



Community Update

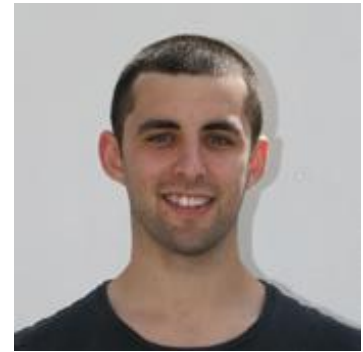
Leeds University Union (LUU)
Volunteering and Community Office

November 2010

A Message from Paul Gold, Community Officer, LUU:

Hello everyone,

On 22nd November LUU holds its second Better Leeds Forum in Devonshire Hall at 5.30pm. Ideas put forward include helping Woodhouse Moor achieve Green Flag status and a debate on the student contribution to the Vision for Leeds. We welcome local participation and look forward to seeing more positive contributions from students in the community springing from the forums.



On Wednesday, 700 hundred students and staff from universities and colleges in Leeds joined 50,000 others and travelled to London to take part in the National Demonstration against cuts to Higher Education funding and rising tuition fees. In the coming weeks we will be continuing our protest here in Leeds and hope that you can support our cause.

Many thanks,

Paul

News and Updates

Union Community Representatives (UCRs)

Throughout October our UCRs continued to attend numerous Resident Associations and Community Meetings to represent the students of the University in the local community, in addition to discussing and addressing any issues that local residents may have.

One of the initiatives a number of UCRs will be working on this month is investigating the possibility of producing a community information leaflet in order to assist new student residents with the transition into the local community. The aim is to cover a wide range of topics in regards to living in Leeds, including information about recycling, bin dates and noise.

In addition, Becca Doyle - the UCR for Little London - organized a Salvation Army event for the local community, which raised a total of **£901** for the charity.



If you wish to find out who your local UCR is, visit the website here
<http://www.leedsuniversityunion.org.uk/volunteeringandcommunity/ucr/>

Introducing the Community Skills Project

The Volunteering and Community office is excited to announce the introduction of its new Community Skills Project.

The scheme aims to find students with particular skills or knowledge and link them to specific volunteering opportunities within the local community and charitable organisations. The kind of skills you call on could be anything from website design to accounting!

We welcome registration from charitable and community organisations, no matter how big or small. So if you need a new logo, project coordinator or even a musician but don't have the resources, this scheme is for you!

Our main aim is to ensure that students of the University of Leeds are participating in positive ways in the local community and applying their skills and knowledge that they gain whilst learning by volunteering. With so many talented students looking for ways to develop their skills, it is the natural step to create the platform to allow these talents to be applied in practical and constructive ways for the benefit of your cause.

If you are interested in registering your volunteering opportunities with the scheme, or wish to find out more, please contact Claire Henly on 0113 380 3125 or email her at c.henly@leeds.ac.uk

West North West Volunteering 'Thank You' Event

As part of Leeds Year of the Volunteer 2010, an awards evening was held by Leeds City Council on Tuesday 9th November to recognise the continuous effort which volunteers put in to making the local community a better place.

The following projects and volunteers from the University of Leeds were awarded for their work during 2010:

- The Green Streets Project,
- Madeline McGarrie – Nominated for work towards inclusive volunteering.
- Sarah Purdue – Nominated for her contribution to the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.
- David Hearney – Nominated for his contribution to the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Their awards are a testament to their constant dedication and commitment to the local community and we are immensely proud of their achievements.

Leeds University Union

This month the Student Advice Centre at LUU are ensuring that students have as much information about house hunting as possible to avoid any negative experiences when they move into the local community.

Such services will include contract checking and working with the Knowledge campaign to ensure students receive transparent information regarding crime and comprehensive advice about living in the community.

Additionally, a new 'Living in Leeds' website is due to be introduced which will act as a 'community hub' for our students. Information ranging from how to be environmentally friendly and shop local to how to join local community groups and volunteer in a specific area.

For more information about how Leeds University Union is helping its students in the local community, please contact Antony on vandccomms@luu.leeds.ac.uk

Leave Leeds Tidy

After a successful campaign to tell students that bin days in Leeds are changing, with the Leave Leeds Tidy wardens doing a great job, the project has continued to work to inform students about the £75 fine that could get if they leave their bin out when it is not their bin day. Look out for news in the New Year about the work that Leave Leeds Tidy will be doing about bin fines!



For more information, you can visit www.leaveleedstidy.com or email leaveleedstidy@luu.leeds.ac.uk if you have any questions.

Bardon Grange

The Bardon Grange project is looking forward to a busy November schedule including a tomato chutney making day from produce grown in the garden, and a chance for volunteers to get more involved in the planning and development of the site and the future of the Bardon Grange project.



Here are the upcoming events for November:

Date and Time	Location	Session Information
Thursday 18th November 5.30pm	Volunteering & Community Office (First Floor in the Union)	Project planning and development meeting – a chance to be more involved in the future of the project!
Wednesday 24th November 2pm	Meet at Bardon Grange	Regular gardening session.
Saturday 27th November 11am – 4pm	Meet at Bardon Grange	Work day – preparing the garden for the winter months!

If you are interested in getting involved with the project or finding out more information, please email the Project Coordinator, Lizzie Fellows, at bardongrangeproject@luu.leeds.ac.uk

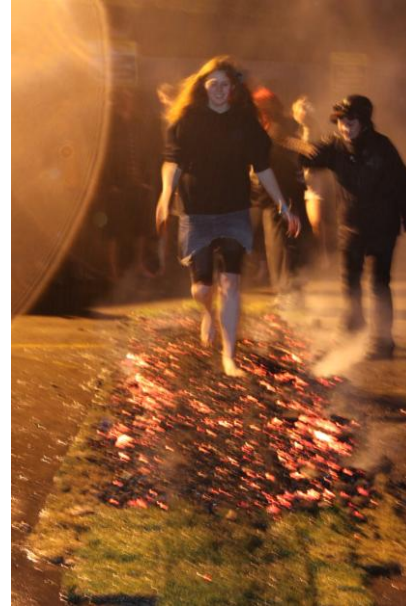
Leeds RAG (Raise and Give)

This month has already seen the start and end of RAG Week, featuring a wide range of student-led events raising thousands of pounds for charity.

Such an event was the Firewalk held on Monday 8th November, which saw a number of incredible volunteers walking across 20ft of burning coals.

Despite the rain, the night was a fantastic success and thanks to the commitment and dedication from the participants and organisers, an amazing total of **£2700** was raised on the night! Pictures from the event are below:





Another event held recently was Speed Dating, which also proved to be a resounding success with a total of **£703.63** raised for the local charity SNAPS - a fully inclusive group that supports the parents and carers of children with special needs. They provide a range of activities which enable all family members to be involved, such as swimming lessons, hydrotherapy and dance classes.

November has already been a fantastic month for RAG and we would like to extend our thanks to all of those who took part and our event organisers who did such a brilliant job!

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

Action

Action is a student led volunteering organisation which aims to prove that students can make a positive contribution to their local communities. To achieve this they organise a number of projects ranging from an Afternoon Tea Party for elderly people (to be held in 2011) to 'Wacky Wednesdays' which takes children out on activities around Leeds every week.

This month, the Action team are working towards their Christmas Present Project, raising as much money as possible to purchase Christmas presents for some of the children which the organisation helps through the year. Volunteers then purchase and wrap the presents and dress up as Christmas elves to deliver them to the children!

For more information about Action, visit <http://www.leedsaction.co.uk/index.php>

Nightline

This month, the Nightline team is preparing for Nightline Awareness Week from 15th-22nd November, which will feature a number of events aimed at promoting their service. This will involve a stall in the Union with free promotional material and the Nightline owl and bear mascots hugging students around campus, to advertise the opportunities they offer to relieve stress and talk about the things that are affecting students living in Leeds.

For more information about Nightline visit <http://www.leedsnightline.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 contact Antony at vandccomms@luc.leeds.ac.uk