In September the University’s agenda for community relations was moved to the Sustainability Service. The move comes at an exciting time - the Sustainability Service will be launching a new strategy in the autumn which looks more broadly at what a sustainable University comprises. The move provides a great opportunity to look more broadly at how the University can work to be a positive partner in the City.

Working in partnership with Leeds University Union, Leeds City Council and Police will continue be key to my role in integrating our students in to local communities. The Get to Know Your Neighbour campaign is a great example of our collaborative working. The campaign aims to make students more aware that they are living amongst an already established community and to foster a greater sense of community for all residents. In October, a team of volunteers from Leeds University Union were joined by officers from Leeds City Council, Police and myself in visiting 895 households in two target areas of Hyde Park and Headingley which are most populated by our students. We are currently in the process of analysing this year’s Neighbourhood Helpline data, but we are confident that the campaign will have successfully reduced issues such as noise nuisance.

I have worked closely for a number of years with the Sustainability Team, Residential Services and Estates on the Community Relations agenda - relationships which will be strengthened through my move to the Sustainability Team. Collaborative projects already include our support to three Neighbourhood Plan’s currently in their development, looking at how we build on the success of our award winning Sustainability Garden and biodiversity work to benefit local green spaces and the Future of Food and Wise Waste event. Keep watching this space for further collaborative projects already in their development!

Follow this link to view our new video highlighting the scope of Sustainability at the University:
http://youtu.be/QMbG_ZNfxBc
SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS 2014

On Tuesday 17th June we celebrated our annual University of Leeds Sustainability Awards. The event was a great success, with staff and student members from all across campus, plus some of our external partners.

The first awards of the evening were the Sustainability Awards presented by the Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands. These were awarded to inspiring, innovative and hard-working staff and students who have contributed to sustainability at the University.

Using the key themes of the upcoming Sustainability Strategy, the awards covered a wide scope of actions and ideas, from the collaborative organisation award to the positive partner in the community award. We received nominations from across the whole campus, and with so many exciting ideas and actions taking place the task of picking the winners was very difficult!

Sarah Bradbury won the positive partner in the community award for her outreach work on the 'Schools Out' project which worked this year with 4 local inner city primary schools to improve children's understanding of biodiversity. Focusing on the role of bees the event included role play, interactive games, and practical activities such as making a bee hotel. Not only was the project engaging and fun for the children involved, but it also provided them with an opportunity to be exposed to higher education.

LEEDS WELCOMES UK'S LARGEST TEACHER TRAINING CONFERENCE

The University of Leeds and Leeds Metropolitan University joined forced to welcome just under 3,000 new teachers as we hosted the Teach First annual residential training event for two weeks in July. As the UK's largest teacher training event, it brought together universities and schools to ensure that the expertise of those working across education is shared with those set to go into classrooms serving disadvantaged communities up and down the country. This year, Teach First will be placing an additional 162 teachers in the poorest areas of the region including 23 new teachers in the most disadvantaged areas of Leeds.

Sir Alan Langlands, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leeds said: “The Teach First Summer Institute represents a real coup for the city of Leeds. We have a common objective with Teach First and Leeds Metropolitan University – to address educational disadvantage and inequality. Like them, we have worked hard and made substantial investments to achieve progress in this area.”

Director of Leadership for Teach First, Reuben Moore, said: “Education in England continues to be a postcode lottery for children from poorer families, particularly in areas of Leeds. Through our own work in challenging schools, we know that bringing high quality graduates and career changers into the teaching profession is key to addressing this problem. As a result, we are incredibly proud of the way that Teach First has played a crucial role in ensuring that teaching in challenging circumstances is now seen as the most prestigious and popular destination for the country's best graduates; a fact that is reflected in the massive scale of Teach First's largest and most ambitious teacher training event in partnership with Leeds Universities.”
THE FUTURE OF FOOD AND WISE WASTE

On the 9th May the Sustainability Service joined forces with the Leeds Food HUB, Leeds City Council, Leeds University Union and Marks & Spencer to hold The Future of Food & Wise Waste event on campus. On the day staff and students were able to visit a range of educational displays which provided information on how we are designing, securing and solving the future of food and waste here at Leeds.

This included the opportunity to meet some of our campus bees, watch live cooking demos to use up cupboard basics, pick up some wildflower seeds and see firsthand some of the plants which make up our everyday meals.

The teams who work on these problems day to day were on hand to answer any questions. All were more than happy to talk about this fascinating subject area.

Alongside the event, we also run a food collection with the support of Catering to help the growing number of people in Leeds who are living in food poverty. Staff and students were encouraged to think about the food they waste and to donate their unwanted non-perishable food items to a local food banks to distribute to people who are struggling to make ends meet.

Our thanks go to the staff and students who donated over 250 food items which have now been passed to the Real Junk Food Project to distribute to local people.

UNIVERSITY’S HIDDEN GEMS

The University’s Sustainability Garden and St Georges Field have been listed as two of UK’s top 50 ‘hidden city spots’ by The Independent.

The Sustainable Garden was launched in September and is a partnership between the Sustainability Team, the Grounds and Garden team and Leeds University Union. The garden offers a public space for staff, students and the local community, with wildflower areas to enhance biodiversity on campus and edible planting available to all. The garden has also been recognised in the Leeds Architecture awards winning the for Best Landscape and Public Realm award, and has been shortlisted in the coming Green Gown and 2degrees Champions awards.

Hidden in the University campus is St George’s field a pretty park with some interesting furniture left over from its previous life. Once a cemetery for the well to do of Leeds, the space has been landscaped and kept as a space for quiet contemplation. St George’s Field is an important piece of Leeds’ Victorian history and is the resting place for some notable people including local artist John Atkinson Grimshaw and Pablo Fanque, the first black circus proprietor in Britain.

Enjoy this and other hidden gems on campus. Download our biodiversity campus walks leaflet: http://goo.gl/I8krer

Alternatively, join one of UTravelActive’s lunch time walks staring again on the 5th October: http://goo.gl/z2vW2y
STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS RECOGNISED BY LEEDSFORLIFE AWARDS 2014

Seven awards were presented at this year’s LeedsforLife Citizenship awards recognising the student volunteers who have made an outstanding contribution to society.

The Community Award went to Amy Hewitt and Caroline Donnelly whom volunteered with youth focused organisation CATCH (Community Action To Change Harehills) to establish a girls group, working especially with Eastern European girls who were new to the area.

The Education Award was presented to Cordelia Newbury for her work with the society Teddy Bear Hospital providing basic health education for 4-10 year olds in West Yorkshire. The society has provided free health education to 1,000 children this year alone.

Issy Croneen and Hannah Crane from the Women’s Hockey Club were this year’s Sport and Wellbeing Award winners based on their work with six local primary schools to teach hockey which culminates with a Quick Sticks festival at Weetwood.

This year’s Environment Award winner is Conor Walsh for his volunteer work with The Real Junk Food Project. Connor is a co-director of the company and has created links with companies to source food, co-ordinated volunteers, and runs events around the city to raise awareness of food waste.

The Leeds for Life Foundation Award went to Lucy Bailey who set up a mental health support group at the University. Weekly meetings are facilitated by trained volunteers who monitor the conversations and handle potential crisis situations.

Outstanding Project of the Year was awarded this year to WISE (Women in Social Enterprise). WISE works in partnership with local charity Together Women Project to run weekly workshops upcycling everyday objects so women can grow in confidence, gain new skills and move away from damaging lifestyles.

The Outstanding Contribution Award went to medical student Amy McCulloch. Amy is president of two societies; HOMED which has 349 members and works with homeless hostels across the city as well as Teach Drugs which offers informative advice sessions in schools focusing on alcohol and drugs misuse. Amy is also a trustee for a Romanian orphanage.
CRIME REDUCTION: KNOWLEDGE REPS VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMME

The Knowledge volunteering scheme is a collaborative programme between the Knowledge crime reduction campaign, the University of Leeds and the West Yorkshire Police. It was set up to support the West Yorkshire Police’s Operation Optimal, twinning improved visibility in crime hotspot areas with proactive crime prevention information.

Their role involves peer to peer information sharing and conducting environmental audits of properties in crime hotspot areas alongside police officers and PCSOs. Come rain or shine (mostly rain!) the volunteers have been out most Monday evenings speaking to students and local residents alike and doing their bit to keep the local area safe.

Since starting in October 2013 the Knowledge reps have taken part in 23 crime prevention events, 12 of which were in hotspot crime areas. They have spoken to over 4200 students in key areas such as Leeds city centre, Hyde Park, Headingley and Woodhouse. Cumulatively they have given nearly 700 hours of their time.

Pc Matthew Guy, University of Leeds Dedicated Police Officer explains the volunteers importance to local crime reduction: “The Knowledge reps have played an absolutely vital role in helping to tackle crime in our communities and it has been a surprisingly fun experience to work alongside them. Hearing fellow University students giving out useful information about crime prevention and counselling those who have experienced problems was really powerful stuff. I’m already looking forward to September and our new group of volunteers.”

UNIVERSITY CRIME REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP COMMENDED BY POLICE

Leeds’ Crime Prevention Advisor Andrew Gordon Platt and Residential Property Manager Mike Leonard have been commended by West Yorkshire Police for their work in reducing crime against students. They received a commendation award from the West Yorkshire Police Leeds District Chief Superintendent for their promotion of a partnership approach to crime reduction.

University Security Services and Residential Services have been working for a number of years in partnership with other local organisations, including Leeds University Union, West Yorkshire Police, Unipol Student Homes, and Safer Leeds.

The partnership has developed a number of highly-praised student safety initiatives, such as the Knowledge campaign, student-coordinated Neighbourhood Watch schemes, and a Neighbourhood Policing scheme. As a result, student safety in residences, on the campus, and in the wider North-West area of Leeds has improved dramatically.
SHAKESPEARE’S FIRST FOLIO GOES ONLINE
A priceless First Folio of Shakespeare’s plays is now available online, following months of painstaking digitisation work at the University’s Library.

The First Folio is one of the most important publications in the history of the English language, gathering Shakespeare’s work together in one volume for the first time.

Although 230 copies of the First Folio exist worldwide, only 40 are in Britain and just two are in Yorkshire. To mark the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare’s birth, the University has opened this historic work for all. Support from the University’s Footsteps Fund has allowed the fragile 900 pages of the Folio to be photographed and made available online at http://goo.gl/rjJxiH

NEW BOATHOUSE FOR LEEDS ROWING CLUB
Money has been secured from Sport England, British Rowing and the University of Leeds to build a new boathouse in Leeds. The Boathouse, which is a partnership between the University of Leeds and Leeds Rowing Club, will be based at Thwaites Mill on the Aire Calder Navigation.

Leeds is one of three priority cities for British Rowing and the University of Leeds will play a key role in supporting their aims to get more people into the sport. The Boathouse will be home to the University Rowing team and will provide an excellent facility from which to train and compete. The project is nearing completion and will be officially opened in September.

A FAIRTRADE UNIVERSITY
The University has again shown its commitment to promoting and supporting Fairtrade as our bi-annual Fairtrade Craft Fair attracts even more stalls operated by approved groups, staff, and local companies. The Fair began in 2007 with 15 stalls but has now grown to over 30 stalls and the donations have contributed towards various projects, such as medical equipment for the Windward Islands Farmers’ Association (WINFA). This year’s event took place during Fairtrade Fortnight and offered a wide spectrum of Fairtrade and Homemade Crafts: delicious cakes, jewellery, hand-knitted clothing, skincare products, plants, cufflinks, hats, shawls, recipe tips and much more. University The University of Leeds was first awarded Fairtrade University status in 2005 by the Fairtrade Foundation.
LEEDS GETS A TASTE OF HISTORY WITH THE LEEDS INTERNATIONAL MEDIEVAL CONGRESS

Two thousand of the world’s most knowledgeable medievalists, including historian and TV broadcaster Michael Wood, descended on the University for this year’s International Medieval Congress held Monday 7 July – Thursday 10 July. This year marks the 21st annual International Medieval Congress, where the people of Leeds were invited join in with a series of public lectures and a range of different medieval activities including exclusive excursions to sites of historical interest, performances, practical workshop, historical crafts, medieval food and much more!

Whether it’s the hype surrounding Game of Thrones, the debate concerning the location of important medieval battlegrounds across the country or the regional in-fighting to secure the remains of King Richard III, this year interest in the medieval world is at an all-time high and the Congress offers an opportunity to sample that world.

In the past 20 years, The International Medieval Congress at University of Leeds has presented over 21,000 papers to over 12,000 visitors, bringing more than £10 million into the city and surrounding areas. This year the programme has more than 1700 participants from more than 50 countries.

Director of the International Medieval Congress at University of Leeds, Axel Müller said: “The public are encouraged to come along and get involved in this medieval extravaganza. There are numerous events for people to join in and experience medieval culture, craft and cuisine.”

DEVONSHIRE HALL HIGHLY COMMENDED

Devonshire Hall was recently selected as one of 61 businesses out of 2,400 to be nominated for a Green Tourism Goldstar Award for 2013. The annual awards honour organisations that have done the most to promote sustainability within the industry. Devonshire was shortlisted in the Campus Accommodation category, and there was strong competition from Josephine Butler College, Durham; Pollock Halls, Edinburgh and University College, Durham, who have been Green Tourism members for a number of years.

A combination of the Devonshire team’s enthusiasm and hard work secured the site a second place award and a highly commended award for all their achievements to-date. Ian Robertson, Head of Residential Accommodation, paid tribute to the work accomplished by staff at the site so far, and recognised Devonshire’s award was a testament to their commitment to sustainability. It is notable that Devonshire Hall was recognised ahead of residence managed and operated by other Universities.
DISCOVER ART @ THE STANLEY AND AUDREY BURTON GALLERY

Parkinson Building, 7, 14, 28th August 10am-2.30pm

Free, fun-packed, hands-on four day art course for 7 to 11 year olds with the Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery and professional artist Jennyanne Smith. To book your places please order through our online booking system: discover-art.eventbrite.co.uk

GARDENING IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

Worsley Medical Lecture Theatre, Room 7.35, 17th September, 7-8pm

In this joint talk by the Yorkshire RMetS centre and the Royal Horticulture Society, Paul will address how a changing climate is expected to impact the way we garden.

MEET THE AUTHORS

Location TBA, 23rd October, 5-8pm

The Business Confucius Institute's forthcoming ‘Meet the Authors’ event with international bestselling author, Jung Chang who will be discussing her extraordinary publication ‘Empress Dowager CIX’:

lubswww.leeds.ac.uk/confucius/events

FT MASTERCLASS LECTURE WITH DR DAVID CHAFFEY

Location TBA, 15th October, 5.30-8pm

Dr Dave Chaffey will use examples and case studies showing how companies have used digital media to help grow their business:

business.leeds.ac.uk/news-events/

MARKS AND SPENCER COMPANY

Michael Marks Building, Monday-Saturday, 10am-5pm

Housed in the Marks and Spencer Company Archive, the Marks in Time Exhibition is a collection of over 70,000 items which explore how M&S has impacted on the social history of Britain:

marksintime.marksandspencer.com