Dear pepnetters,

Well, what a fantastic start to spring we have had with the pinnacle of our public engagement events being of course, ‘Be Curious’. It was a fantastic event with a full broad spectrum of research that the public attending could engage with and not a single flake of snow! We had over 1200 visitors with two thirds being new to the event and we had fantastic feedback. The overwhelming comments were certainly around everyone’s enthusiasm on the day. We want to take this opportunity to thank not only those that came along and engaged with the public on the day, but those of you that attended and brought along family and friends, and those of you that advocate the benefits to others of being involved in this event. The continued success is shared with all of you. If you want to see pictures of the day they are available on the image library under Be Curious 2019: https://imagelibrary.leeds.ac.uk/

On this positive note, I will take the opportunity to let you know that I am leaving the Public Engagement Team as academic champion (although I am staying at the University, but back to the day job). I have had an amazing four years working as part of the team and with a huge number of you across campus. I know I leave the team with a fantastic leader in Alexa and in a position of strength with the support of Katie and Jennie. I will always be a public engagement champion at heart, so you won’t have seen the back of me that easily!

Have a great Easter break and best wishes,
Charlotte (and the PE team)

**On Campus**

**Pepnet #28: Collaborative interdisciplinary research – a blog piece**

Following our meeting on 13 March Delia Muir has posted a blog considering amongst other things links between education and involvement practitioners: https://deliamuir.wordpress.com/2019/03/13/exploring-involvement-practice/

**’What a Difference a Letter Makes’: An Intergenerational Theatre Performance**

You are invited to ‘What a Difference a Letter Makes’, an intergenerational play inspired by letters exchanged between students and older, Yorkshire residents as part of the University’s Writing Back Project. With funding from the National Lottery’s Awards for All scheme, working with Fall into Place Theatre, this production tells the story of a friendship between an international student and an older, local letter writer
and will be performed by a cast that includes University of Leeds students. Performances will be held on Friday 3 May at 7.30pm and Saturday 4 May at 2pm. Tickets are available to purchase online at https://fallintoplace.co.uk/ticketsanddownloads.

**PE as part of your research proposal – drop-in surgeries**

The PE team is teaming up with colleagues from OD&PL, RIS and the Library to provide advice on your research proposal.

**22 May 2019, 10:00-12:00** – Parkinson Building 1.34. No need to book, just come along, or if the date doesn’t suit drop us a line peteam@leeds.ac.uk and we’ll meet at a mutually convenient time with you.

**Elsewhere**

**CBBC Operation Ouch**

Took place at Bradford Science and Media Museum over February half term, with seven of UoL researchers taking part. Over the whole nine days there were in excess of 27,000 visitors with the busiest day on Tuesday when the CBBC Operation Ouch doctors were there. This attracted over 5000 people, the museum’s busiest single day for five years.

John Darnbrough, Learning Programmes Developer at the Museum said; ‘This was the first time we’ve ever tried this style of event within one of our half terms and we had a fantastic response – lots of visitors engaging and having fun with your brilliant content, which added enormously to the overall feel of the event.’

**Soapbox Science**

The call is now open for Soapbox Science with events taking place in Sheffield and York in June/July 2019. To find out more please visit http://soapboxscience.org/apply-to-speak-at-soapbox-science-2019/

**ESRC Festival of Social Science**

The ESRC Festival of Social Science is a celebration of the social sciences, designed to promote and increase awareness of social sciences and ESRC's research, enable social scientists to engage with non-academics and increase awareness of the contributions the social sciences make to the wellbeing and the economy of the UK society.
Each year the Festival offers a week of activities celebrating the diversity of social science research, this year the festival will run from the 2 to 9 November 2019.


If you have any questions please contact Hannah Crow, at H.E.Crow@leeds.ac.uk

**Interact 2019 – An Engagement Symposium for the Physical and Life Sciences**

The symposium will be taking on Wednesday 4th September 2019 at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) in Preston, Lancashire.

Spanning the physical and life sciences, this event offers something for everyone with an interest in improving their public engagement capabilities. It will provide a fantastic opportunity to learn new ways to engage with your audience, explore the barriers to engagement and discuss how the engagement landscape is changing. But above all, it will be a chance to share your experiences with like-minded people in a fun and friendly environment. For more details and to register see here [https://stfc.ukri.org/public-engagement/training-and-support/the-interact-symposium-2019/](https://stfc.ukri.org/public-engagement/training-and-support/the-interact-symposium-2019/)

**New Scientist Live**

New Scientist Live is an award-winning, festival of ideas and discoveries for everyone curious about science and why it matters. It takes place from 10 – 13 October with more than 140 speakers and 100 exhibitors. You can get involved as a speaker or by booking a stand. To find out more contact Jacqui.McCarron@newscientist.com

**Funding opportunities**

**Royal Society of Chemistry – small grants** – Deadline extended

These provide financial support to members, individuals and organisations in order to enable them to run chemistry-based public and schools engagement activities. The trust aims to support projects that maximise members’ outreach and engagement contribution.

Grants are worth up to £2000. Closing date 13 May 2019.
Classical Association - Grants
The Classical Association invites applications for its grants. These support classical projects and conferences mainly in the UK and a wider range of outreach events towards the promotion of public awareness of the importance of classics.
Awards are worth up to £2000. The closing date is 01 June 2019.

British Ecological Society – Outreach Grants
The British Ecological Society invites applications for its outreach grants. These encourage individuals and organisations to promote ecological science to a wider audience through public engagement activities
The awards are worth up to £2,000. Closing date 20 September 2019 (forecast)

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 2019