

*A look at activities in and around the Leicester Warwick Medical Schools*

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## University Bid for Dental School

▶ A Leicester Medical School bid to set up a new dental school has been shortlisted, along with five other centres across the country.

Leicester's bid provides a revolutionary model for dental training. Instead of a central dental school, the plan is to base the clinical teaching in four regional academies in the communities of Northampton, Corby, Leicester, and Boston, Lincolnshire.

Annual intake would be 80 students plus four overseas students on a four-year graduate entry programme, the first dental school in the country to offer this fast-track option.

If successful, Leicester's bid will transform dentistry in Leicester and Northampton, which have the lowest rate of dental provision in the UK.

Mr Roger Bettles, a Member of the University's Council, who is also a retired consultant in dental public health and a former National President of the British Dental Association, commented: "It is a very exciting project for a dental school, compared with what is currently available. Only in the last few years have dental schools been starting to try and place students reaching the end of their training into a setting more like dental practice.

"This bid turns all of that on its head, and students will experience right from the outset training in a primary dental care environment."

Teachers will be carefully selected and trained for working in the academies in an Institute at the centre which will be part of the Pathway project.

The concept of the Academies

themselves, Mr Bettles says, will be designed by architects specialising in medical architecture and will be state of the art in both construction and functionality, highly reliant on the latest technology both for teaching and management of patients, including radiology. It is hoped that each Academy will incorporate a full dental practice and facilities for training Dental Therapists, Hygienists and Dental Nurses.

Teaching techniques will be adapted from those developed for medical students training in centres away from the parent university, such as between Leicester and Warwick.

The bid has enthusiastic backing from the community of dentists in the region, who have been consulted throughout the development of the plans. Roger Bettles said: "They are all very excited at what is proposed, and say it addresses all the weakness they would have highlighted from their undergraduate teaching. A lot of them are very keen to involve themselves in teaching in the Academies".

**Annual Staff-Student cricket match:** Batsman Will Beynon, one of the top student scorers, with the Dean, Professor Ian Lauder, in the background. Final score: staff 79, students 95. The trophy is dedicated to the late Graham Wheat, former porter at the Leicester Medical School, who founded the cricket match. It will eventually be kept in a trophy cabinet in the Maurice Shock Medical Sciences Building.





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# INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (IPE) – Evaluating the Regional Strategy

BY LUCY THORPE, REGIONAL EVALUATOR OF INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL AND SOCIAL CARE EDUCATION, LEICESTER MEDICAL SCHOOL

► In the Summer 2005 edition of LWMS News Dr Liz Anderson talked about the development of a regional strategy for interprofessional education (IPE) which commenced this September within Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Strategic Health Authority.

The overall aim of this strategy is to prepare a wide range of health and social care students with inter-professional team-working knowledge and skills relevant for working in the modern health and social care workplace settings.

Evaluation is essential to the long-term relevance and sustainability of this regional strategy and to inform the wider education debate. Despite its growing momentum within health and social care education, to date there is only a small UK evidence base on the effectiveness and impact of IPE. The opportunities to evaluate a regional perspective in which three universities (Leicester, Northampton, and De Montfort) work collaboratively will offer a unique national perspective in IPE. I have been in post as Regional Evaluator of IPE for just over a year now and am going to tell you about my research role.

The overall aim is to evaluate the impact of the IPE strategy on the educators, the students, and on the stakeholders involved (NHS staff and patients/service users). We are undertaking a multi-method evaluation, using a variety of research techniques to obtain our data: semi-structured interviews, focus groups, questionnaires, and observation methods.

The main focus of our evaluation is the impact of IPE on the educators, as very few studies report on this in the published literature. Educators new to the field of IPE who are about to become involved with teaching/facilitating IPE sessions, are being asked to partici-



pate in before and after interviews in order to determine whether any preconceived views they hold about IPE change over time with experience. Educators who are already experienced in IPE teaching/facilitation are being asked to share their attitudes and beliefs on the subject through participating in either a focus group session, a one-to-one interview, or by completing a questionnaire survey.

The effect of interprofessional learning on pre-registration students is also being evaluated. We are keen to determine the impact of IPE on students' knowledge, attitudes, behaviours and skills, and to identify student views on the most effective IPE teaching models. From this September onwards all first year pre-registration health and social care students at the region's three main universities will be asked to complete an interprofessional learning questionnaire which can be used to explore differences in students' perception and attitudes towards multiprofessional learning. Students will complete this at two time points: as early as possible in their course before they become

exposed to any IPE teaching, and then again at the end of their course just prior to qualification.

The effects of interprofessional learning on pre-registration students will also be captured over the duration of their training through the use of evaluation questionnaires, focus group sessions, and by conducting small group observations.

The final stage of the evaluation is to assess the impact of IPE on the NHS staff and patients/service users involved in it and this will be achieved through holding focus group sessions and by administering a questionnaire survey to the relevant groups.

We very much hope that you will be willing to take part in the evaluation should you be approached and we thank you in advance for your anticipated participation in this unique and exciting piece of research.

Anyone who is interested in finding out more about the IPE strategy evaluation can contact me, Lucy Thorpe on: tel 0116 2523044, or email [lt3@le.ac.uk](mailto:lt3@le.ac.uk)

## Technology to Tell Tales of the Dead

► New technology in the field of post-mortem examinations will revolutionise the ways autopsies are conducted within our own lifetimes, with a 'massive' impact on religious groups - particularly Jewish and Islamic communities across the world - Guy Rutty, Professor of Forensic Pathology at the University of Leicester claimed. The Forensic Pathology Unit is pioneering within the UK in its use of new technologies to establish cause of death, and in September Professor Rutty presented his views at the Sixth International Symposium on Advances in Legal Medicine in Hamburg. In a paper in Forensic Science, Medicine, and Pathology published the same month, Professor Rutty questioned whether invasive autopsies are always necessary. Advances in diagnostic investigations like axial radiography (CT) and MRI mean that certain diagnoses can be done without the need for invasive autopsies. Professor Rutty said the key area of controversy was whether state-of-the-art technology should replace autopsies or complement them. ⑦

## Trainee Doctors' Lack of Sleep

► Teaching staff at Warwick Medical School have long been concerned that trainee doctors do not get enough sleep. Sleep in the classroom that is. Despite sleep patterns being a major contributor to a number of illnesses, on average most undergraduate doctors in the UK receive only five minutes education on sleep medicine. Warwick Medical School has now moved to redress that balance and has just ended a pilot year in which it offered a sleep study option in its curriculum for trainee doctors. In the pilot year 10 students signed up for the special option which gave them over 30 hours of sleep study. The course inspired one student, Andy Currie (also LWMS News student rep), to publish an article in the BMJ careers journal, and another student on the course, Sarah Padley, has decided to take her sleep studies further, choosing to work with sleep specialists in Harvard for her elective. ⑦



## Iraqi Visit Part of Post-War Reconstruction

► The University of Leicester Medical School hosted a visit by a group of nine psychiatrists from Iraq, who came to this country to learn how things have changed in undergraduate medical education. The Iraqi medical system is based on the British model, but had become isolated from international developments in medical education during the 1990s, and as part of its reconstruction Iraqi medical schools are now reviewing their curricula. This visit, supported by the World Health Organisation (WHO), brought a high level group from medical schools and the Iraqi Department of Health to learn from recent developments at Leicester. The Leicester Medical School, the only UK medical school the group visited, was one of the first in the country to spearhead the Government initiative in medical education, *Tomorrow's Doctors*, and has consequently witnessed significant changes over the past decade. The visit came about when Dr Al-Uzri, a University of Leicester psychiatrist who comes from Iraq, was approached by the Iraqi National Advisor on Mental Health. ☺

## Help for Overweight Coventry Children

► The University of Warwick has received funding to provide a free pilot programme for 30 families in Coventry with children aged 7-11 years old who face problems with their weight. The free pilot programme, funded by the Department of Health, will be run and evaluated by Warwick Medical School in the Autumn. The first 30 families to contact the University who fit the overall profile will get a place in Families for Health, a support programme that will involve both parents and children and be good fun. It will draw on specially trained facilitators who know about nutrition, physical activity, parenting and working with children. ☺

► The General Medical Council (GMC) is currently working closely with Leicester Warwick Medical Schools to make preparations for its statutory review of our undergraduate medical courses in 2005/6.

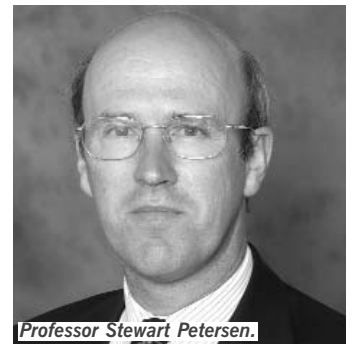
This process of Quality Assurance of Basic Medical Education (QABME) occurs once every five years for all medical school programmes across the UK. Teams at Leicester and Warwick Medical Schools have been working hard to ensure that all the necessary preparations are in hand for a successful review.

The QABME process allows the GMC, through a visiting team, to collect information, explore issues, and observe parts of the teaching and learning process in a systematic and explicit way. The visiting team comprises trained experts in all aspects of medical education from medical schools across the UK, a medical student from another School and a lay member.

Fortunately for LWMS we have two key individuals in the teams planning for the LWMS review who have a view from the other side of the accreditation fence. Professor Yvonne Carter (Dean of Warwick Medical School) and Professor Stewart Petersen (Head of Medical and Social Care Education) are members of GMC Visiting Teams for other medical schools with Yvonne currently guiding Brighton Sussex through its first cohort of students and Stewart working with University of East Anglia. Since these are newly estab-



Professor Yvonne Carter.



Professor Stewart Petersen.

## GMC ACCREDITATION: From Both Sides of the Fence

BY PROFESSOR YVONNE CARTER, DEAN, WARWICK MEDICAL SCHOOL

lished schools, visitors stay with them through the long haul until the first cohort goes into F1 posts.

The first stage of the QABME process, to be finalised by October 2005, is the completion of a template which details how LWMS is meeting the requirements set out in *Tomorrow's Doctors*. This template covers broad ranging areas such as curricula outcomes, teaching and learning strategies, admissions, assessment of student performance and competence, support systems and promoting equality and valuing diversity.

The information provided in the template is then used by the GMC Visiting Team to formulate action plans, which will include a series of visits between January and July

2006. These visits will take place within the Medical School and our partnership NHS Trusts and general practices.

Part of the preparation for the QABME process will also consider the recognition of Warwick Medical School as an independent medical school. This recognition by the GMC would add WMS to the current list of 27 institutions that can award a registrable UK medical degree and be a deserved reward for the hard work of Leicester and Warwick Medical School staff and students since the inception of the four year graduate MB ChB programme.

For further information about QABME please visit <http://www.gmc-uk.org/qabme/> ☺

## Doctor in the Park?

► There was no shortage of doctors in Leicester's Victoria Park on 23 July when more than 50 medical graduates from 1995 came back for a reunion picnic, bringing their families with them. The driving force behind this 10-year reunion was Dr Jason Smith (MB ChB 1995), who came from Portsmouth with his wife Helen and three children (pictured right). His enthusiasm and class newsletter inspired everyone to get back in touch for the event. ☺





► If the idea of medical training conjures up lecture theatres, hospital wards and clinics then think again. Dr Peter Barry, Consultant in Paediatric Intensive Care and Honorary Senior Lecturer at the Leicester Medical School has been instrumental in establishing the UK's first, and to date only, English language Union Internationale des Associations d'Alpinisme (UIAA) approved course in mountain medicine. The course can be studied to Masters level.

The lure of the hills, the challenge of the climb and the exhilaration of reaching a mountain summit are easy to understand. Yet anyone who has seen or read, *'Touching the Void'*, will know that the risks can be as great as the rewards.

The Leicester-based Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate in Mountain Medicine is a qualification for doctors who want to use their medical skills in a mountain environment. It gives doctors a grounding in the theory and practice of managing illnesses and accidents that may occur at altitude, including travel medicine and survival and mountain rescue issues.

Those taking part need to be competent enough climbers them-



## PIONEERS IN MOUNTAIN MEDICINE TRAINING

selves so that they do not become a liability to the team they are there to protect. Since they may have to be lowered by rope to a casualty far below them, they need to be reliable in self-care and survival skills and understand rope techniques. They also have to learn to be relaxed and confident when working with a casualty in difficult mountain conditions.

The course lasts one year, with

four periods of student contact, each lasting approximately one week. Two theoretical sessions are in Plas Y Brenin, North Wales, one practical session on winter skills is in Scotland, and a second practical period takes place in the European Alps.

Participant Laurie Tomlinson said: "It was a great opportunity to climb with some top guides. So I have learned or brushed up on lots of climbing skills. The academic side

was superb, with lectures from some of the most famous people in altitude physiology. I have practised my pre-hospital care skills, which is great for a teaching hospital medic like me."

For more information contact Caroline Clay, tel 0116 258 6844, email cc44@le.ac.uk

See page 6 to read about the Leicester Wilderness Medical Society. 🌐

## GRADUATE *news*



## A Force to be Reckoned With

► Zoe Campbell knew she wanted to be a doctor from eight years old, which was also the age she took up karate.

She is making her mark in both spheres. A 2003 world karate champion with many medals to her name, last year she was also the first winner of Professor Yvonne Carter's Vice-Dean Prize.

Although her twin passions meant she had to juggle her time carefully as a medical student at Warwick, her two interests have never clashed, but have always been complementary. Her karate, she claims, helped her to concentrate her mind on studying and gave her the necessary determination to get through her exams.

Karate was not her only sport, and at school – as well as karate training four or five times a week - Zoe also had the time for gymnastics, ice-skating, netball and athletics, the latter at national level. She also liked football and continued this at university.

Her first degree was in Biochemistry (1st class) at Birmingham University, before she went on to the LWMS Graduate programme. She now works as F2 SHO at Walsgrave Hospital and was recently featured in the BMJ Career Focus.

Incredibly, even as a PRSHO she manages to find the time and energy to train twice a day, perhaps six days a week when she has a championship coming up, starting with 45



minutes before work.

Medically speaking, her ambition is to be a physician, possibly in renal medicine or geriatrics. As far as karate goes, Zoe came back from Chicago in October having come 2nd in the team and 5th among the individuals. "Not bad," she says. "I've got

the Europeans in November in Poland - time for revenge!" Looking a bit further ahead, she will retire and maybe take up team sports again.

As for medicine, she wouldn't consider any other job – except (as she told the BMJ) maybe being an astronaut. 🌐



# Take a Walk on the Wild Side!

► Wilderness Medicine is becoming increasingly popular all over the world, including here in Leicester. With a steadily increasing amount of members, the recently formed University of Leicester Wilderness Medical Society is testament to that.

So, what is Wilderness Medicine? A large part of it involves pre-hospital training for Wilderness Medical Emergencies. It also includes Remote and Expedition Medicine, including diving medi-

cine, aerospace medicine and high altitude medicine. It deals with the interactions between the wilderness environment and people, such as tropical diseases, hypothermia and lightning strikes.

Many students and young doctors dream of using their skills and profession to travel the world. Wilderness Medicine is a perfect way to do that and as such is capturing the imagination of many in our medical schools.

The University of Leicester Wilder-

ness Medical Society (ULWMS) organises lectures and skills sessions for the medicine aspect, such as suturing classes, as well as for the wilderness aspect, such as rock climbing and kayaking.

There are many opportunities for students to get involved with the Wilderness Medical Society. These include Wilderness Medicine electives, one of which was attended by two Leicester students, myself (Camila Benouali) and Sarah Wysling, in Tennessee, USA in February 2005.

I am also participating in a research trial at high altitude in Nepal during October 2005. This is run by the Wilderness Medical Society and the Himalayan Rescue Association and results from last year have already been published in

high-quality, peer-reviewed journals such as *The Lancet* and *The BMJ*. This is giving me the opportunity to travel to one of the most remote and beautiful places on Earth, to gain experience in research and also to meet like-minded people with whom I hope to be working when I graduate.

It does of course come at a price! If anyone would like to make a donation or sponsor me on this fantastic trip please feel free to contact me at [cb113@le.ac.uk](mailto:cb113@le.ac.uk)

If anyone would like to join the Wilderness Medical Society please also email me at the above address.

Camila Benouali (pictured top left).

See *Off Campus* on page 5 for details of a postgraduate course in *Mountain Medicine*. ☺

# Medics Raise £1,400 in Charity Auction

► A charity auction by medical students at the University of Leicester raised over £1,400 for the tsunami relief effort in Sri Lanka. The auction was organised as part of the work of MedSIN-Leicester, an umbrella organisation of medical students and healthcare professionals.

The organisers said: "MedSIN stands for 'medical students international' and the aim of this organisation is to raise awareness of, and take action on, global and local health issues. Each medical school has its own branch, hence we are known as the MedSIN-Leicester branch. We are involved in various

projects both in Leicester and further afield.

"The money raised from the auction will go to a new project that is underway in Sri Lanka. This project is being organised by the Sri Lanka Tsunami Victims Rehabilitation Trust ([www.sltvrt.org](http://www.sltvrt.org)) and will consist of re-building a hospital that was damaged by the Boxing Day Tsunami, approximately 100 miles from the capital Colombo.

"The Leicester link with the project is co-ordinated by Fatema Mamdani, who is also pictured in the photo. The ultimate aim of this project is to provide a sustainable link between Leicester and the



From left to right: Jess Sterenberg (President, MedSIN-Leicester), Mark Taylor (Publicity Officer, MedSIN-Leicester), Laurence Wicks (auctioneer), Dave Walker (auctioneer), Fatema Mamdani (Leicester co-ordinator of the Sri Lanka hospital project), Kathryn Staley and Julia Humphreys (co-organisers of auction).

hospital in Sri Lanka, which will enable skill sharing and exchanges in the future. The target that we have pledged to donate is £2,500-3,000, and after the success of the auction we are well on our way to achieving this goal."

Over 100 people attended the auction with auction items being submitted by businesses in and around Leicester - ranging from cinema tickets to a supply of thongs!

For more details please see [www.medsin.org](http://www.medsin.org).



## Warwick Students Present Diabetes Study at European Conference

► *Natasha Anto and Elaine Chow are third-year medical students who attended the European General Practice Research Network (EGPRN) Conference in May 2005 to present their study on the experience of living with diabetes.*

When we were awarded a Warwick Undergraduate Research Scholarship in July 2004 we never envisaged what experiences and opportunities were ahead of us.

Our project was to study the experience of living with diabetes using qualitative research methods. The research process began with the recruitment of six individuals at a local diabetes awareness day.

Participating in qualitative research was new to both of us. However, by working with Dr Francis Griffiths, our research supervisor, we quickly learned new research skills

in interviewing, data collection and qualitative comparative analysis.

We had a three-month time span in which to complete our data collection and by including this into our busy clinical curriculum we learned the value of teamwork, communication, planning and organisation. One of the most exciting parts of the project was collaborating with a team of researchers who were working on a parallel study at the University of Antwerp in Belgium.

The climax of our research experience was to present our work at the European General Practice Research Network in Göttingen, Germany, a biannual conference with over 150 participants from countries all over Europe. The EGPRN was established to enable clinicians from all over Europe to exchange their ideas



*Tempting cakes on display.*



*Recruiting volunteers at a local diabetes awareness day.*

and experiences in primary care research.

We were to give a 15 minute oral presentation of our study, in which we had to communicate fairly complex ideas. It was also the first time we had presented qualitative research findings, so we were understandably rather nervous!

We were amongst academics from many leading institutions in Europe, some of whom were curious about our presence at the conference. Nevertheless, the friendly, supportive atmosphere of EGPRN made us feel welcome.

Our presentation was well-received and this has greatly

increased our confidence in public speaking. We also attended many lectures where we learnt about the latest developments in research in general practice and family medicine.

The city of Göttingen is a beautiful historic city, which has produced 44 Nobel laureates in the past. (It also has one of the most tempting cake shops, which we both found incredibly hard to resist!) We were given a tour of a general practice surgery on the outskirts of the city and this gave us an insight into the workings of other primary healthcare systems.

The conference ended with a highly entertaining festive evening, with the rare sight of so many eminent researchers displaying their dancing skills!

This research scheme was established by the Centre for Academic Practice, aimed to encourage undergraduate students to participate in research. Although Warwick medical students have scientific backgrounds, many of us have not had any exposure to clinical research. We hope that Warwick University will continue with this scheme to support future medical students with an interest in academic medicine. ☺



*(l-r) Natasha Anto and Elaine Chow.*

## Leicester Student Elected Chair of BMA Committee

► Kirsty Lloyd, a mature student at Leicester Medical School, was elected Chair of the BMA's Medical Students Committee in September, representing the UK's 33,000 medical students. Commenting at the time on some of the key issues facing medical students, Kirsty said that rising debt levels were continuing to deter students from less affluent backgrounds from becoming doctors. ☺

## On Being a Muslim

► Third-year medical student at Leicester, Azam Bata, has written a moving account of what life is like for young Muslims, post 7/7. You can read this on the web: <http://ebulletin.le.ac.uk/features>

Azam has also written other articles which can be found on the BBC website. ☺



# Staff Distinctions

## WARM CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

### UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK:

► **Professor Yvonne Carter**, Dean of Warwick Medical School – awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the Society of Medical Writers; **Professor Steve Thornton**, Professor of Obstetrics and Associate Dean – member of MRC College of Experts; **Professor Sudesh Kumar**, Professor of Medicine, Diabetes and Metabolism – member of MRC College of Experts for the Board of Physiology and Clinical Science; **Professor Franco Cappuccio**, Cephalon Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine & Epidemiology - Treasurer of Executive Committee of the British Hypertension Society.

Immunity and Inflammation – Co-Director for the National Collaborating Centre for Women and Children’s Health, leading the development of children’s guidelines for NICE; **Dr Elizabeth Anderson**, Department of Medical and Social Care Education - University of Leicester Teaching Fellowship for her ‘outstanding contribution to the development of interprofessional healthcare education’; **Professor Richard Camp**, Department of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation – Chairman of the Scientific Committee of the European Skin Research Foundation (ESRF); **Professor Irene Gottlob**, Ophthalmology – Chair of the Eye Movement Section of the Association of Research in Ophthalmology and Vision; nominated and short-listed by the BMA as one of 30 ‘role models in academic medicine for the UK; nominated one of 15 lecturers for the Royal College of Ophthalmology; **Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys**, Department of Genetics – joint winner of 2005 Lasker Award for Clinical Medical Research.

### UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER:

► **Professor Rosemary Walker**, Department of Cancer Studies and Molecular Medicine - Chairman of the British Breast Group; **Professor Willhelm Schwaeble**, Department of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation - Member of the MRC College of Experts; **Professor Ziegler-Heitbrock**, Department of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation - President-Elect and President of the European Macrophage and Dendritic Cell Society; **Professor David H Evans**, Department of Medical Physics - President of the European Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology; **Professor Bryan Williams**, Department of Cardiovascular Sciences - asked by NICE to Chair the National Expert Group on Hypertension, to advise on whether national guidelines are necessary; **Dr Monica Lakhani**, Department of Infection,



Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys.

Further staff distinctions will be noted in the next edition.

# Lifescan three-year investment plan

► LifeScan UK, part of Johnson & Johnson, has extended its existing successful partnership with Warwick Diabetes Care, part of the Warwick Medical School, by announcing a new programme of investment over the next three years. This major initiative is part of LifeScan’s Corporate Social Responsibility activities in the UK and aims to help educate both people with diabetes and the healthcare professionals who care for them. The incidence of diabetes is on the increase, Diabetes UK estimates that there are currently

1.8 million people living with diabetes in the UK and forecasts that this will rise to 3 million by 2010. With this sharp increase in numbers and following UK government legislation, there is a real requirement for diabetes education amongst healthcare professionals in primary care. In response to this growing need, LifeScan has sponsored and formed a partnership with Warwick Diabetes Care over the past three years to deliver diabetes education to healthcare professionals across the UK.

Since fewer medical students were wearing white coats, the hospital implemented a new scheme so that student doctors could be instantly identified..



Vicki Smith, Warwick Medical School.

► For more medical news see the university websites:  
<http://www.le.ac.uk/press/>  
and <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/newsandevents/pressreleases/>

### LWMS News:

Copy deadline for next edition of LWMS News – Thursday 22 December 2005.

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Jane Pearson, Deputy Editor, University of Leicester Press & Publications  
Tel 0116 210 0070 Email jane.pearson@ntlworld.com

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