

Bulletin

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DECEMBER–JANUARY
2001–2002

This Issue: • East Midlands Landmark Competition • Centre's Day of Celebration • An Historic Evening

UNIVERSITY BENEFITS FROM £10 MILLION INNOVATION PACKAGE

► The University of Leicester is to benefit from an award of £10 million for regional collaborative projects through the Government's jackpot to exploit innovation and expertise in higher education.

The funding was won with the support of the East Midlands Universities Association (EMUA), chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Robert Burgess, who said: "The region's universities have a strong track record in

encouraging entrepreneurship and technology transfer to the world of business, and these funds will enable us to maximise this potential."

The wider implications of the
(Continued on page 2)

Top Marks – Twice Over!

► The University has scored top marks yet again in the latest rounds of teaching quality assessment from the Quality Assurance Agency. This brings the total of 'excellent' scores to 18.

Both the School of Education and the School of Archaeology and Ancient History gained 24 points out of 24, giving Leicester the rare distinction of 12 successive awards of 22 points or more from the QAA – which equates with a mark of 'excellent'. Both *The Sunday Times* and the *Financial Times* have placed Leicester in the top 20 earlier in the year.

Other departments to have achieved maximum scores are: Museum Studies, Economics and Psychology.

Head of the School of Archaeology and Ancient History Professor Marilyn Palmer said: "Combined with our excellent Research Assessment Exercise rating of 5A, the QAA result confirms our position in the top flight of departments working in our two disciplines. A maximum score from the QAA reflects the innovative spirit, enthusiasm and the strong teamwork that all staff – academic, professional, technical and clerical – contribute to the work of the School."

Professor Ken Fogelman, Head of the School of Education said: "We are extremely pleased with the result and, in particular, the positive comments made on the culture of continuous improvement and the team work displayed by all staff teaching and supporting the programmes."

Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert
(Continued on page 2)



HOUSE OF LORDS

► Two movie legends joined forces on Monday November 12 for the second annual Richard Attenborough Centre Public Lecture.

In a heart-felt and often critical speech entitled *The Moral Imagination*, Lord Puttnam, a Government adviser on education and former director of such films as *The Killing Fields*, *Bugsy Malone*, *Chariots of Fire* and *The Mission*, called for greater moral accountability from the film industry and higher investment in education.

Lord Attenborough followed by recalling the visit of Diana, Princess of Wales, who formally opened the Centre in 1997, and announcing that the main hall would be named after the Princess to commemorate the event. 🗨️



PAT GETS THE BLUES

► In answer to younger colleagues teasing her about the need for a blue rinse, Pat Wilson, a technician in the Genetics Department, issued a challenge. She would dye her hair blue if they would make a contribution to the children's charity.

The result is blue hair for Pat and almost £1,000 for Children in Need. Pat is still accepting donations (extension 3418/5100). 🗨️



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University of Leicester



Top marks

(continued from page one)

Burgess added: "These rigorous external assessments provide a public demonstration of the excellence of teaching quality at Leicester, as well as the quality of the learning experience offered to our students." ☺

Leicester welcomes Physics high-flyers

► Among 70 undergraduates who registered for a physics degree at the University of Leicester, four students have already proved themselves outstanding in top international competition.

The students, from the Republic of Moldova, Bulgaria, Azerbaijan and Indonesia, are all medal holders from the XXXI International Physics Olympiad, held at the University of Leicester in July 2000, and were subsequently successful in applying for IPHO 2000 Scholarships to enable them to join the MPhys degree course in September 2001.

The IPHO 2000 scholarships are jointly funded by the British Physics Olympiad Committee and the University. Four have been awarded for 2001 entry and already one for 2002, which will benefit a student from Finland. If further funding can be found it is hoped the scheme will be continued in future years and extended to other leading UK universities. ☺

Greener solutions

► A research team at the University, part of Leicester Green Chemistry Group, led by Drs Andy Abbott and David Davies has developed novel solvent systems which are recyclable and environmentally compatible.

The new solvent systems, ionic liquids, have been studied extensively in recent years as they offer a potentially clean way to carry out chemical processes. They are non-volatile whilst liquid over a wide range of temperatures and offer a benign alternative to, for example, some strong acids.

To commercialise the technology a joint venture company, Scionix Ltd, has been set-up. It brings together the business and marketing skills of Genacys Ltd, a subsidiary of the Whyte Group Ltd, with the cross-disciplinary scientific skills of the team based at the University. ☺

DO YOUR BIT FOR CHARITY... WITHOUT DOING A THING!

► Leicester RAG is once again gearing up for a mega fundraising year. During RAG week we raised £4,500, and we still need your help!

Last year's empty toner cartridge collection for BIBIC (The British Institute for Brain Injured Children) raised over £300 and RAG would like to thank every department of the University and Students' Union for their efforts. We are continuing the project this year and ask that everyone continue to send empty toner cartridges to the RAG office in the Percy Gee building.

We will also continue collecting used stamps for Health Unlimited – the former Blue Peter appeal charity. A big thank you to everyone who has sent us boxes of stamps.

We are also starting a number of new campaigns.

Scope are collecting old and unwanted mobile phones, so if anyone knows of any unwanted phones, just send them up to us in the RAG office.

With the introduction of the Euro in January 2002, many foreign currencies are no longer legal ten-

der. RAG are collecting all foreign coins and notes in advance of this date, in order to collect enough to change them into pounds which we can donate to local and national charities. Please could everyone rummage around the back of sofas and in the corners of suitcases and send any foreign currency to the RAG office. Every Drachma, Punt, and Peseta helps.

Emily Wearmouth
RAG President 2001/2002
0116 223 1153 ☺

EXPLOSIVE NIGHT FOR LEICESTER GRADUATES

► Amid a riot of explosive colours and bangs ironically commemorating Guy Fawkes in Westminster, generations of Leicester graduates met at the Cabinet War Rooms for the 2001 London Reunion.

It was a night for nostalgia and renewing acquaintances. They were treated to tours of the famous tourist attraction by guides who

included a graduate as well as a current student of the University, with plenty of wine to make for a merry occasion.

TV personality Sue Cook attending her first reunion since graduating in 1971 thought it was a splendid occasion: "It has brought memories of my time in Leicester flooding back," she said. ☺



Sue Cook

£10 MILLION PACKAGE

(continued from page one)

funding have been welcomed by the East Midlands Development Agency (emda). Tony Kildare, Director of People Development and Business Growth at emda commented: "This is excellent news for the East Midlands. The successful exploitation of university research potential is a key driver in regional and national economic growth."

The support comes from four separate awards under the Government's Knowledge Transfer / Exploitation Funding. The combination of initiatives funded by the bids will give a strong boost to the commercialisation of research at Leicester.

The Higher Education Innovation Fund award of £3 million will establish the East Midlands Incubation Network, supporting new businesses

in the region through a strong network of support agencies. A wide range of businesses will reap the benefit, including pre-start and early stage companies, incubator and business support practitioners, research groups, private sector business professionals and investors. Universities involved are Leicester, Derby, Lincoln, Loughborough, Nottingham Trent and De Montfort.

Medici is the name given to a further £2 million Higher Education Innovation Fund award to the five East and West Midlands universities with medical schools – Leicester, Nottingham, Warwick, Birmingham and Aston. It will be used to train and support academics wishing to be involved in knowledge transfer activities.

The Science Enterprise II award of

£2 million is intended to develop entrepreneurship in science and technology in the region. Based at the University of Nottingham Institute for Enterprise and Innovation, the partner universities are Leicester, Derby, De Montfort, Loughborough, Nottingham Trent, Lincoln and University College Northampton.

The University Challenge award of £3 million will contribute to a £4 million investment fund to support the commercialisation of research activities at the partner universities of Leicester, De Montfort, Loughborough, Nottingham and Nottingham Trent. These institutions have a strong history of encouraging innovation with the infrastructures to enable successful commercialisation of technology and encourage high growth. ☺



► It has been gestating for more than a year. It has been backed by 700 companies, organisations and individuals from every part of the region, and attracted 200 works of art in embryo — and all this without spending a penny of public money.

On November 12 the first phase of the Great East Midlands (GEM) Landmark Competition reached its climax at the Richard Attenborough Centre, where Lord Attenborough announced the winner of the competition to design a sculpture with the breadth and scale to symbolise the East Midlands. "I don't get to do this at the Oscars," he said, as he opened the envelope in front of television camera crews from the BBC, Central and MATV and revealed that the winning entry was Cable Structure, a tunnel of mesh designed to span a major road.

Nine entries had been short-listed by a panel of judges which included the University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Robert Burgess, and were posted on the Landmark website (www.landmark2001.co.uk) during October so that members of the public could vote for the winner. The landmark that East Midlanders had chosen was designed by Nottingham trio Alina and Tom Hughes and Thibaut Devulder. "It was great to be short-listed — so to win it is fantastic," said a delighted Tom Hughes, adding: "It's a very worthwhile project and I hope a good landmark will come out of it."

Other finalists included Cupped Hands rising from a lake by David Staples of Burton on Trent; Dove of Peace by Gordon Brown, FRSA, of Raven-



Symbol of success: Lord Attenborough hands a £2,000 cheque to the winners, flanked by the Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Burgess (left) and GEM Chairman Lee Stokes (right).

EAST MIDLANDS LANDMARK

shead; East Midlands Miner by Mark Bentley of Nottingham; Fountain of the East Midlands by D P Armstrong of Newark; Mankind by Ryan Scrimshaw of Nottinghamshire; Rainbow Arch by Simon Withers of Nottingham; Tower of Stars by Kenneth Gilbert of Leicestershire; and The Turbine Blade by Iam Walmsley of Derby. Organisers of the Landmark Competition hope that these, too, will find a place in the region.

Lord Attenborough's enthusiasm for Leicester was apparent when he spoke of growing up at the University where his father was Principal, and his gratitude to the Little Theatre

where he had his first real taste of the footlights. Less well-known were his affectionately recalled links with other parts of the East Midlands, which included scout camping trips to Skegness, carol singing at Belvoir Castle, family roots in Long Eaton and the Nottingham Theatre Royal where *The Mousetrap* opened, starring Richard Attenborough and his wife, Sheila Sim.

As Chairman of the GEM Campaign, Lord Attenborough expressed his belief in the importance of art in people's lives, not only as an object of beauty, but for the ways in which art breaks down barriers and encourages communication.

Amid concerns that the East Midlands lacks a strong regional identity and suffers from a GDP per head well below the European Union average (40th out of 77 regions), the GEM campaign is a movement led by private sector businesses dedicated to raising the profile as well as the profitability of the region.

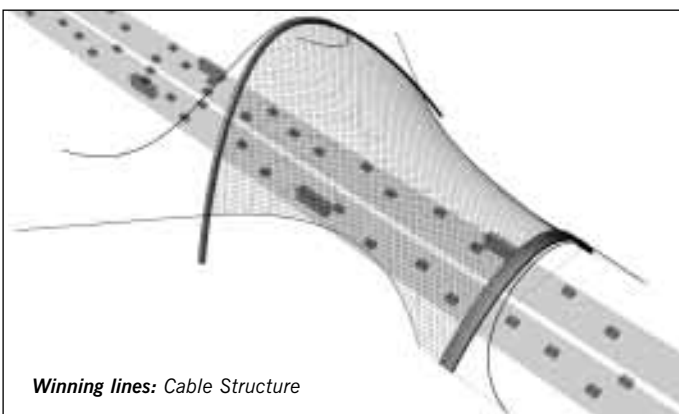
In an area famed for its diversity rather than unity, GEM has fostered closer links between individuals and businesses in addition to raising awareness of the role played by the

East Midlands Development Agency.

Its promoters hope the Landmark contest will give the East Midlands a symbol as potent as that of Newcastle on Tyne's Angel of the North, and one not just for the region, but born from it. Entries were submitted by East Midlanders from all walks of life, including housewives, pensioners and schoolchildren as well as architects, artists and sculptors.

Addressing the company gathered at the Richard Attenborough Centre for the announcement of the winner, Professor Burgess — who is also Chair of the East Midlands Universities Association — highlighted the pivotal role played by the region's universities, not just in the contribution they make towards its economy, but also the ways in which they enhance its artistic, cultural and aesthetic life.

GEM Campaign Chairman Lee Stokes, though fulsome in his thanks to all those who had supported the campaign, took a more practical approach, looking to the future. "This is just the end of Phase 1," he pointed out. "We now move on to Phase 2, to raising the money to get the landmark built and to finding a site for it." ☺



Winning lines: Cable Structure



Savings Commended

▶ The University Savings Committee recently reported total savings since December 1999 of £543,000. These arise from improvements to purchasing and other arrangements developed through the Committee, which has played a valuable part in motivating members of the University to think creatively about how costs can be cut.

The Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Burgess, who chairs the Savings Committee, said: "This is a tribute to the dedication and hard work of staff across the campus and it demonstrates the importance of establishing a culture of savings."

The Savings Committee welcomes ideas on savings from staff, to be considered at the next meeting in February 2002. Please contact Gary Hague, gh32@le.ac.uk. ☺

Citizenship and human rights

▶ More than 80 people went to the Ulster Museum to hear a University of Leicester presentation on Citizenship and Human Rights in October.

Professor Audrey Osler and Dr Hugh Starkey, from the Centre for Citizenship Studies in Education, visited Belfast to launch a major seminar series on Citizenship Education hosted by the UNESCO Centre at the University of Ulster.

The Northern Ireland Commissioner for Human Rights, Professor Brice Dickson, who chaired the session, highlighted the critical role of human rights education in the development of a just society. He came directly from Holy Cross Primary School where he had accompanied the children on their way to school. The seminar series will run until December 2002. ☺

CENTRE'S DAY OF CELEBRATION

▶ Lord Attenborough and Lord Puttnam were at the Richard Attenborough Centre on November 12, for the second annual Richard Attenborough Centre Public Lecture and to rename the hall in remembrance of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Lord Attenborough commented: "When Princess Diana died I was anxious that we should commemorate publicly that she had visited the Centre and so we asked the Home Office if we could call the assembly hall after her. David Puttnam was a friend of Princess Diana, as my wife and I were, and it seemed appropriate that we should arrange his lecture for the same evening."

Lord (David) Puttnam became a life peer in 1997. He retired from film production in 1998 to concentrate on his work in education, and is Chair of the General Teaching Council, and of NESTA (National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts), an organisation he founded.

He spoke about the immense power of the movie industry to influ-



Lord Puttnam

ence society and its lack of moral responsibility. Referring to the dedication of the New York fire-fighters of September 11, he touched on the role of the public sector and its relationship with private industry and also discussed the fundamental importance of investing in education if the UK is not to become a second-class nation.

Lord Attenborough's family has

longstanding links with the University, as he explained: "I feel tremendous nostalgia for the University. We lived on campus. My father was Principal and was responsible for creating the circumstances in which it became a university in its own right rather than the university college it had been. A lot of things connect me to Leicester. Even though I wasn't born there, it's home." ☺

AN HISTORIC EVENING

▶ The past, present and future coalesced in a single evening when people from all walks of life associated with the University of Leicester gathered to mark its 80th Anniversary.

During a special evening that marked the launch of a year of events, members of the University reflected upon what had been achieved – and what was to be built upon.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Burgess emphasised the importance of all University staff acting as a team when he stated: "If things are

going really well at the University – it is down to the staff."

That, he said, was tribute to what made the University so special "It is the people who work here, and the students, that makes Leicester a unique place."

The October 4 dinner provided a platform from which to cast an eye on particular moments in the University's history. Professor Burgess remarked that the University was demonstrably forward thinking from its very inception given the fact that all the nine students who

first started their studies at Leicester were women.

Professor Burgess paid tribute to the work of his predecessors describing the significant changes that had occurred during the stewardship of the Principals and former Vice-Chancellors of the University.

Describing the University of today, Professor Burgess said the record recruitment, strong research, excellent press coverage were all factors that placed the University in an advantageous position and provided the basis to build upon. ☺

NEW LIBRARY SERVICE

▶ Leicestershire doctors and health workers will find they have information at their finger tips, thanks to a new initiative from the University.

On October 31 at Leicestershire Health Authority, the University's Clinical Sciences Library officially launched its new information service for all primary, community and men-

tal health NHS staff in Leicestershire.

The service aims to take library and information services into GP surgeries, health centres and community hospitals, rather than expecting busy staff to visit the Clinical Sciences Library on the Leicester Royal Infirmary site.

The service will support clinical practice and clinical governance, life

long learning, research and audit.

The University Library has provided services to the NHS for more than 20 years, and has long wanted to modernise services beyond the hospitals. Funding from the Trent NHS Knowledge and Libraries Unit and Leicestershire's Information for Health Management Board has enabled the Library to

launch this two-year project.

The initiative has been running since September, and Isla Kuhn the Project Librarian, has already – among other initiatives – provided information for an audit in cervical cytology and trained more than 30 GPs and practice nurses in finding the evidence in their workplace. ☺



► RETIREMENTS

Dedicated service to the University



High profile: Judy Phythian-Adams, with (left) Professor Richard Bonney, Head of the Department of History, and (right) the Dean of Arts, Professor Alison Yarrington, receives gifts to mark her retirement.

► **Judy Phythian-Adams, the departmental administrator in the Department of History since 1985, retired on September 30. She first worked for the University in 1978, as secretary in the Victorian Studies Centre.**

Judy had a high profile in the University and was well known to many colleagues in all grades of staff over the years. Some of her many friends joined staff from the Department for her farewell occasion to thank her for her service to History and to the University.

The Department of History will not be the same without Judy. She has won the admiration of colleagues in many parts of the University – most importantly for her commitment. Judy was always prepared to ‘go the extra mile’, with never any willingness to let matters slip. For those sixteen years of committed service and dedication, my colleagues and I have every reason to be extremely grateful. We wish Judy and Charles many years of happy and active, indeed experiential, retirement. ☺

The Rev Professor Richard Bonney

Thank you

► **Dr Marjorie England, previously a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Pre-Clinical Sciences, has written to thank those who helped her celebrate her retirement in September, and particularly thanking everyone for their kindness and generosity.**

She adds, “The numerous cards, gifts and best wishes were all greatly appreciated, and will be a wonderful reminder of my many colleagues and good friends in the University. I was thrilled with the presentation of a watercolour painting of tulips, which now has pride of place in my house. I wish you all the very best in the future.” ☺

► STAFF AWARDS

A Nice surprise

► **Professor Ted Davis, Professor of Experimental Physics in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, has been made an Honorary Citizen of Nice at a ceremony held in the city. The accolade is a tribute to Professor Davis’ seminal research in physics, which has proved to be of academic and commercial importance.**

Professor Davis was in Nice for the latest of a series of meetings on Amorphous and Microcrystalline Semiconductors at which he has presented papers for the past 20 years. He received the award in the form of

a medal from Dr Rampel, Adjoint au Maire de Nice.

During the past two years, Professor Davis and colleagues from the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory have received two grants totalling £790,000 from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research



Council for research exploring the behaviour of hydrogen in Semiconductors. ☺

Three-quarters of a century of service



Farewell reception: (back, left to right) Tony Brown and David Parsons with Professor John Benyon, (front, left to right) Vice-Chancellor Professor Burgess, Professor Marilyn Palmer and Professor Graeme Barker.

► **A large number of colleagues, including the Vice-Chancellor, gathered in the Council Chamber on October 26 to mark the retirement of Tony Brown and David Parsons after 37 and 36 years respectively with the University.**

Professor John Benyon expressed his appreciation of their service to the Department of Adult Education and invited Professor Marilyn Palmer to elaborate on their careers, in recognition of the fact that both Tony and David have been working in recent years with Adult Education and the School of Archaeology and Ancient History. In speaking of their achievements, Marilyn Palmer praised the

huge contribution both had made to the University's reputation in archaeology, as well as adult educators, and to her own career. She was also able to recall a number of amusing episodes involving either Tony or David, which illustrated the need for adult education to be adaptable and flexible, but also how enjoyable and worthwhile this work can be.

Following replies from Tony and David, presentations were made and there was an opportunity for colleagues and friends to reminisce and enjoy a glass of wine. A farewell dinner to mark both retirements was held at the end of November. ☺

Diane May



Obituaries

► The University has learnt, with regret, of the death of the following:

DR C D BAKER

Dr David Baker, formerly a Lecturer at this University, died in a road accident in Australia which occurred during the first weekend in September. Dr Baker was a Lecturer in the Department of Law from October 1967 until he resigned in March 1977 to take up a post at the University of Adelaide.

DR P J REYNOLDS

Archaeologist Dr Peter Reynolds, who was awarded a postgraduate degree in Iron Age Economy by this University in 1979, died suddenly on September 26 in Kemer, Turkey, aged 62.

A leader in his field and a believer in the concept 'climate drives landscape drives man', he brought a modern, dynamic and imaginative approach to research into the British Iron Age. Building on experience gained on Bredon Hill in the Cotswolds, where he created the first open-air Iron Age laboratory, he went on to set up an experimental centre on Butser Hill, Hampshire in 1972, where his research into the storage of grain in underground silos formed the basis of his doctoral thesis. His work at Butser, documented in his book, *Iron Age Farm: The Butser Experiment*, revolutionised the way in which the pre-Roman Iron Age economy was perceived.

With a boundless enthusiasm for his subject, he went on to develop many international links and instituted research programmes abroad. This he combined with an enduring love of the classical world (his first degree was in Classics at Trinity College, Dublin). He later developed a fascination for the Iron Age of the Mediterranean, and led inspirational tours of south western Turkey. He leaves a wife and a daughter.

SIR JOHN PLUMB

The death of Sir John Harold Plumb on October 21 has deprived the University of Leicester of one of its last links with the old University College. The story has been often told of the Leicester-born schoolboy, whose teacher and mentor was Bert Howard, the senior History master at Alderman Newton's School, entering

for a History scholarship for Cambridge, inexplicably denied an exhibition, and instead coming to the local college and where he graduated in 1933 with a first class honours degree in History.

If in later years he had rather a sour view of the City of Leicester he had nothing but a high regard for the University. In 1968 he was delighted to accept an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters from the University and demonstrated this by endowing an annual prize for the best History graduate. He continued to show his interest in those who were awarded the Prize, each year writing to the awardee with congratulations and encouragement.

After Leicester Cambridge became his academic home for the rest of his life. He was Professor of Modern English History in the University of Cambridge from 1966 to 1974, later Master of Christ's College. There were occasional absences to Oxford, to North America, and, not surprisingly, during the war, to Bletchley Park. Here he managed to find his own aspect of code-breaking and create a friendship with Anthony Rothschild which served him well for the rest of his life.

He was a prodigious writer, and attracted much criticism. Some felt that he was too shallow, playing too much to the 'gallery'. The fact remained that he was to many people – academics, students, members of the public alike – the historian of the eighteenth century par excellence. Not many historians would have impressed Margaret Thatcher, Ronald Regan, and Princess Margaret, while few would have been able to achieve his standard of living.

But his works remain a standard against which other books on similar topics must be judged. His life of Sir Robert Walpole is incomplete; it has been claimed that Jack Plumb had so far identified himself with his subject that he could not bring himself to write of a great man in decline. It has been suggested that it was not as radical a revision of the earlier biography – three volumes published by William Cox in 1798 – as might have been expected. However, it illustrates most



Sir John Harold Plumb (picture courtesy of the Leicester Mercury)

clearly the way in which even the same materials can be interrogated in different methods as well as the way in which materials rejected as unsuitable as a basis for research by one generation could yet be used to great advantage by another.

With his writing he combined all the activities of a good college man; he accepted willingly his fair share of all the various burdens which fall to Fellows of Oxbridge colleges. He did more indeed, and threw himself into the task of raising large sums of money – now an indispensable part of the academic life.

All who knew him or came into touch with him will have their own memories. My own is of an invitation to dine with him in College. He was still suffering from the after-effects of an attack of jaundice, which prevented him from drinking alcohol. Nonetheless, after dinner he brought me into the Senior Common Room and dedicated to me a special bottle drawn from his own cellar. I still wish that I had had the knowledge and the special taste to have enjoyed it as much as he would have done.

Professor Aubrey Newman

MR S GHAFFAR

Shariq Ghaffar, a final-year medical student, died in a car accident on Monday, October 22. A popular student with many friends, Shariq will be remembered for his smile and his

friendly personality. He was also known for his devotion to his faith and his selflessness and concern for others. He approached his work with tenacity and devotion, aiming for successful completion of his studies. Those who knew him send their condolences to his family (Shariq was the youngest of three children).

His funeral took place in Walsall on October 24. Fellow students held a memorial service for Shariq on November 12.

Rased Akhtar

DEATH NOTICES

Information about the death of a member of the University's staff or a student (past or present) should be given to Vivienne Paul, the Registrar's Secretary, who will ensure that the details are disseminated throughout the University via CWIS. Her telephone number is 0116 252 2411.

STELLA MOORE, deceased

Many of you will recall the loss of Stella last December after her battle with cancer. Trees have been planted as a memorial to her name and these will be dedicated during a short service at the University Chaplaincy on Tuesday, December 19 at 12.00 noon. Colleagues who still wish to contribute may do so by contacting Jim Whait in the Estates Office. 🌳



► STAFF DISTINCTIONS



Dr David Jones

► **Professor David Jones** (Epidemiology and Public Health) has been invited to join the Public Health Evidence Steering Group of the Health Development Agency.

► **Professor Ian Postlethwaite** (Engineering) has been awarded the Sir Harold Hartley Medal 2001 by the Council of The Institute of Measurement and Council. The medal is awarded annually to an individual whose contribution to the technology of measurement and control is of outstanding merit.

► **Dr Rosemary Barberet** (Scarman Centre) has been elected Chair of the International Division of the American Society of Criminology.

► **Dr Simon Bennett** (Scarman Centre) has been invited by Lynn University, Florida, to serve as a member of its Emergency Management Degree Program Advisory Council.

► **Dr Tim Hobbs** (Librarian) is to serve as a member of the Shadow Executive Board of the East Midlands Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (EMMLAC), a new cross-domain body funded by Resource: the Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries. Dr Hobbs will also act as EMMLAC's contact person with



Dr Ian Postlethwaite



Dr Elaine Treharne

resource as it further develops its regional strategy.

► **Dr John Mitcheson** (Cell Physiology and Pharmacology) has been awarded an MRC Career Establishment grant, the first such award made to a member of the University's staff.

► **Dr Elaine Treharne** (English) has been appointed Vice-President elect of the International Society of Anglo Saxonists (her period of service will commence on 1 January 2002).

► **Miss Kathy Williams** (Academic Registrar) has been appointed Chair of the national Academic Registrar's Council (ARC) for the period 2001 to 2003. ☺

► APPOINTMENTS

Professor of English Local History

► The University of Leicester has appointed **Professor Christopher C Dyer**, BA, PhD, FSA, FRHS, FBA, as **Professor of Regional and Local History in the Centre for English Local History**.

Christopher Dyer came to Leicester on September 1, 2001 from the Department of History in the University of Birmingham, where he held a personal chair in Medieval Social History. In a previous post as assistant lecturer at the University of Edinburgh his students included the present Chancellor of the Exchequer.

He has researched many aspects of medieval England, including agriculture, rural settlements, towns, commerce, money, material culture and mentality, and has published numerous articles and papers in journals and edited volumes of essays in this country and abroad.

Professor Dyer's books include a survey of medieval Standards of Living, a volume of collected essays under the title *Everyday Life in Medieval England* and an overview of the economy and society of Britain between 850 and 1520, *Making a Living in the Middle Ages*, to be published in the new year by Yale University Press and Penguin Books.

He has edited two journals, *Midland History* and the *Economic History Review*, and has managed a series of research projects with grants from the Leverhulme Trust and the Economic and Social Research Council.

His current project, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Board, is an investigation into the settlement and landscape history of



Professor Christopher Dyer

a group of parishes in the Whittlewood area on the Northamptonshire/Buckinghamshire border.

Professor Dyer admits to having long admired the traditions and achievements of the Leicester Centre (formerly Department) of English Local History, which is famed throughout the historical world.

He said: "I intend to encourage the good work that is being done there now, and to promote research projects and other ventures which will keep it in the forefront of work in local and regional history. The Centre is well known for its interdisciplinary approach and I want to add my own enthusiasm for the use of archaeology in enriching our understanding of the past."

With his studies of peasants, wage earners and other underprivileged sections of society, he will also contribute to the Centre's traditional concern for exploring the history of those outside the social elite. ☺

► LECTURES

Professorial Inaugural Lectures

► **Professorial Inaugural Lectures** are held in **Lecture Theatre 1 of the Ken Edwards Building** at 5.30 pm. **These Lectures are open to the public and free.**

Tuesday December 11

Strata of Structure and Tilting in the Dark. Professor Steffen Koenig, Department of Mathematics and

Computer Science.

Tuesday January 15

From DNA and Diversity to Genomes and Junk. Professor Pat Heslop-Harrison, Department of Biology.

Tuesday January 22

Title to be announced. Professor John Cookson, Medical Education.

Tuesday January 29

The Working Past: Archaeology, History and Heritage. Professor Marilyn Palmer, School of Archaeological Studies.

Tuesday February 12

Healthcare Evaluation: Using 18th Century Principles? Professor Keith Abrams, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health. ☺



DECEMBER

Friday December 7

Chaplaincy Event: Sing carols in the Queen's Hall (Students' Union Building). 12.45 pm. Further details from Rev Ian McIntosh (0116 285 6493).

Saturday December 8

▶ The Leicester Royal Infirmary Charity Appeals Concert: The University Choral Society and Proteus Chamber Orchestra with Diana Sharp (soprano) and Anne de Graeve (organ). Music by Bach, Rutter, Poulenc. 7.30 pm. Church of St James the Greater. Tickets £10 (£7.50 concessions). For tickets and further details ring 0116 258 7527 or 0116 252 2781. Tickets are also available from the University Bookshop (Charles Wilson Building) and the Tourist Information Office.

Sunday December 9

▶ Annual Carol Service. 3.00 pm. Digby Hall, Stoughton Drive South. Everyone welcome.

Wednesday December 12

▶ Frank May Prize Lecture: How Sugar Recognition molecules help us to Maintain Health: A Reappraisal of Innate Immunity. Dr Wilhelm Schwaeble, Department of Microbiology and Immunology. 5.30 pm. Lecture Theatre 1, Maurice Shock Medical Sciences Building. Open to the public and free.

Wednesday December 19

▶ Astronomy Group: Open Night at the Observatory, Manor Road, Oadby. 7.00 pm. Open Nights are restricted to members of the University staff and their families. Numbers are constrained by the size of the Observatory. To book, contact Norma Corby, Astronomy Group secretary, on 2073.

JANUARY

Thursday January 17

▶ Joint Leicester Branch of the Geo-

graphical Association/Department of Geography Lecture: The Geography of the Holocaust. Paul Machon and David Lambert. 7.30 pm. Lecture Theatre 2, Bennett Building. Open to the public and free. For further details contact Dr Claire Mercer via 0116 252 5245.

Monday January 21

▶ Astronomy Group: Open Night at the Observatory, Manor Road, Oadby. 7.00 pm. Open Nights are restricted to members of the University staff and their families. Numbers are constrained by the size of the Observatory. To book, contact Norma Corby, Astronomy Group secretary, on 2073.

Thursday January 24

▶ Centre for English Local History Research Seminar Series: The Power of Place: A Lincolnshire Sacred Site and Its Continuity. 2.15 pm – 4.00 pm (approx.), followed by tea. Seminar Room, Marc Fitch Historical Institute, 5 Salisbury Road, Leicester. It is essential that those intending to be present notify Audrey Larrive (0116 252 2762) as there may be limits on the number of places available.

Tuesday January 29

▶ Leicester Early Modern Seminar: A New Middle Ages: Food for Thought for Early Modernist. Chris Dyer, University of Leicester. 5.30 pm. History of Art Slide Room, Attenborough 1707. Refreshments available. All welcome. Further details from John Coffey (jrdc1@le.ac.uk).

FEBRUARY

Thursday February 7

▶ Centre for English Local History Research Seminar Series: Changing Clothes and Changing Status: The Bequest of Clothing in Sixteenth-century Kent. 2.15 pm – 4.00 pm (approximately), followed by tea.

Seminar Room, Marc Fitch Historical Institute, 5 Salisbury Road, Leicester. It is essential that those intending to be present notify Audrey Larrive (0116 252 2762) as there may be limits on the number of places available.

Thursday February 7

▶ Joint Leicester Branch of the Geo-

graphical Association/Department of Geography Lecture: Resources of the Russian Far East: A Blessing or a Curse? Professor Michael Bradshaw, University of Leicester. 7.30 pm. Lecture Theatre 2, Bennett Building. Open to the public and free. For further details contact Dr Claire Mercer via 0116 252 5245. ☎

University of Leicester's 80th Anniversary timetable of events January – February 2001

▶ For the whole of the academic year, the University of Leicester is celebrating its 80th Anniversary with special celebratory events commemorating the historic occasion when the first university was created in Leicester as a University College. The following timetable of events appears on the University's external and internal pages. Proposed events – still at the planning stage – can be viewed at <http://www.le.ac.uk/press/80th.html>.

Wednesday January 23

▶ Lord Mayor's Dinner.

Thursday January 24

▶ Faculty of Science Lecture to be given by Professor Kroto (details to follow).

Monday February 4

Medieval Research Centre Lecture: My Struggles with Computers, The Canterbury Tales, the Greek New Testament, Classical Armenian, and Other Small Problems. Dr Peter Robinson, De Montfort University. 5.30 pm. Lecture Theatre 1, Ken Edwards Building. Contact Professor Greg Walker (0116 252 2620) for further details.

Monday February 4

▶ Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society Lecture: Protection of Vulnerable People from Abuse: Moral and Professional Dilemmas. Professor



Olive Stevenson. 7.30 pm. Lecture Theatre 1, Ken Edwards Building.

Monday February 11

Medieval Research Centre Lecture: Saints and Lost Landscapes: Medieval Meetings of the Earthly and Divine. Dr Graham Jones, Centre for English Local History. 5.30 pm. Lecture Theatre 1, Ken Edwards Building. Contact Professor Greg Walker (0116 252 2620) for further details.

Thursday February 14

▶ Comedy Event: Stamford Junior Common Room Committee and the Warden of Stamford Hall host a Stand Up Night in association with Leicester Comedy Festival. Stamford Hall. This event is preceded by a formal dinner. Further details from Colin Hide (0116 271 9144).

Monday February 18

Medieval Research Centre Lecture: Charlemagne and Anglo-Saxon England. Dr Jo Story, Department of History. 5.30 pm. Lecture Theatre 1, Ken Edwards Building. Contact Professor Greg Walker (0116 252 2620) for further details. ☎

BULLETIN

Editor: Ather Mirza (3335)
pressoffice@le.ac.uk

Deputy Editor: Barbara Whiteman (2676)
ara@le.ac.uk

Journalist: Jane Pearson

Design: Chris Ward,
Adam King, AVS Graphics

Pictures: AVS Photography

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Address: University of Leicester,
University Road, Leicester, LE1 7RH