Dear pepnetters,

People advise to keep a clear distance between work and non-work (called life?) but I seem to have a habit of mixing the two. Last year during my summer holidays I went to visit the Memorial Centre of Tesla in Smiljan in Croatia. Since then I class things as BTT (better than Tesla) or WTT (worse than Tesla). This year I went to the largest science and technology museum in the world. Can you guess where I have been? I was a bit surprised by the claim of the museum, but I must admit it is certainly big, not to say vast. A single day does not suffice to go round it all. But was it good? Some parts were, others I’m not so sure about. You will ask: What do you mean by good? By good I mean it made an impression on me, a penny dropped, I made a new (neural) connection, I learned something, I have seen a new viewpoint of a subject. But if I see children pressing wildly on buttons that invite visitors to get interactive with the exhibit with no understanding at all of what is demonstrated, then I do wonder what connection is made. It brings us back to the purpose of the exhibit, the interaction. What do we want to achieve with it? What is the take home message for our public engagement activity? The more time is spent on clarifying this the more likely it is to score BTT.

Send in your suggestions for the largest science and technology museum in the world and we will draw a lucky chocolate-bar winner from among the correct answers.

Thank you and best wishes,
Alexa

**Breaking News**

Royal Academy of Engineering – Ingenious public engagement awards

Applications are now open for these awards with funding available from £3,000 to £30,000 and a closing date of 1 October 2018. For more details see their [website](#).

**On Campus**

Research Development Fund – closing date 5 September 2018
This funding can be used to support involvement of members of the public (e.g. public, patients, carers, service users and other stakeholders) in shaping or developing research ideas, i.e. at the research development stage prior to submitting a research proposal. For example holding an event/meeting (or series of smaller meetings) to inform a particular research grant application. Or to establish an ongoing PPIE panel/user group in a specific research area, where the need for such a group has been identified and no other group exists already. It is advantageous to outline how the ongoing support for such a group will be met.

There are three deadlines each year. The next deadline is 5th of September 2018. Funds are limited for each round and the maximum amount per application is £500. Visit our webpage to download further information and guidance and access the application form. [https://comms.leeds.ac.uk/public-engagement/event-planning-resources-and-communication/](https://comms.leeds.ac.uk/public-engagement/event-planning-resources-and-communication/)

**Light Night**

As we look forward to the new academic year one of the first dates in the diary will be Friday 5 October when the University takes part in the annual multi-arts, Light Night festival. Details of the range of some of the events taking place are available on the [webpage](https://comms.leeds.ac.uk/public-engagement/event-planning-resources-and-communication/), come along with your friends and support your colleagues.

**Annual Sustainability Report**

Huge strides have been taken towards further embedding sustainability in Schools, Faculties and Services at The University of Leeds.

As a University, its core purpose is to increase knowledge and opportunity for the betterment of society. To do this, the University has made firm commitments to take its economic, social, environmental and cultural responsibilities seriously.

As a result, the annual report offers a more holistic appraisal of the University’s social, environmental, economic and cultural impacts. To demonstrate its total value, the document is full of case studies, commitments, progress, facts and figures. Together, these tell the story of the amazing work being undertaken to become an even more sustainable University.

The full report can be found at [sustainability.leeds.ac.uk/annual-progress/](https://sustainability.leeds.ac.uk/annual-progress/).

**Opportunities Elsewhere**

**Cheltenham SciFest 2019 Submissions**
A reminder that Cheltenham Science Festival submissions for 2019 are still open. The deadline for school applications is Monday 3rd September at midday. Adult and family programme close on midday on Monday 1st October. The link below provides information about the festival and how to send your ideas.


**Great North Museum: Hancock presents “Planet 2.0”**

As part of European Researchers Night on **28 September 2018** the Great North Museum: Hancock will be hosting its third Science Late event. The last two events involved over 100 academics and engaged with over 2,000 people. This year they are looking for researchers supporting a number of key messages to communicate to the public during the evening. A pdf of topics and contact details is available on our [webpage](#).

**Electricity: The Spark of Life - Manchester Science Festival**

The festival is looking for content for two events. The deadline to apply is **Wednesday 5 September**.

**Power Playground (Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 October 2018)**

Looking for demonstrations and hands-on activities about electricity with approximately 3,000 visitors per day, family audience

**Power Late (Wednesday 24 October)**

High profile informal event with demonstrations, hands-on activities, exciting stage shows and TED style talks about electricity

600 - 1,000 visitors expected, adult audience.

Please contact georgina.wells@msimanchester.org.uk for an information pack and link to a short activity proposal form.

**Otley Science Festival**

Otley Science Festival – ideas go BANG! is now in its **11th year and, and culminates in a one day Family Science Fair, taking place on Saturday 10th November, 10am - 4pm** at the Otley Courthouse Arts Centre.

Expressions of interest of invited before **Monday 17 September 2018**.

https://otleysciencefestival.co.uk/science-fair/
Danger’ at the Abbey House Museum

Leeds Museums and Galleries are looking for academics willing to deliver a talk to tie in with their forthcoming exhibition looking at issues of health and safety, highlighting the many hazardous items in the museum’s collections (poisonous, radioactive, asbestos, sharp or pointy) as well as accidents and mishaps (road accidents, drowning, fire) – mostly 19th & 20th centuries.

If you think you might be interested, please contact Patrick Bourne, patrick.bourne@leeds.gov.uk, one of the curators at Abbey House Museum.

Learning and Inspiration

Engage 2018 - Framing new futures for public engagement

The national public engagement conference Engage 2018 will be held on the 29th and 30th November in Edinburgh, and booking opens on 3 September. Celebrating 10 years of the NCCPE and exploring new futures for university public engagement. Find out more about the conference here https://www.publicengagement.ac.uk/nccpe-projects-and-services/engage-conference/engage-2018

Research for All

The latest issue of Research for All is available and offers a lot of interesting articles, including one on impact from public engagement in the REF: Providing evidence of impact from public engagement with research: A case study from the UK's Research Excellence Framework (REF)

Funding opportunities

Geomorphological Society - outreach grant

This enables members to organise geomorphological outreach activities involving schools, the general public or industry. Any activity that will bring greater public understanding, engagement and discussion of geomorphology, particularly those attracting media attention are encouraged.

Grants are worth up to £1000. Closing date 30 September 2018
**Palaeontological Association – engagement grants**

These encourage educational outreach, public engagement and related initiatives in paleontological themes. Grants may support stand-alone complete projects or proof of concept case studies that have their own outcomes but form the groundwork for a larger bid elsewhere.

Grants are worth up to £15,000. Closing date 01 October 2018

**Microbiology Society – education and outreach grants**

These support relevant science teaching or promotion initiatives, or developments likely to lead to an improvement in the teaching of any aspect of microbiology.

Grants are worth up to £1000. Closing date 01 October 2018

**Physiological Society – public engagement grants**

These promote the discussion of physiology with public audiences and aim to; inspire creative public engagement with physiology, stimulate physiologists to share stories and expertise in innovative ways with wider audiences, increase dialogue between researchers and the public, and produce materials and resources which can be used for further public engagement and outreach work.

Grants are worth up to £5,000. Closing date 14 January 2019