

# iLUUminator

LUU Staff Newsletter | October 2009

Leeds University Union.

Booming Bardon

2

Aidans Column

3

Spotlight on Joblink

3

Who loves Mark Whalburg?

4

## Staff Competition Capture the action

Here's Carys Jones and George Bush (aka James Robertson) from the CDS office making the dull job of an office tidy-up a bit more entertaining. Tell us your caption that fits the photo and describes what it's like working at LUU. The best caption will receive £25 of high street shopping vouchers.

Entries should be submitted to Georgina Wood in the HR and Admin office in writing or on email [g.c.wood@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:g.c.wood@leeds.ac.uk). The closing dates for applications is 30th November 2009 (only one entry per person please).



Carys Jones and George Bush

## Old bar gets tasty...

The Old Bar opened their new food service in September much to everyone's delight. The Old Bar has been open since 1939 and now the team have put together a new range of high value, low cost meals that will put a smile on your face without putting a strain on your wallet. If you're after a quick

lunchtime visit or a meal after work, they offer a good quality, affordable menu. Don't panic, veteran Old Bar diners will be relieved to know that chips are still an option! There'll also be daily specials and four different sharing platters perfect for your Friday night drink after work. Then there's the meat lover's platter

(modeled here by Ralph Jones from the Cleaning Department); or the veggie sharing platter. Try the mega nachos they're awesome! All food is available to take away and if you fancy bringing your children in there's plenty of choices for them too with a full kids menu available to the under tens.



Ralph tucking into a mega platter

# Staff Christmas Party!

Thursday 17th December

# THE PLAN 2014

### Our Goals:

1. We will make it easy for our members to improve their skills and enjoy new experiences.
2. We will help our members to get the support they need to make their life easier.
3. We will be giving our members more for their membership and more for your money.
4. We will work together for change on the issues that affect our members
5. We will make membership fun and exciting.
6. We will create a strong work culture that helps us help our members.
7. We will be sustainable in every way.
8. We will create a vibrant space for our members to meet other people.
9. We will build a community for all of our members.

A little over a year ago we asked a simple question. What will the Union look like in 2014? This is the story of how LUU is making some big changes.

Every five years we do an important piece of work called 'The Review'. This is a chance for us to ask some basic questions about what we do, how we do it and why. The Review mixes predicting the future with listening to what students want from their union. Santa's café gave us a good start. We got some great ideas for Christmas. Then, as the sun set on 2008, we met over 200 students who told us that they generally liked the Union, but that there were areas in which we could be better. As winter thawed in 2009 we listened carefully to 4,000 more points of view. What were students worried about? What should the Union do next? How we should do it? Suddenly we had loads of information about what our members want from their Union. Students want to do amazing things in their

Union, and that inspires a new vision to guide the Union's work between 2010 and 2014. **'Together, we will make sure that our members love their time in Leeds'**. That's it. That's what we're here to do and we're going to do it by concentrating on 9 main areas.

As the summer sun shone on 2009, ninety staff sweated and toiled to figure out how to make these nine things happen. They came up with some great ideas. Membership cards that reward students for getting involved. Redeveloping the building with more seating and social space. Using technology to keep us sustainable. Creating a hub for support and advice. These are only a few of the ideas, you can see the others all their glory at [www.leedsuniversityunion.org.uk/vision2014](http://www.leedsuniversityunion.org.uk/vision2014).

So what next? Well, we're asking students for their feedback on the plan. Students can give their feedback online or in the building using

Your Comments until 18th October. We'll listen to the feedback and make appropriate changes. Then it gets really exciting. In the November Referendum our members get to vote on whether the Union should ensure that they love their time in Leeds. If the plan is supported we will start work ready for September 2010 and the start of our new plan.

### Dates for your diary:

**Santa's Cafe**  
Thursday 10th December

**National Stress Awareness Day**  
Wednesday 4th November

**Volunteering and Community Week**  
Monday 16th November

**Referendum**  
Wednesday 25th to Monday 30th November

## Whos Who.



Charlie

### Charlotte (Charlie) Petersen

Retail Assistant Manager

**Roles & Responsibilities:**  
To oversee the running of Essentials and Extras

**What did you get up to this weekend?**  
Car shopping

**What's your favourite place in the world ever?**  
Denmark

**If you were an animal what would you be?**  
A Fly (On the wall)

**Who is your most embarrassing famous person that you fancy either now or when you were younger?**  
Mark Whalburg! (See below)

**What 5 things couldn't you live without?**  
My Family, Indian Pasanda, Showers, IT Box and Holidays

**What would your specialist subject be on Mastermind?**  
Friends

**Favourite social venue/setting?**  
My local pub, 'The Cottage Inn' in Haxby (they have an IT Box!)

**Finally, what's your life's motto?**  
If you fail to plan, you plan to fail.



## Hellos & Goodbyes...

**Ged Savva** from Marketing left us earlier this month to run his own design company. We wish Ged the best of luck in his new venture. **John Munday**, from Essentials, also left us in September after 17 years service; we wish John all the best.

Lots of past and present colleagues and friends of **Lesley Dixon** said 'Farewell' to her at her leaving party on Friday 9th October in Mine. It was a really good night with speeches, free bubbly, a few tears and a video booth. We're proud to say that a few (to remain anonymous) members of the Exec kidnapped Lesley and took her to Fruity too!

Congratulations to **Helen Stewart** from HR and Admin who had a beautiful baby girl on 1st October called Kenna.

## Bumper summer at Bardon... by Clare Hartley

The summer started well with a stall at the Kirkstall Festival selling our wares (well freshly picked veg. and plants). The yellow mange tout were not particularly popular with the veg buying public no matter how often we said they were meant to be yellow and not just manky. The stall raised a whopping £80 to buy seeds and equipment for next year and enticed a couple of locals to come along and volunteer. I'd like to think that the success was down to my lovely vegetable bunting... though restraint was shown and I didn't cover the stall in chintz (my dress doesn't count!)

On site it's been a great summer, I've eaten so many freshly picked peas I'm surprised I'm not starting to turn green. When Isabel

Swift jetted off to Uganda there was some concern (well from Cassie one of the fabulous student volunteers and I) that the site would fall into disrepair, but we managed to bumble along nicely. We had bumper crops every week and the biggest marrows I have ever seen. We've had some fabulously well attended fruit budding workshops with people coming from all over Leeds and as far away as York to find out how to get the most from their fruit trees.

A few weeks ago all the chillies, tomatoes and cucumbers were picked and preserving fun took place at Chez Isabel (yes we really are that cool). A vat of green tomato chutney was cooked up along with some experimental cucumber jam which after an unfortunate

incident with its boiling point ended up in that big jam jar in the sky. Chutney will be available to buy in the staff room nearer Christmas. I've had a fantastic time helping out at Bardon, I've learnt a lot about growing, composting and preserving, I'm just disappointed that now the nights are drawing in the Wednesday sessions start at 1pm I'll never be able to persuade James that digging in mud is helping to develop LUU democracy!

Below: The produce at the Kirkstall festival where we sold made over £80.

Get involved: Contact Isabel Swift on extension: **326** or email [i.swift@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:i.swift@leeds.ac.uk).



Fresh produce from Bardon Grange

## Finance Matters

Kevin Pearson, joined LUU in September as our Interim Finance Director. This month Kevin updates us on our Financial Statements for 2008/09 which have now been audited and were approved by the Board on the 20th October.

At the end of every year we prepare our Financial Statements to show the final financial results. We are required to have an audit of the Financial Statements to see if they give a true and fair view.

The auditors report back to our Board on any issues that they come across.

The auditors job is to check the figures and balances against relevant evidence for the year to make sure that they show an accurate picture of our financial performance and position.

**This was the first year** that the audit has been conducted by our new auditors KPMG and I am pleased to say that, following a very thorough audit, they gave us an unqualified audit report.

**In other words** KPMG were happy with our Financial Statements that show a small surplus of £8,000 for

the year and a Balance Sheet with total net assets of £4.4 million.

This gives us comfort that we are recording our finances properly which allows us to provide accurate financial information and plan for the future.

We can be extremely pleased that we made a small surplus in the year in challenging circumstances and that we have a good platform to plan for the future and deliver our new plans for 2010 to 2014.

### News in Brief:

#### Charity Work

Clare Hartley from CDS organised a group of ladies from LUU to take part in a Midnight Walk in Ilkley. The 10 mile Sue Ryder Midnight Walk raised money for Wheatfields Hospice in Headingley. The girls raised a fantastic sum of £1,057 and we're very proud of them.



Midnight Walkers

## The SPOOKY SHACK

Cats are running a spooky store in the build, up to Halloween, next to Abbey downstairs in the Union. The store is open from 19th October until the big day itself. Check it out for all your fancy dress and spooky needs!

### Web Bites

**We have almost 9,000 people registered on the new website.**

**Since the launch, www.leedsuniversityunion.org.uk has had over a million page views.**

**We have taken almost £107,000 in club and society membership fees.**



# Aidan's Column.



What a Freshers' Week! Some things never change - it's always a jolt to the system when we begin a new academic year in LUU. You know it's coming but you're never quite ready for the mass of excited people that hits our building. This year I thought we were really well prepared and that was down to everyone pulling together. At the staff meeting in September I said how every member of staff can make a difference to

a student in those first few weeks. Right across LUU I saw people making a real difference during Freshers'. I should avoid picking anyone out but...I must say that team in Gear and behind our Helpdesk have been a great example of customer service and going the extra mile.

"We're about to change and we'd love your help." This is the message we are currently taking out to students with respect to our new Plan to take us to 2014, but it applies just as much to our whole staff team. Lots of great work has gone into the draft Plan and we're going to run some more briefing sessions for staff on it during November. Whilst we've had lots of success over the past few years, a clear message with our new Plan is that we are up for more **change!**

We are familiar with change as it comes every year in our Board. This year's Executive team are having a great impact. Go and introduce yourself and find out what they're working on if you've not met them yet! Change in the senior management of LUU is less frequent but like buses, you wait long enough and two come at once. As Lesley departed, Kevin Pearson has joined us on an interim basis in the role of Finance Director.

Whether we like change or not, it is inevitable in the environment in which we work. The University has announced significant financial issues which are common across the whole Public Sector and wider economy. We need to protect our own future and financial viability is crucial to that. It is a time when you must stick to your values and for us that means being even more focused on

delivering on our members' wishes.

Thank you for your understanding during the changes in the management team and your support for the new direction we will be undertaking over the next year.

### Aidan



## Santas Cafe

Thursday 10th December in the LUU Conference Hall

## Spotlight on:

# U Joblink

We've been around for over ten years, from our humble beginnings as a notice board in the then Welfare Office to our key position in LUU's Info Point

We run two services, a job centre and an employment business, an "agency." Here's an outline of what each service does:

### The Job Centre

Ran by Lou Proctor, Lou talks to employers and encourages them to employ students. Employers send their vacancies to Lou, she gets them inputted into our website and puts a vacancy card up. Students then apply for the job directly to the employer. Lou also helps with the recruitment of LUU weekly paid staff by advertising the jobs and distributing the applications forms. She

also helps students advising them on what skills employers are looking for, where to get help and how to apply for jobs. The job centre does not charge to advertise jobs but generates some income by running recruitment fairs, direct marketing emails and meet and greet sessions for employers. If you have a job that you want to advertise ring Lou on ext. 444

### The Agency

Mostly run by **Gail Hardwick** but supported by **Lou Proctor**, the agency is a commercial operation. We find temporary workers for employers. An employer calls us with a booking, we find the right person for the job and send them to the employer, we pay the worker and then charge the employer.

Most of our temporary workers are placed within the University but we do other projects too. For example we are currently supporting a Graduate Internship Project funded by Yorkshire Forward. The range of the work of our temps is massive, here are some examples of our current workers: Post Assistants in the Mailroom, Research Assistants in Yorkshire Centre for Health Informatics, Conference Assistants for RCS and Leeds for Life Brand Managers!

If you want to hire a temp ring Gail on ext 447. Although we are a Membership Service we raise enough money by charging for the agency service to be self funding and last year

we delivered a surplus of £8,000!

**Matt Cole** is the newest addition to the team. Matt is the administrator for Joblink, he inputs jobs, makes sure that all the adverts we have are "live" and helps with applications and new starter packs.



Lou Proctor and Matt Cole