

# Community NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2014

WWW.LEEDS.AC.UK/SUSTAINABILITY/COMMUNITY

@UOL\_SUS

/UOLSUSTAINABILITY

WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS' COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER,  
A CONDENSED LOOK AT OUR LOCAL ENGAGEMENT.

## UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNITY OFFICER AMANDA JACKSON

As we draw to end of the first term, I'd like to share with you some of the great work we have been doing here at the University to support our students and local communities.

The start of each year is always a bit of a balancing act between responding to complaints about start of year parties, and proactively working on education campaigns to prevent noise disturbance and other social issues occurring.

We recently completed the Get to Know Your Neighbour campaign, which aims to make students aware that they are living amongst an already established community as well as fostering a greater sense of community for all residents. This year, with Leeds Beckett Student Union now on board, we were able to expand the campaign to even more households. A team of student volunteers, supported by myself and colleagues from the students unions, visited just over 1100 households in the local area, to encourage residents to get to know each other.

Alongside the campaign we distributed our new Living in Leeds Guide to support our students to live independently in the local community. There are many things for our students to consider- the guide is there to help them make the most of their time in Leeds as well as providing information on the essentials of being a Leeds resident. An electronic copy is available online at

[leeds.ac.uk/sustainability/community](http://leeds.ac.uk/sustainability/community).

I have also been working on developing a pilot for a staff mentoring scheme which would see community and University benefits from partnering our staff with local groups. The initiative will offer community organisations the opportunity to be mentored and gain from the experience and expertise of a University staff member and help equip them to run their operations in a more effective and sustainable way. The scheme will enable the University to realise our Sustainability Strategic commitment to be a positive partner in society as well as offering staff a new and innovative professional development opportunity. We will be holding a half day drop-in event shortly inviting prospective staff and community organisations to find out more about the scheme. Any community organisation wishing to be considered for the scheme should contact [sustainability@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:sustainability@leeds.ac.uk).

I'd also like to take this opportunity to introduce you to and welcome a new member of staff to the Sustainability Team. Claire Bastin has joined us from the Sustainable Research Institute and will be leading on the Positive Partner in Society strand of the Sustainability Strategy. Expect more on the Sustainability Strategy and its implications for the University's work in local communities in the next edition of this newsletter.



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

# Community

## NEWSLETTER

### DECEMBER 2014

[WWW.LEEDS.AC.UK/SUSTAINABILITY/COMMUNITY](http://WWW.LEEDS.AC.UK/SUSTAINABILITY/COMMUNITY)

@UOL\_SUS

/UOLSUSTAINABILITY

THIS EDITION'S FEATURED STUDENT VOLUNTEERING PROJECTS : ENACTUS AND ACTION  
HERE'S A LITTLE INSIGHT INTO HOW OUR STUDENTS ARE SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

### ACTION SOCIETY HELP KIDS AND THE ELDERLY

Action is a student-led volunteering society that works with individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds in the local community. There are currently around 400 members that help run 12 projects: including weekly after-school clubs, weekly elderly care home visits, various 3-day residential trips, week-long holiday trips, and one off projects.

"We aim to give back as much as we can by reaching out to the areas of Leeds that surround our campus," said President, Amelia Norton. "Our members get something out of it, this in itself is hard to quantify exactly. From my personal perspective it is happiness. I feel most volunteers would agree, it is about giving up your time to others, something more than money, these are social relationships we are building and a sort of 'mini-community' of Action."

Action run two elderly projects; 'Bridge the Gap' and 'Re-generation'. Bridge the Gap is a volunteering project that aims to bring some fun to the lives of older people living in a care home in Leeds, organising visits every Thursday. Re-generation visits a local care home every Tuesday evening. They organise various activities with the residents, everything from bingo, quizzes, cake decoration and music!

Action's two youth support projects focus on afterschool clubs. Little London provides an opportunity to escape the stresses of everyday life through fun and games that reward the children for their hard work at school. Woodhouse kids club works with kids aged 5-9 at a local primary school. It gives volunteers a chance to get messy with some fun arts and crafts!

It is clear that the students involved with Action are very passionate about what they do and most importantly enjoy giving back to the community!

### ENACTUS HELP DISADVANTAGED WOMEN

Enactus is another Leeds University Union society made of student volunteers who aim to benefit the community in their free time through a series of community projects. These break down social barriers and empower vulnerable women, struggling entrepreneurs and underachieving students to build a better life for themselves.

Enactus stands for:

Entrepreneurial—having the perspective to see an opportunity and the talent to create value from that opportunity;

Action—the willingness to do something and the commitment to see it through even when the outcome is not guaranteed;

Us—a group of people who see themselves connected in some important way; individuals that are part of a greater whole.



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

# Community NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2014

[WWW.LEEDS.AC.UK/SUSTAINABILITY/COMMUNITY](http://WWW.LEEDS.AC.UK/SUSTAINABILITY/COMMUNITY)

 @UOL\_SUS

 /UOLSUSTAINABILITY

## ENACTUS CONTINUED

As Leeds has the highest rate of female rough-sleepers and re-offenders in the country, one of this society's community projects, WISE (Women in Social Engagement) aims to change the status of women in Leeds. WISE delivers an eight week crafts program to transfer key employability and life skills. The women create products which are sold online and at local events, and the profits go into the WISE Empowerment Fund, providing much needed access to finances for interviews and training. A following four week mentoring period integrates the women into enterprise, employment and volunteering. Three cycles have been completed in the past 9 months, directly impacting 65 women in Leeds. Training alongside their peers, women grow in confidence with their support network, seeing a true improvement in their quality of life. They also meet up outside of sessions, most recently taking a trip to the Opera.

The many Enactus student volunteers touch the lives of the people they help and by helping others, the students help themselves – building confidence and acquiring experiences which set them up for a fantastic future career.

## TREASURES OF BROTHERTON

After receiving a £1.3m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the university will start preparations next spring for the opening of two new climate-controlled public galleries in the Parkinson building. This will showcase some of the 200,000 books and hundreds of thousands of manuscripts, known as the 'Treasures of the Brotherton' that should open by November next year.

University Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands said: "We are incredibly proud of our Library with its special collections of international importance which have been built up over the past century. "I am delighted that this grant will allow us to bring these 'treasures' to a much wider audience."



Library staff in the Brotherton Library will be working to encourage a wide audience to visit the galleries with up to 7,000 school pupils expected through the doors each year. Volunteers, both students and members of the public, will be sought to work in areas including conservation and research to ensure the success of this overall £1.9m project. With planned display items from the Liddle Collection of First World War material and a special exhibition from the Russian Archive coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the 1917 revolution, there is sure to be something for everyone – University and wider!



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

# Community NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2014

WWW.LEEDS.AC.UK/SUSTAINABILITY/COMMUNITY

@UOL\_SUS

/UOLSUSTAINABILITY

## MORE AWARD WINNING ACCOMMODATIONS!

We are proud to announce that our postgraduate student accommodation, St Marks Residences has been awarded the CUBO (College and University Business Officers) 'Best Student Housing' Award 2014. The award acknowledges the innovation and design that went into building St Marks, ensuring it was right for its residents and the wider community. During the design process, students were consulted about what they would want in their ideal student accommodation, and the flats incorporate many

Separately, Storm Jameson Court has been awarded a Green Tourism Goldstar in the Campus Accommodation category. The accommodation has a district combined heat and power (CHP) supply; rainwater harvesting for flushing of toilets; excellent lighting with key fob operated controls; high levels of recycling through the campus waste management contract. On top of this, there are an extensive range of volunteer activities undertaken with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust; and the planting of Elm trees for the Great British Elm Experiment.

These awards are a reflection of the high living standards and environmental efficiency of University of Leeds accommodations, and also ensuring they integrate appropriately with the local community.



## SHWOPPING

On Thursday 4 and Friday 5th December, the University hosted yet another successful Shwopping event! Shwopping is a campaign that is trying to reduce the amount of clothes wastage by giving unwanted clothing to those in need. One billion items of clothing a year are sent to landfill – that's 1 in 4 items sold in the UK each year!

Unwanted clothes were brought into the University over these two days and placed in any of the four clothes bins around campus, and are then donated to Oxfam. In exchange for the donation, Marks and Spencer gave away £5 vouchers, which was an attractive incentive amongst our students! This was a great chance to make wardrobe space for those January sales, and a surprising amount of the clothes were brand new!

Last year, the University of Leeds came top of the leaderboards with a record breaking number of bags (and an estimated 1,829 garments) donated in the last event alone. Our results are still coming in for this year and we are hoping to have beaten this record again. Thanks to all of our student volunteers who manned the clothes bins and distributed the vouchers!



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## LEEDS GRADUATE TAKES MUSIC TO INDIA

A talented graduate from the University has started a musical education project to enrich the lives of disadvantaged children in India. Kerrie Smith graduated in 2013 with a First Class BA (Hons) in Popular and World Musics. After finding out that music is not part of Indian school curriculum, she has decided to spend nine months developing a music programme at a school in the southern city of Bangalore. She now teaches drums, guitar and keyboard and provides basic music lessons to disadvantaged students of both primary and secondary school age.

Kerrie aims to write a music curriculum that will be carried on after she leaves and a local volunteer will ensure the project continues. She is currently looking for donations and has already raised almost £3,000, which will also buy more instruments for the music classes and help her develop a programme specifically aimed at children at the school with learning and physical disabilities. She is establishing connections and sponsorships with local organisations, helping to ensure the programme's sustainability. It is also hoped that partnerships with music schools back in the UK might provide a reliable source of musical volunteers to travel to India each year and teach on the programme.

As many of the children had little exposure to music, this has been a truly rewarding task for Kerrie, and a great example of our students using their degrees outside of academic circumstances.



# Community NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2014

WWW.LEEDS.AC.UK/SUSTAINABILITY/COMMUNITY

@UOL\_SUS

/UOLSUSTAINABILITY

## Upcoming events on campus:

### BEE LECTURES

With bee populations declining in recent years, the University of Leeds Campus Bee Network have been running some lunchtime lectures all about bees. These sessions aim to raise awareness about the importance of bees and also of the University's various initiatives around campus. We currently have one bee apiary and more planned for the future, 35 bee hotels that are used for research and a number of pollinator-rich planting sites across the campus. We are supporting the Government's Pollinator policy of urban habitats being key for bees' survival. We are working with key stakeholders across the city and beyond to ensure that the work we do supports this strategy and Leeds 'leads' the way by being a pollinator-friendly city.

This December, Dr. Sophie Evison from the Faculty of Biological Sciences here at the University will be holding a public lecture about her research into bee diseases and the threats facing bee populations in the UK. These lectures are free and open to everyone both in the University and wider community. If you would like more information or would like to get involved, please contact [sustainability@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:sustainability@leeds.ac.uk)

### CANTE, RITMO Y BAILE DE LATINOAMERICA: CELEBRATING

**Clothworkers Centenary Concert Hall,  
School of Music, 13 Dec, 19:30- 22:00,  
Tickets: £12 (£10 in advance)**

Mestisa: Tenley Martin (percussion) Ana Luisa Muñoz del Valle (vocals, guitar) Barbara Kempf (vocals, guitar) Mike Sandell (bass) plus guests in an exciting programme of music from Latin America. See [concerts.leeds.ac.uk](http://concerts.leeds.ac.uk).



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

# Community

## NEWSLETTER

### DECEMBER 2014

WWW.LEEDS.AC.UK/SUSTAINABILITY/COMMUNITY

@UOL\_SUS

/UOLSUSTAINABILITY

#### DECORATIONS TO DELIGHT!

**The Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery , 13 Dec, 14:00-16:00**

Join artist Claire Evans for this festive workshop as she shows you how to create some truly unique Christmas decorations. Book via <http://tinyurl.com/ooo2mmg>

#### CHRISTMAS AT THE STANLEY & AUDREY BURTON GALLERY

**The Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery, 20 Dec, 13:30-16:00**

Come down and join us in the Gallery for our annual Arty Christmas Party!

#### FT MASTERCLASS LECTURE WITH ROGER BOOTLE, CAPITAL ECONOMICS

**Leeds University Business School, G.02, 28 Jan, 17:45-20:15**

In his talk, Roger will discuss the key themes from his book 'The Trouble with Europe'. How the EU came into being and why? Has it been an economic success? How does it work politically? Book via <http://tinyurl.com/nfd5r3g>

#### LGBT HISTORY MONTH

**Parkinson Court, 3 Feb, 17:30-20:00**

This is an event for staff, students and the members of the local community to celebrate the start of LGBT History Month. Join us for free wine and nibbles, speakers and art displays.



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS