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BRANCH

ISSUE03

A LEEDSBID
PUBLICATION

FREE

WELCOME TO BRANCH

A new publication brought to you by Leeds Business Improvement District (LeedsBID) to keep the city centre community informed about our plans, projects and investments in helping to make Leeds a great place to live, work and play.

Our aim is to encourage people to branch out, explore and experience what is on offer to them in the city.

Enjoy reading this issue.

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#05 Digital dumping ground



TODOIST



EVERNOTE



GOOGLE KEEP

Leeds Boost





SWITCHING LEADS ON TO DIGITAL

A new LeedsBID initiative,
bringing digital-skills training
to the businesses and people
of Leeds

We are now living in a digital world where just about everything is possible at the touch (or swipe) of a button. Advances in technology are impacting on how we are entertained, communicate, travel, and how we work and do business.

For some, keeping up can feel like a losing battle, but help is at hand. There's now a new way to get those tools and techniques to benefit business and personal endeavours and boost knowledge, confidence, and skills, all right here in Leeds.



Right
The Leeds
Boost team



Introducing Leeds Boost

Leeds Boost is a LeedsBID initiative, bringing digital-skills training to the businesses and people of Leeds. Led by one of Google's European masterclass trainers Simon McCaskill and his business partner Daniel Robinson, formerly of the BBC, Leeds Boost delivers bespoke training workshops.

These bite-size, fun, and engaging training sessions aim to empower people to reach their digital potential, which in turn can support business growth. In other words, they provide practical and straightforward, jargon-free digital skills to help people to use the digital world to their advantage.

LeedsBID teamed up with Simon and Daniel after speaking to levy payers (those businesses in the city who make a financial contribution to the business improvement district) about ways to help futureproof business growth by keeping on top of the latest digital skills and technologies.

With the well-documented digital skills gap remaining a challenge, Leeds Boost aims to unearth the hidden digital-skills talent across all jobs and sectors in the city, showing how small digital hacks can make a big impact on the day-to-day running of a business.

Leeds Boost start by asking the simple question "how can we help?" which can be met with a varied response. Simon explains:

"When you say the word 'digital' some people run a mile! The digital world can be complicated, filled with lots of technical jargon and people can be put off from exploring digital training as they don't think it's relevant to them. "But the truth is, digital skills are no longer just a prerequisite for working in the tech or digital sector, they are skills that are transferable and needed across almost every job on the market." Step up Leeds Boost.

Top Left
The Lost and Found staff get a boost

Top Right
Simon with the Leeds Market traders

Bottom Right
Leeds Boost with the LeedsBID team

“Our aim is to deliver a mind shift. Person by person, business by business, we are unearthing ways to use digital solutions to help tackle everyday challenges... We’re doing this as we want the whole city to be ‘switched on’ to digital.”

Leeds Boost in action

Simon, Daniel and the team at Leeds Boost create bespoke training workshops and packages tailored to the needs of each business. The training is aimed at everyone from the C-suite to the shop floor and is for businesses of all sizes.

Training could be aimed at getting more customers through the doors, empowering staff to use social media channels, helping employees find solutions to make them more productive or understanding what tools are available to help the day-to-day running of a business.

Leeds Boost has already delivered training across the Hospitality, Retail and Professional Services sectors in Leeds city centre. In the professional service sector, accountancy firm Armstrong Watson have witnessed how little changes to the way they use technology can make a big impact on the company.

The in-house sessions of “work smarter, not harder” were very well received and resulted in the dissemination of helpful tips and useful advice on how to make digital tools work for you, said Office Manager Susan Wilkinson.

“It was a pleasure to have Simon and Daniel presenting to us and they made it interesting. I think some people were a bit nervous of the

training but it turned out to be fun and useful,” Susan added.

Retailers are also benefiting as Matt Brigg at David H Myers opticians confirmed, saying they had received “absolutely incredible advice” and that they “can’t wait to start implementing the ideas”.

In the hospitality sector, bars such as Slug and Lettuce, Fibre, and Mission have all felt the benefits of the training. From staff understanding how to use digital channels to get people talking about the business, to knowing what makes a great customer experience and how digital tools can support this.

Training sessions are entirely personal to the people in the room. Daniel Robinson, the Onboarding and Experience Manager, explains why:

“Our aim is to deliver a mind shift. Person by person, business by business, we are unearthing ways to use digital solutions to help tackle everyday challenges. If the individuals get it, they drive the business on, if the business gets it, they drive the sector on and if the sectors get it, this drives the city on. We’re doing this as we want the whole city to be ‘switched on’ to digital.”

Right
The BBC digital
training session



Impact on the city

Leeds is currently the only city in the UK to have this bespoke digital training available to businesses. LeedsBID is driving this initiative and helping provide the service to all levy paying businesses in the Leeds Business Improvement District.

Simon enthuses:

“The BID has got the back of businesses - it is truly trying to find the best solutions to help levy payers in the city centre.

“The world we live in is only going to get more advanced. Change and disruption in technology is happening every day and more is expected of us in the way we do business and communicate. This training is to help people feel empowered to use the skills they already

have as well as learn new skills - in turn helping boost productivity and create a legacy for our city.”

Daniel adds: “For an individual, this is about unearthing your skills. For a business, it is about supporting your staff and untapping potential. For Leeds, this is about enabling the confidence of a city and unearthing the talent that will drive change and innovation in future. The only thing standing in the way is a simple question – how can we help.”

Businesses or individuals looking to find out more about Leeds Boost can get in touch via email simon@leedsboost.com or phone 0113 246 2603.

BRIGHTENING UP SUMMER IN THE CITY

There's no guarantee for the weather but a host of activities being served up by LeedsBID over lunchtimes are sure to brighten up summer in the city.

In support of health and wellbeing in the workplace, LeedsBID is helping employees to make the most of that precious lunch hour during the summer months by encouraging them out of the office.

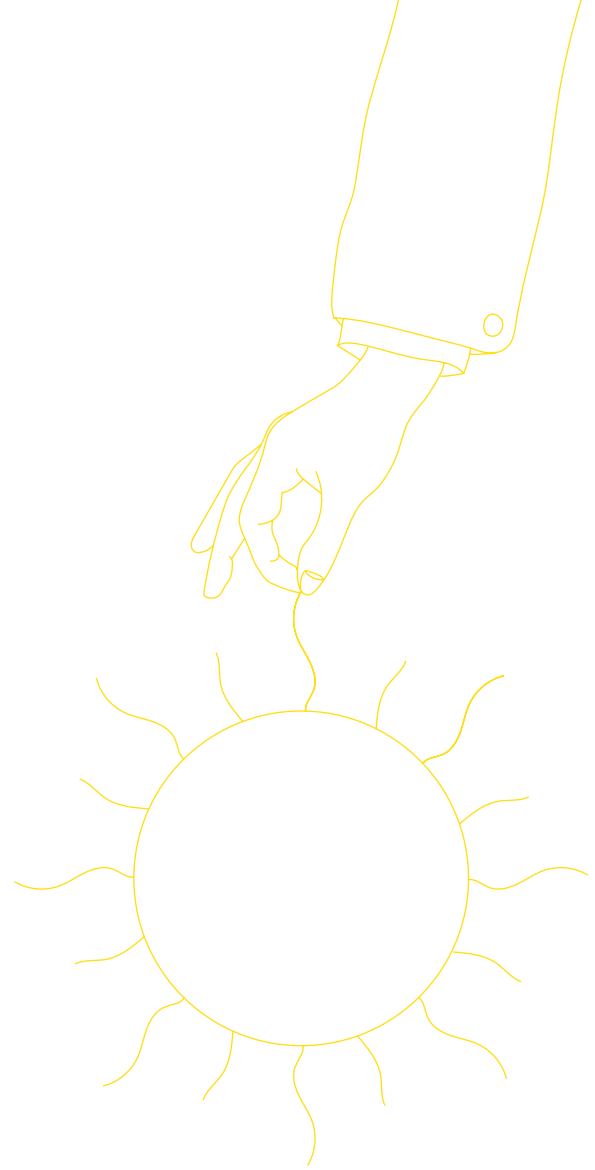
Summer in the City, now in its third year, is an initiative to help animate the working week and entice people out in the sun to enjoy some fresh air with friends and colleagues. Take a seat outside in the deckchairs popping up in various city centre spaces and sit back and appreciate the pop-up musical performances, partake in the lunchtime yoga sessions, catch all the action from Wimbledon 2018 on the giant screens and more.

"With health and wellbeing in the workplace being such a topical issue, it's important LeedsBID helps to try diminish the stresses of daily working life in the city. Through the

delivery of our summer programme of events, we aim to create animated environments to entice employees away from their desks in their lunch hour and experience something different as part of the working day," said Joe Lawson, Events Executive at LeedsBID.

The Summer in the City events programme kicked off in June with Leeds College of Music performances at Bond Court, Sovereign Square, Leeds Station, Park Square and Wellington Place. Running into September, there's a host of events programmed in and more to be announced throughout the summer months. So escape the office and enjoy!

Join the conversation on social media with #SummerInTheCity and share photos of you enjoying the experience as well as your ideas as to how we could make summer in Leeds even better.



SUMMER EVENTS PROGRAMME

Event	Date	Time	Location
LCOM* Music Under Cover	28/06/2018	12:00 - 14:00	Sovereign Square
Yoga Session	29/06/2018	12:00 - 13:00	Sovereign Square
Wimbledon Screens	02/07/2018 - 15/07/2018	11:00 - 20:00	Bond Court & Wellington Place
Yoga Session	13/07/2018	12:00 - 13:00	Central Square
LCOM Music Marcus Thompson	16/07/2018	07:30 - 09:30	Leeds Station
LCOM Music Zen Quartet	18/07/2018	12:00 - 14:00	Central Square
LCOM Music Alex Fisher Trio	19/07/2018	12:00 - 14:00	Wellington Place Street food, Market & Music
LCOM Music Katie Heap Duo	25/07/2018	12:00 - 14:00	Park Square
LCOM Music Sam Chilvers Loop	26/07/2018	12:00 - 14:00	Sovereign Square
Yoga Session	27/07/2018	12:00 - 13:00	TBC
LCOM Music Jasmine Whalley	01/08/2018	07:30 - 09:30	Leeds Station
LCOM Music Jasmine Whalley	09/08/2018	12:00 - 14:00	Sovereign Square
LCOM Music Sam Chilvers Loop	13/08/2018	07:30 - 09:30	Leeds Station
LCOM Music Zen Quartet	16/08/2018	12:00 - 14:00	Wellington Place Street food, Market & Music
LCOM Music Alex Fisher Trio	23/08/2018	12:00 - 14:00	Park Square

*Leeds College of Music



Stockbroker and avid lunchtime adventurer Rob Kilner, from Redmayne Bentley, is encouraging others to embrace their inner explorer and step out of the office to make the most of those golden mid-day 60 minutes to discover what's on offer on the doorstep... and a little further afield.

Many of us spend the majority of our waking hours in Leeds city centre office land - more time on a swivel chair in front of a screen, with emails and phones, than with family and friends, or in the fresh air, or general face-to-face interactions.

I'm more a part of the city centre than the outskirts town where I live. And that has got some definite advantages. I love cities, and this one in particular. I decided to rediscover this city, the one I think I know best, see what it has to offer, act like a tourist, using the most freely available slice of time I had to hand.

Add up a year's worth of lunchtimes. If you're lucky enough to be granted that golden hour, 12 months of them add up to around two weeks of free time. That's an extra fortnight's holiday.

Using various methods of locomotion, I made a right meal of it. With a customised Ordnance Survey map centred on the office chair's swivel,

I plotted my lunches. From the office windows, at seven floors up, fifty-one metres above sea level, the trees rise up above the concrete and brick, towards Temple Newsam in the east, and the castle-like HM Prison Leeds (or Armley Jail as known to most) to the west. Is it possible to reach these places or go even further? Is the vineyard, on the OS map, within reach?

In recent years there've been newspaper and TV stories of workers in vast warehouses being tracked by GPS, as they go about their stacking and collecting, to help productivity. If they go to a loo that's not the nearest, they can be penalised. In Sweden some workers have volunteered to be chipped, like a pet dog or cat. One of them said, "I want to be part of the future". The implants mean they can open doors and use the photocopier, buy smoothies, without the need for a key fob or swipe card. Tech experts call this "Augmented Humanity".

I decided to augment my own humanity by going outside for lunch. Getting outside and

moving has been proven to enhance health and productivity. A simple walk can reset, reduce stress and increase creativity. One of the most memorable lunchtime walks I have taken was part of the Terminalia Festival. Artist Phil Harding led, like the Pied Piper, a silent group around the city centre, at speed, based on an algorithm, which meant that even he didn't know where we were going, or would end up.

Walking for half an hour and back in one direction, I roughly worked out a range, and started to discover unknown streets and new areas. Then I ran, cycled and hired cars, hopped on a barge, and jumped in a canoe, dropping into various places along the way.

When asked to talk at the Pedalling Ideas cycling get-together in 2016 I stepped it up a notch, and hopped on a train to York and just made it back in an hour. For Bettakultcha at the Belgrave Music Hall I wanted to pull something else out of the bag so cycled to the beautiful

Left

A pig posing at
Meanwood Urban
Valley Farm

Top Right

Flowers ft. Leeds
Arches

Bottom Right

The Red Bus cafe

and vast Middleton Park, jumped on a horse for a trot (had to take an extra hour of lieu time for that one) and came back to work smelling like a stable. And then National Grid chose to feature these high noon ramblings in their Health & Wellbeing programme for 2017.

Historically Leeds was a market town. The roads were used by horse-drawn carts and carriages, and pigs and cattle would be driven in to be sold on the Headrow, or at various markets. Now you're lucky if you see a cat, a dog or even a bird in office land. The closest working farm is about to be swallowed up by a huge warehouse complex, but, for a dose of nature, the Meanwood Valley has kingfishers, greenery and an urban farm with pigs, cows and a fine café, The Barn, that does exceptional coffee and hearty full English.

When the sun's shining, step outside for a dose of vitamin D. Being outside also has health benefits and what economists, urban designers and policy makers are increasingly referring to as natural capital. There are parks, woods, a river and wild animals. Within a walk or a cycle

there are peregrines, deer, foxes, rabbits, marsh harriers, buzzards. At the right time of year, you might see salmon or sea trout leaping at Knostrop Weir. Closer to the city centre, life (the non-human kind) is less wild but I've seen a man carrying a bearded dragon, a woman with a cat on a lead, and a bloke taking his ferret out for a walk.

For the foodies, everyone knows Leeds is renowned as a centre for good grub. There's some seriously delicious dishes in the city centre, and tons of mouth-watering options in the supermarket, Kirkgate. And the good stuff stretches further than the centre. Experience a mouth-watering lunch at the Chinese Elderly Association. Or for the price of a donation, try Langar at the Sikh Temple on Chapeltown Road. Café Leep on Roundhay Road was recently voted the best café in the Yorkshire and Humber region. Further afield, choose from Ethiopian, Eritrean, Caribbean, Persian, Jewish and Kurdish food, just a bike ride away. If you've got an extra hour, have an extended one and do like the French with the Plat du Jour, or the Spanish Menu del Dia. Make a meal of it.



'I've seen a man carrying a bearded dragon, a woman with a cat on a lead, and a bloke taking his ferret out for a walk.'



For generous helpings of visual nourishment, there are amazing art venues in and around the city. Spend a lunchtime in the fantastic, domestic contemporary gallery; BasementArtsProject in Beeston. The City Gallery, Left Bank, East Street Arts, Colours May Vary, The Gallery at 164, Leeds Arts University, Stanley and Aubrey Burton Gallery also put on stunning exhibitions.

And in Leeds art isn't just about walls. Every two years the Compass Festival puts on a wild array of events around the city, animating and making the ordinary extraordinary. Previous events include flash mobs, mis-guided tours, sound walks, pop-up cafes, exhibitions, multi-media performances, and fortune-telling chickens. In the last festival I popped into a mobile sauna on Kirkgate for a lunchtime steam, and was

part of Etheridge and Persighetti's eye-opening 'Personal Shopper: Cornucopia' tours of the market, led by locals and traders. The next Compass festival is this November.

The universities and libraries host intriguing and inspiring lunchtime talks. Or ask your employer to host some talks from local organisations and luminaries. If you've got the music in you, take a lunchtime lesson, or join a midday choir. For thinking types, you could join the bunch of unprofessional philosophers that gather every month to chat in a pub by the Town Hall. Or test drive a new bike or a Tesla, buy some verse from a street poet, or have your palm read by a duckerer.

Lunch is a time full of possibility. The beauty,

for the time-strapped modern worker, is its compactness, sandwiched between two thick slabs of morning and afternoon. It can help to reboot the brain after a busy morning, returning to work with a spring in your step and new ideas. And it's an ideal time to meet for creative, not-quite-work meetings, or settle disputes.

When we couldn't agree on which way the Brexit vote should or would go, two of us took the Leeds Dock water taxi to the Royal Armouries and had a crossbow battle on their indoor range.

And, for reference, it is possible to visit a vineyard, and buy a bottle of wine direct from the producer, in a Leeds lunch hour.



HATS OFF TO LEEDS BECKETT

A new wave of talent flows into Leeds this summer as thousands of Leeds Beckett University students celebrate their graduation before settling down to start their careers in the city.



Leeds Town Hall will be a hive of activity this summer.

More than 5,000 Leeds Beckett University students, joined by 13,000 guests, will pass through the doors of the historic Headrow building during graduation week taking place from 16th-20th July.

A further 6,000 guests will watch the 22 ceremonies through live-streaming at the university's city centre campus, creating a buzz that's sure to spread across the city.

As they start their careers, just over half the graduates will remain in the Leeds city region, providing a steady stream of highly-skilled graduates working at more than 1,400 different organisations.

Among them are a large number of law firms in Leeds' ever-growing legal sector; the economic output of the city's law firms now exceeds £300m, with more than 8,000 professionals working in the city's legal sector. "We've been teaching law since 1924," said Deveral Capps, Dean of Leeds Law School – part of Leeds Beckett.

"Our Law School sits in the heart of the great city of Leeds, which is the most important legal centre outside London and home to over 180 law firms.

"We are perfectly placed to ensure all our

undergraduate, postgraduate, full and part-time students are able to mine the wealth of practical experience and employment opportunities available on our doorstep."

Over the decades, the School has made an enormous contribution to the local and regional economy, having established a formidable network of partnerships ranging from Clarion and Chivers to Walker Morris and Wilson Solicitors.

"We work with all the leading law firms in Leeds," said Deveral. "We also work with a wide range of other companies, providing specialist services such as business to business employment advice.

"And we have continued to expand the range of law degrees we offer, as we respond to new trends and requirements in the sector."

Last year, Leeds Law School introduced three new law degrees: Law with International Business, Law with Finance, and Law with Management.

A new pro bono clinic offering free legal advice is also being launched, on 18th July.

The new service will add to the broad variety of established courses, including LLB, LLM Legal Practice (incorporating the LPC) and LLM Laws of England and Wales (incorporating the GDL). Each aims to give graduates the enthusiasm,

sharpness of mind and practical tools to thrive in competitive and fast-paced professional environments.

With state-of-the-art facilities, placements, and mentoring and career development opportunities, students who choose Leeds Law School can expect a successful career founded on high calibre, practical teaching.

Those facilities include a copy of a modern courtroom complete with professional practice suite doubling as a learning space, and a Hydra Foundation suite that enables monitoring of real-time leadership and decision making in critical incidents - one of only three universities in the North that offers this fantastic and innovative facility.

"At Leeds Law School, we take pride in being modern and technology driven," said Deveral. "We always strive to provide our students with state-of-the-art facilities to support learning and development.

"Our premium teaching facilities enable us to provide the highest quality of education possible and we are continuously searching for new, innovative learning resources to work with."

If you are interested in finding out more about Law at Leeds Beckett University contact: law@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.



LEEDSBID STREET RANGER SERVICE

While the majority of people are still waking up, there is a small team making a big impact on the city: the LeedsBID Street Rangers. From 6am, the Rangers have a mission to clean up the city centre, seven days a week. What is even better, is it's a service all levy-paying businesses can use for FREE!

The background

When LeedsBID was established in 2015, the management team was keen to build a crew of Street Rangers who were, unlike other organisations, directly employed and not sub-contracted out. Now, this diverse team of Rangers is making a huge difference to the city, adding value to the statutory services already undertaken by the council.

Karen Butler, LeedsBID's Head of Place Management and Delivery, explained:

"We wanted to ensure that all our Rangers have a "can-do" attitude, as this job is hands-on and about going above and beyond. Customer Service is key as the city centre is our shop floor; the team brings an eclectic mix of skills from drainage to hospitality but is connected by pride to improve the city."

So far, the team has deep-cleaned the equivalent of eight times the length of the city loop!

The core service

The team's cleaning activities fall into two broad remits: planned activity and reactive work. Usually, two groups of four follow a planned schedule to deep-clean areas of the city centre. Using an electric vehicle and two high capacity bowsers that deliver water at high pressure and high temperature, pavements are steam cleaned so they look as new. Gum has nowhere to hide!

In addition, the reactive team responds to requests from levy payers for assistance. Popular requests are ad hoc pressure washing, cleaning hot-spots, removal of small items of waste from private land and jet washing service yards. This team moves around the city in the brilliantly named "Goupil," an electronic vehicle fitted with a built-in jet wash, attending to the detritus of the night-time economy, from graffiti to vomit! The team quickly jet-wash and disinfect areas ready for the day-time trade to commence. The team work alongside Leeds City Council to provide an additional service to clean the city in tandem.

Karen continued:

"We've already made a significant impact and lots of businesses have benefitted from the work of the Rangers. Improvements have been made to the entrance of Leeds City Museum, first direct arena, Crowne Plaza, Good Luck Club as well as numerous restaurants and hotels. Shoppers may have noticed Briggate was extensively cleaned prior to Christmas, removing thousands of pieces of chewing gum, and Millennium Square has had a thorough deep clean."

"One particular success has been the improvement made to The Queens hotel Leeds. Deep-cleans here resulted in changes in behaviours. This clean environment has improved respect and dramatically reduced the amount of litter dropped, giving visitors arriving by train a much nicer welcome to the city. A lot of planning and work goes into what seems a simple job, but we're proud to show Leeds off at its best"

Left
A Street Ranger
cleaning Sovereign
Square

More than cleaning

Alongside the big impact the team is making with the aesthetics of Leeds, it's important to stress the Street Rangers are not just street-cleaners.

"Although the core focus is about improving the city centre, the team has a much wider remit than just cleaning and tidying. They are the eyes and ears on the streets and often the first to respond to issues or situations early in the morning. Using the Businesses Against Crime in Leeds (BACIL) network, Rangers can radio in anything from graffiti to anti-social behaviour.

"The team has great links to a variety of support services, from the police/PCSOs to homeless charities, so if they see something that they can't assist with, they'll report it on to someone who can, leading to a speedy resolution."

Their distinct LeedsBID uniform also means the Rangers act as ambassadors for the city, proving an additional and well-received Leeds welcome. The team are regularly stopped to assist with directions or help, something they're trained to do as customer-service representatives.

Plans for the future

The team has an extensive plan for cleaning the city which stretches as far as October. However, the programme of activity is flexible to incorporate new and unexpected jobs. Success stories include Trinity Leeds, the Marriott Hotel, and West Yorkshire Playhouse who have all been so impressed with the deep-cleans, they now have it scheduled in on a rolling basis every month.

Below
Cleaning Crown
Plaza, Wellington
Street





Top
Distributing
the LeedsBID
deckchairs

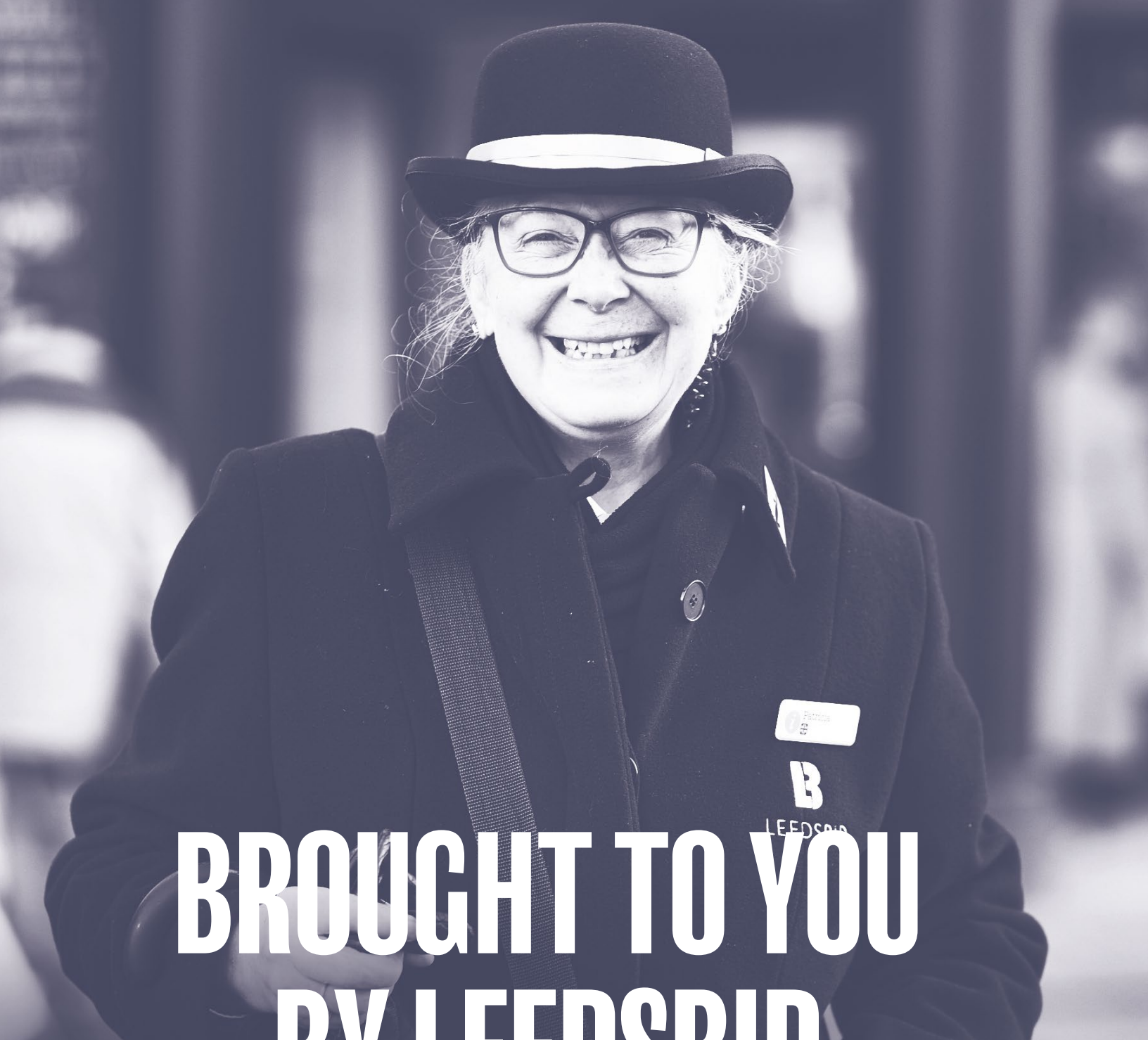
Bottom
The Street Ranger
Machines

How to use the service

Any LeedsBID levy payer can utilise this service for FREE. Simply make a call to the team or send an email explaining the cleaning required. LeedsBID is also launching an online portal accessible through the website so making a request for Street Ranger cleaning will soon be even easier. Your job will get assessed and scheduled into either the reactive or longer-term plan.

Alternatively, levy-paying businesses can discuss their needs with a Welcome Ambassador during their monthly-visit to organisations in the city.

Simply call the LeedsBID office on 0113 467 2780 or email enquiry@leedsbid.co.uk



BROUGHT TO YOU BY LEEDSBID

A closer look at the recent work of
the organisation driving a citywide
transformation.

‘The Business Improvement District has a focus of creating and attracting events in this city which add to the overall experience people have when visiting, and encourages them to stop, sample and savour its vibrant cultural diversity.’

Now well-established Leeds Business Improvement District is at the forefront of making new things happen in the city for the benefit of all who come to live, work and play here.

As you move about the city, you will spot some of the exciting new initiatives which have been brought to you by LeedsBID - from major, innovative statement events and pieces to the more fundamental everyday improvements.

From the iconic Leeds Letters welcoming people on arrival in Leeds Station; Athena Rising, the UK’s tallest piece of street art adorning the side of the Platform building; and our bowler hatted Welcome Ambassadors out daily on the streets. Other subtle enhancements include the cleanliness of the city’s streets as our Street Ranger team jet-wash pavements and walkways on a daily basis, and the addition of deckchairs and music helping enhance public places and spaces.


The Business Improvement District has a focus of creating and attracting events in this city which add to the overall experience people have when visiting, and encourages them to stop, sample and savour its vibrant cultural diversity.

Leeds took on a fetching shade of pink in recent weeks in celebration of the 2nd Leeds International Festival.

Funded by LeedsBID and driven by an ambition to showcase and celebrate the city’s local creativity on an international level whilst creating one of the biggest events in Leeds, this year saw 54 events, with 44 speakers including 20 international artists, over 15 days!

The festival was a great success, growing in scale, audience and appeal, and a perfect illustration of what can be achieved in the city with the collaboration and investment of business, public and creative sectors.

The ambition is LeedsBID is simple – to work collaboratively to put Leeds firmly on the map and to improve our city. We look forward to continuing to work with you in transforming the city together



Andrew Cooper
Chief Executive
LeedsBID

PAINTING THE TOWN PINK!

Leeds International Festival was back for another year of new ideas & innovation



Right
Leeds Town Hall
illuminated in pink

Back for a second year, Leeds International Festival (LIF) certainly made its mark on the city's cultural calendar.

Its eclectic program combined the talents of international artists with local creatives to present everything from live music to tech talks, catwalk shows and photo exhibitions, with world firsts and original pieces of commissioned work and discussions that rejoiced in the creativity of science, music, interactive media, and world culture.

Over two weeks (from late April into early May) LIF attracted more than 20,000 people to Leeds to listen, watch, see, appreciate and get involved in the city-wide celebration of an array of new ideas and innovation.

From a Mexican-Morrissey covers band to an academic discussion about sex robots, LIF aims to be an annual aspirational celebration that revels in what's already great about the city and promotes the vitality of Leeds as a world-class destination – and it appears to be succeeding!



Leeds International Festival 2018 Highlights

Top Left

Live Art Bistro Family
Days

Bottom Left

House Gospel Choir

Right

Astronaut Helen
Sharman OBE

LIF teamed up with Welcome to Yorkshire and Leeds City Council to bring Millennium Square to life as a cultural hub with the Leeds International Festival spiegelent presenting music, art, theatre, fashion and film alongside all the cycling action and activities from the Tour de Yorkshire Fourth Edition. A spectacle in itself, the tent raised passing eyebrows and wowed attendees alike, hosting everything from family fun days from Live Arts Bistro to the cult open forum of Bettakultcha to special shorts of renowned plays.

A musical blast back to the past with KAOS Classical Uproar - the reincarnation of Leeds' long-lost dance KAOS night at Warehouse in celebration of their 30th anniversary - had the city talking after a one-off event in the spiegelent. And the night after, the House Gospel Choir - who gained rave reviews at the Glastonbury Festival in 2017 - had the audience immediately on their feet and singing elatedly to classic House hits.



At the other end of the cultural spectrum, a talk on the solar system at the stunning AQL headquarters with astronaut Helen Sharman OBE (the first British astronaut and the first woman to visit the Mir space station) was sold out to an audience of all ages. While sexuality and technology expert Dr Kate Devlin took people through the history of sex and tech before exploring where AI, robotics and sex meet today with Sex Robots.

The Empowering Women with Science and Technology conference at Leeds Dock drew an audience of over 170 guests. Hosted by June Sarpong MBE, and with a stellar line-up including TV's Sarah Beeny, the hashtag #EmpowerWithTech trended throughout the day; a stream of tweets from guests proclaimed feeling empowered and inspired by the fantastic panel of speakers.

Another headline event which drew in the crowds was the world premiere of the Leeds

Rhinos' story of sacrifice and glory *As Good As It Gets?* with many of its sporting legends in attendance. The film has also gone international, released through Prime Video Direct on Amazon Prime Video in countries around the world including the UK, US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Briggate was brought to life with fashion from high street retailers, independents and Leeds fashion students as well as housing industry talks and workshops with renowned names including Christopher Ræburn bringing his legendary off-cut animal workshop to Leeds while British Vogue's Fashion Features Director Claudia Croft celebrated the Marks & Spencer archive.

Another sold-out event was the unstructured chat between Chris Madden and cultural icon, Cosey Fanni Tutti – punk, pornographer, pioneer, and provocateur. The discussion had guests enthralled as they heard about

pushing boundaries through pioneering art and electronica music in the 1970s.

The "Queer Culture" celebration, JUICEBOX, with performance artist David Hoyle and transgender rapper, Mykki Blanco, smashed all targets as another sell-out and grand finale of this year's festival. This sublimely anarchic art party in collaboration with Live Art Bistro, was an explosion of immersive and sensory happenings that brought together music, film, cabaret, and club culture to mark the end of a fabulous fortnight of LIF.

The key to the success of LIF is stakeholder collaboration - LeedsBID has created a model that enables others to generate ideas and then acts as the catalyst to make them happen without restriction.

Big plans are already shaping up for 2019 – so watch this space.

RECENT PROJECTS

Biggest and best Leeds Sports Awards yet

Leeds Sports Awards 2018 was a record breaking night to celebrate the city's sporting stars.

Returning to the landmark first direct arena, the 15th Leeds Sports Awards was the biggest and best awards yet; with over 800 guests gathered to recognise the achievements and contributions of athletes, coaches, clubs and volunteers, it was a celebration of sport like no other.

LeedsBID was proud to be supporting the awards as Title Sponsor for the second consecutive year, recognising and celebrating the city's great sporting successes on home turf, while helping to showcase them further afield.

The BID's support of the Leeds Sports Awards, made possible by the businesses of Leeds, has elevated the status and position of the event with a move to a world-class venue, first direct arena, and enabled attendance numbers to grow.



Colourful additions to city centre help bring people together

A new parklet has popped up in The Calls, providing a welcome injection of green space into the area.

The Parklet, which occupies two parking spaces, features seating and planters and provides an easily accessible outdoor space for people to meet, chat, work together and socialise.

Yorkshire Design Group, LeedsBID and Leeds City Council have collaborated to make the parklet a possibility, with input from Leeds-based LAAND landscape architects on the design.

"The Parklet not only brightens the vicinity up - we also wanted to create a social space for



the community that lives and works on The Calls and the waterfront,” said Paul Ellison, Managing Director of Yorkshire Design Group based in The Calls, who is keen to see the city embrace the idea which is popular in many international cities.

“The Parklet enables people to step outside for meetings, to chat over coffee, enjoy their lunch or simply to get out of the office for a short while.”

There has already been a hugely positive response from neighbouring businesses and residents to the Parklet, which is initially in place until September and has been constructed so can be re-installed again next year.

“My hope is to roll this out elsewhere in the city so Leeds becomes the first UK city to fully embrace this concept, which has proved so successful in other cities such as San Francisco and Vancouver,” he added.

Karen Butler, Head of Place Management and Delivery at LeedsBID which provided investment for the parklet, added: “It is great to see the parklet up and running in The Calls and people already taking the time out to enjoy it.”

“This is one of a number of city-centre initiatives LeedsBID is investing in to help animate the city centre and provide those unique social places and spaces which add to those everyday experiences of life in Leeds.”

Left

The parklet on The Calls

Top Left

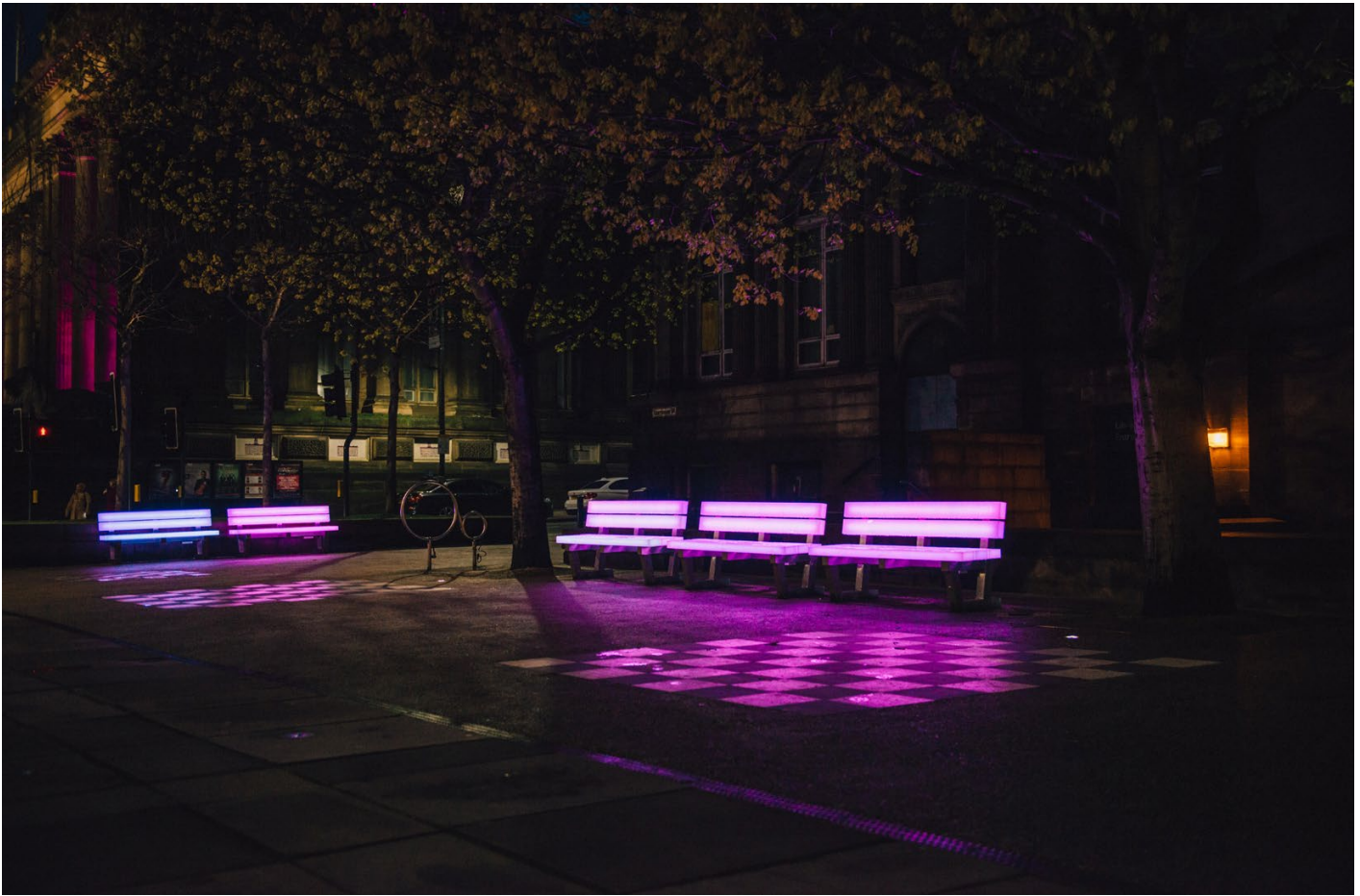
Uplifting words from Andrew Cooper

Bottom Left

A full house at the Leeds Sports Awards

Right

Nile Wilson receiving his Sportman award



Some illuminating additions are now also in place in one of the city's civic spaces - five light benches in Victoria Gardens, outside Leeds Central Library.

The benches made their first appearance as part of a number of installations funded by LeedsBID for Light Night Leeds 2017. They have since returned to Victoria Gardens as a permanent fixture, the only ones of their kind in the UK outside London.

Created by German artists Lichtbankobjekte with the aim of breaking down social awkwardness, the light benches are made using glass light beams connected by WiFi, and can change colour every two and a half minutes. They are switched on daily from sunset to sunrise (during the hours of darkness).

The benches are brought to the city by LeedsBID as part of its work in animating public places and spaces in Leeds city centre for people who come to live, work and play here.

Above

Light benches in
Victoria Gardens

'Created by German artists Lichtbankobjekte with the aim of breaking down social awkwardness, the light benches are made using glass light beams connected by WiFi, and can change colour every two and a half minutes.'

Access to discounted commuter travel

New for levy paying businesses is the opportunity to join the Arriva Employer Travel Club free of charge, thanks to LeedsBID, providing access to reduced monthly bus travel for employees.

Its quick and easy to set up and provides a real benefit to businesses, without any of the administration.

Access is available to employees of any LeedsBID levy paying business. Employees pay for their unlimited monthly bus travel by direct debit which is all managed by Arriva. The benefits include unlimited Arriva bus travel in the zone of choice, up to 2 children free on weekends and Bank Holidays, and ticket delivery direct to your phone with the Arriva m-ticket app.

Businesses wanting to sign up for their employees can contact Gemma Lockwood, Business to Business Manager on 07870269357 or Lockwoodg.yorkbus@arriva.co.uk

Find out more @ www.arrivabus.co.uk/business-travel

New for Levy Payers

LeedsBID bookings are now at your fingertips with the launch of Zendesk, providing an easier way for businesses to get in touch, make an enquiry and book services.

The BID has joined forces with Leeds-based Cloud Solutions and Google Premier Partner Netpremacy to launch the Zendesk feature as a new extension to the LeedsBID website, making enquiries or booking services (such as the Street Rangers or room bookings) possible at the touch of a button.

Zendesk will also allow LeedsBID to build for the future and develop its services and facilities to accommodate customer demand.

Top Left
Arriva Bus Service

Bottom Left
Arriva Logo

Bottom Right
Zen Desk





**MEPC PROMOTE
FITNESS AND
WELLBEING**



'A recent study published by leading independent job site, CV library, revealed that over 66 per cent of professionals wanted to exercise more throughout the week, with 79 per cent of workers feeling that businesses should do more to facilitate the ability to exercise.

Wellington Place has unveiled a brand new outdoor fitness and wellbeing centre designed to support the pursuit of a healthier working environment in Leeds city centre.

The new space, named The Courtyard, has been introduced as part of MEPC's commitment to health and wellbeing and boasts a wide range of facilities including a giant chess board, table tennis tables, fußball, covered seating, an urban gym and a space for yoga – allowing Wellington Place occupiers to break away from their desks to exercise or unwind at a time to suit them.

A recent study published by leading independent job site, CV library, revealed that over 66 per cent of professionals wanted to exercise more throughout the week, with 79 per cent of workers feeling that businesses

should do more to facilitate the ability to exercise.

Dominique Simcox, spokesperson for MEPC Wellington Place said: "Wellbeing is an incredibly important aspect of Wellington Place and something we continue to be committed to.

"The opening of The Courtyard has been the perfect next step, giving people a great reason to step outside and take a break. Not only is it a great place for an outdoor workout or yoga session, but the seating and chess tables offer a unique space for people to unplug and unwind."

The space is available exclusively for Wellington Place occupiers to use for free. MEPC also plans to expand its range of complimentary

classes, from high energy circuit sessions to chess masterclasses, as well as friendly leagues and competitions between offices with fabulous prizes on offer, to make the most of the new facilities.

Rachael Culpan, HR manager at Equifax added: "It's amazing to have access to such a great facility just a few steps from our office door. It encourages people to step away from their desk and get some much-needed fresh air, but also promotes some friendly competition amongst companies, which is a particular hit with our employees."

The Courtyard is the newest addition to the expanding Wellington Place development, following the completion of the latest Grade A office building, 3 Wellington Place, which is now available to let.



Top Left
The Pop-Up Market
at Wellington Place



Bottom Left
Exercise Class

Street Food in the Square

There is an open invitation to all to come along to Wellington Place's Tower Square on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 12-2pm for the street market and food event, with accompanying entertainment from Leeds College of Music students as part of LeedsBID's Summer in the City programme. We hope to see you there.

About Wellington Place

Wellington Place is a sustainable business community being built in the heart of Leeds by developer and manager MEPC and is funded through a joint venture between Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB) and Hermes Real Estate. The vision for Wellington Place is an exciting place to work, live and visit.

Once completed, the scheme will boast a total of 1.5 million sq. ft. of commercial, retail, leisure and residential space and be one of the biggest and most prestigious new city centre business quarters in Europe.

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New Centre of Retail and Hospitality Excellence for the city

A new Centre of Retail and Hospitality Excellence (CORHE) is opening its doors in the city after LeedsBID and Leeds City Council joined forces to create a skills centre of excellence.

With Leeds ranked as the third highest destination for retail spend outside London and just outside the European top 20, the creation of a new dedicated centre for excellence will provide an exciting base in which to capitalise and build on the already burgeoning retail and hospitality sectors that exist in the city.

The CORHE, to be housed at LandSec's City Exchange building in the city centre, aims to improve the skills, service standards and business performance of employers and current and future employees who access the service. As part of the offer, employers can make use of the expertise at the CORHE to identify workforce skills needs and access a portfolio of existing and emerging products, master classes, training and Level 1-7 qualifications.

Working with three leading providers, Leeds Beckett University, Leeds City College and The Source Retail Skills Academy, the centre will

seek to match candidates with employment opportunities and give local residents the chance to learn new skills and existing workers to up-skill and advance their careers.

It is anticipated, that once in operation, there will be a minimum of 500 individuals per annum benefitting from the CORHE skills offer, with an ambition to grow this number to over 1,000.

"An overarching objective of the Leeds Business Improvement District's business plan is for the BID to be an economic driver for the city centre - to assist businesses in identifying and maximising the best pathways and initiatives to attract, retain and develop talent and skills while providing investment opportunities for sectors to ensure Leeds can compete in the global marketplace," said LeedsBID Chief Executive Andrew Cooper.

"Having identified a need to support retail, a primary sector of economic importance for the city, LeedsBID is working alongside its levy payers and key partners to address employee shortage issues, low-level skills and recruitment challenges with this innovative employer-led solution in the heart of the retail area."

IN OTHER NEWS

Take in a talk over lunch

Hear about an assortment of subjects at the lunchtime talks hosted by the Redmayne Bentley Interactive Group at their offices in 9 Bond Court.

Colleagues, authors and organisations from around the city have been having their say on everything from city organisations such as the Leeds Business Improvement District, Leeds Civic Trust and East Street Arts to Sudan and the Antarctica - as part of the group's fundraising efforts for Leeds Mind.

Talks are usually held on a Tuesday, at 9 Bond Court, with the next season scheduled for September.

If you would like to host talks and help build up a network of speakers, simply get in touch with rob.kilner@redmayne.co.uk

New partnership transforms iconic building in city centre

Leeds-based arts organisation, East Street Arts has teamed up with LJ Real Estate as part of an exciting collaboration bringing a new immersive pop-up art space to Leeds.

34 Boar Lane has opened as a making, showing and social space for artists and the public, located on the iconic city centre street until the end of October.

The space will host digital and audio-visual (AV) artists, designers, and socially engaged artists, with a key focus on food and art, and is based in and around a series of specially designed wooden studio pods.

34 Boar Lane is to house a wide range of workshops, exhibitions and events, including Digital Natives as part of Leeds International Festival and Mr Arkwright's Food Emporium, a collaboration between artist Helen Russell Brown, The Real Junk Food Project and creative chef, Andy Castle from Ox Club as part of Leeds Indie Food Festival.

LJ Real Estate has worked with the young, collaborative architectural practice, Studio Bark to develop five sustainably produced, wooden pods to operate as art studios and

workshops in the space. Using an innovative 'u-build' system, the artists who will take up residency of the space helped to build their own studios.

Ella Cronk, Temporary Spaces: Artists Coordinator, from East Street Arts said: "We're extremely excited about this project. 34 Boar Lane will be home to some fantastic collaborations and work that is new to the space and the city. It is a place for Leeds-based creatives to meet and expand ideas, from initial thoughts through to fabrication and presentation."

Sam Lawson Johnston, co-founder of LJ Real Estate added: "We are passionate about transforming buildings into creative spaces and we're really pleased to be hosting this project, filling the building with artists and creators and providing well-needed art studio space in the city centre."

Bottom

34 Boar Lane

Pop-Up



Award for urban arts project

An innovative urban arts project to make the streets of Leeds city centre a little less grey has received national recognition.

A City Less Grey, a joint project from East Street Arts and LeedsBID, took the award for best use of arts, culture or sport in placemaking at the Planning Awards in London on June 6th.

Launched in November 2016, it has injected colour into corners of the city with local and national artists creating semi-permanent and permanent installations at Kirkgate, Sovereign Square and Vicar Lane and brought the UK's tallest piece of street art to Leeds – Athena Rising by NOMAD Clan on Platform.

East Street Arts and LeedsBID are looking at phase two of the project to continue animating the city.

BECOME A LEEDSBID VOLUNTARY LEVY PAYER

The Background

LeedsBID works with businesses and organisations of all sizes and across all sectors – public, private and third sector/ voluntary, retail, office, educational and cultural - on proposals, plans and projects to invest commercially in Leeds city centre.

Democratically elected, the business improvement district represents approximately 1,000 levy-paying organisations and is funded by a 1.25% levy on business rates for those with a rateable value of over £60,000, resulting in more than £12m investment back into the city over its first five-year term.

This annual levy is used to deliver improvement to the city centre, driving ambition and raising profile; levy-payers can engage and consult on a range of bold, inspiring and exciting initiatives - from the MOBO awards, Christmas in Leeds, and Leeds International Festival, through to commercial waste saving, recycling partnerships and even digital training.

Now, three years on, city centre businesses (within the LeedsBID area) with a rateable value below £60,000 are seeing the tangible outcomes of these projects and some are opting to join LeedsBID by becoming Voluntary Levy Payers.

Leeds Civic Trust

Located on Wharf Street, LS2, Leeds Civic Trust is a small business but was keen to explore collaborative opportunities. The trust first became involved with LeedsBID after one of the trustees, Mike Piet, became a member of the Steering Group and soon after got involved in helping to provide content for the Welcome to Leeds website.

Martin Hamilton, Director at Leeds Civic Trust, explains:

“Our relationship with LeedsBID is partly about the practical and partly about our values. The ‘practical’ was simply that we were originally looking to procure refuse disposal for our premises and the Forge Recycling partnership seemed particularly attractive. More generally, through my daily work, I come into regular contact with LeedsBID, and it became clear that Leeds Civic Trust shares many of their values, so it made sense for us to join. LeedsBID has also joined Leeds Civic Trust, and we see real opportunities in working together.

“Leeds Civic Trust has three areas of focus: Heritage (through our work on blue plaques, buildings at risk, and the history of Leeds), Development (promoting good architecture and design and better transport) and Amenity (our public realm, city facilities, culture and quality of life issues more generally). Many of the activities of the Trust - particularly how we aim to improve the overall environment in the city centre - are very closely allied with LeedsBID objectives.”

“I see the main benefit of becoming a Voluntary Levy Payer as working on a variety of projects together – short, medium, and long-term – that will make Leeds city centre a better place to live, work, and play. Whether this is holding joint events, supporting LeedsBID activities, working together to showcase what Leeds has to offer, I am sure the months and years to come will be both busy and fruitful for both organisations.”

Karen Butler, Head of Place Management & Delivery at LeedsBID continues:

“Although in some respects we are very different organisations, LeedsBID and Leeds Civic Trust have a shared non-political agenda about on-going improvement and raising the profile of Leeds. The Trust represents 95 corporate members in the city – including property, development and transport firms – many of whom are also LeedsBID levy payers, so we come into contact with similar organisations during the course of our work. By joining up, we can take a shared approach to delivering things such as networking, open days, and corporate membership events.

“This relationship is mutually beneficial. LeedsBID is gaining valuable knowledge from the Trust as, for example, our Welcome Ambassadors will be engaging in the Leeds Civic Trust’s programme of walks to extend their knowledge of the city, which is fantastic. We are already talking about how we can work together on the waterfront and on joint business events.”



Top
The Street Rangers
cleaning Park SQ.

Bottom
The Welcome
Ambassadors



Benefits of being a Voluntary Levy Payer include:

- Access to LeedsBID street teams – Leeds Welcome Ambassadors & Street Rangers Service
- Facilitated Meeting Room Service
- Event Engagement
- Commercial Waste Saving and Recycling Opportunities
- Discounted Bus Travel
- Leeds Boost Digital Training
- Dashboard and City Data Access
- E-Newsletter

Find Out More

If you would like to find out more about becoming a Voluntary Levy Payer, please do get in touch. Businesses can gain access to the above services by becoming a Voluntary Levy Payer for an annual fee of £750.

Please contact the LeedsBID office if you wish to speak to a representative about the voluntary levy in more detail on enquiry@leedsbid.co.uk or 0113 467 2780

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**Welcome
to Leeds.**

