



# Community Update

Leeds University Union (LUU)  
Volunteering and Community Office

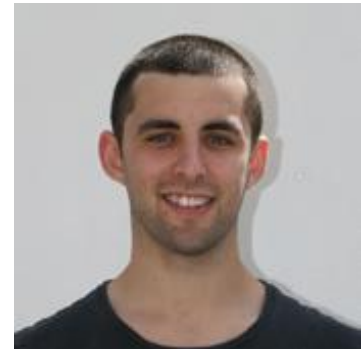
October 2010

## A Message from Paul Gold, Community Officer, LUU:

Hello everyone,

This summer saw Leeds University Union transformed, as our ground floor underwent extensive refurbishment to allow us to better serve our students. We are very proud to welcome all our friends in the community on a tour of the new building on the evening of Tuesday 2nd November from 6pm, and we hope that you can all make it.

RSVP: [p.gold@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:p.gold@leeds.ac.uk)



We are also proud to be launching our new democratic system, which sees a 'Better Leeds' Forum taking place each month. This is a chance for students to put community related issues on the agenda at LUU and we hope that this regular occurrence will enhance the positive contribution students make to life in Leeds. You can read about news from the most recent Forum below, and more about the Forums and democracy at LUU here:  
<http://www.leedsuniversityunion.org.uk/haveyoursay/createchange/>

Many thanks,

Paul

## News and Updates

### Better Leeds Forum

At the most recent Better Leeds Forum, held at Devonshire Halls of Residence on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December, there was a fantastic turnout from students, University Community Representatives and other members of the public.

On the night, three ideas were discussed, with two passing unanimously and one going to a referendum to be held in the future.

One of the ideas that were passed was "Should LUU offer solidarity to community organisations and their bids for public spaces?" The Student Executive at LUU will now work to make this idea a reality for the students of the University to benefit the community as a whole.



## Leave Leeds Tidy

Bin days are changing and LUU are helping Leeds City Council tell students when this is happening, and talk to them about recycling to ensure that the local community is kept clean and tidy.



After a successful summer campaign, the Leave Leeds Tidy team are back to talk to students about bin days and recycling. We have recruited a team of students who will be going around houses in student populated areas of Leeds with members of the council team, putting stickers on bins and chatting to people about their waste and recycling collection.

LUU is also working with Leeds Met Students' Union and Leeds Trinity Students' Union on this campaign, to ensure that these messages are delivered to a wider student audience in the city. Look out for the wardens next week and remember that bin days will be changing in the week beginning October 25th.

*For more information, you can visit [www.leaveleedstidy.com](http://www.leaveleedstidy.com) or email [leaveleedstidy@luu.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:leaveleedstidy@luu.leeds.ac.uk) if you have any questions.*

## Leeds RAG (Raise and Give)

This year, RAG are embarking on another packed schedule of fundraising events – ranging from skydives to projects in East Africa to fashion shows – in an attempt to surpass the incredible total donation amount of £202,648.97 from the last academic year.



The RAG team is currently signing up all new volunteers to their life-changing projects, including the Uganda Project and Bike to Berlin, in addition to their all-year-round collections on campus for their Community Fund. A recent event held at the Hi-Fi Club raised £860 for the Jeans for Genes charity.

On the **8<sup>th</sup> November**, a number of incredible volunteers will be walking across 20ft of burning coals to raise money for Anti-Slavery who work to eliminate all forms of slavery around the world. You can come along and see this fantastic event for yourself outside the Faversham (LS2 9NG) at 7:30pm!

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

## Knowledge

Leading on from a highly successful year of visiting 500 homes with Operation Balloon and 5000 views of their viral videos, the Knowledge campaign is continuing in 2010-11 to ensure students are as safe as possible during their time at University (and also later life!).

Throughout October, police officers from the North West Leeds Division are installing hi-tech software on student's laptops for free in an attempt to clamp down on the number of thefts of the devices. When reporting the laptop as stolen, the police can then activate the software and pinpoint its exact location the next time it connects to the internet – a technology which has already lead to a number of arrests and laptops recovered!

*Visit the website to see how we are helping students stay safe in Leeds <http://www.knowledge-leeds.co.uk>*

## Union Community Representatives (UCRs)

UCRs are students that each represent a dedicated area across the Headingley, Hyde Park, Burley, Woodhouse, Little London and University areas – providing a bridge between the community and LUU. Their role is to communicate the issues affecting student and non-student members of the community in their areas and feed back to LUU so that we can work together to address problems, and identify areas where improvements could be made. UCRs also attend the Better Leeds Forum to ensure that the issues affecting the local community are on LUU's agenda.

This month, the UCRs have been meeting a number of Residents' Associations and Community Groups, and were also involved in the Royal Park Clean-Up – a community day aimed at improving the appearance of the site for local residents. Here is a selection of pictures from the very successful event:



## Bardon Grange

The Bardon Grange project is a community food growing project that helps students, staff, and other members of the local community grow organic food, and gives people access to some communal growing space.



After a fantastic number of student sign-ups over Freshers' Week, the project has already run a number of successful Intro Sessions. The next session will be held on **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October** from 3pm-6pm, meeting at the Volunteering and Community Office at LUU. Non-students are welcome to participate in what is very much a community project! If you wish to come along, please email [bardongrangeproject@luu.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:bardongrangeproject@luu.leeds.ac.uk) to confirm your attendance.

This month also sees the launch of the Bardon Grange Project membership scheme in which £5 gets you a free sack of green waste compost, free pots and trays and best of all you get a share of the organic produce when you come along to help out!

## Nightline

Nightline is a telephone support and information service run for students by trained student volunteers. The phone lines open between 8pm and 8am every night of term, offering confidential listening and information to all students studying in Leeds.

The Nightline volunteers make sure that throughout the night and early morning, students have the opportunity to talk through any issues, problems or worries anonymously.

As part of raising the awareness of World Mental Health Day on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October, Nightline's mascot (Nigel the Nightline Owl) was out speaking to as many students as possible, asking people to consider what they love about life. The continuing work of the team, in addition to a very successful Freshers' Week promotional campaign, ensures that students always feel that support is easily available - even at 4am in the morning!

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@luu.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:vandccomms@luu.leeds.ac.uk)