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Phil Steel (English 1997)
Head of Alumni Relations

In 1884, when Michael Marks opened his Penny Bazaar in Kirkgate Market, Leeds had no university of its own – although its foundations already existed in the Yorkshire College and Leeds Medical School. 130 years on Marks and Spencer and the University of Leeds both have a global reach. We have a strong partnership, and you’ll find more about that – and the M&S archive based at Leeds – in these pages.

In 1903, just a year before the University received its charter, a new national cycle race was organised for the first time in France. This year it starts in Leeds for the first time. To have such a famous event begin in our city is a point of pride and excitement for us, and I hope you enjoy sharing that, wherever you’re now living.

Marking any anniversary is also an opportunity to look forward – and so we highlight in these pages some of the work Leeds is doing to make a world of difference over the next century. This work will have an impact on future generations, in part, because of the huge support of our alumni.

Finally, an anniversary can be a cause for commemoration rather than celebration and this year also marks the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. This is something we’ll be returning to in the next issue.

Enjoy reading,
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SPRING / SUMMER 2014
2014 marks one hundred years since the outbreak of the First World War. Legacies of War at the University of Leeds is a First World War Centenary project for 2014-2018. Leeds is working with people and organisations in the city, the UK and internationally to explore the legacy of the First World War in a variety of ways, including academic research and community engagement. For more information, go to arts.leeds.ac.uk/legaciesofwar/, follow @legaciesofww1 on Twitter or find www.facebook.com/legaciesofwarleeds on Facebook.

A key element of the Express Yourself project was a survey which enabled students to say how they feel being a student at Leeds. The research asked questions about everything from mental and physical health through to feelings about money, safety and barriers to Union involvement.

Express Yourself – which generated over 4,000 responses – formed part of LUU’s Strategic Review, a process which takes place every four years. Students, the University, LUU staff and external stakeholders are consulted on what the Union needs to focus on and deliver over the next four-year period. Their thoughts, ideas and input will form the basis of the new strategic plan which will launch on 1 August this year.

For two years from September, £2.7 million a year from central funds will be matched by funding from individual faculties and external partners. In addition, over three years from September 2015 onwards, £540,000 from central funds will be matched by fee waivers from faculties to maintain the existing Leeds International Research Studentships.

Professor Ed Spiers, Acting Dean of Postgraduate Research Studies, said: “If we are to achieve our ambitions to be accepted as a world-class university, we need to have a more significant PG cohort. Postgraduates are the engines of research change and the most dynamic element in our research portfolio. “We have the opportunity to capitalise on the large number of doctoral training centres and partnerships across campus. These are already attracting large numbers of highly-qualified research applicants, but we know there is a significant number of excellent students who miss out. If we can secure their presence through these awards, this will again help us build a larger cohort of high-quality researchers.”

The University will invest £5.4 million in postgraduate research scholarships over the next four years including 110 new Anniversary Research Scholarships – so-called to mark the anniversary of the founding of the University in 1904 – each year for home/EU postgraduate students.

Students, staff and visitors to campus will have a bright, new open space to enjoy from summer 2014, when work on Beech Grove Plaza is completed. The landscaping and improvement works will transform the area outside the Social Science and Michael Sadler buildings, making them more accessible and welcoming. As well as providing new seating and cycle storage facilities, the area will also...
benefit from the installation of some mature trees and a ‘green wall’ to attract birds and other wildlife.

The project is split into phases and timed to ensure University activities are maintained while minimising any potential disruption. The project will be finished in time for the new academic year and will coincide with the completion of works around the Social Sciences building.

UNIVERSITY POISED TO BE A LEADER IN BIG DATA RESEARCH

Leeds has been given funding from four research councils, with two multi-million-pound grants from the Medical Research Council (MRC) of £5.8 million and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) for approximately £5 million.

Developing the ability to deal with the exponential growth in the availability of massive data sets is one of the key challenges facing our society, and is critical to the future of a major research university like Leeds. The infrastructure of the modern university, built up over centuries (research libraries, laboratories, lecture theatres and journals), brought us to where we are today. Big Data analysis will be essential to our future.

Leeds is already a recognised centre for Big Data, with pillars of strength in areas including health informatics, geo-informatics, environmental data analytics, machine learning, behavioural analysis, artificial intelligence and visualisation. The next steps will be to bring this activity together, build on it and apply these capabilities across the entire range of the University’s research. The new projects will involve every University faculty.

‘WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT’ AT THE UNIVERSITY

Ten outstanding female achievers from fields as diverse as dentistry, music, transport and catering – and including students, academics and support colleagues – were recognised by the University in this year’s Women of Achievement event.

The annual event recognises women who have achieved an external prize or award in their field for outstanding research, teaching, scholarship or technical work. The event and accompanying photographic exhibition supports the University’s Athena SWAN objectives towards the recruitment, retention and advancement of women in Arts and Science disciplines across the University.

UNITING THE UNIVERSITY’S GLOBAL COMMUNITY

This year’s World Unite Festival – organised by Leeds University Union (LUU) – saw over 100 different events staged by staff and students including dance and music, a series of lectures, an international film festival, and opportunities to sample food from around the world.

For the first time the Hyde Park Picture House and the Leeds International Film Festival helped stage a series of global short films at the Picture House, bringing students together with local community members. This year also saw the introduction of a series of lectures assessing the development and integration of global culture. One such lecture, given by Nick Robinson of the School of Politics and International Studies, used popular computer game franchises Call of Duty and Pokémon to analyse the different ways in which the East and West have taken to the medium.

The Intercultural Ambassadors Programme underpins the festival; this year, eight multicultural teams of students hosted events that offered the chance to explore different cultures, and created an environment for home and international students to share experiences and make friendships.
“The Power of All This is Amazing”

David Geldart's passion for sport has involved him in supporting elite athletes, grassroots clubs and the London Olympics. But a partnership between schools in Leeds and rural South Africa has really demonstrated the impact sport can have.

“Studying at Leeds was pivotal for me,” says David Geldart (Masters in Physical Education 1989), whose course first brought him into contact with philosophy and physical education lecturer Dr Jim Parry – an internationally-renowned advocate for sport as a driver of social change.

“I had always had a passion for PE and sport, but working with such an influential guy proved a real stimulus. He was an advocate of high quality sport in schools, and through him I got into research. He took me to a different level.”

It was this which kick-started David’s extraordinary sporting journey: “I presented a paper at the Commonwealth Games Conference in New Zealand, and as a result was invited to join the UK’s Health of the Nation taskforce.”

When the UK National Lottery launched in 1994, David joined its sports panel – alongside stars like Trevor Brooking and Adrian Moorhouse on a group responsible for distributing £280 million a year. Their decisions spurred a step-change in British elite sport, developing a talent-spotting programme in schools and communities and creating the landscape in which Britain’s Olympians have thrived.

“It was also about infrastructure, creating world-class facilities and supporting clubs and schools at a local level,” he says. “Here we were for the first time in British history in a position to transform sport, develop new stadia and grow grass-roots clubs.”

David served six years with the National Lottery, then another six on the board of Sport England. He was in his final year there when London was awarded the 2012 games: “That was astonishing, wonderful.”

Throughout this time, David was teaching PE at St Mary’s School in Menston, a few miles outside Leeds, where he is now Deputy Headteacher. “Marrying the two was interesting, but being in school, working with young people in the real world, allowed me to keep my knowledge fresh.”

“When my time at Sport England ended, I asked myself ‘what next?’” The answer came from an unlikely source. “I got a letter from the South African government who wanted me to work on a programme to embed sport in schools. For a long time I’ve had a quote on my wall from Nelson Mandela about using the power of sport to improve lives. It seemed an
obvious thing to get involved with but I was determined to be hands-on, working in schools rather than in an office just producing papers.”

On his first trip, he was taken to a school at the heart of KwaZulu Natal. Ninety per cent of people in the region are unemployed and a third have HIV-Aids; illiteracy, rape and teenage pregnancy are common: “I was aware of urban deprivation – but much less aware of rural deprivation,” he says.

His first meeting was with the local chief: “Nothing would happen without his support. I didn’t want to be a white man telling them what to do, so I just listened. I was prepared for them giving me a hard time, but that never happened – and we talked about developing a partnership to use sport in education and leadership.

“I slept in the school. I found out later that this had a big impression on people. They thought I would want to be in a hotel.”

During his first stay he found a young girl revising with a friend late at night. She lived an hour and a half’s walk from school – a distance she walked four times in the day: in the morning before school, in the afternoon to make dinner for her family, back to school to revise and then home again late at night.

Armed with her story and many others, and encouraged by his meetings in the community, David returned to Menston fired with an enthusiasm to establish a partnership between these two schools 6,000 miles apart. “I knew that for it to work, I would need massive buy-in from the governors, staff, parents and pupils here, but I got it. The overwhelming response has been ‘what can we do to help?’

Eight years on, the Bambisanani (“working hand in hand”) partnership between the two schools is a model for how a genuine two-way partnership can be equitable, sustainable and effective and can change lives both here and overseas. Every year, a group of 14 St Mary’s sixth formers spends two weeks in South Africa where they peer-mentor a group of around 20 young people and work together to create a community festival.

“It is a genuine partnership, two schools working together. We do take equipment and learning resources whenever we go, but this is a two-way thing. Our students learn a great deal from it.”

For most in KwaZulu Natal, sport means football, and a school appeal saw hundreds of football shirts taken out for the South African youngsters. Three members of rock band Kaiser Chiefs – former students at St Mary’s – donated their own Leeds United shirts to the cause.

In a region where the first language is Zulu but exams are set in English, sport has helped with literacy too. A new initiative has sent out hundreds of books – many with a sporting theme – to help the young people develop their reading: “We are using football as a stimulus to learn essential life skills,” says David.

“The power of all this is amazing.” He relates the story of nine South African girls, peer-mentored through Bambisanani a few years ago, who have now set up a network to get pregnant girls back into school, and are working with abused children and orphans of HIV-Aids.

“Two or three years ago they would have been shy young Zulu students.

We have developed them with a determination to change – and then they do this. When I told the story back here, some of our girls were in tears.”

Among companies to have sponsored the programme is Yorkshire law firm Lupton Fawcett Denison Till, whose Director and Chairman Kevin Emley (Law 1977) visited the project in 2013: “Bambisanani is doing amazing work,” he said. “It is all well and good supporting a charity but only when you have seen how these children live and the struggles they face on a daily basis, can you fully understand the role you have undertaken.”

And whether chosen to visit South Africa or not, the Menston teenagers themselves learn much from the partnership, David explains: “Many young people today aren’t interested in politics but they are interested in social justice. Through this, they start to question the materialism of society, the superficiality of modern life and our obsession with fame.

“Jim would say this is classic Olympism – using sport for the greater good to develop education, health and community transformation. Every school in the country should do it.”

To find out more, search online for “Bambisanani Partnership”
THE HEART OF THE MATTER

WORDS: SHEENA HASTINGS  IMAGES: ADAM ROBINSON
HEART DISEASE AND DIABETES TOGETHER CAN BE A DEADLY COMBINATION. MARK KEARNEY’S TEAM AT LEEDS IS DEDICATED TO FINDING A TREATMENT

As a junior doctor at St James’s University Hospital in Leeds, Mark Kearney (Medicine 1989) quickly became aware of how the combination of heart disease and diabetes can devastate patients and their families.

“Heart disease is so common. More people die of cardiovascular disease than of cancer – and for patients who also have diabetes the prognosis is so much worse. “In every area of health, things are worse for patients with Type-2 diabetes. They’re at greater risk of cancer, stroke and liver disease, their bone marrow isn’t as good and their heart is weaker.”

Outcomes for heart patients who also have Type-2 diabetes are far worse than for those who don’t. Even after surviving a heart attack, 14 per cent of those with diabetes will be dead inside one year, as opposed to three per cent among those without; a third will be dead in three years, as opposed to 14 per cent.

As British Heart Foundation Professor of Cardiovascular Disease and Diabetes, Mark leads the only research group in the UK dedicated to this deadly combination. Established in 2006 with a £200,000 investment by the University, the group has since attracted more than £10 million in funding from charities, research councils and private donations.

Type-2 diabetes is a growing problem – affecting around two million people in the UK and 300 million worldwide – and is closely linked to obesity. “I blame evolution,” says Mark. “For thousands of years, when our ancestors had an uncertain supply of food, being able to store food in our bodies was a positive benefit. It’s only really in the past few hundred years that this has changed – and evolution hasn’t had time to adapt. We’re hard-wired for being overweight.”

Rather than working on new drugs, the team concentrates on cell-based treatments – essentially removing patients’ malfunctioning cells, modifying them to work better and putting them back. It’s a tried and tested therapy route and the basis of routine treatments for leukaemia and lymphoma.

“Development cell treatments is quicker and more cost-effective.”

For the Leeds team, the approach holds out the hope of improving the function of the crucial endothelial cells which line our arteries. In people...
with diabetes, these can get stripped away causing the body to think the artery has suffered a wound. This in turn stimulates the manufacture of blood clotting factors. To a patient who also has heart disease these blood clots can be deadly.

“In people who don’t have diabetes, the repair of these cells works fine,” says Mark. “In those with diabetes it’s hopeless.

“Laboratory tests have shown how endothelial cells can be encouraged to regrow naturally; by replicating this process in humans we could prevent the dangerous clots from forming – giving patients with diabetes a better chance of surviving heart disease.”

Further funding will help Mark grow the team working on the project, and in doing so develop the young professors who can carry medical research forward in the future. Leeds’ reputation in this field means he is able to attract the very best: “If you want to study cardiovascular disease and diabetes Leeds would be your first choice.”

One of Mark’s multi-talented team is Dr Richard Cubbon, a clinical lecturer in cardiology who completed his PhD at Leeds in 2009 after working as a junior doctor.

He has taken a year out of clinical work and research in Leeds to study at the University of Leuven in Belgium, studying how new blood vessels form and how diabetes affects their formation, particularly in the context of heart attacks and strokes.

In terms of taking the Leeds investigations into cell manipulation further and making the methods effective in humans, Richard says there are still dozens of hurdles to jump on the road to a safe new therapy.

“First we have to produce the cells so that they are safe for use in humans. That would involve us changing the way we grow them at the moment. To put them in patients, we have to show we have manufactured them in a way that meets the stringent regulations for any new treatment.

“Then we would start early clinical trials to show you can inject them into patients without safety concerns; after that you take them to large-scale clinical trials to study their potential benefits.

“Safety concerns have to be addressed at every stage, and you have to anticipate whether these cells may cause more problems when you inject them,” says Richard. “We have to ask ‘What if a patient had a disease that would be made worse by extra blood vessel formation?’ and figure out how we dampen down the new cells’ activity when it’s not wanted.”

These things are expensive to develop from scratch – however all the questions need to be answered.

“The principle of using a patient’s own cells to try to improve healing is
something that will grow in the next five to ten years, and it’s likely that this will form part of our therapeutic approach in a decade’s time.

“We’re seeing that the principle of stimulating regeneration of damaged tissue is becoming an important goal in medicine, particularly in cardiovascular medicine.

“It may also be possible to develop drugs to stimulate healing after a heart attack. Cell therapy and drugs will help each other.” Richard stresses that “Statins and aspirins aren’t likely to go away – what we’re talking about are therapies that we can offer in addition to those that already exist.

“One of the exciting things about this research is that you can talk about where it looks as though the science is going, but in some ways it’s hard to say where it will go even in a year’s time – because we may find along the way other therapies working with other cells that are more efficient.”

The Leeds team’s determination to beat these diseases is informed by daily contact with patients from across Yorkshire, 2,000 of whom attend clinics at Leeds General Infirmary, where close nursing care, strict monitoring and tailored drug regimes have reduced mortality rates by 40 per cent in eight years.

“We’re the best in the UK at this,” says Mark, “but with the help of our donors we have aspirations to be the best in the world.

“Their support, particularly for the brightest, early-career researchers, will translate into helping people to live better and longer. And if that makes the difference between someone dying in their 40s, or living long enough to see their daughter get married, how can you possibly put a value on it?”

A lightweight portable scanner to diagnose heart conditions quickly in emergency situations has been developed by scientists in the School of Physics and Astronomy. With funding from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, the NHS National Innovation Centre and Medical Technologies Innovation and Knowledge Centre based at Leeds, a team led by Professor Ben Varcoe has now taken the device to the stage of clinical testing.

The portable magnetometer will improve the current diagnostic process by allowing medical staff to scan patients displaying suspected cardiac conditions, providing immediate results. It is hoped that it will be produced cheaply enough to be used in all hospitals and ambulances.

It has a further benefit – positively filtering people who do not require hospital admission, saving time and resources for medical staff.
Each year, around 9,000 people are diagnosed with brain cancer in the UK. Only one in seven adults survives for five years after diagnosis, with the average survival of those with the highest grade tumours little more than a year.

These cancers have proved highly resilient – rendering traditional treatments largely ineffective.

Leeds has the largest team in the UK dedicated to tackling this rare but deadly condition, which until recently was both underfunded and under-researched. Led by Professor Susan Short, a new £3 million research programme, co-funded by a £1.5 million grant from The Brain Tumour Charity and matched from a number of other sources, includes investigating the use of viruses to target cancer cells without harming healthy tissue.

“Despite the fact that these patients have been treated with surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy, most of these tumours never really disappear,” says Susan, who heads a 30-strong team in the Leeds Centre for Translational Neuro-oncology.

“They grow back quickly – often within a year. We need to investigate how we can ‘switch off’ this ability. “This has long been a ‘Cinderella’ field,” she says. “There was real difficulty in understanding the biology, so no-one knew where to start attacking it. Now we’ve started to understand the biology better and that has made more people interested in how we might change the course of the disease.”

Susan’s team is searching for specific cells within the tumours which survive treatment and kick-start the repair of the damage inflicted by powerful doses of radiotherapy and chemotherapy. The researchers then hope to target these cells with naturally-occurring viruses delivered into the bloodstream by injection.

So far the team has shown that injecting a virus elsewhere in the body can send it to the site of the tumour. Cancer tissue then removed during surgery has shown the presence of the virus.

“The viruses are non-toxic, so they cause no harm to healthy tissue,” says Susan. “They could be particularly appropriate for young children or older people who are unsuited to other treatments.” Once developed, the virus therapy could then give the traditional treatments a better chance of success, offering a much better long-term prognosis.

“For decades it was felt that nothing could be done,” says Susan, but a concentration of expertise at Leeds and their promising early results are finally holding out the hope of success.

“The funding we’ve had for this is fantastic, but of course we need more – to push on their work further and faster. Leeds now has Britain’s strongest, brightest team of researchers working on brain cancer; we now need to make sure we keep them here, and build that team still further.

“One of the major advantages of the group here is that we have a lot of researchers all together in one place. That makes a big difference to what we can achieve.” Susan and many of her team are also clinicians, their day-to-day contact with brain cancer patients driving them to work towards a cure.
I’d love to know what my uni flatmate Sarah is doing now. Without remembering her last name, I can’t find her online.

Wait a minute. Let me check the alumni site.

Sarah... Tetley Hall... 1985... is this her?

Yes! What does she say?

Er... looks like you missed her wedding...

Join Leeds alumni online by 31st July to win prizes.

Don’t be left out. Leeds alumni online. Be there.

www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk

July 31

Already a member? Post your news by 31st July for your chance to win.
In 1884 Michael Marks opened a stall in Leeds Kirkgate Market. 130 years later, leading high-street retailer M&S has relocated its entire corporate archive of more than 70,000 items to a purpose-built home at the University of Leeds.

The archive has been the foundation for a broader partnership with Leeds: working together on cutting-edge academic research and support for young people into employment and opening up rich cultural opportunities across the community.

So next time you’re on campus why not visit the archive in person?

The Marks in Time exhibition at M&S Company Archive is based on the University of Leeds’ Western Campus and is free and open to all.

T: 020 8718 2800 marksintime.marksandspencer.com

1884

‘Don’t ask the price, it’s a penny’: Michael Marks’ entrepreneurial slogan when he opened his first stall in Leeds Kirkgate Market

Did you know M&S was influenced by the famous Christian Dior ‘New Look’ silhouette?

1955

1964

1968 – 1971

‘Easy-care’ were the words of the moment and man-made ‘wonder fabrics’ brought new and improved convenience to customers

After introducing their first bras in 1926, M&S continued to lead lingerie developments, like using Lycra for control and support
M&S introduced its first suit department in 1972 and by the early 1980s colour-match technology enabled the production of formal separates for a generation of increasingly style-conscious men.

The new demand for convenience led to the introduction of frozen ready meals like lasagne and Chinese dishes in 1971. These were quickly followed by sachet products like this boil in the bag ravioli and, in 1979, the arrival of the most popular M&S ready meal, the famous Chicken Kiev.

Imagine not being able to buy a fresh chicken! M&S’s invention of the ‘cold chain’ made that possible.

Technologists sought to put an end to baggy stockings and undertook a leg-sizing survey to provide customers with the best possible fit.

1957

1960

1972

1973
A LA MODE
The Parisian department store Galeries Lafayette is a stately symbol of all that is French. Its latest fashion director, however, is not. Averyl Oates (Music 1984) brings a touch of British style to the iconic store. With an artillery of experience, including fashion buying director at Harvey Nichols, Averyl has what it takes to take on the illustrious Parisian style. Based in the store’s flagship Art Nouveau building, Averyl oversees fashion in the chain’s 60 French stores and five others worldwide.

RETIRED, RESTORED AND RACING
Retirement has not given mature student Neil Bennett (Electronic and Electrical Engineering 1985) any reason to slow down. After a career at GCHQ and SERCO Fylingdales, Neil now pursues his passion for speed by rebuilding engines for pre-war and 1940s/50s sports cars. Watch for him racing up a hill climb track, or blasting along Pendine Sands in his shiny red 1935 Batten Special.

STUDENT RADIO START
Remel London (Broadcast Journalism 2010) loves the city that inspired her name. Remel hosts a variety of entertainment shows, including segments on BBC Radio1xtra and Link Up TV, an online channel for the urban scene. Remel developed her infectious style at Leeds when she hosted a breakfast slot on student radio station LSR FM. Remel says, “I can’t wait to see what the future holds. I’m aiming to be recognised as one of the UK’s leading broadcasters. That’s my dream.”

TRANSPORTING RIYADH
Imagine creating a public transport system for Riyadh, a city of more than 5 million dedicated car lovers. This is the challenge facing Kevin McGreal (Civil Engineering 1977, MSc 1987), programme executive at consultants CH2M Hill. Kevin is helping the client with the development of a completely new transport network across the whole of the Saudi capital where extreme temperatures and sandstorms govern the design of everything, from stations to vehicles.
With six new metro lines totalling 176 km and more than 1,000 km of new bus routes, the programme will improve the way people travel around the city. Kevin has a wealth of global experience, from major hydro-electric schemes in Southern Africa, to expanding Colombian coal-mines, to the development of the Olympic Stadium and the new Crossrail line in London.

THE NATURE OF THE BEAST

“The animal kingdom is staggering diverse,” says Dr Ross Piper (PhD Biology 2002) in his latest book Animal Earth. His travels have brought him into contact with thousands of species whose bizarre appearances and hidden lives he describes in beautiful detail. Despite this diversity, Ross traces them back to a surprisingly small number of lineages and uncovers some rather more obscure beasts, such as the aptly named “strange worm,” which continues to defy classification. Ross recently co-presented BBC television’s Wild Burma: Nature’s Lost Kingdom.

FIGHTING DISEASE

The best defence against disease isn’t always found in our own bodies. Dr Arron Tolley (PhD Biological Sciences 2010), CEO of Aptamer Solutions, has built a business exploring the many ways science can lend a hand. Arron’s company specialises in the development of aptamers, synthetic alternatives to antibodies which are created entirely within a test tube. Unlike antibodies, aptamers are more readily accepted by the human body and can also be used to determine the likelihood of developing diseases in the future.

1966 FOR 2014

1966 is a significant number for any England football fan but David Bewick (Geological Sciences 2005) and Pete Johnston (Environmental Geology 2005) are paying it a unique tribute by walking 1966 kilometres across South America with a football. The pair, joined by friend Adam Burns, will arrive at England’s first World Cup match in Brazil after an epic 3-month adventure across the continent. Departing from the foothills of the Andes, the intrepid friends are raising money to fund a well for drought-stricken areas of Brazil.

GRAD WINS GRAMMY

Bill Laurance (Music 2003) has scooped the School of Music’s first ever Grammy. Keen-fingered Bill plays the keyboard for jazz group Snarky Puppy, who claimed best R&B performance for their song “Something.” Bill’s New York-based band are both critically acclaimed and a fan favourite.

TETLEY TRANSFORMATION

The closure of Tetley’s Brewery in 2011 was sad news for our alumni, given the role that Tetley’s beer played in many a Leeds student experience. Appropriately, two former Leeds students have brought the beautifully restored Tetley’s headquarters back to life. Pippa Hale (Fine Art 1994, MA 1995), along with curator Zoe Sawyer (Fine Art 2006), have turned “The Tetley” into a hub for contemporary art and learning. The team has already attracted more than 40,000 visitors in its first month of opening, and expects to total 100,000 in the first year.
NOTABLE WOMAN

Theatre artist Maya Krishna Rao (MA Theatre Arts 1999) is featured in the book *Women Who Dared*, which looks at 20 notable Indian women who tackle difficult subjects. Maya’s latest work, *Walk*, encourages its audience to delve deeply into Indian social issues and was created during the outcry that followed a gang rape in Delhi. The piece has been performed to diverse audiences and was a major feature of the 2013 Jaipur Literature Festival.

IN BRIEF

Winning her first cap, bowler Kate Cross (Psychology 2013) helped England’s women’s cricket team retain their Ashes title earlier this year.

Dr Toh Kin Woon (MA Economics 1973) is the Northern Peninsula Vice-Chairperson of the Bersih 2.0 Steering Group in Malaysia.

Sports journalist Roger Domeneghetti (Political Studies 1995) has published a new book, *From Back Page to the Front Room*, exploring the changing face of football.

Professor Gillian Leng (Medicine 1987, MD 1994) is Deputy Chief Executive at NICE (The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) and Director of Health and Social Care.

Digital artist Maggie Walby (English/Inter-Arts 1987) has developed digital effects on many blockbusters, including *Avatar* and *Total Recall*.

The new Director of Press and Campaigns at the British Chambers of Commerce is Hannah Staunton (Management Studies 2002).

Brendan McSharry OBE (MA Linguistics and ELT 1982) is Country Director of the British Council in Nepal.

Philip Davies (French and Italian 1979) has been appointed as a Lay Canon of St Nicholas’ Cathedral, Newcastle.

As the new Chief Executive of the Eisteddfod, David Neal (Economics and Politics 1980) is at the helm of Wales’ largest cultural festival.

At just 27, Tom Norris (BA Music 2007) is the head of Edinburgh’s new £776m tram system.

COMPLETED SERVICE

Duncan Pescod (Sociology 1981) retired this year as Permanent Secretary for Housing and Transport in Hong Kong. Duncan joined the Hong Kong Civil Service in 1981, and held a series of important portfolios both before and after the change of sovereignty of Hong Kong from British to Chinese rule, including an appointment as Hong Kong’s official representative to the European Union.

In his most recent role, Permanent Secretary for Housing and Transport, Duncan’s portfolio included two areas amongst the highest priority for the Hong Kong government. It is the highest senior government position ever held by a Leeds graduate in the Hong Kong civil service. Duncan lives in Hong Kong with his wife, Sandy (Physics and Astronomy 1980) who is Head of Science at South Island School.

Duncan marked his retirement by attending a dinner hosted by some of the senior members of the Leeds University Hong Kong Alumni Association, including Kenneth Wong, its President.

(LEFT TO RIGHT)

ANTHONY TSUI (MBE (SOCIOLGY AND SOCIAL POLICY 1972); GERRY YIM (ECONOMICS 1982); DIANE WONG (MEDICINE 1986); LORRAINE CHONG (VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS 2004); DUNCAN PESCOD; ADRIAN WONG (LAW 1985); DOMINIC YIM (PHYSICS AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING 1982); ONSWARD LAM (COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ECONOMICS 1983); KENNETH WONG (CIVIL AND STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING 2006)

(A) Winning her first cap, bowler Kate Cross (Psychology 2013) helped England’s women’s cricket team retain their Ashes title earlier this year.

Digital artist Maggie Walby (English/Inter-Arts 1987) has developed digital effects on many blockbusters, including *Avatar* and *Total Recall*.

The new Director of Press and Campaigns at the British Chambers of Commerce is Hannah Staunton (Management Studies 2002).

Brendan McSharry OBE (MA Linguistics and ELT 1982) is Country Director of the British Council in Nepal.

Philip Davies (French and Italian 1979) has been appointed as a Lay Canon of St Nicholas’ Cathedral, Newcastle.

As the new Chief Executive of the Eisteddfod, David Neal (Economics and Politics 1980) is at the helm of Wales’ largest cultural festival.

At just 27, Tom Norris (BA Music 2007) is the head of Edinburgh’s new £776m tram system.

The University of Leeds has made important progress in recent years. Our new strategic plan will build on this success and stay true to our historic mission to create, disseminate and apply knowledge.

As you might expect, this plan will reinforce our focus on meeting the needs and aspirations of our students: providing a forward-looking environment for education and personal development; putting a premium on high-quality tuition, independent learning and critical thinking; and inspiring our students to develop new knowledge and insights of their own.

One of the things I hear most often from alumni is how your time at Leeds broadened your horizons, and we remain committed to providing today’s students with a wide range of opportunities to develop their skills and interests. In this, the Leeds University Union – now celebrating its 75th anniversary – remains a key partner. The recent ‘Celebrate Week’, created to recognise student achievements of all kinds, underlined the richness of the Leeds experience. I was also struck by how often alumni had contributed to our award-winners’ achievements, through your gifts to the Footsteps Fund for scholarships and the Leeds for Life Foundation.

Our strategic plan calls for a further step change in the range and volume of world-leading research carried out at the University. We have already seen significant growth in this area and I am delighted by the number of major new research grants being awarded to our academics. In the area of big data analytics, an investment of some £11 million will deliver cutting-edge patient, social and economic impacts, from improving transport planning to better understanding the molecular mechanisms of disease. But in an increasingly competitive environment – and in a world that needs creative thinking and practical application to address its complex challenges – we cannot rest on our laurels. Adding to the global stock of knowledge through curiosity-driven research and moving discoveries into practice through translational and applied research remain critical to our success, reputation and impact.

Our alumni community has a growing contribution to make as we implement our new plan – serving as ambassadors, advisers and advocates; providing networks across education, business, public service and the arts; helping students and recent graduates as they consider and develop their careers; and supporting our ‘Making a World of Difference’ Campaign.

The Campaign is providing an opportunity to renew personal connections with Leeds. This is perhaps most evident through our student-focused projects. By making gifts to fund inspirational opportunities for disadvantaged young people, support scholarships for high-achievers, and help build our state-of-the-art library, you are giving today’s students the kind of life-changing opportunities that you enjoyed. Your loyalty, interest and volunteer service is of enormous value to the University – whether giving careers advice, sitting on an industrial advisory board, or attending a recruitment event abroad – and strengthens our whole community.

I am immensely proud of this groundswell of support – over 3,000 of you have given up your time to help the University, and so far more than 7,000 of you have made donations to support our students and research.

Working with partners of all kinds will be essential as we take our knowledge into the community. Our Legacy of War project provides a good example of this kind of public engagement. The University holds a vast collection of First World War materials and, as the anniversary of that conflict approaches, we are seeing the first fruits of a major research programme touching every corner of our campus. With partnerships stretching from museums to the media, this project will educate, inform and inspire us to reflect on the Great War and its profound consequences.

An especially poignant event will take place in the autumn, when the University’s Brotherton War Memorial plaque will be re-dedicated, complete with several additional names – both staff and alumni – whose wartime sacrifice was only uncovered by this research.

The Legacies of War project is emblematic of how the University can engage with people, businesses and institutions across our region and beyond. It will, I hope, usher in an era of even greater cooperation and partnership, both locally and globally.

Increasing knowledge and opportunity is, and will always be, the defining feature of the University of Leeds. I am deeply grateful for your continuing involvement and support; it speaks volumes about you and a great University ... and it is very much appreciated.
Craft beers and luxury dog biscuits might seem unlikely new products to emerge from academia. But along with a taxi-sharing phone app, an invention to stem nose bleeds, a handmade clothing firm and a micro-finance business providing cheap alternatives to ‘payday loans’, they are the results of a thriving enterprise culture at Leeds.

For the increasing number of students involved, this new entrepreneurial focus brings not only a chance to turn ideas into reality, but also enhanced career opportunities, as electronic engineering undergraduate Oliver Peel explains.

He’s talking ahead of a meeting to discuss the expansion of the “Wolfhound” beer brand he’s created with fellow Leeds student Mickey Lynch. “We’re both really passionate about real ale and a friend told us about all the help that you can get from the University,” he says.

Oliver talks excitedly about how his imminent meeting is with an investor whose backing could help bring the drinks to market by providing brewing premises and an established distribution network.

All of this, he says, is down to the University. The meeting was only made possible after he turned for help to its Spark enterprise programme.

He cites as particularly valuable a two-day bootcamp which provided “amazing” business advice and networking, as well as grants totalling £6,000 from “proof of concept” and enterprise scholarship funds. Even more important was access to Leeds’ network of alumni professionals, who offer free time and expert advice to assist potential entrepreneurs.

Oliver admits he would otherwise be nowhere near realising his dream of running his own business.

Alumni support – both practical and financial – is a cornerstone of Spark’s remarkable success.

“Without all this we would have lost momentum,” says Oliver. “We would have had the idea, but it wouldn't have got anywhere. We wouldn't have known what to do or thought about going for premises without the people they put me in touch with.

“It’s really thanks to the University and all the help from the alumni that we’ve got here. Now I can’t think of anything I’d rather do. ”

Hundreds of other Leeds students have similar stories to tell; more than
1,700 have received help to develop enterprise ideas over the past three years. Those with flourishing start-ups include Sophie Tregellis (Philosophy 2013) whose upmarket Top Collar dog biscuits – flavours include Sunday Roast and Full English – are attracting dog biscuits – flavours include Sunday Roast and Full English – are attracting

relevant specialists are also provided, complemented by pro bono advice from a network of alumni and other local professionals. From here, the businesses progress via the bootcamp and access to various enterprise grants.

A business incubation unit will open later this year offering ten fledgling businesses each year office space on campus and continued advice and support to enhance their prospects of success. Each will move on at the end of the year, hopefully thriving, to create space for the next wave of new enterprises.

Kairen says the benefits of enterprise for students are immense and Leeds’ work to encourage it reflect a changed world beyond campus life.

“We see it as a career option,” she says. “At one time people came to a Russell Group university and wanted to look for a corporate job when they left, but now the landscape has changed. A lot of people coming to university think they will set up their own business or go to work for a small or medium-sized business.

“Even if they don’t end up running their own business, people who have been through the Spark programme tend to get great jobs.”

“The students we see are the most highly-motivated young people you could wish for. Lots of people have high 2:1s or Firsts, but it’s such a competitive market that if they have already run a business, or explored what it’s like, they are much more attractive to employers.”

Professor Nigel Lockett, Director of the Leeds Enterprise Centre agrees: “It’s about what can we do to give them a better chance in life, whether that is running their own enterprise or getting a job.”

He says the University is fast becoming one of the country’s best for developing entrepreneurship: “Enterprise is a whole University activity,” he says, pointing out that the commercialisation of ideas generated from academic research has given the University shares in 16 spin-out companies with a total market value of £188 million.

Leeds is also helping to expand the regional economy, particularly through job creation in fast-growing ‘gazelle’ firms, creating better employment prospects for graduates who stay in the area, as well as for locals.

But Nigel says that the main aim of the growing emphasis on enterprise at Leeds is simply to give students the skills to succeed in whichever way they wish.

“Our vision is ‘Enterprise at Leeds’ – offering exceptional enterprise education, opportunity and support to all our graduates so that they can make a social and economic impact.”

Enterprise is becoming a component of an increasing number of degrees at Leeds. A new BA in music with enterprise is designed to allow graduates to develop businesses that will use their musical skills, while subject areas as varied as biotechnology

**LEEDS DRAGONS? NIGEL LOCKETT AND KAIREN SKELLEY**

**IMAGE © IMPACT MAGAZINE**

**LOCATION: ADMIRAL HOUSE, ROSE WHARF, LEEDS, BY KIND PERMISSION OF JIM DYSON, CADDICK DEVELOPMENT LTD AND SANDERSON WEATHERALL LLP**
Nigel insists that enterprise could be key to Leeds’ future success, luring ever more talented students and catapulting the University up the higher education league tables: “The University is very research intensive and fashion are incorporating a distinctive enterprise component. and education, but I think enterprise can be what makes us different. “It will attract students who are not only academically brilliant but who also want to develop their skills in a culture which supports their entrepreneurial drive.”

Leeds is running a free online course to allow budding young entrepreneurs to access expertise and learn about running a business. The course, Starting a business: Realise your Vision, focuses particularly on student entrepreneurs and encouraging entrepreneurial thinking amongst young people, but is relevant to anyone interested in entrepreneurship or starting their own business.

Participants will develop their own business ideas, learning from expert academics and business advisors, with the opportunity to offer their own thoughts on the real-life business challenges presented by young Leeds entrepreneurs. They will also participate in online discussions with business experts about putting ideas into practice. The course runs from 30th June to 10th July, (although you can sign up after the course has started). Watch the introductory video at: digitallearning.leeds.ac.uk/starting-a-business. If you have friends, relatives or pupils who could be inspired by Leeds entrepreneurs, get them to sign up now! Or if you are interested in entrepreneurship and enterprise, why not sign up yourself?

**STUDENTS JUMPIN WITH TAXI-SHARING SERVICE**

Taxi-sharing service JumpIn was set up by three students who came up with the idea after realising they had taken separate cabs to the same venue...

Operated via a phone app, it allows users to book fixed-price cab trips, keeping down bills by sharing with others. The firm, which began just over a year ago, has already expanded from Leeds to four other cities.

The concept might sound simple, but as 21-year-old co-founder Sam Ryan explains, success relies on help from Leeds as well as students’ zeal. “The University gives young entrepreneurs the opportunity to take on things like this outside their education,” he says.

From the Spark programme came a £1,000 proof of concept grant and access to professional advisers willing to provide free help with legal and financial issues. Further support came with an alumni-funded £3,000 Enterprise Scholarship and success in the Spark business plan contest – while Sam and start-up partners Barney Williams and James Gupta brought in additional revenue by attracting business angels willing to invest in their idea.

JumpIn has around 5,000 registered users, whose details are checked for safety. Its partner, Premier Cars gets around 100 bookings a week, with income for JumpIn coming from a referral fee, allowing the firm to employ nine staff in addition to its three founders.

Sam, who completes his Accounting and Finance degree this summer, says: “We’re building towards September when we can capture a new intake of students. Hopefully it will be a real game-changer. Leeds has a real hunger for enterprise which has inspired us.”
The first involves a bicycle left on a bike rack near the Parkinson Building. Over the course of a term its front wheel became so buckled – that the bike ended up flat on the ground but still attached to the rack – that the bike ended up flat on the ground but still attached to the rack.

The second memory involves a bicycle left on a bike rack near the Parkinson Building. Over the course of a term its front wheel became so buckled – that the bike ended up flat on the ground but still attached to the rack – that the bike ended up flat on the ground but still attached to the rack.

It was 1994 and the race popped over La Manche for a couple of days. Chris Boardman, the first British rider anybody could name for a decade, won the first day in Lille and wore the leader’s famous yellow jersey for a couple of days.

He bravely tried to win it back on day five in Brighton but finished fourth and then faded.

He made an impression on me, though, and with his bikes now selling faster than screen wash at Halfords, regular cyclists outnumbering regular footballers, and two British Tour winners set to be on the start line in Leeds, one of them with a knighthood, it would seem I was not the only one.

Which is why Yorkshire has rolled out a £27m red carpet for the race, and the French are genuinely delighted to be bringing the highlight of their summer this far north.

Much has changed in 20 years.

There is now, I am delighted to report, a thriving cycling scene at Leeds University; Belgium has been forced to share its love for the world’s most hypnogotic of sports with us; and I own more bikes than my children. Vive le Tour, vive la Leeds.
Leeds is going cycle crazy this summer. The Grand Départ of the Tour de France brings the city alive on July 5 with stage one snaking 190km from Leeds to Harrogate via Harewood, Skipton and the Yorkshire Dales. The next day, stage two covers 200km from York to Sheffield.

With excitement building across Yorkshire, we outline the essential sites along the route to catch the peloton swooping through the Yorkshire countryside.

If you’re far from Leeds, look out as the cyclists race past on TV, impress your friends with your knowledge of the route, or use the web links to create your own virtual tour of Yorkshire highlights and bask in Leeds’ newfound sense of civic pride…

More from letouryorkshire.com

1. **LEEDS TOWN HALL**
The riders depart from the Baroque Town Hall on the Headrow at 11am, making this one of the key ‘spectator hub locations with big screens, refreshments and entertainment. Look out for the new sculpture by the figurative artist Thomas Houseago outside the nearby Leeds Art Gallery – a commission by Wakefield’s Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

2. **HAREWOOD HOUSE**
The family home of the Earl and Countess of Harewood hosts the inaugural Yorkshire Festival of Cycling from July 4-6 festivalofcycling.org The peloton passes around midday. Some alumni will recognise the house – a Leeds Alumni reception was held there in 2012.

3. **OTLEY**
The market town on the River Wharfe, home to Olympic cyclist Lizzie Armitstead, hosts racers at Pool Road Campsite on Saturday lunchtime (again just north at Blubberhouses on Sunday).

4. **ILKLEY**
A traditional spa town, Ilkley epitomises Yorkshire’s bucolic countryside with rolling moors and rocky outcrops. Riverside Gardens is the spectator hub.

5. **ADDITIONHAM**
Picturesque Addingham, listed in the ‘Doomsday Book as ‘Ediham’, is the crossroads of both Yorkshire stages. Catch the peloton twice in two days.

6. **SKIPTON**
Racers are due along Skipton’s historic, cobbled High Street just before 1pm Saturday as the gateway to The Dales. The 11th-century Skipton Castle is the centrepiece of the bustling market town.

7. **BOLTON ABBEY**
The Duke of Devonshire’s 30,000-acre estate on the banks of the River Wharfe takes its name from Bolton Priory, the ruined 12th-century Augustinian monastery in the grounds. It provides camping during the race.

8. **HAWES**
Home to Wensleydale cheese and the Dales Countryside Museum, the market town of Hawes is England’s highest – 850ft above sea level. The riders on the pass cruise the heart of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The National Park Visitor Centre is the spectator hub.

9. **BUTTERMUTBS PASS**
The Holy Grail for Yorkshire cyclists, this gruelling Dales climb on Saturday afternoon will attract spectators and challenge the riders in equal measure.
190 km

**GRINTON**
Grinton Hill offers a good natural vantage point while the nearby village of Reeth has pubs, cafés and a natural amphitheatre, all surrounded by spectacular Dales scenery. [Yorkshire.com/places/yorkshire-dales/reeth](http://Yorkshire.com/places/yorkshire-dales/reeth)

**MIDDLEHAM**
As the racers power through Middleham, they’ll catch a glimpse of ruined Middleham Castle, the former home of Richard III. The picture-postcard town centre boasts cobbled squares, friendly tearooms and Middleham stables, home to Yorkshire horseracing. [Yorkshire.com/places/yorkshire-dales/middleham](http://Yorkshire.com/places/yorkshire-dales/middleham)

**RIPON**
By the time the imposing façade of Ripon’s 7th-century cathedral looms into view, the peloton will be tiring. The Hornblower sounds his horn in the Market Square of the otherwise peaceful cathedral city at 9pm nightly. The tradition has lasted over 900 years. [Riponcathedral.info](http://Riponcathedral.info)

**PATELEY BRIDGE**
For an alternative base, this village at the heart of the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is ideal. The National Trust has a pop-up campsite near here at Brimham Rocks, while the village itself is home to the Oldest Sweet Shop in England – trading since 1827. [www.yorkshire.com/places/yorkshire-dales/pateley-bridge](http://www.yorkshire.com/places/yorkshire-dales/pateley-bridge)

**HARROGATE**
Elegant Harrogate marks the end of the first stage with a sprint finish by the open parklands, The Stray. Afterwards, the yellow jersey could be soaking aching muscles in the restored Turkish Baths & Health Spa, or splashing out on a cream tea at Betty’s tearooms, purveyor of fondant fancies to Harrogate since 1919. [Turkishbathsharrogate.co.uk & Bettys.co.uk/bettys_harrogate.aspx](http://Turkishbathsharrogate.co.uk & Bettys.co.uk/bettys_harrogate.aspx)

**LEEDS**

“Water, water, everywhere, nor any drop to drink.” Coleridge’s epic Rime of the Ancient Mariner illustrates man’s eternally conflicted relationship with the planet’s most vital, most plentiful resource.

Flooding in the south of England earlier this year brought home the apparent contradiction between our reliance on water to survive, and our fear of the devastation it can cause.

It’s an issue typical of those tackled by water@leeds, a multidisciplinary research group established in 2008. Recognised globally for its research, its expertise is sought by Government, land-management bodies, NGOs, businesses and academic partners.

Research fellow Dr John Marsham’s work on weather patterns and rainfall processes, has taken him from fieldwork in the Sahara to flying – literally – into the heart of a storm. He examined the UK floods: “From December to March we had a series of storms. It wasn’t any particular event that gave us the rainfall.

“The jetstream, which normally moves around, was unusually stationary and delivered these storms straight to the UK, one after another. The rain was incredibly persistent and that meant the flooding was very persistent too.”

Despite the headlines, large-scale flooding remains rare in the UK and this makes the statistics difficult to interpret, even for the experts. Records show that the south’s winter was the wettest on record, with the two previous largest totals occurring in winters from the 1900s and 1980s. The 2013-14 winter was about 20 per cent wetter than during the 1900s record, and 10 per cent wetter than that from the 1980s. But 10 per cent more rain doesn’t necessarily mean 10 per cent more homes flooded – it could be a lot more.

“Small changes in volume and frequencies of rainfall have big impacts in the extremes, in the same way that a one degree change in global warming can drastically shift the likelihood of a heatwave,” says John. “The same amount of rainfall can cause different sorts of floods depending on the water table, how saturated the ground is and how full the rivers are.”

Our changing climate was again in the news recently, after a UN report gave stark warnings about rising sea levels, more heatwaves and heavy rain, and a threat to food stocks and crop yields. At the same time, a House of Commons committee accused scientists of giving mixed messages, and called for more clarity on the issue.

Yet for John, “the right question to ask is not whether these particular floods were caused by climate change, but whether this type of weather is now more likely.”
“If you roll a loaded dice once and you get a six, you can’t say whether that six was caused by the dice being loaded – or by sheer chance. But with many throws of the dice, you will get more sixes. And that’s a good analogy for rainfall. You can’t say this single period of rain was caused by climate change, but you can say that it increases the likelihood of heavy rainfall overall.

There are some really fundamental, basic physical reasons for that – when the air gets warmer, it can hold more water and you get more intense rain. Interestingly, this gives around 10 per cent more intense rain per degree of warming, so our recent record floods are consistent with a changing climate.

“Climate change has loaded the dice.”

The need for a change both in attitude and behaviour is central to the work of Professor of Water and Environmental Engineering Nigel Wright (PhD Mechanical Engineering 1988) who has spent almost 20 years studying fluid dynamics and flooding. His team is working on a series of research projects which they hope will help inform future Government policy – and enable homes and businesses to better prepare for flooding.

We will definitely get more heavy rainfall in the future, says Nigel. “Just admitting that it will happen is a big step. Once we have done that, we can reduce the chances of flooding and we can also reduce the consequences.”

But for Nigel, focusing solely on climate change risks neglecting other significant causes of flooding, such as urbanisation and economic growth: “We are moving into cities more and more and a lot of developments, particularly in parts of Asia, are unplanned, so there is no real thought given to flood alleviation.”

He led a Leeds project which created a “vulnerability index” to show which world cities were most at risk from flooding. They showed that Shanghai, in China, is more vulnerable than much poorer cities.
Developers could build houses slightly higher, with concrete floors rather than floorboards, and with electricity cables embedded at waist height rather than in the floors. “We become resilient by saying it’s going to happen but we’ll be able to get back fairly quickly”. For the people in Somerset, right now it’s about bouncing back – and as a nation we’re not especially good at that.

Interestingly, Nigel’s major bugbear is sandbags, which don’t stop water, and are no more than a temporary solution inherited from the First World War trenches. Curved plastic door barriers are a much more effective way of keeping the water out; the simple step of installing a return valve on your toilet avoids the misery of sewage backing up into homes.

Dredging rivers is also only ever a temporary solution to rising water levels, he adds, because the river will eventually just dump fresh sediment back in.

Nigel’s Blue-Green City project (see Blue-Green Cities sidebar) is looking at how to reduce the risk of flooding in urban areas, from pavement surfaces to vegetation cover, and shows how community action can make a huge difference.

But while we can be physically better equipped to deal with extreme rainfall, Nigel says that the recent events show we’re not well prepared mentally for flooding. And while the potential health impacts of dirty water cannot be ignored, he stresses that in the UK, the biggest health impact of flooding is actually psychological because the event itself is traumatic, and the aftermath – cleaning up and dealing with the insurance claim – can be even worse.

“Radios and phones with spare batteries are the obvious choice for the flood emergency kit, but it’s just as important to make sure your family photographs are safe. Flooding is traumatic, but if you lose all these things that are emotionally important to you, then the impact goes on for longer.”

such as Dhaka in Bangladesh. Others highly vulnerable to flood included Hong Kong and Jakarta: “These are all cities that are getting bigger and developing rapidly,” he stresses.

“Vulnerability is a complex issue,” Nigel explains. “It is not just about your exposure to flooding, but the effect it actually has on communities and how much a major flood disrupts economic activity. Our index looks at how cities are prepared for the worst – for example, do they have flood defences, do they have buildings that are easy to clean up and repair? And as the international economy becomes so much more interconnected, these problems impact on greater numbers of people.”

Asked if more could be done at national level about urban flood risk, he says: “We can always do more, but we have to spend more. It’s what we do in these periods in between the floods, when there isn’t a strong focus on it, that’s important.”
DEPARTMENT ROUND-UP

CHEMISTRY
Early life on Earth may have been created by natural reactions in hydrothermal vents on the ocean floor, according to work at Leeds. When researchers successfully replicated the chemical processes that occur in these natural “fuel cells,” they found evidence of electrical energy generated by reactions between hydrothermal fuels and seawater oxidants. Their findings shed light on how a biological metabolism could have been kick-started to form the Earth’s first organisms.

EDUCATION
The School has launched a new online journal dedicated to research and scholarship. “Hillary Place Papers” follows in the footsteps of “Interchange,” the School’s paper publication of the 1980s and 1990s. Aimed at individuals in education including teachers, researchers and theorists, the journal will bring readers a range of articles from students and academics world-wide, as well as commentaries and book reviews. The first edition is available to view online at hpp.education.leeds.ac.uk/ and includes five articles from members of staff.

FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION
As the new Leadership Chair of Lipid Biophysics, Professor Michael Rappolt will focus on characterising crystallisation processes in food, investigating colloid interfaces, and determining particle structures on the nanoscale by applying standard X-ray as well as Synchrotron light based techniques. Professor Rappolt is a leading authority on the structure and dynamics of lipid membranes and their potential applications for drug delivery and food. “Improving nanostructural data retrieval and data analysis is an evergreen research topic,” he says, “I’ve developed important strategies to understand membrane structure, rigidity and curvature,” Future projects will concentrate on the sustained release of food components and the investigation of nanofoods on a smaller (nanometre) and faster (micro-second) scale.

GEOGRAPHY
A “live fast, die young” strategy could be the cause of the high tree diversity of Amazon rain forests. A key component of the diversity of these ecosystems is the existence of some highly species-rich genera of trees. Work by Dr Tim Baker suggests that the reason for the high diversity of these groups is that they have short generation times. “They all seem to share a life history strategy where they live fast and die young,” explains Dr Baker. “They are able to pump through the generations very quickly and are therefore more easily able to adapt to new environmental conditions. As a result, these groups have generated more species over geological time.”

LAW
The University’s N8 Policing Research Partnership was awarded £50,000 by the College of Policing to further links between academics and police forces. The funding created a regional network for evidence-based policing, meaning that police methods for tackling crime could be evaluated. Academics worked with officers to build their knowledge of evidence-based research, enabling them to start research in their own areas of expertise. Professor Adam Crawford (PhD Law 1998) notes that, “it was a great opportunity for us to do something innovative to generate an evidence-base of high quality research on which policing professionals can draw.”

HISTORY
The history of the post-war fashion business is being explored by Professor Regina Lee Blaszczyk, Leadership Chair in the History of Business and Society. She is at the helm of a project looking at how fashion as a cultural form crosses international boundaries. “The Enterprise of Culture: International Structures and Connections in the Fashion Industry Since 1945” sees Leeds collaborating with European universities and museums to explore cultural encounters through the lens of the fashion business. These relationships occur throughout the industry, from links between style labs and the high street, to the progression of fashion from manufacturer to retailer.

LEEDS UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL
The Business School is working with Marks & Spencer on new research into innovation in international business models. With a £200,000 grant, researchers will explore a range of retail operating models, such as franchise partnerships or joint ventures in emerging markets. The research will determine the drivers of success and will be informed by Marks & Spencer’s growing international business presence. LUBS will apply M&S’s understanding of
international markets and mimic its adaptable approach to working in different territories.

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

The School is testing a revolutionary liquid-cooled computer server which could do away with power-hungry fans that currently cool electronics. All the components of the new Icetope server are completely immersed in liquid and could reduce by up to 97 per cent the huge electricity requirements demanded by traditional internet servers. UK company Icetope designed and built its new server alongside a Leeds team led by Dr Jon Summers (Mathematics 1987). “The liquid we use is extraordinary,” says Dr Summers, “you could throw your mobile in it and the phone would work perfectly.” Watch this happen at http://bit.ly/ Q8RGNB

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Researchers have discovered that mutations in a specific gene are responsible for a hereditary form of skin cancer every year, with 1 in 20 having a strong family history of the disease. The new research will allow dermatologists to identify patients at risk and screen them regularly for early detection. The team, funded by Cancer Research UK and the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, also observed that there were cases of other types of cancer within families with these hereditary mutations.

“Our research is a prime example of how genomics can transform public health,” says Professor Julia Newton Bishop, senior co-author of the study.

PERFORMANCE AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

In April, the School hosted The Digital Bodies and Avatars Symposium. Four speakers from the field of dance and performance, including Leeds’ Professor of Performance and Technology Sita Popat (PhD Performance and Cultural Industries 2001), presented their research on movement within digital media. Professor Popat, who has choreographed dancers, robots and digital “sprites,” is involved heavily in the interrelationship between performers and computers. She is currently co-editing a book on Digital Movement for Palgrave.

PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

A 12-year study has revealed that the Milky Way galaxy has four spiral arms containing young, massive stars. The results apparently contradict the findings from NASA’s Spitzer Space Telescope which suggested it had only two. Astronomers cannot directly see the shape of the Milky Way because Earth and its people are on the inside, looking out. Instead, they use the infrared light emitted by stars to calculate the galaxy’s shape and size. The Spitzer study used only cooler, lower mass stars, like the Sun which do indeed appear to occupy only two arms. However, with the use of several radio-telescopes based all over the world to follow-up a sample of infrared sources, the Leeds study was able to observe 1,650 massive stars in the process of forming. From this, researchers were able to determine their distribution across four spiral arms and reaffirm the original picture of the four-armed Milky Way.

PROCESS & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

A new £7 million centre at the University will lead UK research in manufacturing advanced chemical products. The Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) in Complex Particulate Products and Processes will fund 50 new research students in a field targeted by the Government as a growth area for the economy. The Centre’s work will focus on “micro encapsulation,” a means of better targeting the active chemicals which are used in products from pharmaceuticals to toiletries. “The CDT will provide us with a fantastic opportunity to enhance our support to the high value formulated chemical products sector,” says Professor Biggs.

SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL POLICY

Tracy Shildrick, Professor of Sociology and Social Policy, has been awarded a British Academy Prize for her collaborative writing on poverty in Britain. Tracy and her co-authors won the Peter Townsend Policy Press Prize for their work “Poverty and Insecurity: life in low-pay, no-pay Britain,” Their research focused on men and women in Teesside from old working-class communities and now face drastically reduced employment opportunities.

LEEDS IS ONE OF ONLY 18 UK UNIVERSITIES TO APPEAR IN THE TOP 100 OF THE QS WORLD RANKINGS (2013) WHICH LIST THE WORLD’S LEADING UNIVERSITIES

20 LEEDS ACADEMICS HAVE BEEN AWARDED NATIONAL TEACHING FELLOWSHIPS – MORE THAN ANY OTHER INSTITUTION IN ENGLAND, NORTHERN IRELAND AND WALES – REFLECTING THE EXCELLENCE OF OUR TEACHING. LEEDS IS ALSO A TOP 10 UNIVERSITY FOR RESEARCH POWER IN THE UK ACCORDING TO THE 2008 RESEARCH ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

DEPARTMENT ROUND-UP
A HISTORY OF PHILANTHROPY

MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Through gifts large and small we have already raised over £45 million for our Making a World of Difference campaign.

These funds aren’t sitting in the bank. They are supporting our students, our research, and our capacity to impact on some of the big global issues of our time.

Take social exclusion. We know that many young people of troubled or disadvantaged backgrounds might never consider higher education. Through your support we have expanded our work to raise aspirations in schools and communities. For those who come to Leeds, we have vastly extended the financial and practical support we offer.

You are better placed than anyone to understand what a difference a university education can make; through the Campaign you are realising our ambition to ensure that background is no barrier to progress. You have helped create opportunities for our students – scholarships to develop as researchers, athletes, entrepreneurs, community volunteers – to fulfil their potential wherever that lies.

Or take human health for people with diabetes and heart disease the prognosis is bleak. Work at Leeds could change this, and alumni support will help this work go faster.

These are a couple of examples, and you can read about others in the pages of this issue. A £60 million target for our first major fundraising drive since 1925 is ambitious – but with your support we are edging ever closer to that goal. The question now is, why wouldn’t we do more of this?

To find out more about the campaign visit www.campaign.leeds.ac.uk

BUILDING ON STRONG FOUNDATIONS

THE LEEDS CAMPUS IS A HISTORY OF SUPPORT BUILT IN STONE. WE OWE EVERYTHING TO OUR ALUMNI AND THE PEOPLE OF YORKSHIRE

Did you think university fundraising was relatively new for Leeds? In fact philanthropy is in the University’s DNA, and its history is visible in the buildings across campus.

Philanthropy was there at the start: in 1831, ten local doctors and surgeons each gave £5 to establish Leeds Medical School. In 1872 former Lord Mayor of Leeds Sir Andrew Fairbairn gave £1,000 to begin the fundraising for the Yorkshire College of Science, and many other local benefactors soon followed suit.

By the time the two merged in 1884, the College had received a gift of £10,000 from The Worshipful Company of Clothworkers to fund a new building for a department of Textile Industries. The Company continues to play a key role in the University today.

The Yorkshire community was essential to the College’s growth, helping to raise £60,000 for a new Medical School and a Great Hall, with the support of Liberal MP Edward Baines.

This paved the way for the University’s foundation in 1904, and as the new University grew, its facilities were put under pressure. Leaders again turned to the people of Yorkshire to help. Archive film, recently uncovered, sets out the noble aims of the 1925 fundraising campaign, launched at a public meeting by the Duke of York, later King George VI: “Men and women of Leeds and of Yorkshire help to make the University worthy of its great tasks, worthy of its great achievements, worthy of your great county.”

Local people were moved by this appeal to civic pride; gifts of all sizes – cash and precious metals – poured...
in, and in 12 months the appeal raised £300,000 (around £10 million in today’s prices). One letter, received from a local citizen who gave two shillings and sixpence declared: “My imagination has been touched.”

By this time, industrialist and politician Lord Edward Brotherton had made several gifts to the University, and during the 1925 appeal he pledged £100,000 to fund the new library that would see him recognised as one of the University’s greatest benefactors. Soon after, he pledged to leave his private library to the University. On his death in 1930, this bequest and a legacy of £100,000 underpinned the creation – and continuing expansion – of the University’s Brotherton Collection.

Around the same time, clothing magnate Montague Burton made his first gift, endowing a Chair in Industrial Relations. His impact can still be seen through the lectureships he established and the halls of residence named in his honour. His son Stanley and daughter-in-law Helen established and the halls of residence named in his honour. His son Stanley and daughter-in-law Helen established and the halls of residence named in his honour.

Making A World of Difference is our first campaign since 1925 and continues this tradition, not least through the naming of the Laidlaw Library in recognition of Lord Laidlaw’s £9m gift. Lord Laidlaw has also funded a series of scholarships to ensure that the best students can study at Leeds, regardless of their financial circumstances. This adds to a growing number of alumni-funded scholarships, not least our Centenary Alumni Scholarships. Funded by alumni gifts to the Footsteps Fund, they enable outstanding students to study at Leeds, despite challenging financial circumstances. The huge range of scholarships means that the support of alumni and friends isn’t just reflected in our buildings, but our students too.

Remembering Leeds – Legacies to the University of Leeds 1878-Present

From the University’s origins, many generous alumni, staff and friends have remembered Leeds with a legacy. Recognising the impact their gifts have had – and in many cases continue to have, we have created two special books listing benefactors, from the first recorded legacy in 1878 to the present day. We add new legacies to the books when we receive them, unless the donor has expressed a wish for anonymity.

A leather-bound, handwritten book is displayed in Parkinson Court. If you’re coming to campus and would like to have a closer look at the book, let us know. There’s also an online version on the Leeds Alumni website.

If you’re thinking about remembering Leeds in your Will and would like some information or advice you can contact Carole Bartholomew on 0113 343 2347 or at c.bartholomew@adm.leeds.ac.uk, or visit alumni.leeds.ac.uk/legacies

Tom’s Dream Takes Off

Tom Goodfellow always dreamed of studying Aerospace Engineering, but because he thought jobs in that field were scarce, he didn’t apply for it straight away. Funded by alumni donations to the Footsteps Fund, a Centenary Alumni Scholarship gave Tom the confidence to apply for the course he really wanted. Now at Leeds Tom has become a STEM Ambassador, getting school children involved in Engineering. To hear Tom talk about his scholarship, visit bit.ly/t1FRad
FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ALUMNI ANNUAL LECTURE 2014

UNLIKELY ACTION, UNEXPECTED CONSEQUENCES: LEEDS' ROLE IN BREAST CANCER BREAKTHROUGH – THE TAMOXIFEN TALE


Saturday 25 October
11.30am-12.30pm Rupert Beckett Lecture Theatre, Michael Sadler Building, University of Leeds

This year’s alumni lecture will be given by Professor Craig Jordan, Scientific Director and Vice-Chairman of Oncology, Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Georgetown. Known as the ‘Father of Tamoxifen’ Craig was the first to discover the breast cancer prevention properties of tamoxifen, the drug which, over the last couple of decades, has saved the lives of millions of women.

Craig will share his fascinating story from unlikely student at Leeds to his international recognition as one of the top oncologists of all time.

The lecture is free to attend but booking is essential. Admission is by ticket only. Booking and further details at alumni.leeds.ac.uk/CraigJordan

SEP 2014

ALUMNI LOUNGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OPEN DAY

Saturday 13 September
1pm – 3.30pm The Great Hall, 1913 Room, University of Leeds

Are your children coming to one of our open days? Join us at the Alumni Lounge for complimentary tea and cakes while relaxing in this peaceful room at the heart of campus.

Further details at alumni.leeds.ac.uk/openday

CELEBRATE THE MAGIC OF WIMBLEDON

Friday 19 September
5pm – 10pm The All England Lawn Tennis Club, Wimbledon, London

An exclusive visit to the home of the remarkable Wimbledon Championships.

Take a behind-the-scene guided tour of the Wimbledon grounds, visit the award-winning Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum and enjoy a three course dinner in the Champions Room with fellow Leeds graduates including Mick Desmond (Public Media 1981), Commercial Director, All England Lawn Tennis Club who will give a unique glimpse into the activities behind the most famous tennis championships in the world.

Cost: £65 per person. Booking and further information at alumni.leeds.ac.uk/wimbledon

PUBLIC LECTURE: HARNESING MEDICAL SCIENCE FOR GOOD

Tuesday 23 September
5pm Conference Auditorium 1, University of Leeds

Speaker: Professor Sir John Tooke, Vice-Provost (Health) and Head of School of Life & Medical Sciences and the Medical School, University College London.

Sir John is also President of the Academy of Medical Sciences. This public lecture is free to attend but booking is essential.

For further details and to book email Vicki Harper (v.l.harper@leeds.ac.uk)

OCT 2014

ALUMNI LOUNGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OPEN DAY

Saturday 11 October
1pm – 3pm The Great Hall, 1913 Room, University of Leeds

Are your children coming to one of our open days? Join us at the Alumni Lounge for complimentary tea and cakes while relaxing in this peaceful room at the heart of campus.

Further details at alumni.leeds.ac.uk/openday

ALUMNI ANNUAL LECTURE: UNLIKELY ACTION, UNEXPECTED CONSEQUENCES: LEEDS' ROLE IN BREAST CANCER BREAKTHROUGH – THE TAMOXIFEN TALE

V Craig Jordan OBE

Saturday 25 October
11.30am – 12.30pm

For full details see sidebar
ALUMNI ANNUAL LUNCH

Saturday 25 October
12.45pm University House,
University of Leeds

A three-course alumni lunch at University House hosted by the Vice-Chancellor and attended by V Craig Jordan OBE will follow the lecture at 12.45 pm. Booking is essential.

Cost: £30 per person. Booking and further information at alumni.leeds.ac.uk/CraigJordan

LEEDS 2 LONDON PUB NIGHT

Thursday 30 October
6.30pm – 8.30pm The Yorkshire Grey pub, 2 Theobald’s Road, London

Alumni from all over London come together for our popular London night. Drop in for a drink and you’ll end up staying all evening enjoying the company.

Booking and further details at alumni.leeds.ac.uk/london-pub-night

HONG KONG ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER

Wednesday 12th or Wednesday 19th November (TBC)
7pm Hong Kong Football Club

All Leeds alumni in Hong Kong are invited to our annual dinner. Meet fellow graduates and Leeds staff over food and drink and talk Leeds!

Further details: alumni.leeds.ac.uk/hongkong

FROM BEST TO BETTER – AROUND BRITAIN IN A DOZEN BEERS

Wednesday 26 November
6.30pm – 8.30pm Parkinson Building
B.08, University of Leeds

Award-winning beer writer Simon Jenkins gives a potted history of British brewing, with rambling anecdotes, trivia and twelve beers to sample, from the light and gentle to the dangerously strong.

Cost: £15 per person. Booking and further details at alumni.leeds.ac.uk/beer-tasting

LEEDS ALUMNI MEDIA GROUP

Tuesday 11 November
6.30pm – 8.30pm Foundation Bar, Covent Garden, London

Alumni working in journalism and the media are invited to our annual networking event. This popular event is free to attend but booking is essential.

Booking and further details at alumni.leeds.ac.uk/media-group-2014

NOV 2014

LUOSA YORKSHIRE FESTIVE LUNCH

Thursday 11 December
12.15pm Devonshire Hall,
Cumberland Road, Leeds

Leeds University Old Students’ Association holds its annual lunch with festive food. Guest speaker will be Sir Alan Langlands, Vice-Chancellor.

Further details: www.alumni.leeds.ac.uk/luosa

REUNIONS

Thinking about organising a reunion? Visit our reunion page for more information and details of class reunions coming up: alumni.leeds.ac.uk/reunions

ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS

We have a number of active alumni groups both in the UK and around the world. For UK associations visit alumni.leeds.ac.uk/luosa or for international associations visit alumni.leeds.ac.uk/international

MORE INFORMATION

A full programme of events and reunions can be found on our events page alumni.leeds.ac.uk/events
Professor Mark Kearney is on the cusp of a potentially life-saving new treatment for heart disease in people with diabetes. But he needs your urgent help to fund his work here at the University of Leeds.

YOU CAN HELP ME TO BEAT HEART DISEASE RIGHT HERE AT LEEDS ❤

To give £3, £5 or £10 via your mobile, text MARK00 £3, MARK00 £5, or MARK00 £10 to 70070.

To post your donation, please fill in the Your News Form enclosed with this issue and return it in the envelope provided.

Alternatively, if you are in the USA please visit alumni.leeds.ac.uk/savelivesatleeds-usa to give your gift.

The University of Leeds is an exempt charity under Schedule 2 of the Charities Act 1993. Our reference number with the Charities Division of HM Revenue and Customs is X6861. Texts are charged at your carrier’s rate, in addition to your donation, and you must have the permission of the person who pays the bill in order to text. Text donations are handled by Justgiving in partnership with Vodafone so that 100% of your donation is received by the Footsteps Fund.