from this month, with the Language Centre using the space for pre-sessional courses during the summer and teaching commencing in October.

Professor Nick Scott, Academic Lead for the transformation programme, which includes the Newlyn Building and other associated projects, said: “We will continue to attract a high-quality, internationally diverse body of

students and deliver an exceptional learning experience – comparable with other leading Schools – through providing an environment that supports students and staff to achieve their full potential, whilst maintaining our ability to enhance, innovate and adapt student education practices. The Newlyn Building is just one part of our programme that will enable us to achieve this vision.

“A new flagship teaching centre in Cloberry Street (the former Purple Zone car park) will further add to our portfolio of world-class, innovative teaching spaces that support participative learning. More collaborative and inclusive learning spaces and activities will support our students to develop the knowledge, skills, behaviours and professional competencies to better equip them for working in a global environment.”





Clean Air Day 2019

An exciting programme of events will take place on campus to mark Clean Air Day 2019.

We will be collaborating with our city-wide partners on Thursday 20 June to raise awareness of air pollution and promote lower-emitting modes of transport, as part of the national initiative.

Leeds was highlighted as one of the five worst cities in the UK for air pollution in 2017. The report stated that unless drastic changes were made, Leeds would exceed legal EU limits for air quality in 2020.

Recent research from Leeds has shown air pollution is causing an increase in lung and heart conditions, especially in children, as we inhale a mix of gases and particles that can pass into our blood and be transported around the body. Through our Air Quality Living Lab project, students from the Institute for Transport Studies have recently

been looking at the respiratory effects of exposure to pollution on cyclists, as part of their dissertation research.

And we were also one of the first organisations to sign the Clean Air Leeds pledge, demonstrating our commitment to improving air quality in the city by encouraging behavioural change at both organisational and individual levels.

This year's Clean Air Day appropriately coincides with Staff Healthy Week (17-21 June), when there will be a programme of activity enabling colleagues to focus on their health and wellbeing (see page 15). Activities on Clean Air Day will include a free breakfast in the refectory for 'active commuters', electric bike trials at the Bike Hub and an air quality monitoring walk around campus, as part of our Living Lab project.

Visit www.leeds.ac.uk/clean_air_day_2019 for further information.

Four new members for falcon family

Four peregrine falcon chicks have hatched in the nest box atop Parkinson Tower!

In collaboration with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, we ringed the chicks in May so they can be tracked after fledging. Our ringed peregrines from last year have been seen as far afield as Wakefield and Morley.

Keep an eye on our peregrines on the live camera, which can be viewed by visiting www.sustainability.leeds.ac.uk/peregrines/



One of the adult peregrine falcons atop Parkinson Tower

New study into plastic consumption on campus

Research has begun in our latest Living Lab project.

The collaboration between Catering Services and two Leeds University Business School (LUBS) academics will analyse the effects of positive promotional messaging on consumers' plastic consumption, using campus food outlets as a test bed.

The research supports our pledge to become single-use plastic-free by 2023 and will help us understand more about plastic consumption on campus.

Funding for Living Lab projects is still available. Visit www.leeds.ac.uk/livinglab for further information.

Student conference success

More than 200 colleagues, students and visitors attended the third annual Student Sustainability Research Conference earlier this year.

The packed programme consisted of student presentations, an all-day exhibition of research posters, networking sessions and a keynote speech by our Chancellor, Professor Dame Jane Francis.

The strong turnout was matched by a show of great enthusiasm from delegates, and organisers would like to thank everyone involved in making the event such a huge success.

Visit www.sustainability.leeds.ac.uk/ssrc19 to hear a recording of Dame Jane Francis's keynote speech and to view the student posters.

Appeal for Staff Architects

We are encouraging colleagues to become a Staff Sustainability Architect.

This exciting initiative is an opportunity to play an influential role in driving sustainability projects across campus and the wider community. Architects work in collaboration with a network of colleagues, with support and resources from the Sustainability Service.

Visit www.sustainability.leeds.ac.uk/staff-sustainability-architects or email sustainability@leeds.ac.uk for further information.

Bike Hub's birthday celebrations

Current and former volunteers, members of the Sustainability Services at the Universities of Leeds and Leeds Beckett, plus cycling officers from Leeds City Council recently gathered in the School of Earth and Environment to launch a year of events to mark the 10th anniversary of our Bike Hub.

Stay tuned for future events via [@UoL_Sus](https://twitter.com/UoL_Sus).

Public Engagement

Record numbers attend Be Curious showcase

Record numbers of visitors flocked to campus for an action-packed Be Curious 2019 programme.

More than 1,200 people enjoyed the many and varied displays and exhibitions showcasing some of the world-leading research being undertaken at Leeds.

Since the first Be Curious in 2016, more than 1,100 children have visited the event, with the youngest aged just two! And no less than 70% of past visitors have come from Leeds, which together resulted in Be Curious being nominated in the city council's highly coveted Leeds Child Friendly Awards.

And feedback for the 2019 instalment was very positive. About 30% said it was their first visit to the University and thought it was 'great for inspiring children', having a positive influence on their opinion of Leeds as well as the wide range of research undertaken here.

Sir Alan Langlands, Vice-Chancellor, added: "This is a great showpiece for the knowledge, research and opportunities that make Leeds tick on a day-to-day basis throughout the year; but bringing it together in such an imaginative and compelling way is much admired and greatly appreciated.

"My thanks to everyone, including the many staff who gave up their time to participate with such commitment and enthusiasm."

It was an early start for the Public Engagement (PE) team that organised the annual entertainment extravaganza, with Dr Charlotte Haigh, Academic Lead for PE with Research, appearing on the Radio Leeds breakfast show to promote the event.

Visitors started arriving early in a bid to fit in as many activities as possible, with exhibits on dentistry and robotics proving very popular.

More than 40 exciting activities in total were on offer across several locations on campus.

Marty Jopson, resident scientist with the BBC's *One Show*, proved to be one of the highlights of the event. He performed *Invisible Worlds* – a journey from everyday life down into the realm of microscopic wonders – to a packed audience.

Another hit was the School of Music teaming up with Leeds International Piano Competition to offer craft activities and the rare chance to play a Steinway grand piano. There were also performances by three globally-renowned musicians from the Lang Lang Music Foundation.

Young visitors flocked to Be Curious 2019



My thanks to everyone, including the many staff who gave up their time to participate with such commitment and enthusiasm.

Sir Alan Langlands, Vice-Chancellor



Researchers to exhibit at 'festival of ideas' event

Two Leeds researchers will exhibit their work at the British Academy's prestigious annual Summer Showcase.

Tagged as 'a free festival of ideas for curious minds', the event is held in London on 21-22 June.

As part of the Leeds Centre for Democratic Engagement's strategy to disseminate research to a wide range of audiences, Professor Cristina Leston-Bandeira, from the School of Politics and International Studies, and Dr Louise Thompson, from the University of Manchester, will present their research by asking 'Could the public improve our laws?'

They will be collecting comments from visitors about a new draft policy and sharing these with interested MPs, keeping the conversation going and proving the importance of public engagement.

Dr Thea Pitman, of the School of Languages, Cultures and Societies, will also be exhibiting her research on the question 'What does indigenous electronic art look like and how should it be exhibited?'

Her installation brings together four interactive pieces made by Brazilian indigenous communities, along with a video about the way they were first shown at the Museum of Modern Art in Salvador, Brazil.

The Showcase is free to attend and is open from 10am to 4pm on Friday 21 and 11am to 5pm on Saturday 22 June. A late-night viewing takes place from 6.30pm on Friday 21 June, offering visitors the chance to enjoy exclusive talks and performances.

Students

Scholarships help open up new world of opportunity

A campaign has been launched to encourage Leeds alumni and other supporters to join the thousands of people whose generosity benefits so many of our students.

Ben Kew and Megan Barnes are the public faces of an Alumni and Development Team campaign to demonstrate the benefits of scholarships.

"I was obese as a teenager," says Ben Kew, looking back at a difficult time in his life, when he was forced to move out of the family home and sleep on friends' sofas during his A-levels.

Even so, he achieved stellar grades – two A-stars and three As – which enabled him to fulfil his dream of enrolling to study Food Science at Leeds.

From a young age, Megan Barnes was a carer for her mum, whose back pain limited her own movement and impacted on what they could do as a family. Yet despite attending a school where few students progressed to higher education, Megan developed a passion for Geography – and by the age of 14 had set her heart on a place at Leeds.

For both Ben and Megan, the support of a scholarship, funded by University donors, was critical to being able to take advantage of all the opportunities available on campus.

"I was determined to fall in love with a sport," added Ben, who joined The Edge and took up swimming. This once overweight teenager progressed to become a member of the LUU swimming squad, a coach, and is now in the running to captain the team when he embarks on a PhD in Food Science next year.

Megan says the scholarship eased her money worries about studying at Leeds, has helped to pay for books and research materials and enabled her to join a field course in New Zealand next year.

See www.leeds.ac.uk/scholarshipscampaign to learn more about the impact of scholarships and find out how you could help.



Ben Kew and Megan Barnes, who both benefitted from the support of a scholarship to study at Leeds



Professor Jacqueline Stevenson

Further boost for student education

Student education at Leeds has been further boosted with another senior appointment.

Professor Jacqueline Stevenson will take up the role of Director at the Lifelong Learning Centre (LLC) on Thursday 1 August.

Her appointment follows the announcement earlier this year that Professor Tina Overton and Dr Christina Edgar have become the new Director of Leeds Institute of Teaching Excellence (LITE) and the Director of Student

Opportunity respectively.

Lifelong learning is about creating opportunities so that people of any age are not bound for their lifetimes by the decisions and experiences of their past. It means finding different ways of opening up the University, its knowledge and learning opportunities to wider audiences.

LLC promotes programmes, pathways and support for adult, part-time and foundation level students, especially – although not exclusively – those from disadvantaged and under-represented groups.

Meet the 2019/20 Student Executive

Following four days of voting, with a total of 6,948 student votes cast, six candidates have been chosen to lead the Leeds University Union (LUU) and a new editor of *The Gryphon* has been elected.

They are:

- Activities Officer** – Lydia Evans
- Community Officer** – Cat Fairbairn
- Education Officer** – Abiha Khan
- Equality and Diversity Officer** – Chlo Elliot
- Union Affairs Officer** – Lauren Huxley
- Welfare Officer** – Amy Wells; and
- The Gryphon Editor** – Ed Barnes.

Elected students will take up their positions from July 2019, with posts running for the full academic year.

The new student executives Chlo Elliot, Cat Fairbairn, Amy Wells, Lydia Evans, Lauren Huxley and Abiha Khan



Students

Digital firms' domination at Business Plan competition

Digital businesses swept the board at our 2019 Business Plan competition.

Organised by Spark, our business start-up service, the annual contest is open to students and graduates, with a prize fund of £8,000 sponsored by alumni.

This year saw more than 100 entries across the two categories: Pre-Trading and Trading up to 24 Months. A further special award of £1,000 is sponsored by Nick Howard, Managing Director of film agency Limehouse, which won the competition in 2008.

First Prize in the Trading category was won by



Competition winners Steven Riddle, Millie Smith, Matthew Wheeler, Rajeev Parmar, Sam Taylor, Zach Pinfold, Youssef Elsayed and Timur Gok

first year Economics student and Enterprise Scholar, Timur Gok, for his IT networking business Sneaker Space, which he was running as a hobby before starting university. Timur uses his servers to power automated software, which snaps up limited edition trainers and clothing from major brands, such as Nike and Adidas, as soon as they are released, selling them on to retailers.

First prize in the Pre-Trading category was won by fifth year Dental Surgery student, Steven Riddle, for his business venture, Meedu.

Meedu is an online educational platform, which allows students and teachers to source the best, most relevant educational resources for their subject area.

The Limehouse Award was won by Leeds product design graduate, Owen Williams, and his business partner, Raj Parmar, a doctor at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, for their pre-trading venture, Brix.

Visit www.leeds.ac.uk/businessplan to read more about the winners.

Making a change from the ground up

Colleagues from across the University are coming together to make a difference in the Student Lifecycle Programme's (SLP) Change Network.

More than 120 people from all departments, Schools and Faculties have volunteered to play an active part in the four-year transformational programme, which aims to enhance the student lifecycle – from enquiry to graduation – through improved systems, processes and ways of working.

The Change Network is a vital link between the SLP and teams in the University. There are three change groups – Change Champions (predominantly Student Education Service – SES), Student Champions and the Academic Advisory Group – who will add insight to discussions and make sure their colleagues know what's happening in the SLP and why.

The groups will meet regularly, focusing on SES, student and academic issues, providing insight, challenge and support for the SLP team to ensure all proposed solutions deliver the very best experience for students and colleagues.

The Change Champion group is open to everyone to join and members will take part in regular workshops, surveys and activities that provide a rich source of expertise and insight for the SLP's project teams.

Liz Wilmshurst, SLP Communications Manager, said: "Our Change Network is made up of academics, support staff and students from across the University and they're already bringing valuable insights to the programme.

"They're passionate about making a difference and have already helped direct the team's activities and thinking based on their input at the recent Change Conference."

Want to sign up to the Change Network? Go to leeds.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/change-champions-sign-up and fill in your details to take part in the project.

Change Conference success

More than 70 Change Champions came together for a half-day of presentations and workshops at the SLP's first ever Change Conference.

Held at the School of Music, the event covered key updates from the programme plus practical sessions on key projects in the SLP portfolio, including service design, e-marking, early deliverables and Higher Education Statistics Agency Data Futures, as well as an introduction to the Lean Ways of Working initiative being rolled out across the SES.

Speakers included programme sponsor, Professor Tom Ward, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Student Education, and Director of Student Opportunity, Dr Christina Edgar.

Visit leeds365.sharepoint.com/sites/SLP to view the presentations.

Academic Advisory Group Chair

The SLP's Academic Advisory Group kicked off its first meetings in May, led by dedicated Chair Dr Kelvin Tapley.

Dr Tapley, who will be committing a day and a half a week to supporting the SLP, will lead a group of academic volunteers from across the University to ensure academic requirements are considered in any change to systems, processes and ways of working.

Celebrating excellent customer service



Commercial and Campus Support Services (CCSS) has been awarded a prestigious national accreditation.

Customer Service Excellence® is a Government standard that recognises an organisation's commitment to putting customers first.

CCSS – comprising of Security, Sport and Physical Activity, Cleaning, Catering, Conferencing and Events, Print & Copy Bureau and Mailroom, as well as Facilities Support Services – is vital to supporting our institution and students.

It was particularly praised by the accreditation assessor for achieving eight Compliance Plus awards – the most ever received by any first-time participating organisation.

CCSS has an absolute commitment and aspiration that anyone who comes into contact with the services it delivers will receive an excellent and memorable customer experience.

Stewart Ross, Director of CCSS, said: “Thanks to all those colleagues involved in undertaking the preparatory work for the assessment, which was considerable, and all in CCSS for their ongoing commitment to making a difference to the experience of our University community on a daily basis.”

Running group starting to make great strides

Colleagues put through their paces on a training programme are celebrating success after they all crossed the finish line in their first 5k run.

In advance of the inaugural Brownlee Centre Festival of Running in March, Suzzi Garnett, Sports Volunteering Officer from Sport and Physical Activity (SPA), set up an eight-week Couch to 5k (C25K) training programme.

Several colleagues signed up, walking, jogging, running and building up their stamina during their lunch breaks around Woodhouse Moor, situated right next to campus.

And the group was soon celebrating success after all the members completed the 5k run, with one of their number – Anna Thompson – winning the event in a time of 24 minutes and 54 seconds.

She said: “Crossing the finish line, the sense of achievement was incredible. The C25K programme led by Suzzi has introduced me to a new hobby, amazing people and the feeling I can achieve my goals and exceed my own expectations.”

Suzanne Glavin, Head of Sport, is thrilled the programme has been such a success and is keen to encourage more colleagues to get active as part of their working day.

She said: “We are really keen to provide as many opportunities as we can, directly or indirectly, for staff to think about their wellbeing and if they can be active whilst on campus, so they feel positive about their work, their colleagues and themselves.”

Email sport@leeds.ac.uk for further information about C25K, or visit www.sport.leeds.ac.uk/ for a range of other sport and fitness opportunities.

Partnership Awards 2019

Staff and students have been recognised for their exceptional work in the past year at the annual Partnership Awards – part of Leeds University Union's Celebrate Week.



Partnership Awards 2019 winners

The Awards celebrate staff and colleagues who truly put The Leeds Partnership – an agreement setting out the mutual expectations of us all as members of the University community – into practice.

It recognises the achievements, commitments and impact of colleagues, students and postgraduate researchers (PGRs) at Leeds.

Winners were:

Student Academic Rep of the Year – Clare Mawson; **Best Feedback** – Jordan Boyle; **Equality and Inclusion** – Bothaina Tashani, Monisha Jackson and Olivia Andrews; **Innovation** – Sean Gledhill; **Inspirational Teaching** – Roger Clark; **Mentor** – Suzanne Hallam; **Personal Tutor** – Jo James; **Positive Impact** – PsycSoc and Paul Devlin; **Postgraduate Researchers who Teach or Demonstrate** – Ghinwa Yaghy; **Supervisor** – S Sayyid; **Wellbeing** – Terri Watkins and Brodie Bannister; **The Partnership Award** – Christopher Warrington; **School of the Year** – School of Sociology and Social Policy.

Honours



Dr Lauren Gregoire



Dr Katie McQuaid



Dr Alexander Valavanis

Future leaders to deliver global impact

Three Leeds researchers have received a prestigious fellowship aimed at tackling global challenges.

Dr Lauren Gregoire and Dr Katie McQuaid, both from the Faculty of Environment, and Dr Alexander Valavanis, from the Faculty of Engineering, have been awarded a Future Leaders Fellowship funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

The scheme provides sustained funding and resources for the best early-career researchers and innovators, allowing them the time and flexibility to tackle ambitious research projects. This includes predicting extreme sea level rise, building inclusive, climate resilient cities and developing new sensors to understand the chemistry of the changing climate.

Chris Skidmore MP, Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation, said: "Our investment in these Future Leaders Fellows will enable the brightest and best of our scientists and researchers to work with leading lights in industry, to help their research move from the laboratory to the commercial market."

The Fellows' ground-breaking work also forms a key part of maintaining the UK's status at the forefront of cutting-edge research and innovation long into the future. The UK is already a research superpower, producing 6% of the world's total research publications and 15% of the world's most highly cited articles.

Physicist is recognised on International Women's Day

A leading academic at Leeds has been awarded a scientific heirloom by a peer at the Engineering and Physical Sciences Suffrage Science Awards.

Dr Sarah Harris, of the Astbury Centre for Structural Molecular Biology and the School of Physics and Astronomy, was one of the 12 female scientists and engineers from across the world presented with hand-crafted jewellery during the awards ceremony, held at The Royal Society in London on International Women's Day (Friday 8 March).

The awards celebrate women in science and engineering and encourage others to enter science and reach senior leadership roles.

The awardees were chosen by the previous award holders for their scientific achievements and ability to inspire others. Dr Harris was nominated by Dr Sarah Staniland, from the University of Sheffield.

The awards themselves are items of jewellery, inspired by the Suffrage movement, and Dr Staniland will pass on the jewellery as an heirloom to Dr Harris.



Dr Sarah Harris



One of the hand-crafted pieces of jewellery

Celebrating staff successes

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

Professor Sheena Radford – Made an honorary fellow of St John's College, University of Cambridge.

IT – WPM Education Best Payment Acceptance Scorecard winner.

Dave Neild and **Kevin Darley** – WPM Education Outstanding Contribution Award winners.

Dr Sue Deuchars – Featured in a Technology Networks eBook called *Women in Science*.

Professor Cristina Leston-Bandeira – Elected Chair of the Study of Parliament Group.

Nicola Neath – Presented her acclaimed new book on a panel at the national Health and Wellbeing at Work conference.

Ramzi Merabet – First and second place winner at the Leeds Doctoral College Image of the Year competition.

Dr Richard Blackburn – Awarded The Society of Dyers and Colourists Centenary Medal.

Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences Employability Team – Best Employability Services winner at the National Undergraduate Employability awards.

Professor Chris Nash – Awarded a Silver Medal for his services to Masaryk University in the Czech Republic.

School of Physics and Astronomy – Awarded a Juno Practitioner status from the Institute of Physics.

Professor Mark Stuart – Conferred as a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences.

Maria Paton, John Gierula and Judith Lowry – Excellence in Research and Innovation winners at the 2019 Healthcare Science Awards.

Malcolm Dawson – Elected to the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators Board of Directors.

Professor Chris Gale – Appointed Interim Co-Director of the Leeds Institute for Data Analytics.

Dr Laura King – British Academy Rising Star Engagement Award winner.

Professor Peter Buckley – Awarded the Platinum Medal from the Journal of International Business Studies (JIBS).

Professor Tamer Cavusgil – Awarded the Gold Medal from JIBS.

Dr Tomas Hult and **Professors Jeremy Clegg, Jim Love** and **Elizabeth Rose** – Awarded Silver Medals from JIBS.

Professor Emmanuella Plakoyiannaki – Elected as Conference Co-Chair of the seventh International Conference on Contemporary Marketing Issues.

Dr Sally Russell, Dr Chandra Balijepalli and Harriet Thew – Awarded Fellowships from the Higher Education Academy.

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



Image credit: Wikimedia Creative Commons

Professor Andy Challinor (Earth and Environment) was involved in a study featured in the *Yorkshire Post* that suggests **climate change will significantly alter rainfall patterns for key agricultural regions, but the worse effects could be mitigated by reducing greenhouse gas emissions**. He is part of an international team of scientists that used 20 different climate models to examine how rainfall could be affected by climate change around the world.

Professor Douglas Parker (Earth and Environment) is quoted in a *Daily Mail* article concerning how the destruction wrought by Cyclone Idai in Southern Africa in March shows **weather warnings must spur action and infrastructure has to be built with climate risks in mind** if people are to be kept safe on a warming planet.

Dr David Miller (LICAMM – Medicine and Health) has co-authored genetic research that strongly suggests **Jack the Ripper was Aaron Kosminski**. The research received wide media coverage, including in the *New York Post*, *FOX News*, *NBC News* and more.

Dr Evgenia Koumpia (Physics and Astronomy) led an international team of astronomers that has **discovered a binary star system with the closest high-mass young stellar objects ever measured**, providing a valuable ‘laboratory’ to test theories on high mass binary star formation. This featured in *Yahoo!*



VLT Unit Telescopes.

Image credit: G.Hüdepohl (atacamaphoto.com)/ESO

Kate Sambrook and Thomas Richardson (both Earth and Environment) wrote an article in *The Conversation* about how new and stronger **evidence confirms global warming will mean more intense and frequent floods, heatwaves and droughts**. The article received coverage in *Metro* and *The Independent*.

Dr Tomasina Stacey (now at Huddersfield) and Dr Peter Tennant (Healthcare) have led research that found **women who develop diabetes in pregnancy but are not diagnosed are four times more likely to experience stillbirth than women without the condition**. The increased risk was likely to be caused by the missed diagnoses and lack of subsequent care experienced by many of the women in the study, although the results show an association only, and cannot provide certainty about cause and effect. This was featured in *BBC News*, *Yahoo!* and the *Yorkshire Evening Post*.



Dr Alison Fildes (Psychology) is part of a research team that found **people could easily stop putting sugar in their tea without their enjoyment being affected**, suggesting long-term change in behaviour is possible. This was featured on the *BBC* and in the *HuffPost* and *Irish Sun*.

Sonja Wild (Biological Sciences) led research that found a **link between falling dolphin birth rates and heatwave-induced rising sea temperatures** off Western Australia. The research was featured in *USA Today* and *World Economic Forum*.

Professor Matt Seymour (LIMR) led research that found **giving less chemotherapy to elderly or frail patients who may not be able to tolerate full treatments leads to improved survival and fewer side effects**. This study is one of few Phase III trials – which compares new treatments with the best currently available – in the country that seek to address how to best care for and treat this increasing population of elderly or frail cancer patients. The research received wide media coverage, including in the *Daily Mail*, *Business Telegraph* and *Business Standard*.

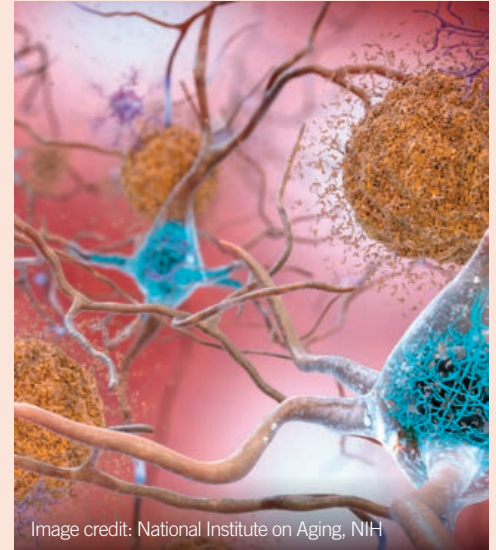


Image credit: National Institute on Aging, NIH

Professor Sheena Radford (Astbury – FBS) has led research that discovered **a protein complex has been shown to play a key role in preventing the build-up of toxic plaques in the brain linked to neurodegenerative disorders**, such as Alzheimer’s and Huntington’s disease. This was featured in the *Yorkshire Post* and *Yorkshire Evening Post*.

Professor Andrew Shepherd (Earth and Environment) has led research that found in only 25 years, **ocean melting has caused ice thinning to spread across West Antarctica so rapidly that 24% of its glacier ice is now affected**. The research received wide media coverage, including on the *BBC* and in *The Guardian*, *CNN* and many more.

Dr Tianchen He (Earth and Environment) led research that indicated **extreme fluctuations in atmosphere oxygen levels corresponded with evolutionary surges and extinctions in animal biodiversity during the period of rapid evolution**, known as the Cambrian explosion. The study gives strong support to the theory oxygen content in the atmosphere was a major controlling factor in animal evolution. This was featured in *Science Daily*.



Fossilised trilobite *Aldonaia* from the Cambrian Period. Image credit: Andrey Zhuravlev, Lomonosov Moscow State University

Events



Watch a thrilling combat display as part of the IMC's Making Leeds Medieval programme

Roman combat and smoke-breathing dragons

International Medieval Congress (IMC) returns to Leeds on 1-4 July for another week of diverse and stimulating academic and public engagement activities.

About 2,800 delegates are expected to convene on campus to meet colleagues and share ideas at one of Europe's largest conferences in the humanities.

This year's IMC boasts about 2,500 papers from across medieval studies, including archaeology, architecture, history, literature, linguistics, politics, philosophy and theology.

It's a wide-ranging, four-day programme, demonstrating that medieval studies as a discipline is as innovative and lively as ever.

Alongside the packed academic programme, all colleagues are welcome to enjoy a range of medieval stalls, activities and entertainment. Talk to representatives from historical societies in Leeds University Union building, or pop over to Parkinson Court where publishers from all over the world will be selling historical journals and books.

In addition to more than 760 sessions and round tables, the programme also boasts

the IMC's largest ever selection of concerts, performances, workshops, exhibitions and fairs.

This includes a special performance by the Senior Boys and Girls Choirs of Leeds Cathedral, who will be reciting a series of medieval sacred and secular songs. Meanwhile, the ever popular craft fair is a great opportunity to pick up quirky and original gifts and goodies.

Come along, soak up the friendly atmosphere and enjoy Europe's largest conference in medieval studies!

Visit www.imc.leeds.ac.uk for further information.

Staff Healthy Week 2019

Until Friday 21 June

Now in its third year, the Staff Healthy Week is a great opportunity to try something new, eat well, get active and look after ourselves.

Whether it's scaling the heights at The Edge Climbing Wall (2-3.30pm on Thursday 20 June) or going on a lunchtime RSPB guided walk (Friday 21 June), there are still a lot of activities to get involved in before the week ends.

Visit www.leeds.ac.uk/healthyweek to view the programme and book on to activities.

The Health and Wellbeing Team is keen to keep the enthusiasm and momentum going after Staff Healthy Week, and encourage every week to be a healthy week! If you enjoy one of the activities you try during the week, why not make it a regular thing?

If you do get involved, make sure to tweet any photos you take using #healthyweekhero or #wellbeingwizard and tag @UniLeedsStaff to share what you get up to – we would love to hear about it!

Fifty Works by Fifty British Women Artists 1900–1950

Until Saturday 27 July at The Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery

This exhibition pays tribute to the extraordinary cultural production of 50 women artists who lived and worked in Britain during the first half of the 20th century.

Curated by Sacha Llewellyn, the exhibition builds on celebrations marking the 100th anniversary of the 1918 Representation of the People's Act.

It explores a diverse range of traditions and styles of artwork and addresses the long under-valued contributions of women to the art of 20th century Britain.

Sacha said: "When I was putting this exhibition together, a lot of people thought I wouldn't be able to find 50 British women artists to show. In the end, I could have shown 500.

"It's not just about rounding up lost heroines, it's about retelling their stories."

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

FAQ

Mark Bownass

Deputy Security Manager



Tell us a bit about yourself

I'm 52 and married to Heather. I have three grown-up children – Amy who is 27, Joe (25) and John (21). I also have a seven-year-old daughter, whom we adopted six years ago. I played rugby league professionally for 12 years with Dewsbury, Batley and Bradford. I toured Australia in 1996 with the Great Britain police team and played in a Tri-series competition against Australia and New Zealand. Unfortunately, we were beaten finalists against the Aussies. I love to ski and travel with friends and family.

What were the highlights of your policing career?

I've had many highlights during the past 30 years. One of the biggest was attaining the rank of Chief Inspector.

What was the biggest case or incident you had to deal with?

I was involved with policing the Bradford riots, but one of the biggest cases I had to deal with was the inquiry into the stabbing of two Leeds United fans in Istanbul and the mass disorder at the return leg at Elland Road. I worked the first leg of the Galatasaray game in plain clothes, spotting LUFC troublemakers. This was one of the scariest moments of my career – I wasn't in uniform and I had no protection. Another major incident was the minibus crash on the M62, when 18 people were badly injured and one young lady lost her life after being hit by a lorry when their vehicle broke down. I was head of Roads Policing at the time and attended as the scene commander. I had to shut both sides of the motorway for safety reasons and to enable helicopters to land and take the injured to hospital.

You're fully trained for firearms, nuclear and counter-terrorism incidents. What does that involve?

The courses and training for these roles were very intensive, and rightly so, as you need to have your wits about you when dealing with these types of incidents. The planning and preparation was meticulous, as you not only had to ensure the full safety of the public and offenders, but also protect the protectors. These roles were very demanding, but very interesting and, ultimately, very satisfying when you arrested offenders, taking firearms and other weapons off the street.

Why did you leave the force?

On retirement after completing 30 years' service and to look for a new challenge in life.

Tell us about your role at Leeds?

I have a leadership and management role, embedding the University's values, culture and expected behaviours in our security team, which in turn ensures students, staff and visitors behave in line with these values. I review the security officers' training and development to ensure they're ready for any incident they might have to deal with. I'm also involved with project work, looking at things like Body Worn Videos for our officers and providing security recommendations across the University's sites. I have lots of links with partner agencies, such as West Yorkshire Police and Leeds City Council, whom I intend to work with to further protect everyone within the confines of campus and surrounding areas, such as Hyde Park and Leeds City Centre.

What are you looking forward to in this role?

I'm really excited about working with staff and students. Leeds is an iconic University and a community in itself, and I intend to work hard to keep students and staff safe and feeling safe. I have 30 years' experience working in law enforcement, and I bring this experience and expertise to my new role. And I will ensure the security staff are working to the best of their abilities to support and protect everyone on campus.

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

We're working to obtain a secured environments certificate for Commercial and Campus Support Services. This is a police-led scheme, which awards certification to organisations that adopt the key principles for protecting against crime. We also have a full-on recruitment process running for an operations manager, two team leaders and ten security officers.

What's the top security tip you could give staff?

To always be vigilant of your surroundings and report anything suspicious to the security team.

So, how do you relax away from work?

I love to go to the gym and keep fit. I love watching sport and especially seeing my two boys play rugby league. I also enjoy a nice meal out with a good bottle of red wine!



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