

Community Update

March 2011



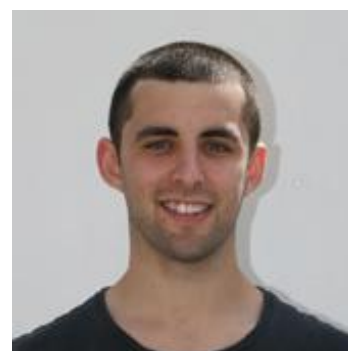
Leeds University Union (LUU)
Volunteering and Community Office

Message from Paul Gold

Community Officer at Leeds University Union

Hello everyone,

Leeds City Council are currently running a consultation on the proposed Article 4 direction on Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO's), which will mean extra planning permission will be required to turn a family house into a shared house. We believe this is an attack on students and graduates by restricting where they will be able to live, and so are opposing the legislation. If you would like to have a say in the consultation, send your enquiries to ldf@leeds.gov.uk.



Leeds University Union held a week of events during Climate Week, including cycle-powered film showings, lunch time debates, exhibitions, competitions and evening entertainment. Check the University website for more details:
<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/greenimpact/climatewk/index.html>

The week culminated in Earth Hour, 8.30pm on Saturday 26th March. This event saw millions of people from hundreds of countries simultaneously turn lights off across the globe, to show that change is possible in the face of climate change. There was a gathering outside the Parkinson Building to watch the lights be switched off, followed by celebrations in LUU.

All the best,

Paul

ACTION

Proving students can make a difference in their local communities.

March has been a busy month for ACTION, with a number of residential weekends for disadvantaged children in the area being held.



Three weekends took place over the month with children from a variety of backgrounds. Reach took 12-16 year olds with learning difficulties to Hebden Bridge and Venture took 12-15 year olds who are known to social services to Silverdale. The Outdoor Mix project will also be taking place at Silverdale, and will give 9-11 year olds from disadvantaged backgrounds a great few days of Easter-themed activities!

All the residential are entirely student-organised and all the students are volunteers who ensure that the weekends are major events in the ACTION calendar.

Leeds RAG (Raise and Give)

The Official Fundraising Body of Leeds University Union

This month, RAG held their 'Auction of Promises' fundraising event which proved to be a major success. Numerous items were put up for auction, ranging from a day of cleaning from four RAG committee members to a day of indoor skydiving! By the end of the night, the fundraising total stood at a fantastic **£1,312** for the local charity Candlelighters who provide essential services and support to children who have cancer and their families.



In a busy period for the society, the Easter break will see a group of volunteers hitchhiking to Croatia, another group hitchhiking to Amsterdam, 34 students participating in a sponsored cycle to Berlin and another 26 participating in a sponsored cycle to France!

For more information on RAG's activities and the latest news and events, visit <http://www.leedsrag.org.uk/>

HOMED

Helping the Homeless in Leeds.

HOMED received fantastic news that they have been nominated for a Leeds University Union Riley Award this month. The awards recognize the student societies that have had outstanding achievements during the academic year and out of 300 groups, HOMED were nominated for the ARC Award – for maintaining excellent relationships with their partners and with the Union itself.

The group also began working at a second hostel, based at Horldforth Court, which has been a major success so far. The student volunteers work there each week, offering meals to the homeless people and facilitating and participating in a number of activities designed to encourage interaction between the students and members of the hostel.

The Bardon Grange Project

Bringing together members of the local community and students to increase local organic food production in Leeds.

On Saturday 12th March, the Bardon Grange Project enjoyed a really interesting fruit tree grafting course with Niels Corfield from Edible Cities (grafting is a form of propagation where the tissues of one plant are encouraged to fuse with those of another, to create a new plant!). Participants learnt all about growing and caring for fruit trees, had a go at grafting for themselves, and took home a freshly grafted apple or pear tree! Look out for info on other courses coming up over the next few months.



As the weather is slowly warming up, we're getting back into the garden more regularly and our **weekly Wednesday afternoon (2-5pm) gardening sessions** are back! If you have been along before, then just turn up to any Wednesday session. For the next few weeks, we'll be continuing with our seed sowing and sorting our planting plan, getting things growing for spring, and potting on our collection of fruit trees (meet at Bardon Grange). If you haven't been before, let Lizzie, the Project Coordinator know if you would like to join in and for directions to the garden.

Our **next weekend work day will be Sunday 10th April 12-5pm** – lots of seed sowing, compost sieving and planting out to be done! Email Lizzie at bardongrangeproject@luu.leeds.ac.uk for more info.

For more information the project, see our website at <http://www.leedsuniversityunion.org.uk/volunteeringandcommunity/bardongrange/>

Leave Leeds Tidy

Reducing the impact of the student changeover period on the local communities of Leeds.

**LEAVE
LEEDS
TIDY.com**

Leave Leeds Tidy are offering an all expenses paid Administrative Assistant Internship to an enthusiastic and reliable individual. This full-time Internship will last three months from April until August 2011 though extending this may be possible. As an Intern you will be asked to commit to at least 20 hours a week. Working patterns will be flexible and some working at weekends may be required.

You will provide administrative support to the Leave Leeds Tidy Volunteer Coordinator. The role will involve undertaking administrative tasks that ensure the smooth running of the project, Liaising with partner organisations, volunteers and other members of the Leave Leeds Tidy Team will also be involved in order to ensure effective organisation and efficient communication. You will receive free university accommodation from the start of June until mid August if required. You will receive a transport reimbursement to cover the costs of travelling to & from LUU. In addition to this you will receive a daily lunch allowance and refreshments.

If you are interested in being an Administrative Assistant for Leave Leeds Tidy please email unilltv@leeds.ac.uk for an application form.

The deadline is 4pm on Tuesday 5th April 2011, and interviews will be held on one of the following days: Saturday 9th April or Sunday 10th April 2011. You must be available for training in the week beginning Monday 14th April 2011.

Leeds University Union

All the latest news from LUU.

During March LUU held its 'Leadership Race' - an election for students to choose their new Student Executive Officers. The Student Exec is made up of six students who work full-time at the Union for a year. They are here to:

- Listen to how students want things to be done, and work with Union staff, the Board of Trustees and our partners to make it happen.
- Represent members to the University, external organisations and the community.

During the four days of voting for the new Student Exec for the next academic year, LUU broke the UK Student Union election turnout record with over 8,000 votes cast.

Ben Fisher was elected as the new Community Officer, replacing Paul Gold, and will be officially starting in the role from the 1st July 2011.

Knowledge

Helping Students Stay Safe in Leeds.

Leeds University Union is pleased to announce that John Spencer of Spencer Properties is making a significant contribution of £65,000 towards the Union's student safety project 'Knowledge'.

The Knowledge project provides advice and information to students about personal safety and home security. Knowledge is run by Leeds University Union in conjunction with West Yorkshire Police, the University of Leeds, Leeds Metropolitan University, Leeds Metropolitan University Students' Union, Unipol and local landlords.

The combined work of these partner agencies has witnessed the reduction of student burglaries by 40% in Leeds, during the period 2004-10. The Knowledge Student Safety Campaign was launched in 2007, and was identified by The Home Office as good practice in 2009.

John Spencer said, 'I'm pleased to be able to help people living in the local community by supporting the successful Knowledge campaign. This project has had a significant impact in helping to make students and the community safer. The campaign sees students working in their local community to make a difference, a factor that I think is extremely important in its success'.

Jack Cheyette, Welfare Officer at Leeds University Union said, 'I can't express how grateful we are for John Spencer's contribution, with his support we're going to be able to continue to keep students and local communities safe'.

For more information, see the Knowledge website at www.knowledge-leeds.co.uk

If you have any questions or wish to find out more about these projects or other ways which our students are helping in the local community, please do not hesitate to contact us at vandccomms@luu.leeds.ac.uk



Follow us on Twitter for all the latest news throughout the month at @leedsuni_vol!
