

THE LONDON MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY: CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF MATHEMATICS

This year marks the 150th Anniversary of the London Mathematical Society (LMS), the UK's learned society for mathematics. The Society is commemorating this with an exciting programme of events celebrating the contributions of UK mathematics through the years. The Society and its membership includes many creative mathematical scientists, past and present.



One of the objectives of the celebrations is to reach out to both non-mathematicians and mathematicians alike, and to foster a deeper appreciation of the value of mathematics to our culture and society. The varied programme of activities and events provides a wonderful opportunity to celebrate past achievements, and also to look forward and challenge ourselves and society to make the best of this ever-changing and beautiful discipline.

Under the overarching theme of *Mathematics: Unlocking Worlds*, we will communicate

the following messages to as wide an audience as possible:

- Mathematics transforms people's lives
- Mathematics is everywhere and for everyone

... essential value of mathematics to the UK economy ...

- Mathematics Research: Curiosity, Creativity, Discovery

The year began with the Anniversary Launch on 16th January 2015 at The Goldsmiths' Hall, London. Both the date and venue were of particular significance to the

Society; 16th January 2015 was exactly 150 years to the day since the Society held its inaugural meeting and Goldsmiths' Hall was also the location for the Society's Centenary Dinner. The aim of

the Launch was to introduce the Society's year of celebrations, recognise and promote the history of the Society, and demonstrate the essential value of mathematics to the UK economy.

Over 300 guests, including school and university students, were entertained by talks from leading mathematicians. In addition to the Society's historical focus on pure mathematics, a range of applied topics was covered, including machine learning for human motion capture (particularly in Microsoft's Kinect for Xbox), the linking of signals to masts that enable the use of mobile phones, and the special effects behind TV programmes such as *Doctor Who* and *Sherlock* and films such as *Harry Potter* and *Life of Pi*.

An Early Day Motion, dated 16 January, supported by Andrew Miller MP, Stephen Metcalfe MP, Dr Julian Huppert MP and Sir Peter Bottomley MP, congratulated the LMS on reaching its 150th Anniversary, for which the Society is grateful.

In February, there was an exhibition of early documents and photographs from the LMS archives at the University College



Professor Sir Andrew Wiles

London (UCL) Main Library. The exhibition will remain open until December and highlights include a student's sketch of the LMS founding President Augustus de Morgan, a sketch of an early LMS logo by Sophia de Morgan, and a letter from George de Morgan and Arthur Cowper Ranyard inviting Thomas Archer Hirst to the inaugural meeting of the Society.

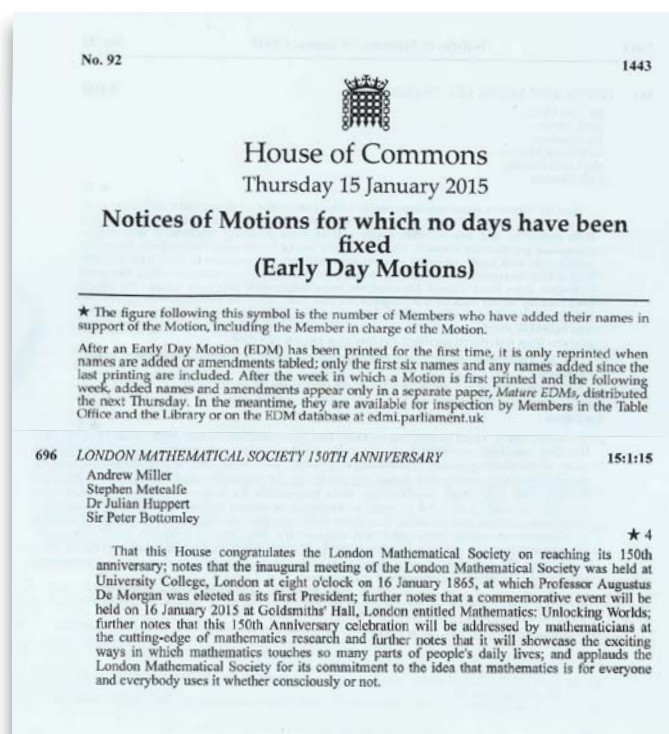
This year's Mary Cartwright Lecture was also held in February. The lecture, which each year is given by a prominent female mathematician, was given by Maria Esteban (Université Paris-Dauphine) on *Bose-Einstein Condensation: History, Model and Recent Mathematical*

... interviews with prominent UK-based mathematicians ...

Results. The talk was described as "world-class" by LMS President Terry Lyons and it provided a distinguished platform for other Women in Mathematics events later in the year.

Later in March the LMS launched the Sir Christopher

Zeeman online archive with a small ceremony at Hertford College, University of Oxford. The Archive was launched soon after Sir Christopher's 90th birthday and came to fruition as a result of the hard work and dedication of Sir Christopher's family. The online archive represents a lifetime of Sir Christopher's work, including letters he wrote, papers and books he published, and interviews he gave. Sir Christopher Zeeman is widely considered an icon of modern mathematics and the LMS is



delighted to be hosting the archive on its website, particularly as he is a Past President of the Society.

April and May proved busy months for the Society with large events such as the joint meeting between the British Mathematical Colloquium (BMC) and the British Applied Mathematics Colloquium (BAMC), which this year was held at the University of

Cambridge and included a day of events celebrating the Anniversary, with lectures from Professor Sir Andrew Wiles (University of Oxford), who proved Fermat's Last Theorem and Professor Robert Calderbank

... platform for other Women in Mathematics events ...

(Duke University, US), followed by a special four-day Women in Mathematics event held at the University of Oxford.

As the year progresses there will be a number of other

and architect George Legendre. The year will culminate in an exciting, interactive five-day Mathematics Festival in collaboration with the London Science Museum which will be held at the Museum from

Wednesday 25th – Sunday 29th November in which nine research groups will be involved.

The usual Society events such as the LMS Popular Lectures, which already attract large audiences from mathematicians and students to the general public, have been extended to include more speakers at various locations around the UK. There will also be a joint meeting with the Institute of Physics (IOP) and the Royal Astronomical Society (RAS) in November to mark the centenary of General Relativity.

The 150th year of the Society is an opportunity to reflect on the ground-breaking achievements of the LMS through the years and to look forward to building a sustainable future for the discipline which will allow mathematics to continue to contribute to society and to provide the critical foundations to 'unlocking worlds'.



Professor Robert Calderbank

For more information about the Society's 150th Anniversary visit www.lms.ac.uk/2015 You can also follow the LMS on Twitter @LondMathSoc