

For the best choice in conference, meeting and event facilities at the heart of England

A Royal Event

**Her Majesty the Queen
makes an historic lunch
visit to University of
Leicester's Beaumont Hall**



Her Majesty the Queen meets University chef Ross Hearst



Her Majesty the Queen arrives at Beaumont House

Her Majesty the Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were the honoured royal guests at a celebratory lunch held at the University of Leicester's Beaumont Hall in Oadby, Leicestershire.

Held on 4th December 2008 the lunch event was in celebration of the opening of the University's award winning state-of-the-art David Wilson Library.

The University's Residential and Catering Service which incorporates Leicester Conferences rose to the challenge of preparing and delivering a royal lunch for nearly 100 guests which included many local VIP's and dignitaries.

The venue, Beaumont House within the hall has been a very popular conference and event facility for many years. One of the grandest houses in the area, it was originally called Middlemeade, and was built by Stockdale Harrison & Sons in 1904 for Mr F S Brice, a Leicester hosiery manufacturer, on part of the estate formerly owned by the Powys-Keck family of Stoughton Grange. It was purchased in 1947 by University College Leicester from the then owner Mr Sydney Driver, with the intention of building student accommodation in its extensive grounds.

Described in 1946 as 'a most superior detached residential estate' the house contained several reception rooms, at least twelve bedrooms, with servants' accommodation, stables and lodge.

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Today, Beaumont House and Hall of Residence is a 3 star rated venue with 98 en suite bedrooms (including 12 adapted rooms), 156 standard bedrooms, large 280 capacity dining hall and several conference and meeting rooms. Located within a 16 acre botanic garden Beaumont Hall is available year-round for day conferences and for residential events during Easter, summer and winter vacation periods.

Prior to having lunch in Oadby, the Queen visited the City Campus to officially open the University's new library. The £32 million David Wilson Library, completed in April this year, has won the 2008 RIBA East Midlands Award for Architecture and the 2008 Building of the Year prize at the Property and Construction awards organised annually by ProCon Leicestershire.

HM The Queen last visited the University of Leicester in 1958, a year after the University was granted its Royal Charter, which awarded it degree-awarding powers. During that visit, Her Majesty opened the Percy Gee Building, which houses the Students' Union.



Preparing for Leicester's 2009 Special Olympic Moment

How does a city prepare for an Olympic sporting event with 21 sports, 2700 athletes, 1200 coaches and 1500 volunteers – all staying for 7 days? It's all in the planning!

Since being the proud winner in July 2007 to host the 2009 Special Olympics GB Summer Games, The University of Leicester in partnership with the City Council has been busy putting detailed plans in motion.

The Special Olympics 8th National GB Summer Games will be arriving in Leicester July 2009 creating Leicester's largest sporting event ever to be hosted.

Officially a global charity and part of the International Olympics Movement, the Special Olympics is a non-elitist sport organisation that provides a free year-round training and competition programme for thousands of people with learning disabilities around the world. In the UK alone there are over 8000 members with work underway to reach a further 10,000 individuals by 2010.

As a major partner in providing and managing the accommodation and catering for the games' competitors, the University of Leicester has been planning the event which will require over 3500 bedrooms, breakfasts and evening meals together with over 5000 packed lunches each day. Trevor Miller, Conference and Hospitality Sales and Marketing Manager at Leicester Conferences – University of Leicester describes the journey so far:

"From hearing the announcement back in July 2007 that Leicester has won the bid to host the games we have been busy preparing for this truly large scale event. It's not every year that, even as a university with mass-accommodation available, we manage to fill every bedroom with just one event!"

"Each of the 21 sport venues is currently being visited to ascertain how the provision of 5000 packed lunches along with the consumption of over 5000 litres of bottled water will be catered for. The logistics alone are quite staggering even before we consider storage requirements, packaging and special dietary needs."

A full-time event coordinator has been recruited to join our coordination team solely to manage the Special Olympics event. Sonia Miller joined us in October 2008 to take on the role as Special Events Coordinator. Prior to joining the University, Sonia has gained a strong events background having worked at the NEC organising large-scale exhibitions."

Self Catered Accommodation

Mary Gee

For groups looking to visit Leicester this summer we are delighted to offer self catered accommodation at our Mary Gee Residences from July to September 2009. Mary Gee offers single standard bedrooms with access to fully equipped kitchens at unbeatable rates.

Ideal for group and family accommodation for the Special Olympics

Mary Gee at a glance:

- Single standard bedrooms
- Fully equipped kitchens/dining area

- Complimentary broadband internet access in all bedrooms
- Telephone payable by phone card in each bedroom
- Common Room for hire
- Free car parking
- Walking distance to Leicester City Centre (20 minutes)
- Towels provided
- Tea/coffee making facilities

Rates (inclusive of VAT)

Per House (Accommodates 10 people)

£800 per week

Special rate – family of four £500 per week

Leicester Conferences wins another prestigious meetings industry award!

Leicester Conferences at the University of Leicester was celebrating in style after winning a coveted award at the MIMA (Meetings Industry Marketing Awards) 2008 awards ceremony which took place at the Landmark Hotel in London on 16th October 2008. The event was attended by the University's Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Burgess along with Frances Stone, Director of Residences, Catering and Conferences; Trevor Miller, Sales and Marketing Manager and seven other members of the residential, catering and conference team.



In total, the awards attracted over 140 entries from more than 90 companies in the UK and overseas

Leicester Conferences won a bronze award in the 'Best PR Campaign' category. The other finalists were the Arena and Convention Centre Liverpool, the Barbican and De Vere Venues.

This year's award builds on the success of the 2007 MIMA event where Leicester Conferences picked up a bronze award for 'Best Use of Budget'

Commenting on the award event, Trevor Miller, Sales and Marketing Manager said "We are absolutely delighted to win an award at this year's MIMA event. My team work with a very small budget on a totally 'in-house' basis and do not rely on any external agencies to manage our marketing and PR strategy. As an academic venue competing in a highly competitive and commercial market we continually strive to raise our profile and awareness for the benefit of the University. It's great to see the University of Leicester being put on the meetings industry map!"



University of Leicester *named*

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR 2008/9

Staff and students celebrate winning coveted Times Higher Education award

The University of Leicester has claimed the title of University of the Year in the higher education sector's most prestigious and keenly contested awards.

The award from Times Higher was made at a glittering gala dinner in Park Lane, London, on 23rd October 2008 in the presence of Higher Education Minister David Lammy.

Ann Mroz, Editor, Times Higher Education, commented: "Few entrants embody the spirit of these awards more than the University of Leicester. Its triumph in this category at the third time of entering sends out a powerful message to the rest of the sector on the nature of constantly striving for excellence."

The judges highlighted Professor Bob Burgess' leadership saying: "Ten years after he first accepted the task of leading Leicester out of the lower leagues, he now has a strong claim to being among the elite."



The Vice-Chancellor receives the University of the Year award on behalf of the University of Leicester

"Leicester was able to evidence its commitment to high quality, a belief in the synergy of teaching and research and a conviction that higher education is a power for good," said Bernadette Porter, provincial treasurer of the Society of the Sacred Heart and a member of the expert judging panel for the awards.

The judges added that Leicester was 'the stand-out choice in a very tough competition' not simply because of the elite status of the University – rather it was its eschewal of 'elitism'.



International Confex 2009

Leicester Conferences at the University of Leicester will be exhibiting at this year's International Confex exhibition being held at Earls Court, London on 24 – 26 February 2009.

Visitors to the Leicester Conferences' stand can find out more about the Special Olympics event taking place in July 2009 including special discounts being offered to groups for accommodation during the games and the rest of the summer from July through to September 2009. The stand will also have plenty of giveaways such as USB memory sticks and healthy snacks to keep within their Olympic theme.

For all your conference and event needs

Leicester Conferences is the dedicated award winning conference and events team within the University of Leicester; one of the UK's most versatile conference, meeting and event venues.

We have two superb locations offering great choice and flexibility to meet the needs of any event.



Oadby

Our 40 acre residential site, complete with beautiful landscaped grounds and a stunning 16 acre botanic garden is located in Oadby – a delightfully picturesque area only 2 miles from the City Campus/Centre. Oadby site includes:

- Conference suites up to 450 delegates
- Seminar rooms
- Exhibition space of 256m²
- Computer suite
- Large dining halls
- Fully catered accommodation
- Self catered accommodation
- Bed and breakfast accommodation
- Sports and leisure facilities

City

The City Campus is conveniently located near the heart of Leicester and approximately half a mile from Leicester's main line train station. City Campus includes:

- Conference suites up to 200 delegates
- Seminar rooms
- Lecture theatres up to 500 delegates
- Exhibition space of 528m²
- Computer suites
- Self catered and fully catered accommodation
- Selection of restaurants and coffee shops
- Sports and leisure facilities
- Bank / Cashpoint
- Large entertainment venue