

Bulletin

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Season's
Greetings
to all our
readers

DEC 06 / JAN 07

This Issue • New Blood Supplement • Japan Events Success • Farewell from Bulletin

BUILDING ON KNOWLEDGE

► The University of Leicester's £22.5m new centre dedicated to bio-medical research was described as a splendid building both operationally and aesthetically by the Director of the Wellcome Trust.

Dr Mark Walport formally opened the Henry Wellcome building on November 17 where the Trust has invested £10m in the facility and £16m towards 47 current research projects, half of which are in the building.

Dr Walport opened the building that includes John Sydney Carter's 'Atomica'. This was commissioned by Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leicester Professor Robert Burgess in 2004. The finished work was installed in November 2005.

Its structure of stainless steel rods and spheres creates a deceptive image of fragility. 'Atomica' developed out of John Sydney Carter's interest in the beauty of scientific models of atomic structures. It was specifically designed to be viewed from different perspectives from the building's central staircase.

Thanking Dr Walport, Professor Burgess said:

"Dr Walport has a close association with the building having delivered the Frank May Lecture here. This building has been paid for substantially by the Wellcome Trust who donated £10m and there are a huge number of grants held by researchers in this building and

supported by the Wellcome Trust.

"The Wellcome Trust has always played a formative role in this country in terms of scientific endeavor and scientific development. We could not engage in the scientific work that is done in higher education without their support.

"The Trust has levered money in all kinds of interesting ways- from Government, for example, and £4.5m SRIF money is associated with this building. SRIF money is very important in terms of developing an exciting scientific base, and for the science infrastructure of this country.

"The University has also put £6m of its own resources into developing

the work in this building which is the front line of bio-medical research that makes it a very exciting development."

Professor Burgess also paid tribute to former Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor John Holloway for chairing the Project Implementation Team and contractors, architects and others associated with the building.

"This is a fantastic building for science and there is another dimension in terms of the space it provides for art," he said.

Dr Walport said:

"I am in the very unusual position of opening a building in which I have already given a lecture.

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THE GENIE IS OUT OF THE BOTTLE!

CELEBRATION: Professor Peter Williams, Head of Genetics; Dr Annette Cashmore, Director of the GENIE CETL; Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys, Royal Society Wolfson Research Professor in Genetics and Professor Bob Burgess, Vice-Chancellor, at the opening of the GENIE CETL, add a basepair to a floor-to-ceiling DNA model that will be housed in the GENIE centre on the 2nd floor of the Adrian building. The Vice-Chancellor opened the centre by adding a DNA basepair to a semi-space filling model of the DNA double helix. GENIE's DNA model will be 60 basepairs long, which will be nearly 3 metres high, which will be from floor to ceiling in the GENIE centre. In real life some 3 million basepairs of DNA would be only one millimetre long. Full story page 3

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University of
Leicester



EAT YOUR GREENS

► Scientists have found that a molecule in vegetables such as broccoli and cabbage can inhibit the growth of breast cancer cells and could be used in conjunction with drugs to help fight the cancer. Their most recent findings were published in *Carcinogenesis* and were discussed at the National Cancer Research Institute Conference.

It has been known for some time that eating a balanced diet, including fresh fruit and vegetables, leads to a number of health benefits and can help prevent some cancers, but more precise evidence is now emerging as to the benefits of specific substances present in our food.

One research centre is looking past the essential nutrients contained in plants, to the thousands of other biologically active molecules they hold. Indole-3-carbinol (I3C) is one such molecule which is increasingly being hailed as inhibiting cancer development in both animal models and humans.

Scientists funded by the Medical Research Council at the University of Leicester decided to look at the impact of I3C on 4 different types of breast cancer cells. They found that the substance altered the receptors in three of the cell types. This change could make the cancer cells more vulnerable to anticancer drugs which also target these receptors, making the drugs more effective.

Professor Margaret Manson, of the University of Leicester, who led the research says: "Although we need to carry out further studies on tumours removed from patients, the potential benefits are clear. Dietary agents are kind to normal cells at doses which can slow down or kill cancer cells. Combining them with drugs may enhance the drugs' effectiveness and could allow reduced doses to be given to patients. Many chemotherapeutic drugs are toxic substances and the smaller the dose the better for the patient."

"As dietary substances like I3C have a proven track record of being safe for the patient, we hope that the journey to clinical trials will be relatively straightforward," added Professor Manson. 🍌

HONORARY DEGREES

► At the January 2007 Postgraduate degree ceremonies four acclaimed individuals will be receiving honorary degrees.

In the morning ceremony Mrs Linda Jones, Regional Offender Manager will be awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws as will Mr Keith Julian former Registrar and Secretary of the University of Leicester.

In the afternoon Mrs J Wragg will collect and Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters on behalf of the late Mr Edward (Ted) Wragg, educationalist and academic.

The ceremonies will take place on Friday 26 January 2007 at De Montfort Hall. 🍌



Mr Keith Julian, former Registrar and Secretary of the University, will be honoured with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

Archaeologists Unearth Ancient Curse

► An ancient curse aimed at a thief was one of a number of treasures unveiled to the public for the first time, following the largest archaeological excavation the city of Leicester has ever seen.

Over the past three years, a team of up to 60 archaeologists from University of Leicester Archaeological Services has been working on a number of sites in the city. Almost 9% of Leicester's historic core has been subject to investigation in some form, giving new insights into the appearance and development of the Roman and medieval towns.

One of the most interesting finds from a site on Vine Street was a 'curse' tablet – a sheet of lead inscribed in the second or third century AD and intended to invoke the assistance of a chosen god. It has been translated by a specialist at Oxford University, and reads:

'To the god Maglus, I give the wrongdoer who stole the cloak of Servandus. Silvester, Riomandus (etc.) ... that he destroy him before the ninth day, the person who stole the cloak of Servandus...' Then follows a list of the names of 18 or 19 suspects. What happened to them is not recorded.

Before the discovery of this object, archaeologists only knew of the names of three or four of the inhabitants of Roman Leicester, so the find is of great significance.

Richard Buckley, co-Director of the University of Leicester Archaeological Services, said: "Curse tablets are known from a number of Roman temple sites in Britain, and are thin rectangular sheets of lead bearing the 'curse' inscribed with a point or stylus. They were usually rolled up and were probably nailed to the wall of a temple or shrine. Most curses seem to relate to thefts and typically the chosen god is asked to do harm to the perpetrator. It has been suggested, on the basis of name forms and the value of items stolen, that the curses relate to the lives of ordinary people, rather than the wealthy, and that they were perhaps commissioned by the dedicator from a professional curse writer.

"The Leicester curse is unusually well preserved and had not been rolled up. After initial cleaning by a conservator, it was clear that it was covered in handwritten script, including a column of text which

looks rather like a list. The inscription is currently being translated by a specialist at the University of Oxford. He notes that the Latin of the script reflects the spoken language in several ways. There are 18 or 19 names, a mixture of commonplace Roman (like Silvester and Germanus), Celtic (like Riomandus and Cunovendus), and 'Roman' names found in Celtic-speaking provinces (like Regalis). The god's name might be a title - 'prince' in Celtic.

"The curse is a remarkable discovery, and at a stroke, dramatically increases the number of personal names known from Roman Leicester. So far, we have the soldier, Marcus Ulpius Novantico, from a military discharge certificate of AD106, 'Verecunda' and Lucius' from a graffito on a piece of pottery and 'Primus' who inscribed his name on a tile he had made. The name forms will help us to understand the cultural make up of the population, whilst the subject matter tells us about the spread of spoken Latin and the religious practices of ordinary people". 🍌



BUILDING ON KNOWLEDGE

Continued from page 1

"This is an excellent university and the Wellcome Trust currently has 47 active grants here – more than half are held by people in this building. There is £16m of research grants on the way at the moment.

"I am also delighted to announce that Richard Evans of the Department of Cell Physiology and Pharmacology has just received over £1m for his research.

"There are two senior Wellcome

Fellows at this University- Mark Jobling and Andrew Tobin- and they exemplify the very good relationship between the University and the Wellcome Trust.

"Good science is accomplished by very smart individuals asking important questions and Wellcome Trust support is all about working with you to identify such individuals and then providing them with the research resources they need. But of course you



Sculptor John Sydney Carter and Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Burgess in front of the new sculpture, 'Vortex', at the Henry Wellcome Building.



Director of the Wellcome Trust Dr Mark Walport pictured with the Vice-Chancellor formally opened the Henry Wellcome Building which has been funded jointly by the University and the Wellcome Trust.

cannot do that work until you have good facilities- and this is what this building is about.

"This is an absolutely splendid building, aesthetically and operationally –a light building with good art work. I congratulate you all on this achievement."

Later in the day, the Vice-Chancellor unveiled a second sculpture by John Sydney Carter.

Standing 18ft high, 'Vortex' is one of John Sydney Carter's first pieces of John Sydney Carter's first pieces of public sculpture on a large scale and will stand outside the building

on Lancaster Road, Leicester. Originally commissioned for the atrium of the new P&O building in London in 1999, when the building was sold the new owners, Hermes Real Estate Investments Management Ltd, donated 'Vortex' to the University of Leicester.

Its original association with the shipping company inspired the artist to incorporate into the work three themes that have run through his career: the power of machinery, the sea and the human form represented in a spiral. ☺

THE GENIE IS OUT OF THE BOTTLE!

Genetics Education Networking for Innovation and Excellence

► GENIE is a Centre of Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) in Genetics and has received £4.85million of funding from HEFCE. On Friday December 1st GENIE officially opened its newly refurbished facilities in the Adrian Building and the Maurice Shock Medical Sciences Buildings. These include a laboratory (capacity 50) for taught postgraduate programmes, a laboratory (capacity 150) for undergraduate programmes, a suite of two interconnecting laboratories (capacity 80) with group teaching space for outreach activities and several additional small group teaching rooms. Already there has been a huge impact on the learning experience of a wide range of students; approximately 1200 undergraduates, 300 postgraduates and 400 people from schools,

colleges and the general public have benefited from the facilities to date!

GENIE is providing leadership in the development of approaches and resources for the teaching of genetics. We are establishing a national network to engage with other HEIs and building up a constituency of users of genetics education. We are also assembling a Virtual Genetics Education Centre, an internationally accessible database of resources and information for teachers and learners in genetics. This will serve not only HEIs but also schools, colleges, health professionals and the general public.

Project work and research carried out by CETL staff has already led to a range of new teaching approaches and resources, introduction of new undergraduate programmes and expansion in taught MSc programmes. Outreach activities to be taken into schools and colleges and

community groups have also been high on our agenda, as well as the development of 'hands on' activities for small and large groups visiting the GENIE centre. Intrinsic to our philosophy is the embedding of generic skills and the ability to apply generic approaches to broader problems and therefore our work will have a wide application to many disciplines across the University. We are funding a range of projects relating to issues such as feedback to students and plagiarism and GENIE does have resources to fund small projects related to any aspect of its work, both subject specific and generic.

Nationally there have been 74 CETLS funded, and 9 of these are in the East Midlands. GENIE, together with the two other University of Leicester CETLS in Geography and Physics, has been proactive in establishing an East Midlands CETL

network. Although we are all involved with a wide range of disciplines, there are cross cutting themes such as employability, enterprise, outreach, student support and innovation as well as generic pedagogic issues. The network meets regularly and is collaborating and beginning to develop a series of workshops, seminars and group sessions that will lead to advances in some of these key areas.

Information and details of the work of GENIE will be disseminated through the University's Teaching Enhancement Forum and can be found on our developing web-site. Do contact us if you would like to be involved with some of our projects, have ideas that you think may be relevant to our work or just want to have a look at the new facilities. All welcome !

Annette Cashmore
Director of GENIE ☺



University of Leicester Equals Nomination Success in Higher Education 'Oscars'

► The University has been named amongst the top five achieving universities in the UK for the second successive year.

At a gala dinner organised by the Times Higher Education Supplement to celebrate the "University Oscars" Leicester was named in the shortlist for University of the Year. In doing so it equalled its feat of twelve months

ago and is the only nominee to have been shortlisted for two consecutive years.

Though missing out on the top prize, Leicester was praised for its success by the judges.

Graduate and honorary graduate Laurie Taylor, a columnist on the THES, announced the prizes.

Higher Education Minister Bill

Rammell praised all the nominated universities for their innovation, dedication and hard work.

He said: "The Times Higher Awards are a fantastic opportunity to recognize, celebrate and reward the brilliant work taking place across the higher education sector."

In addition, Professor Ken Pounds who was shortlisted for the Lifetime

Achievement Award was also praised for his enormous achievements that had helped 'put Leicester on the map.'

Professor Pounds CBE, FRS, is one of Britain's most eminent scientists, whose work was this year celebrated by Universities UK as being among '100 Discoveries that Changed the World'. 

JAPAN EVENTS SUCCESS

Faculties of Social Sciences and Science combine for public outreach events

► The University held a two-day 'Japan' event in November at the University's Richard Attenborough Centre on Lancaster Road, Leicester. Open to the public the weekend was an acknowledgement of the University's teaching and research collaboration with Japan and its partnership with the Embassy of Japan and the Leicestershire Japanese Society.

The weekend was opened by the organisers, lecturer and researcher Dr Jenny Rogers and President of the Leicestershire Japan Society Mrs Yoshimi Gregory. The event then continued with a public lecture

entitled "Space Science: New Frontiers for Education" by Professor Matogawa. The professor has a key role in Japan's Space Programme and is Director of the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency Space Education Centre. He flew from Tokyo with the sole purpose of giving the lecture.

Following the lecture, which was held on International Day, an official launch of the two-day event was hosted by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leicester, Professor Robert Burgess.

The lecture and Vice-Chancellor's launch were attended by officials, educators and members of the public

from Leicester city and surrounding counties, the University's International Office and staff from across the University. Guests from Japan included Mr Fumio Matsunaga, Director of the Japan Foundation, Mrs Shuko Noguchi, Executive Director of Japan 21 and Mr Robert Rigby, Corporate Account Manager of Japan Airlines in UK & Ireland. These organisations have worked with the University over several years to sponsor the two-day event and research in the School of Education and their personnel thoroughly enjoyed the event and visiting Leicester for the first time.

"Japan in a Day" followed on Saturday (18th November) at the University's Richard Attenborough Centre on Lancaster Road. This colourful and action-packed day was also open to the public, adults, students and children and aimed to introduce and extend knowledge of traditional and modern Japanese culture.


Displays at the event illustrated the advantages that the University of Leicester can offer British, Asian, European and Japanese students, with details of the university's courses and research programmes. There were presentations on learning in science by children, young people and teachers in the UK and Japan, including the Space Centre, the Space Research Centre summer schools and the Regional Science Centre for teachers. 

Depression link to diabetes

► Men with Type 2 diabetes are almost twice as likely to have depression as men without the condition, according to research published in the journal 'Diabetic Medicine'. For women with diabetes, the increased risk is 30 per cent.

The research, based on 10 studies published between 1980 and 2005 of over 51,000 people, confirmed that among the diabetic population, depression is higher in women than men. Almost one in four (23.8 per cent) women have depression compared to one in eight (12.8 per cent) men.

Saima Ali, one of the researchers at the Department of Health Sciences, University of Leicester, said: "Living with diabetes can have an enormous impact on a person's life so it's not surprising that it could lead to depression.

"The relationship could be further complicated as some studies now suggest that depression may occur first and lead to diabetes. But further research is needed to support this and help identify those at risk in order to develop effective treatments." 



The Japan Day events at the University, presented by the Faculty of the Social Sciences & Faculty of Science in collaboration with Leicestershire Japan Society & the Embassy of Japan were a great success.



LOST IN TRANSLATION?

► A decade-long University of Leicester study has identified how Japanese teaching methods could benefit British schools and help raise attainment.

The research into numeracy and literacy teaching found the crucial difference was that Japanese children developed better communication and problem-solving skills. This was achieved through teaching with a greater balance of informal learning alongside formal learning until the age of 12.

The study by Dr Jennifer Rogers,

Dr Rosemary Sage and Stasia Cwenar of the University of Leicester School of Education found that as technology replaces talk, children are becoming less prepared for communication challenges in the world of work.

The project has been funded by the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, Daiwa Foundation with support from Japan Airlines.

Research being carried out by the team has been on-going for over ten years in three rural, suburban and urban areas of Japan. Observations

of class teaching, and interviews have been carried out with teachers and principals from 20 kindergarten and elementary schools, with local education officials and colleagues from the University of Osaka and Osaka Prefecture, the Women's University of Nara, Higashi University and the Child Development Centre, Osaka.

The researchers' work in Japan's schools over the ten-year period shows that Japan's focus on both communication and context is an important reason for their literacy and numeracy superiority over the UK in the international TIMSS tables.

The researchers state: "The Japanese recognized a few years ago that a curriculum heavily based on facts and knowledge was short-sighted and ineffective. They made major cuts to the factual knowledge components of their elementary curriculum to ensure that the processes of communication, two-way discussion and real-life problem-solving on a daily basis took precedence. Excellence and Enjoyment and curriculum integration may go some way towards this but teachers need to be freed from constraints in order to make it happen." 🗨️



Real-life problem-solving on a daily basis takes precedence in the Japanese education system.

New Look Ratray Lecture Theatre

► A £250,000 refurbishment has transformed the biggest lecture theatre on campus.

The 324-seater Ratray lecture theatre was closed for maintenance on 22nd May 2006 to allow local contractor Rouco Ltd to carry out a total refurbishment project which took a total of 18 weeks to complete.

The works, which have included a new false ceiling, dimmable lighting, seating, carpeting, AV installation and redecorations, were designed 'in house' by the Estates Design Team aided by 'in house' specialists in the fields of furniture provision and AVS.

Jim Whit from the Estates Office said: "The latter in particular is exceedingly impressive with the 12m x 3m screen being filled utilising three separate co-ordinated digital projectors.

"Overall the results are very impressive. If you knew the theatre from its earlier life you would certainly not recognise it now!" 🗨️

Annual Law Faculty Lecture by Baroness Hale

► On 30 November the Right Honourable the Baroness Hale of Richmond delivered the Annual Law Faculty Lecture. The title of her lecture was "Is Equality the Death of Marriage?" The lecture theatre was packed as was an overflow lecture theatre connected by video link.

Lady Hale was the first, and still is the only, woman to be appointed as a Law Lord. Most unusually for the judiciary, she comes from a background in academia having spent 18 years at the University of Manchester, starting as a Lecturer and finally becoming a Professor of Law. In 1984 she became the first woman and youngest person to be appointed to the Law Commission.

Through much of her academic career she practised part-time as a

barrister being appointed a Q.C. in 1989. In 1994 she became the first academic to be appointed a High Court judge. She was appointed to the Court Of Appeal in 1999 and to the House of Lords in 2004 where she has emerged as one of its strongest voices with her unwavering commitment to equality and fairness. Her academic background reveals itself in her judgments which are remarkable for their academic rigour and scholarly analysis.

In her lecture Lady Hale began by describing her experiences as a Law student at Cambridge in the mid-1960s, when the law relating to the breakdown of marriage strongly favoured the husband. However, changes to the law in the late 1960s and early 1970s, most notably the

Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 caused this area of Family Law to become "sex-neutral" and substantial steps towards equality of treatment were taken. Equality, whilst an attractive concept in theory, proved difficult to apply in practice since the courts remained concerned with the respective needs of the parties when formulating a financial settlement following divorce. The reasonable requirements of the parties acted as a ceiling rather than a floor to their respective claims.

It fell to the higher courts to remedy this situation in removing this ceiling and replacing it with the "yardstick of equality". Two recent House of Lords decisions in which Lady Hale delivered leading judgments focussed on identifying the parties' assets

rather than on their respective needs. One party's domestic contribution to the family was deemed to be equal to the financial contribution made by the other and a party who had given up work to care for children of the family could be financially compensated for this.

Lady Hale pointed out the irony that while equality was being achieved for married couples, fewer people are choosing to marry. Cohabitation is entered into increasingly as a prelude to marriage and often as an alternative. Such partners do not have the same legal rights as married couples. Whilst it is impossible to identify the reasons for this flight from marriage, Lady Hale expressed the hope that increasing equality in marriage would not be the cause of its demise. 🗨️



NEW LIBRARY CALENDAR

► The University Library has produced a fantastic calendar for 2007!

The full-colour images selected for each month give a flavour of the treasures held in the University Library. They range from a medieval Book of Hours through to the first page of the manuscript of Sue Townsend's Diary of Adrian Mole, aged 13 and three quarters. A fashion plate, a Victorian children's game and a Leicestershire county map are also featured.



All proceeds from the sale of the calendars will be invested in the Special Collections Suite in the new University Library, to be completed in 2007.

Copies of the calendar are available from the Main Library Issue Desk, the Students' Union Shop and the University Bookshop.

Price £10.

More details from Evelyn Cornell, Special Collections Librarian, ec37@le.ac.uk, 0116 252 2055.

Sex Saga From Seventeenth Century Takes Dramatic New Twist

► New research by a University of Leicester lecturer has revealed for the first time the fate of the relationship between famous diarist Samuel Pepys and his mistress Deb Willet, whose sexual encounters were recorded for posterity in his celebrated journal.

Deb, an employee in Pepys's household, was banished from his home after being caught with Pepys

by his wife, Elizabeth – who later threatened him with hot tongs!

But what became of Deb after the affair was exposed has remained a mystery - until now.

Research carried out by Dr Kate Loveman while at St Anne's College, Oxford and published in The Historical Journal has revealed for the first time that long after Deb left the household she kept in touch

with Pepys.

And it sheds new light on a key question about Pepys's private life - was he a light-hearted philanderer or a sexual predator?

Dr Loveman, of the Department of English at the University of Leicester, says her study also provides new information to interpret the diary, offering an insight into the social history of the 1660s.

IN THE PINK

► Lesser Flamingos are surprising scientists by flocking to one of Kenya's smallest lakes for the first time, in their thousands. Lake Oloidien is a volcanic crater lake found at the south west corner of Lake Naivasha, home to Kenya's largest flower farms and a popular tourist attraction.

Oloidien, which used to be connected to Naivasha, has steadily been going saline since its water levels fell and it became a separate lake in 1979. In July 2006 it passed the magic salinity mark and began to produce bacteria called Spirulina, the main food for Lesser Flamingos.

"Word is spreading that there is food at Oloidien," says Earthwatch scientist Dr. David Harper, of the University of Leicester Department of Biology. "Last time I looked there were nearly a quarter of a million

flamingos there. Oloidien water, though far too saline for humans or cattle to drink, is not too saline for flamingos. What we have is a remarkable and rare spectacle of groups of Lesser Flamingos feeding, drinking, and bathing in the same place."

This news follows the sudden deaths of thousands of Lesser Flamingos at Lake Nakuru and Lake Elmenteita in March this year. Lake Oloidien has not been without its mortalities; a few hundred Lesser Flamingos have already died, but in the case of all three sites the deaths accounted for only two per cent of the total population.

Dr. Harper continues,

"In March, the Lesser Flamingo population suddenly increased on the main Kenyan lakes. At Nakuru, numbers grew from a few hundred thousand to almost a quarter of a

million; Elmenteita's went from almost nothing to 70,000. The increase in numbers of healthy birds was accompanied by deaths, but at each lake, only two per cent of the population died."

"It is quite possible that the dead birds were weakened by their travels and became susceptible to disease, which spread quickly in their crowded groups."

In an effort to resolve the mystery of the flamingo deaths, Dr Harper led a research team at Lake Bogoria in November in partnership with Earthwatch, the University of Nairobi, National Museums of Kenya, Kenya Wildlife Services and Tanzanian equivalent bodies. The team hope to examine all the main theories of flamingo mortality in order to provide the scientific and conservation community with answers.

Rare Royal Distinction for English Association

► An international organisation which is based at the University has been granted a Royal Charter.

The English Association, which is celebrating its centenary in 2006, was awarded a Royal Charter by the Queen on September 5.

The Charter came into effect on December 1st when the seal was

affixed to the vellum document by the Crown Office.

The Charter was presented to the Trustees of the Association by Alex Galloway, Clerk to the Privy Council, on December 8th at the Trustees' meeting at the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining, 1 Carlton House Terrace, London.

The English Association has been based at the University of Leicester since December 2003, when it relocated its offices from London. Professor Elaine Treharne, of the English Department, is currently President of the Association and several members of the Leicester department are Fellows of the EA.



New Research Reveals Hidden Earthquake Trouble Spots

► A team from the University has used a powerful laser mounted on an aircraft to uncover earthquake fault lines that are hidden by forest cover and never before seen by earth scientists.

The 2005 Kashmir earthquake was a terrifying example of how faults in mountainous regions that pose serious seismic hazards can go unnoticed because they are hidden by forest cover and thus are

not easily identified.

Now the scientists from the Departments of Geology and Geography at the University of Leicester in the UK have developed a technique that can be used in mountainous terrain to virtually deforest the landscape and reveal details of the forest floor topography, including the traces of active faults.


The scientists have pioneered use of the laser probe to map active

fault systems in Europe and made the first ever use of the technique to survey high-relief alpine landscapes.

The Leicester team has demonstrated that airborne LiDAR (an acronym for light detection and ranging – essentially a powerful laser mounted on an aircraft), can detect traces of active faults.

Dr Dickson Cunningham in the Department of Geology and Dr

Kevin Tansey in the Department of Geography collaborated on a NERC funded project to map the distribution of recently active earthquake-prone faults in the southeastern Alps in Slovenia.

Their key research results are now published in the latest issue of Geophysical Research Letters. The work was further supported by a Masters student in Geography, Mr. Stephen Grebby. 

New Technology to Revitalise Museum Experience

► Imagine a museum where all the information transmits the very latest knowledge about the objects on display, whether they are 2,000

years old or projections of the future.


With the aid of a HIRF [Higher Education Innovation & Regional Fellowships] Innovation Fellowship,

the University of Leicester's Department of Museum Studies has developed a prototype museum 'label' that can be updated remotely to reflect, not just the latest research findings, but opinions, viewer feedback or a new context that gives it a fresh immediacy, day to day.

LIVE!Labels are the result of research by Dr Ross Parry, of the Leicester Department of Museum Studies, focusing on the relationship between museums and new media, looking at the challenges of placing fluid and editable digital interpretation into institutions that for hundreds of years have used fixed labels and untouchable material objects.

With MWR (part of the Simulacra Group - <http://www.simulacra.com>) a company which delivers interactive technology solutions to museums and galleries designed to optimize curator and in-house expertise, Dr. Parry has worked closely with staff at the New Walk Museum and Art Gallery and the National Space Centre in Leicester, and the Natural History Museum, London.

Ross Parry commented:

"For some four hundred years museums have used printed labels in their displays, labels that are fixed both in terms of format and content. But, imagine a label that at first glance may look the same, but in fact is 'broadcasting' the very latest interpretations of its object. This is the 'LIVE!Label'" 

REVOLUTIONARY NEW TREATMENT FOR ASTHMA

► A new drug-free treatment being trialled at Glenfield Hospital in Leicester could revolutionise life for asthma sufferers.


The new procedure is called bronchial thermoplasty. Earlier trials suggest it may provide long-term improvement in asthma symptoms.

Asthma is a common disease in which the airways in the lung become inflamed and then narrow when muscles within the airway walls contract. In the new procedure airways are treated in half-hour treatment sessions, with up to three treatment sessions required to fully treat both lungs. The treatment is delivered via a bronchoscope; it is designed to reduce the tendency of the asthmatic airway to narrow.

Professor Ian Pavord, Honorary Professor of Respiratory Medicine at the University and consultant physician in respiratory medicine at Glenfield Hospital said:

"Thermal energy is applied to the airway through this procedure to alter the ability of the muscle in the airway walls to constrict.

"Less constriction in the airways may result in a reduction in the severity and frequency of asthma attacks. This could have a significant impact on how we manage patients with asthma in the future."

Professor Pavord added that there was no expectation that this new procedure will cure asthma. However, it is hoped that it could be useful in reducing the severity and frequency of asthma attacks. 



Live!Label gives fresh immediacy to museum exhibitions



SCHOOL STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT CANCER

► Six students from Bushloe High School, Wigston, Leicester, visited the University and the Leicester Royal Infirmary to learn more about cancer research and the treatment of cancer, after their school raised a magnificent £1500 for the Hope Foundation, a Leicestershire & Rutland-based Charity for cancer research which funds work at the local Universities and Hospitals.

The Year 9 pupils (aged 13-14) visited Dr George Don Jones' laboratories at the University's Biocentre and the Radiotherapy Unit at the Infirmary. During their visit they learnt about cancer, its causes and how it can be treated and prevented.

At the University the visit included a talk and a practical laboratory demonstration, while at the Leicester Royal Infirmary the students were shown round the Radiotherapy Unit, to see for themselves how radiotherapy is planned and delivered.

The link between Dr Jones' work and the school came about through his 12-year-old daughter, Sarah, who suggested the fund-raising



Students from Bushloe High School, Wigston, gained a greater insight into cancer research when they visited the University and the Leicester Royal Infirmary.

initiative. Dr Jones has been working in the area of cancer research for 25 years.

The Hope Foundation, established in 2003 following the death from cancer of Allison Wilson, the former High Sheriff of the county, awarded Dr Jones the first Allison Wilson Fellowship, and this year he received a second award, worth £15,000. This will enable

him to further develop his work looking more closely at bladder cancer.

The major aim of the research group lead by Dr. Jones, the Radiation and Oxidative Stress (ROS) Group, is to elucidate biological mechanisms and factors that are responsible for the damaging effects of radiation and oxidative stress in cells. ☺

University Showcases Aerospace Capabilities

► Members of the University recently participated in a Midlands Aerospace Alliance Midlands Showcase event.

Staff from the Research and Business Development Office were among those in attendance at the University Showcase event at Holywell Park, Loughborough.

The Midlands Aerospace Alliance was formed in 2003 to support and represent the aerospace industry across the Midlands region (www.midlandsaerospace.org.uk).

An all-day event was organised for 8th November, at Holywell Park, Loughborough, to promote regional university capabilities in aerospace innovation and technology. The University of Leicester was represented by several members of the Research and Business Development Office and sector-specific marketing literature was distributed to the visiting delegates.

In the afternoon session, Professor George Fraser (Director, Space Research Centre) gave a 25-minute presentation on the aerospace capabilities of the University. ☺

Innovative Instrument Probes Underground

► A University of Leicester geologist is taking the lead in the development of a unique instrument that will help professionals such as geologists, archaeologists and engineers automatically collect data about underground structures.

Rather like a sophisticated sledge, the data collection system will move on runners, towed by a small tractor. This gives the advantages over other

survey methods of: its own GPS navigation system so it automatically records its accurate position computerised data logging system to record many sensor instruments simultaneously greater stability and smoothness in motion than wheeled vehicles keeping the delicate instrumentation on board at a constant height above

the ground over rough terrain. Surveying continuously for extended periods making surveys fast and efficient.

The Geophysical Exploration Equipment Platform (GEEP) system uses a combination of differential global positioning system (DGPS) and on-board compass to detect its own position, orientation and speed. A wide variety of different

instrumentation can be added to adapt the system for different surveys aimed at environmental, archaeological, engineering, hydrological or mineral targets.

The project, led by Dr Ian Hill, Senior Lecturer in Geophysics at Leicester, was funded by a two-year Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) and is now reaching its conclusion. The complete system is currently being tested at the University of Leicester.

Dr Hill and his research associate have been working with the company, Geomatrix Earth Science Ltd, who are marketing the system commercially. Geomatrix Earth Science Ltd is one of the largest rental sources for Environmental Geophysical Instrumentation in Europe. ☺

Rather like a sophisticated sledge, the data collection system will move on runners, towed by a small tractor.





Leicester-Mumbai Collaboration on Space Camera

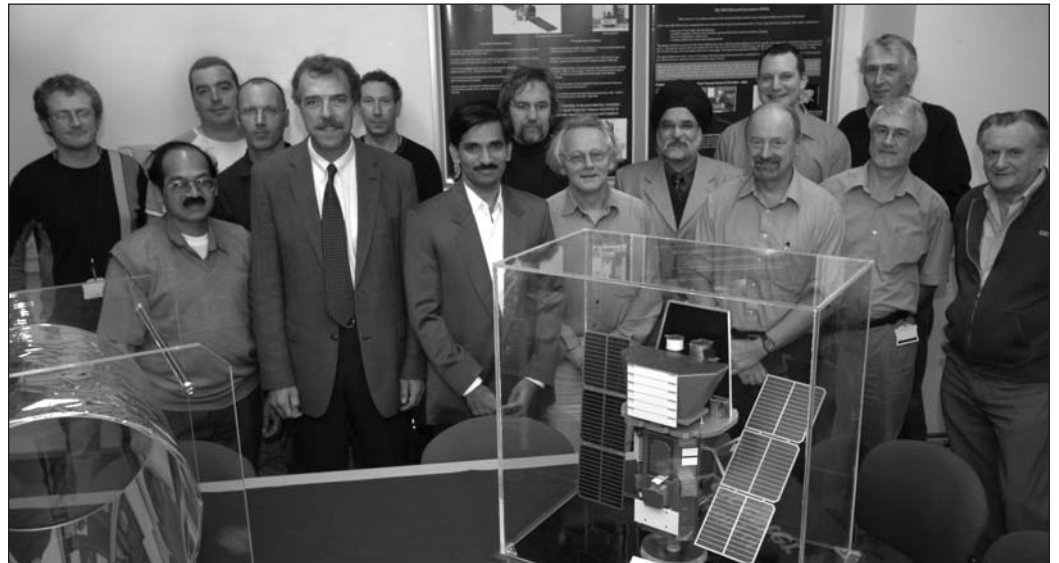
► A delegation of scientists and engineers from the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Mumbai, India (pictured), visited the University of Leicester Space Research Centre to finalise design elements of an X-ray camera developed at Leicester for inclusion in Astrosat, India's first national astronomy satellite.

The camera, which has been designed at Leicester and will be sent to Mumbai for installation in Astrosat, has involved close collaboration between scientists in the two countries.

The delegates from the Tata Institute are in Leicester to discuss the final stages of the design and to bring the Leicester team up-to-date on the status of the Astrosat mission. They will also be discussing future areas of collaboration.

Guy Peters, Astrosat SXT Project Manager UK, commented:

"The procurement of key components is now well under way and several critical elements of the camera electronics have been



designed and are currently being built in the Space Research Centre at the University of Leicester.

"Over the next few months we hope to receive the main components from India and start to build up the camera for qualification. Once it has successfully completed the testing

phase, we shall be building the flight instrument for launch on Astrosat."

Astrosat will carry five instruments to observe exotic objects such as black holes, neutron stars, and active galaxies at a number of different wavelengths simultaneously, from the ultraviolet

band to energetic x-rays. While the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research has built the main telescope body and mirror Leicester has provided the camera, supported the project through consultancy and will calibrate the camera at the Space Research Centre. 🌌

DISABILITY EQUALITY SCHEME

► The University of Leicester will launch its draft Disability Equality Scheme on Monday 4 December 2006.

The University is committed to providing equality of opportunity to staff and equality of service to students and all users of our facilities.

As part of this commitment the University's Mission Statement explains:

"We believe that a diverse student and staff body makes the University stronger."

"We believe that we improve and grow stronger by listening and learning from those who use our services."

The Scheme has been designed to incorporate good practice and is a living document which will be amended on a regular basis.

Why does the University need a Disability Equality Scheme?

The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 introduced the requirement

for public authorities, including universities, to produce a Disability Equality Scheme (DES) by 4 December 2006.

The Act established a 'general duty' to make disability equality a key element of how the institution works. In all activities, the University must give appropriate weight to the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity between disabled people and other people
- prevent discrimination that is unlawful under the Disability Discrimination Act
- prevent harassment of disabled people
- promote positive attitudes towards disabled people
- encourage participation by disabled people in public life
- take steps to meet disabled people's needs, even if this requires more favourable treatment.

What issues must be addressed by the Disability Equality Scheme?

The key elements of the scheme are:

- a statement of how disabled people have been involved in developing the scheme
- the action plan
- arrangements for gathering information about performance of the University on disability
- equality arrangements for assessing the impact of the activities of the University on disability equality and improving these where necessary
- details of how the University is going to use the Information gathered, in particular, reviewing and revising the action plan and scheme.

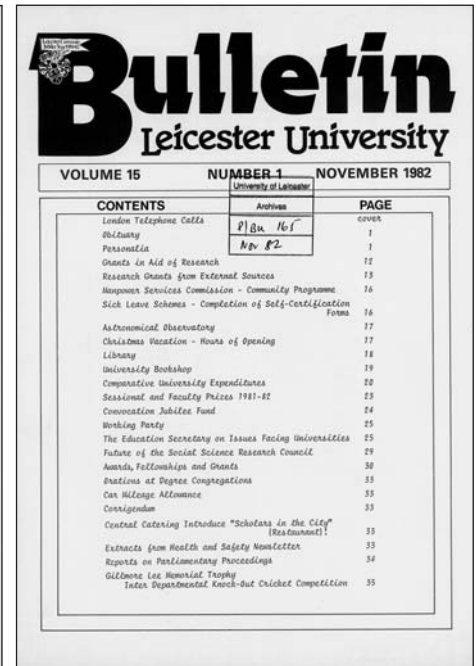
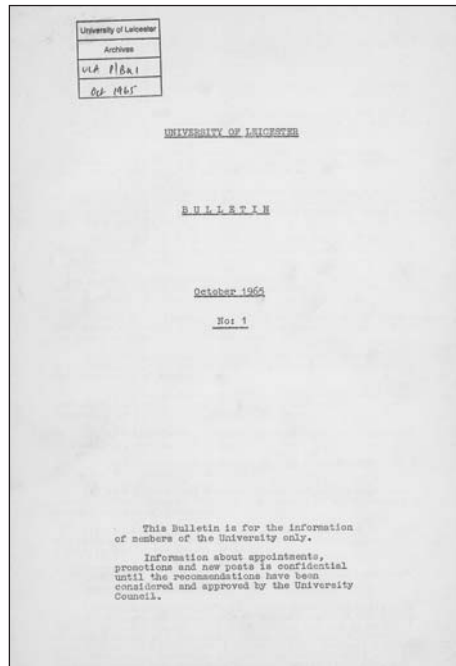
What happens next?

Over the next few weeks staff, students, and other users of

University premises and facilities are invited to comment on the Scheme. A web-based feedback facility will be available from Monday 11 December on the University's Equal Opportunities website. The full scheme is available from <http://www.le.ac.uk/staffsupport/disequalscheme.html>, a hardcopy is also being provided to each Head of Department/Office during the first week of December. Copies of the Scheme or extracts from it in alternative formats are available on request.

An executive summary of the Disability Equality Scheme is also available from the web link above. Copies of it are also available in alternative formats such as large print or audio transcription.

For copies of the Executive Summary in alternative formats and for more information please contact Peter Etherington, Personnel Manager on 0116 252 2706 or email pe22@le.ac.uk 🌌



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FAREWELL FROM BULLETIN

► After 41 years, Bulletin is making way for a new internal newsletter, InsideLE.

Bulletin won three Heist Awards - including the top Gold Award - recognising excellence in the quality of internal newsletters across the university sector. It featured special supplements on many occasions -

including the Millennium funding announcement for the National Space Centre and the visit by the late Diana, Princess of Wales to open the Richard Attenborough Centre. A selection of front covers through the decades are featured here.

With news, events and features now being carried on eBulletin, the

new internal newsletter will focus on policies and decisions that affect the University, report on best practice in departments and highlight achievements, grant awards, books and personalia. This new internal publication will supplement the University's new external publication, LE1.

InsideLE, edited by Michelle Crooks, Communications Officer, will be produced monthly during term-time. Michelle welcomes contributions for the newsletter email: mc234@le.ac.uk





US FILM DIRECTOR AT UNIVERSITY

▶ A US film director who is making a movie with former Miss World Aishwarya Rai visited the University.

Jagmohan Mundara, whose movie *Provoked*, is due out in February, was at the University on 7 December where he talked about his movie which is based on a true-life incident.

He was one of a number of people being honoured by the Triangle Media Group's online global awards

which were instigated at <http://www.trianglemediagroup.org> by Australian Media tycoon and legal scholar Professor David Flint.

Other award recipients were Bollywood celebrities Shabana Azmi and Farah Khan. Leicester Councillor Manjula Sood –herself a former post graduate from the University of Leicester – who was honoured for her outstanding contribution to local politics.

Character Actress Shabana Azmi,

whose latest movie *Umrao Jaan* has recently hit the screens, is the UN Goodwill Ambassador for Population and Growth for India and has featured in many international film and theatre projects.

Choreographer and Director Farah Khan is a famous Bollywood choreographer whose debut directorial venture *Main Hoon Na* was a smash hit.

Priya Chhaya, Academic Officer from

the University of Leicester Law Society, which hosted the event, said:

"The University of Leicester Law Society was delighted to hold this unique event. It has particular relevance for our students, as the film '*Provoked*' is based on the highly influential case; *R v Ahluwalia*. Provocation is a vital topic within 3rd year Criminal Law and also overlaps with other modules such as Criminology."

The awards were presented by Hareesh Sood, a graduate of the University, and ambassador for the TMG Awards. 🗨️

Fingerprint Technology Pioneered in Leicester - To Identify the Dead

▶ Technology developed for roadside fingerprints using hand-held devices has also been pioneered in identifying the dead, it has been revealed.

The University of Leicester, working with Leicestershire Constabulary and the Institute of Legal Medicine, University of Hamburg, recorded the first ever use of the technology on the dead over six months ago.

The purpose of developing the technique is to enable rapid identification of the deceased and would be of particular benefit in cases of mass fatalities.

The research has been submitted for consideration for publication to an international forensic medical journal and has been carried out by Professor Guy Rutty of the East Midlands Forensic

Pathology Unit at the University of Leicester; Karen Stringer, Leicestershire Constabulary Fingerprint Bureau, and Dr E.E.Turk Institute of Legal Medicine, University of Hamburg.

The researchers made use of a handheld, mobile wireless unit used in conjunction with a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) device for the capture of fingerprints from the dead. They also used a handheld single digit fingerprint scanner which utilises a USB laptop connection for the electronic capture of cadaveric fingerprints.

Professor Rutty added:

"We believe that, through conversations with our colleagues

throughout the fingerprint world and the failure to identify any previous peer reviewed publication, we have demonstrated the first use of a handheld PDA based biometric fingerprinting device for use for fingerprinting the dead.

"We have also demonstrated the use of a single digit fingerprint unit with the dead, building upon the scanty literature on the use of larger Livescan devices but more importantly highlighting the limitations of such devices to date. We have applied this technology to an actual real case which resulted in a positive identification, the first of its type to have been undertaken in the UK." 🗨️

LARS THARP TO LECTURE AT UNIVERSITY

▶ BBC Antiques Roadshow stalwart Lars Tharp will deliver the Frank May Anniversary Lecture on 22 January, 2007.

The event, in the Frank and Katherine May Lecture Theatre, Henry Wellcome Building, will start at 5.30pm and is open to the public and free but by ticket, subject to availability, and with tickets available at the door also.

The subject of his talk is ceramics- Most of us might place 'Ceramics' in the category of Luxuries yet, over thousands of years, as the potter's wheel revolved, and shaped the world about him, clay products became central to the emergence and daily functioning of civilization. Selecting a wide-ranging group of Ceramics from over ten millennia - earthenwares, stonewares and porcelains - Lars Tharp assesses the myriad functions and overall impact of Clay on human societies and individuals, from

Neolithic to modern times...and beyond

Lars Tharp is a ceramic historian, broadcaster and writer. Born in Copenhagen and schooled in Leicester, he read Palaeolithic archaeology at Cambridge after which he became a director of Sothebys, specializing in Chinese ceramics and works of art. Since 1993 he has run his own arts consultancy business and, after more than twenty years of appearances, he has become a stalwart of the BBC Antiques Roadshow while also presenting other TV and radio programmes, notably for Radios Three and Four.

Lars's parallel career as a speaker leads him all over the world, in particular to China where, in 2006, he led the Royal Academy's Three Emperors' Tour. In 2005 he devised and curated *Celebrating Ceramics*, an acclaimed three-part major exhibition

at the York Art Gallery. Lars has spoken to many institutions including Cambridge University, The Royal Institution, the Royal College of Surgeons, The English Speaking Union, The Art Fund, National Trust and NADFAS. Founder chairman of the London Hogarth Group and trustee of the Museum of Worcester Porcelain, Lars was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by DeMontfort University in 2006. In 2007 he lectures to the University of Leicester's Country House Study Group on Porcelain and Ostentation.

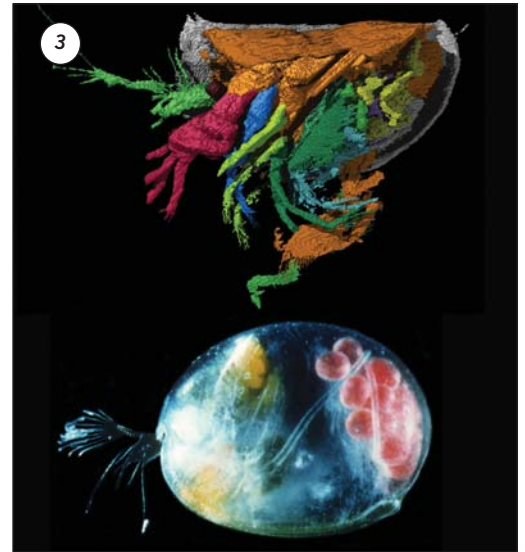
Lars's common theme is Objects and How to See - how a closer look at outwardly hum-drum artefacts can take us to places and societies well beyond our own horizons, both in time and space.

Dr May's association with the University of Leicester dates from 1982 when he was recommended to

the University by the late Dr Mac Goldsmith. For over 20 years, Dr May was a trustee of the Medical Research Foundation, including its Chairman. On retiring, he was invited to become its first Honorary President. In a desire to encourage and to reward medical research with the University's medical school, he established an annual prize-giving lecture and also a biennial lecture inviting national/international medical science speakers to address an invited audience.

Dr May was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by the University of Leicester in 1992, an MBE in 1994 and the Freedom of the City of Leicester in 2001. In 2005 he received the inaugural Distinguished Honorary Fellowship from the University.

• More information or tickets from Linda Duncan, Secretary to the Dean of Medicine and Biological Sciences, imd8@le.ac.uk or Tel ext 2962. 🗨️



1. Star Science Students Head to Leicester

Two medallists from the 2005 International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) registered in October as undergraduate students at the University of Leicester Kastysis Zubovas from Lithuania and Minh Hai Nguyen from Vietnam have both qualified for direct entry into the second year of the MPhys degree in the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

2. Martin Cullen in a Cage!

As part of RAG week 2006, Students' Union president, Martin Cullen was locked in a cage and assailed by wet sponges. Money raised from the attack went to charity. There were other events that occurred during the week:

RAG's infamous bar crawl took the fundraisers to the students' union approved nightclub, Zanzibar. There was an International Food Fair in the union's bar, Element. Students were able to sample food from around the world.

The fundraisers also put up a 'Mad Fer Rag Slave Auction' at the Students' Union award winning entertainments facility, The Venue.

3. 'Nymph of the Sea' Reveals Remarkable Brood

Geologists from the UK and US, led by the University of Leicester, have made an unusual discovery from over 425 million years ago...hard boiled eggs! The scientists discovered the mother complete with her brood of some 20 eggs and 2 possible juveniles inside,

together with other details of her soft part anatomy including legs and eyes. The research team consisted of David Siveter from the University of Leicester.

4. 77-Year-Old Fresher at University of Leicester

Seventy-seven year old Hank Reece has embarked on a degree at the University. After a successful career running his own knitwear firm, Hank has hankered for a return to higher education- and he has enrolled with his daughter, Frances. Hank, from Wanlip, has embarked on the BA Archaeology and Ancient History while Frances is studying History. Hank said: "My daughter brought the course details home - I read them and I was hooked.

"I very much look forward to receiving my degree in three years' time."

5. University of Leicester to House Regional Film Archive

Collection of 25,000 films dating from 1897 to come to Leicester. The University of Leicester has been selected as the new home for a Midland-wide collection of the region's film heritage. The Media Archive for Central England has announced it is relocating to the University bringing a collection of over 25,000 items dating from 1897 to the present day. The move from Nottingham will add to the wealth of cultural heritage in Leicester and provide an important resource for researchers and educationalists from across the region.

Bulletin

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Photos: AVS Photography
Print: AVS Print
Small advertisements for members of the University are carried if space permits. Please send advertisements to Press and Publications Office.

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